



Greater Things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2022

“Promises For Those Who Listen”

by Jeff Marner, Minister of Administration & Youth

Our high school Christian education curriculum has recently taken us through a few of the ‘minor’ prophets. While generally shorter in length than other books, there is nothing minor about the messages, warnings, and promises contained within. They contain warnings of destruction and exile if Israel and Judah do not repent and turn back to God.

With the benefit of hindsight, we learn that these predictions do indeed come true and God’s chosen people fall into their deserved captivity. I always find it intriguing that God would send His prophet to Nineveh, condemning it to destruction, but the warning actually worked to change the people of that city. This city was to be the enemy of God and His people, but the people of Nineveh considered the warning of Jonah with grave seriousness and staved off God’s destructive will through obedience. On the other hand, Israel would continue their ways and discover the terrible results.

Maybe God selected that very city because it would serve as an example to Israel that their own bleak future could turn out better if they would only seek after God’s will and turn from their own idol worship. But alas, it was not to be.

While trouble was on the horizon for Israel, these books also gave predictions of a coming messiah who would deliver them. They clung to that promise but then couldn’t see him when he did come.

I don’t share these thoughts to heap blame on the Israelite people of those days. Their journey, in many ways, mirrors that of your’s and mine. We were, and some who will read this still are, exiled from God’s kingdom and bound in this world’s kingdom by our own sin. We’ve received warnings that went unheeded and leave us desperate to find a savior.

Jesus would come into the world and once again it would take outsiders to teach Israel about the whereabouts of this newly arrived savior. Perhaps Israel wasn’t the best selection to be God’s chosen people. They just couldn’t seem to connect the dots between God’s words and how that should affect their behavior. It seems any number of the neighbors were paying closer attention to God’s words.

But this leads me back to us. At one time we were all in that state. The Messiah could have been staring us in the face but, blinded by our own sin, we continued on in darkness. Just as Jesus came to drag Israel out of bondage, he came for us and called us his own while we were still inept, clueless, and undeserving.

This month we celebrate the advent of our savior because, through Jesus, God showed us His mercy and grace. While not His first example of mercy and grace, Jesus became the only necessary representative. All those other mercies pointed to Jesus and pale in comparison.

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 - Jake Chupp | 19 - Les Helmuth |
| 3 - Eve Hughes | 19 - Vera Yoder |
| 3 - Sandy Snyder | 21 - Larry & Pat Yoder |
| 5 - Austin Kauffman | 25 - Levi Yoder |
| 5 - Kendall Schrock | 27 - Cory & Emily Kauffman |
| 9 - Justin Grimsley | 27 - Ervin & Nancy Kuhns |
| 10 - Winnie Caskey | 27 - Jake & Maranna Chupp |
| 11 - Lucy Yoder | 28 - Larry Yoder |
| 12 - Janet Gingerich | 28 - Lela Reynolds |
| 12 - Trinity Schrock | 28 - Vernon & Irlene Chupp |
| 13 - Michael & Brittnay Yoder | 28 - Vernon & Irlene Chupp |
| 17 - Linda Schrock | 29 - Bob Plank |
| 19 - Edna Gingerich | 31 - Vernon Chupp |
| 19 - Jackie Carter | |

- What is your job & what does it consist of?
I work at Jo's Country Diner. I mainly run the register, but I also waitress and have recently helped with catering.
- What is your favorite verse of the Bible? John 8:31-32
"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- Have you felt God's presence at one specific time in your life more than others? I would have to say when my dad died. I knew it was going to be hard to say goodbye and as he took his last breath, I prayed he would go to heaven. A cool breeze brushed my cheek and then I knew. He was with God.
- Do you have a favorite book or author? A dear friend told me recently about a book called "Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyer. That would have to be my favorite.
- If you could host a dinner party with any three people in the world, living or dead, whom would you invite?
My grandparents that I never got to meet.
- What is the happiest memory of your life? There are many. I would say when my kids and grandkids were born, and when I met my husband.
- What is your best piece of advice? To never give up or get angry too fast. Don't be afraid to stop and listen before you assume.

AMC PERSONAL PROFILE

Sondra Gingerich



2022 Advent Theme

Restoration
IS NEAR

1st Sunday of Advent: Watch! The Day Is Almost Here

We need restoration, awaiting Christ's coming in our time just as the world waited before the first incarnation. In anticipation, we are to live as restored people.

2nd Sunday of Advent: Prepare the Way of the Lord

In a world where power holds sway, Jesus will judge differently. We are called to prepare the way for this new kind of ruler. This calls for repentance and truth-telling.

3rd Sunday of Advent: Tell What You Hear and See

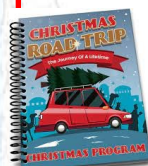
This is a week of encouragement. We can be strong because the one who can truly restore us is coming. We have hope because of what we have already seen.

4th Sunday of Advent: Do Not Be Afraid

God has promised to restore us and has acted in Jesus to further God's plan of restoration. Because of God's promise, we can act by asking for what we need and by stepping out in faith.

AMC Christmas Program - December 18th at 6pm

Join us for "Christmas Road Trip: The Journey of a Lifetime". We'll ride along with the Anderson's to grandpas! We also look forward to the songs, nativity, and Christmas story. Stay after the program for finger food fellowship together! Bring the whole family!



Christmas Sunday - December 25th Worship Service begins at 10:00am

We hope to see many of you and your families with us to celebrate the birth of Jesus!
*no CE Classes will be held on Sunday, Dec. 25th

FIRST FRUITS - Giving God Our Best

Stewardship

October 30, 2022 - \$5,390
November 6, 2022 - \$5,830
November 13, 2022 - \$3,920
November 20, 2022 - \$1,760

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.