

Greater Things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2024

A Sweet Aroma

by Nancy Kuhns, *Minister of Community Life*

According to Heidi Godman, Executive Editor, Harvard Health Letter, your smell sense gives you a superpower. Without moving a muscle or opening your eyes, your sense of smell helps you detect danger, store or trigger memories, discern flavors, or get a rush of feel-good chemicals during a meal. We all know that smelling smoke or natural gas in our homes indicates danger. We use our sense of smell to determine if food in our refrigerator is still good. We have also experienced memories based on smell – the aroma of fresh baked bread or cookies may take us back to our grandmother’s kitchen, the smell of peppermint may remind us of the candy our grandfather always carried in his pocket, and the smell of a just bathed baby reminds us of our children’s smell just out of the bath. Some studies have shown that the smell of a food accounts for up to 80 percent of how we perceive flavor, compared to 20 percent for taste. One of my grandsons often bases what food he will eat based on how it smells. If it doesn’t smell good, there is no way he is going to eat it!! We use candles and wax melts to fill our homes with a pleasant aroma and we may have a signature cologne, perfume, or lotion to ensure that we smell good. Conversely, we could also name unpleasant odors – the smell of skunk or a dead mouse, the smell of rotten meat, and the damp, musty smell of a closed up basement. These are the odors we want to get away from quickly!!

In The Pocket Bible Devotional for Women, Norma Rossouw began a devotional much as I began this article by writing of pleasant and unpleasant odors. When she made it personal by writing, “What is the scent you leave behind you after you disagreed with people, next to the field where your child is playing sports, on the road, or behind your computer?” (Or at the coffee shop or out to lunch or dinner with friends, or at work.) That sentence caught my attention!! I had never thought of what I leave behind me by my words and actions as a scent. Did you know the Bible speaks of the aroma that we, as Christians, are to have? In 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (Message paraphrase) Paul writes, “In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is

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~ Norma Rossouw

recognized by those on the way salvation—an aroma redolent with life. But those on the way to destruction treat us more like the stench from a rotting corpse.” What leaves behind a stench? Gossip, hatred, criticism, judgement. Do we want to be known for that? What leaves behind a pleasing scent? Love, kindness, patience, encouragement, understanding. Ephesians 5:2 says, “Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.” By striving to become more Christlike in our thoughts, words, and actions, we will leave behind us the sweet aroma of Christ. Isn’t that what we want to be known for? Leave an aroma of life and love!

Minister of Discipling and Administration
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Community Life
Interim Minister of Worship
Nancy Kuhns

Minister of Outreach
Emily Kauffman

AMC
arthur mennonite church



The season of Lent began on February 14th and will continue for 40 weekdays to Easter Sunday. We will reflect on our theme, "Christ Among Us!"

during the Sundays of March through various scriptures which speak of Christ's presence among us.



Let this Sunday be a reminder to welcome Jesus into our hearts and be willing to follow him. We look forward to our primary department entering worship

while waving palm branches! We will be sharing communion together during this service as well.



This day marks the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. May we reflect upon Christ's sacrifice on the cross for our sins.

Join us at AMC from 12-1pm on March 29th for the Arthur Ministerial Association's Good Friday Service.



After three days in the tomb, Jesus Christ defeated death and was raised to life. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Praise God for this gift of eternal life for all believers!

AMA Sunrise Service - 6:30am - First Baptist Church
We hope you will invite your friends and family to join us at AMC for the special worship celebration at 10:30am!

Easter Tulips Sign Up - \$12 each



This year we will be ordering tulips in a variety of colors to adorn the sanctuary for Easter. You are welcome to dedicate your tulips in memory of a loved one.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Marlene Helmuth - 1st	Kevin Miller - 21st
Ed & Joanna Yoder - 4th	Tony Pearsall - 21st
Junior & Judy Beachey - 6th	Junior Beachey - 23rd
Peter Kauffman - 6th	Kevin & Lyndora Miller - 25th
Gary Kauffman - 7th	Katie Miller - 26th
Olivia Yoder - 8th	Delmar Schrock - 27th
Kenny & Erica Schrock - 10th	Christopher Colbe - 28th
Andy Marner - 17th	Juanita Marner - 28th
Isaiah Yoder - 18th	Kendall Burdick - 30th
Willis Kuhns - 19th	Sarah Storm - 31st

Congratulations to Dory Kauffman on her recent retirement!



- What was your very first job and how old were you when you started?* After I could drive, my first job was working at the sale barn lunch stand. That was when it was run by Omana's Truck Stop, owned by Anna Yoder. Before that it was walking beans & babysitting.
- What is the position/job you held and how long had you been working there?* I was the Teller Operations Supervisor when I retired. I started at the State Bank of Arthur in 1981 in the bookkeeping department. I also worked in the loan department for a few years. I would have to say, the bookkeeping department was my favorite position. Except for about 6 years when my kids were smaller, I worked at the State Bank of Arthur until I retired.
- What do you consider your greatest accomplishments?* Surviving two major conversions, which one included the acquisition by Morton Community Bank. Dealing with customers, although I thoroughly enjoyed my customers, some could be challenging.
- What did you consider some of your biggest challenges?* Learning new computer systems & when we went to in-house processing, making sure all processing was done correctly & seamlessly every day. Trouble shooting & researching issues when normal procedures didn't go as planned.
- What are some of your fondest memories while working?* My co-workers, previous management & the customers. Many have become life long friends that I still keep in touch with. The family atmosphere of a small town business. Getting to know many customers and the ups & downs in their lives.
- What advice would you give others in your job?* Stay calm & be patient with both employees & customers. Customer service is very important...ask questions & go the extra mile for a customer.
- What are some things you look forward to most about retirement?* Having a flexible schedule! Being available to help with grandkids when they're sick or whatever the situation is. Also being readily available to older relatives when needed. More time in Florida during the winter months. Checking off other travel destinations that are on my bucket list.

FIRST FRUITS ~ Giving God Our Best

January 28 - \$3,395 | February 4 - \$10,336
February 11 - \$4,590 | February 18 - \$1,895

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.