

Greater *things*

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2021

Advent is Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discipling and Worship

Christmas will be here before we know it. Time seems to pass at a faster rate each and every year even if there are still the same number of days on the calendar and numbers on the clock. The Advent season helps us to pause and give thought to the anticipation and expectations of Christmas and the eventual return of Christ. Many promises have been made in Scripture. Some of them have been fulfilled and others are yet to be seen. But one common theme in all of them is the time of waiting that occurs beforehand and the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes with that waiting.

The Prophets of the Old Testament testified and promised a Messiah long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The New Testament speaks of Christ returning to earth someday to take believers with him to heaven. Scripture also speaks of a time when there will be no more war or pain, when weapons of destruction will be made into instruments of peace, and the lion will lay down with the lamb. In a world that is filled with evil, violence, war, and hatred, we sometimes wonder when this wonderful promise will find its fulfillment.

The people of the Old Testament wondered the same thing. It was hundreds of years from the time the prophets spoke of the coming Messiah to when Jesus was born. Some of them got so tired of waiting that they did not see Jesus for who he truly was, and they refused to accept him as God's Son and as their Messiah. In many of the Psalms we hear the phrase "how long"

until these things will occur. It is a reminder for us that it is okay to ask that question as a way of looking ahead to what God has in store for us.

The reason we don't jump straight from Thanksgiving to Christmas is that we need some time to appreciate the waiting. We need some time to reflect on what God has promised and how those promises are finding fulfillment in our world today. We live in a culture that does not like to wait on much of anything. If we are not careful, we can find ourselves pushing our own agendas and forcing things to happen in our timing instead of in God's. Waiting brings perspective. Waiting calls on us to be patient. Waiting allows us to submit to God's will in place of our own.

The AMC Worship Commission did not pick a specific theme for this year's Advent season. Instead, we will focus on the common scriptures and themes of Advent which are:

- ~ Hope (Advent 1)
- ~ Peace (Advent 2)
- ~ Joy (Advent 3)
- ~ Love (Advent 4)

During these weeks of Advent, we will be looking at scriptures that bring these themes to light. This time of waiting and anticipation will give way to our celebration of Christmas on Sunday, December 26. I hope you will join us each Sunday on this journey. One thing is for sure, it will be worth the wait!

Minister of Discipling & Worship:
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Community Life:
Nancy Kuhns

AMC
arthur mennonite church

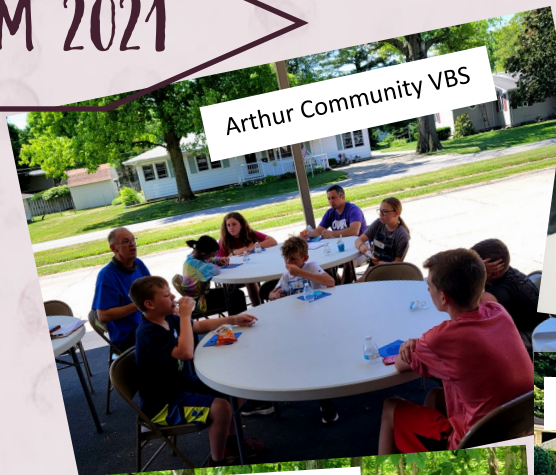
Minister of Outreach:
Emily Kauffman

Minister of Administration & Youth:
Jeff Marner

MEMORIES FROM 2021

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Henry Herschberger	1st
Jake Chupp	2nd
Sandy Snyder	3rd
Austin Kauffman	5th
Kendall Schrock	5th
Justin Grimsley	9th
Winnie Caskey	10th
Lucy Yoder	11th
Janet Gingerich	12th
Trinity Schrock	12th
Michael & Brittney Yoder	13th
Linda Schrock	17th
Myra Beachy	18th
Edna Gingerich	19th
Jackie Carter	19th
Les Helmuth	19th
Vera Yoder	19th
Larry & Pat Yoder	21st
Levi Yoder	25th
Cory & Emily Kauffman	27th
Ervin & Nancy Kuhns	27th
Jake & Maranna Chupp	27th
Larry Yoder	28th
Lela Reynolds	28th
Vernon & Irlene Chupp	28th
Bob Plank	29th
Ron Thomas	29th
Vernon Chupp	31st



Arthur Community VBS



AMC Fall Festival



Worship In The Park



Cornhole Competition

"YOU ARE LOVED
BEYOND ALL MEASURE."

ROMANS 8:38-39



Baptism Sunday

FIRST FRUITS - Giving God Our Best

Stewardship

10.31.2021 - \$4,380 | 11.07.2021 - \$5,025 | 11.14.2021 - \$6,515 | 11.21.2021 - \$3,675

If you would like to give tithes & offerings during this time, please place it in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or mail your envelope/check to the church at: 710 E Park, Arthur, IL 61911. Please include your envelope so your number can be recorded.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT AMC



AMC Christmas Program - December 19, 2021 at 6:00pm

Join us for "The Sweetest Thing" - a TV baking show on stage right here at AMC. We'll join the host who partners up with an unlikely Christmas celebrity to reveal the sweetness in the story of Jesus' birth. We will also be enjoying the primary department's songs and nativity. Invite friends and family, and stay to enjoy finger food fellowship after the program!

We look forward to our Christmas Sunday together here at AMC. We hope you, along with many of your family, will join us on Sunday, December 26th as we celebrate Jesus' birth together!

