

# Greater Things



ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2023

## “How Will We Know?”

by Nancy Kuhns, Minister of Community Life

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Our Advent theme this year is “How Will We Know?” Each Sunday of Advent, a question will be asked and answers to those questions will be pondered. Many of us have questions and the answers are often hard to find. We find ourselves waiting; waiting for answers, waiting to hear from God. Like the Jews of the Bible who were waiting for the Messiah, we too are waiting. We are waiting for Jesus to return.

The question for the first Sunday of Advent is “How will we know...how long?” Most of us don’t like to wait! We want quick answers and instant gratification. We use Google to get immediate information. We send a text to have instant communication. We get impatient when we have to wait too long but sometimes we must wait. We must wait for a child to be born, wait for test results, wait for wars to end, wait for an end to our grief and hurting. We might say as the ancient Jews did, “How long, O Lord? How long must we wait?”

The question for the second Sunday of Advent is “How will we know...what now?” We begin to ask ourselves “What shall we do while we wait?” We are called upon to be productive and to do kingdom work while we are waiting for Jesus to return. We are to be faithful servants as we work out our faith and draw closer to God.

The third Sunday of Advent asks, “How will we know...what’s next?” The Bible reminds us that we often don’t always get the answers we are wanting and the answers don’t come as quickly as we would like. We often need to wait for God to answer our questions and our prayers. We have examples of people in the Bible who waited on God: Abraham waited for his promised child; the Children of Israel wandered for 40 years waiting to enter the Promised Land; Simeon lived his life waiting to see the Messiah. We need to remember that often God is waiting on us! He is waiting for us to give all parts of our lives to Him; He is waiting for us to trust Him in all things.

We end the Advent series with the question “How will we know...why me? Why not me?” We often feel inadequate for a job God calls us to do and ask “why me?” We think we are not worthy or important enough to do the work. We forget how often God uses ordinary, everyday people to carry out His work. Moses felt unqualified to lead the Children of Israel, Jesus’ disciples were everyday people called to leave their jobs and follow Him. Every day God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

I hope you join us for worship during this Advent season as we seek to answer the question, “How Will We Know?”



Follow along in scripture as we walk through this Advent Season together:

**First Sunday of Advent: How will we know...how long?**

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

**Second Sunday of Advent: How will we know...what now?**

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

**Third Sunday of Advent: How will we know...what's next?**

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

**Fourth Sunday of Advent: How will we know...why me? Why not me?**

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Psalm 89:1-4,19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, December 3rd

#### • Baptism Sunday

We are excited to celebrate Olivia and Amber Gingerich and their decision to make Jesus their Lord and Savior.

#### • First Sunday Fellowship Meal

Bring a dish to share and join us!

#### • Last Congregational Meeting of 2023

The congregational meeting will be held in the sanctuary following the meal. This is an important time of hearing from commissions, as well as affirming the 2024 Commission Slate and 2024 Proposed Budget.

### Sunday, December 17th

#### AMC Christmas Program at 6:00pm

Our annual program is a highlight of the year, and a great way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas together. The evening will include a special skit, music, and the reading of Christmas story featuring our primary department. Invite friends and family to join us! There will also be carry-in finger foods served after the program.



## Heads up AMC Youth! Youth Winter Retreats at Menno Haven dates are set!

January 12-14: High School (G. 9-12)

January 19-21: Junior High (G.6-8)

If you would like to attend, speak with Erica Schrock in the office to get registered. All expenses will be covered by the church.

A sign up sheet for poinsettias is posted on the foyer bulletin board. They will be white blooms wrapped in silver foil and a purple bow. These can be in memory of a loved one, or just to help beautify the church for Christmas. You can take these home after the Christmas service on December 24. They are \$15 each. Please put your money with name in the treasurer's box.

### POINSETTIA SIGN UPS



DON'T FORGET

There have been many important surveys distributed recently. These are a way for Worship Commission and Community Life to get feedback on those who are willing and able to help in various ways on Sunday mornings. There is still time to return the forms! If you need a new form, see Erica S. (Worship) or Vera Y. (Community Life).

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Archer Bornreger  
2 - Jake Chupp  
3 - Eve Hughes  
3 - Sandy Snyder  
5 - Austin Kauffman  
5 - Kendall Schrock  
10 - Winnie Caskey  
11 - Lucy Yoder  
12 - Janet Gingerich  
12 - Trinity Schrock  
13 - Michael & Brittnay Yoder  
17 - Linda Schrock  
19 - Edna Gingerich

19 - Jackie Carter  
19 - Les Helmuth  
19 - Vera Yoder  
21 - Larry & Pat Yoder  
25 - Levi Yoder  
27 - Cory & Emily Kauffman  
27 - Ervin & Nancy Kuhns  
27 - Jake & Maranna Chupp  
28 - Larry Yoder  
28 - Lela Reynolds  
28 - Vernon & Irlene Chupp  
29 - Bob Plank

## FIRST FRUITS - Giving God Our Best

Stewardship

Oct. 29 - \$6,716 | Nov. 5 - \$8,558

Nov. 12 - \$10,269 | Nov. 19 - \$11,194

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.