

Greater Things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2023

“Happy New Year”

by Emily Kauffman, Minister of Outreach

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and we can welcome the new year with open arms. With the turning of the calendar year, many of us think about New Year’s Resolutions. I often hear about people making plans to exercise more, eat better or spend more time outside. Some make resolutions to be more positive, more thoughtful or spend more time with friends and family. I don’t necessarily like New Year’s resolutions, not because I dislike the idea of bettering ourselves, but because it is undoubtedly difficult to create new habits. After a few weeks or months, I seem to fall back into the same routine, thought patterns and habits that I had back in November. What would God say about this? Would he want us to remain as the same person we are today? Would he want us to make New Year’s Resolutions?

Well, maybe not a “New Year” Resolution... but we are absolutely put on a path to betterment from the moment we invite the savior into our lives. Colossians 3:1-2 says, “Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” Verse 10 goes on to say, “...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” God wants us to always be looking to make ourselves more Christ-like.

How do I change something negative or unhealthy that has already formed a rut in my cognitive behavior? The first step is to recognize that these things are there. We are human, and therefore sinful. Write down bad habits or negative thought patterns. Acknowledge that there are things that need to change. Next, write down what can be said or done instead. Find an alternative that God would find pleasing. Fill your heart and mind with truths from the Lord. Where do I find these truths and directions? Look at our roadmap... the Bible. Dig new “trenches” in thought patterns that will eventually pull any negative thought or habit out of the ruts we have created. As there is nothing wrong with making a New Year’s resolution, take a moment to assess where our hearts are, and point them in the direction of Christ. Keep your mind on things above. Happy New Year!

NEW YEAR’S PRAYER

Lord, as this new year dawns,
we welcome You into
our world and into our lives.
Sow light in our hearts.
Let it grow and bring forth good
fruit. Let your peace take root.
Nurture it and encourage it
to flourish. Let your love blossom
with patience and compassion.
Let it strengthen
forgiveness and understanding.
Let your life emerge in us,
through us, and around us,
bringing newness to all it touches.
In Jesus Name, Amen.

Minister of Discipling & Administration
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Community Life:
Nancy Kuhns

AMC
arthur mennonite church

Minister of Outreach:
Emily Kauffman

Minister of Worship & Youth:
Jeff Marnier

2023 YOUTH GROUP WINTER RETREATS

January 13-15 ~ High School
January 20-22 ~ Junior High

Check in: Friday @ 7pm

• More Info: mennohaven.com/winter-retreats

Talk to
Jeff Marner
soon if you
have a child
who would
like to
attend!

Letter from Doc Johnson, Executive Director Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

The purpose of Menno Haven is to provide a set aside place for people to experience God's World and Christ's Kingdom in a camp and retreat setting through opportunities for worship, fellowship, recreation, growth, and renewal. This purpose is being fulfilled with your help and God's provision throughout the year for all who attend events through our retreat ministry and with our youth, adult, and family Menno Haven programmed events. Thank you for your part in carrying this purpose out. *As we look towards 2023, here are ways to support the Menno Haven Ministry:*

1. *Give to the Annual Fund.* It's out of this fund that they carry out the purpose of Menno Haven and cover the yearly operating expenses that come with upholding a high quality of service for our guests and campers.
2. *Give to the Patio Renovation.* There is \$26,854 still needed for this last unfunded capital project.

**Read the full letter and check out Menno Haven's
Year-In-Review on the Youth bulletin board**

FIRST FRUITS Giving God Our Best

Stewardship

11.27.22 - \$1,150 | 12.04.22 - \$8,800
12.11.22 - \$12,096 | 12.18.22 - \$11,420

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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Evonda Yoder	2nd	Rhonda Rhodes	19th
Kathy Yoder	5th	Luke Miller	20th
Madison Stone	6th	Henry Chupp	21st
Esther Yoder	7th	Rosie Walker	22nd
Jackie Crabtree	15th	Simon Kauffman	24th
Ed Yoder	17th	Lia Milton	26th
Nancy Kuhns	17th	Alex Walker	28th
Madison Snyder	18th	Harold Yoder	31st
Alta Yoder	19th		

Congratulations to Nadine Miller on her recent retirement!



1. **What was the very first job you had, and how old were you when you started?** I detasseled corn for DeKalb when I was 15 years old.
2. **What is the current position/job you held and how long had you been working there?** I was the manager of The Arthur MCC Thrift Shop for 8 years.
3. **What would you consider some of your greatest accomplishments?** Getting enough volunteers to help make the store a success, training all of them, and hiring two Assistant Managers. I think coming back to work after my open heart surgery was a big success. I prayed a lot for guidance and wisdom for my job.
4. **What did you consider some of your biggest challenges?** Keeping enough volunteers on a day to day basis for the function of the store. I worked 6 days a week during the first 6 weeks, and I worked 3 Saturdays a month for 2.5 years. In the beginning, I also stayed there to eat my lunch. All of that was tough. Trying to educate people on what donations are acceptable and what are not can also be a challenge.
5. **What are some of your fondest memories while working?** I accepted a piano as a donation. I was concerned it would sit on the retail floor for 6 months, but God showed me. He not only sold it, but sold it within the hour. Also, our church donated a big metal desk that was in the youth pastor's office. It sold to one of our good customers. I said, "This came from our church. Our youth pastors sat there and wrote their sermons at it." He replied, "Well I want to tell you where it's going. It's going to Texas to my brother who is a pastor." Wow! Only God could have orchestrated that! God showed up time and time again. When I prayed for donations - He sent them. When I prayed for more volunteers - He sent them.
6. **What advice would you give others in your job?** Have fun and enjoy the staff, volunteers and customers! They are all a great bunch of people! Give grace and pray for wisdom constantly! Love on the volunteers! Remember it is not your store; it's God's!
7. **What are some things you look forward to most about retirement?** Many things - watching my grandboys two days a week, slowing down a little and not having to work every day, having more time for my family, friends, and myself and my health. I really look forward to having more time to go to coffee or lunch with people, but I will say I am going to miss the volunteers tremendously!