



Greater Things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2020

TREATED LIKE JESUS, MAYBE WORSE

from Jeff Marner, Minister of Discipling and Youth

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!” Matthew 10:24-29

Jesus was preparing his disciples to preach the message after him. They would be held in no more reverence than he would by the religious elite. If the Pharisees were willing to proclaim Jesus evil, they would not hold back for his followers.

This echoes what Peter had to say about suffering and persecution in chapters four and five of 1 Peter. The message of Jesus is in many ways profane to the world around us. It asks the world to believe in Jesus raised from the dead and live life to glorify God instead of ourselves. While we’ve already experienced the joy of following Jesus, from the outside looking in people often see rules and obligation.

Maybe worse than being proclaimed evil is indifference to Jesus. If we proclaim a gospel of morality, we develop a message that may appear more palatable to the world but that is also a message the world can be indifferent to. The attractiveness of the gospel has often

been the peculiarity of the people proclaiming it. Because the work Jesus has done in the lives of his followers the people saw something peculiar and attractive. Like when the early church was sharing their possessions and love for one another, their neighbors saw how this group of people was living by a different standard and it attracted many people to want to be a part.

If we water down the gospel to something similar to the American dream or becoming nice helpful people, we not only open ourselves to morally accepted sin, but we become irrelevant and unnecessary. We may live this life in comfort and without persecution but do our lives proclaim the peculiar message of Christ? Was anyone stirred to wonder at the truth of Jesus proclaimed by your lips or the grace that flows forth from his message that there is hope for all people regardless of their history?

We are not guaranteed a struggle-free existence when we choose to follow Jesus. In fact, in many ways we are told to expect to be under assault by the world. We can take heart in knowing that the spirit of God will never forsake us. It’s not our responsibility to figure out how we can get the people of the world to like us, it’s our job to share the love of Jesus. Though many will still malign us the way Jesus was.

Minister of Administration,
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AMC
arthur mennonite church

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The Reign of God

We place our hope in the reign of God and in its fulfillment in the day when Christ our ascended Lord will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. He will gather his church, already living under the reign of God according to the pattern of God's future. We believe in God's final victory, in the end of this present age of struggle between good and evil, in the resurrection of the dead, and in the appearance of a new heaven and a new earth. There the people of God will reign with Christ in justice, righteousness, and peace.

We believe that God, who created the universe, continues to rule over it in wisdom, patience, and justice, though sinful creation has not yet recognized God's rule. Faithful Israel acclaimed God as king and looked forward to the fullness of God's kingdom. We affirm that, in Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection, the time of fulfillment has begun. Jesus proclaimed both the nearness of God's reign and its future realization, its healing and its judgment.

We believe that the church is called to live now according to the model of the future reign of God. Thus, we are given a foretaste of the kingdom that God will one day establish in full. The church is to be a spiritual, social, and economic reality, demonstrating now the justice, righteousness, love, and peace of the age to come. The church does this in obedience to its Lord and in anticipation that the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord.

First Fruit Giving *Giving God Our Best*

Stewardship

4/26/2020	\$11,370
5/3/2020	\$5,005
5/10/2020	\$4,117
5/17/2020	\$6,400
5/24/2020	\$2,875

If you would like to give tithes & offerings during this time of no services, the AMC Administration Commission suggests mailing your envelope/check to the church address:
710 E. Park, Arthur, IL, 61911.
Please include your envelope so numbers can be recorded.

Church gatherings to begin again soon!

For the past several weeks the AMC Ministry Team, Administration Commission, and Worship Commission have been praying about, discussing, and trying to discern when and how we might be able to meet together again for Sunday worship. While the situation concerning the COVID-19 virus continues to change on a weekly basis, we realize the importance of being together for worship, receiving encouragement from God's Word as well as each other, and being the body of Christ together. We also realize the importance of continuing to look out for the safety and concern of each individual and family. With all of these things considered, the current plan is to start meeting again for worship on Sunday, June 14. Streaming online will continue. We will begin with only the worship service for now and add Christian Ed. and other things as time goes on. A letter from these groups was sent out this past week with further guidelines and protocols that we will be following during this time. We are looking forward to being together again and worshipping the Lord in Spirit and Truth.

Be safe, look out for each other, and let's move FORWARD TOGETHER!



AMC PERSONAL PROFILE Bertha Yoder

What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible? **Matthew 11:28-30**
"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time?

During the birth of my children and also during the 1965 Palm Sunday tornado that my brother, Ervin, was in.

What is your favorite song or hymn that we sing at church?
It Is Well & Down In The River To Pray

What was your last job?

My last job before retirement was home care.

What was your very first job? **When I was 13 years old, I was a nanny for Dr. Harry & Marilyn Messmore's family for five years and they treated me like one of their own until they passed.**

What hobbies do you enjoy?

Playing cards, working in my flower beds, and crocheting.

What are some interesting facts about you? **At age 70, I flew to California to meet up with my cousin for her 50th birthday. We then flew to Hawaii where we hiked to the top of Diamond Head.**

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement? **I have had the pleasure of raising four beautiful children and lived to see what they have become.**

If you could host a dinner party with any three people in the world, living or dead, whom would you invite?
Joyce Meyer, Reba McIntire, and Johnny Cash.