

# Greater *things*

## “Nurture the Future Church”

*by Jeff Marner, Minister of Administration & Youth*

A new year brings with it new beginnings and new goals. Many people often fashion these goals in the form of resolutions. I usually don't make resolutions but last year I did make a few goals. Later in the year I stumbled upon those goals and realized that I had actually achieved a few of them. While I can't remember exactly what they all were, I know a few of them I hadn't achieved and at that time knew I was not going to choose to work on them before the end of this year.

For Arthur Mennonite, a new year also brings with it a new vision and this year is no exception. Each time, our vision seeks to encourage us to progress in our collective walk with Jesus. The goal of a new vision is not to take us down some completely different path; it has no intentions of changing who we are at our core. Each time, our vision seeks to look at who we are today and then where we would like to be in five years. It gives us a narrower focus that hopefully enriches our broader Christian walk.

This fall we finalized such a vision and it is as follows:

**By 2027, Arthur Mennonite Church will become a community of children and adults who build deeper relationships with each other. We will guide our children to learn God's Word and know Jesus personally. Opportunities for the spiritual growth of all ages will be provided as we boldly share God's love to the world.**

The vision statement is a product of our Dream Team which consisted of Kim Kauffman, Lamar Miller, Rhonda Rhodes and myself, the input of the congregation through

survey, and the guidance from the Holy Spirit. The Ministry Team also had a bit larger part than previous years though primarily in weighting the value of various ideas.

The first and perhaps most apparent idea that comes across is the children of the church. I see in these words a desire for adults to relate with children in everything from relating socially to walking with these kids in their journey of discipleship.

Another idea put forth is sharing the Good News while we grow. Not only does growing spiritually help enable us to share, but sharing encourages our own growth. This really is a vital activity.

These two ideas combine to shape the future of our church. There are many ways in which Arthur Mennonite would be a different church in the future than it is today regardless of this vision. Even if it is constituted of the same people, we would hope our walk with Jesus would continue to alter who we are as individuals and as a church. We also hope that we are not the same people but that we have added to our numbers those who would like to begin following Jesus. Both concepts are forms of growth and we hope this vision helps us focus on some areas that will encourage these specific forms of growth.

We hope you hold commissions and leadership accountable toward these objectives during the coming years. We also hope you find ways to embrace this vision and ways you can help Arthur Mennonite achieve these goals.

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



How old are you? 12 years old

What is your favorite verse in the Bible? Romans 8:28

"We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Is there a time you felt God's presence stronger than any other time?

When I was playing baseball against my old travel team (who cut me) and I hit a homerun.

What hobbies do you enjoy? Playing baseball and basketball

What do you regard as your most treasured possession? All of my homerun balls

What is a favorite song we sing at church? God So Loved

What is the happiest memory of your life? Hitting a homerun

If you could have dinner with anyone (dead or alive), which 3 people would you choose?

Donald Trump, Michael Jordan, and Albert Einstein

**AMC**

**Personal Profile:**

**KODY BURDICK**



It's that time of year again! We plan to distribute a new, non-picture directory this year. Take a second to look over our VERY rough draft which will be on the table in the church foyer soon. Please make changes to your information, or mark "OK" if we got it all correct. We've welcomed many new people to our congregation recently and want to be able to stay connected!

*Stay*  
**CONNECTED**

2022 CHURCH  
DIRECTORY

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### AMC Christmas Program 2021: "The Sweetest Thing"

Becky (Lynn Marner) and Scrooge (Lamar Miller), shown on the right, in an AMC baking show that brought out the sweetness of the story of Jesus and his birth at Christmas. Jeff Marner, Kendall Burdick, and the primary department did a fabulous job as well! The recording is available for viewing on our Facebook page and on DVD in the foyer.



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

JUSTIN TAYLOR	1ST	RHONDA RHODES	19TH
EVONDA YODER	2ND	LUKE MILLER	20TH
KATHY YODER	5TH	HENRY CHUPP	21ST
MADISON STONE	6TH	ROSIE WALKER	22ND
ESTHER YODER	7TH	MEREDITH SCHROCK	23RD
BRENDON LANE	15TH	SIMON KAUFFMAN	24TH
JACKIE CRABTREE	15TH	LIA MILTON	26TH
ED YODER	17TH	ALEX WALKER	28TH
NANCY KUHN	17TH	ASHLEY GUENTHER	28TH
MADISON SNYDER	18TH	HAROLD YODER	31ST
ALTA YODER	19TH		

### FIRST FRUITS - Giving God Our Best

*Stewardship*

11.28.2021 - \$2,910 | 12.05.2021 - \$6,280

12.12.2021 - \$7,916 | 12.19.2021 - \$13,665

If you would like to give tithes & offerings, please place them 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.