



# Greater *Things*

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
APRIL 2022

## Sabbatical Opportunities

*by Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discipling & Worship*

When preparing to write the article for this month's church newsletter I realized that this would be my last Greater Things article before the three-month sabbatical that is planned for this summer. Another letter will be put in mailboxes in May to describe some revised plans for this sabbatical, but I wanted to use this space to share a little bit more about the importance and the opportunities that a sabbatical presents to pastors and their congregations.

Our church affiliation (LMC: A Fellowship of Anabaptist Churches) has an eleven-page document spelling out the guidelines and recommendations they have for pastoral sabbaticals. They encourage a three-month sabbatical after every 5-7 years of ministry at one location. In May of this year, I will be starting my twentieth year of ministry at AMC and have not taken a sabbatical in that 20-year span. The LMC document includes testimonies from other pastors and leaders who have taken sabbaticals to provide renewed vision, new skills, wider perspectives, and spiritual refreshment for pastors, their families, and the congregations. This time away or apart also provides the opportunity for the congregation to be self-reflective, self-reliant, and assess its ongoing journey as a people of God.

As I think about the summer ahead, I think of the

many times in scripture we are encouraged toward prayer, renewal, rest, visioning, the ongoing expansion of God's ministry, and the sharing of the Good News of Jesus in our world. In the Gospels, Jesus himself needed to do this often. Luke 5:15-16 is one example of that. It says, "Jesus would often go to some place where he could be alone and pray." I plan to make prayer and Bible study a very important part of my time this summer. I am also very excited about the new devotional book I will be working on and the various parts of Anabaptist/Mennonite history I will be reflecting on this summer.

I'm also excited to see how the Lord is going to move among the people here at AMC. Perhaps some new gifts will emerge during that time. Maybe some new ministries will come to light. Maybe even ideas of new ways to do things will come about. I'm sure the Holy Spirit will be moving among you, and I will be excited to see the fruit of that when I return in September. My three-month sabbatical will begin on June 12th and end on September 12th. I'm sure Rhonda and I will be very excited to see you all again on Sunday, September 18th to worship the Lord together again and share about all the experiences and opportunities we have all had during our time apart. May the Lord bless us all during that time!

**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

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Taylor Miller	3rd	Joe & Lanora Gingerich	8th	Paisley Yoder	18th
Chad Yoder	3rd	Jory Borntreger	11th	Lynn Marner	19th
Derek Rhodes	4th	Elizabeth Miller	17th	Justin & Tiffany Grimsley	24th
Liz Diener	7th	Cliff & Kathy Yoder	17th	Colby Herschberger	25th
				Galen Tully	26th

### Good Friday Service

Friday, April 15th | Noon - 1pm  
First Baptist Church

### HOLY WEEK COMMUNITY EVENTS

**AMA Easter Sunrise Service**  
Sunday, April 17th at 6:30am  
Vine Street Christian Church

### FIRST FRUITS - Giving God Our Best

Stewardship

3.06.22 - \$9,423 | 3.13.22 - \$3,974

3.20.22 - \$8,942 | 3.27.22 - \$2,033

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.

**!! MAKE A NOTE - add these future events on your calendar !!**

April 17th:  
Easter Sunday

Join us for breakfast hosted by our youth, as well as our CE classes, and a special Easter Worship Celebration.

May 7th  
AMC Ladies' Salad Supper

Invite all the women in your life to join you at our annual celebration of Mother's Day!

June 4th  
Family Fun Night:  
"Mennonite Your Way"

Dinner and entertainment for the whole family! Watch for more info coming soon.

June 13-17: Arthur Community VBS

We are back to normal VBS. Yay! We hope to see lots of kids and volunteers join us this year!

- How old are you? 11 years old
- What is your favorite verse, book, or story in the Bible?  
The story about Goliath and the story about the lamb.
- Is there a time in your life when you've felt God's presence strong than at any other time? I feel God in my life every day.
- What would you say is your favorite meal? Mac and Cheese
- What hobbies do you enjoy? I love to play football and baseball.
- What are some interesting facts about yourself that people at AMC might not know? I hit a grand slam last year when the bases were loaded. I also want to go to U of I and play football.



AMC  
Personal Profile  
**CONNER CRABTREE**