



# Greater Things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2024

## "Hope In the Lord"

*by Nancy Kuhns, Minister of Community Life*

This summer's theme in adult Christian Ed is "Hope in the Lord". What a timely topic!!! In the last few weeks many have faced hard, seemingly insurmountable things which can cause hope to falter. It can cause us to ask, "God, where were you? Why did you allow this to happen?" So far, the scriptures studied have included ones written by Paul, Jeremiah, and David. All three of these men faced hardships and trials which could have caused them to lose hope. In 2 Corinthians, Paul lists some of his sufferings saying that he had been in prison, he had been flogged and stoned, he had been shipwrecked. Jeremiah was persecuted for his prophecies and even thrown into a cistern because of them. Jeremiah watched Jerusalem fall and was taken into captivity and suffered along with God's chosen people. David spent years running from Saul who wanted to kill him, he endured rifts within his family including a son who rebelled against him and was killed. All these men had reason to give up hope yet they did not!! Their words and testimonies can be an inspiration to us as we face trials which cause us to feel hopeless and abandoned by God.

Paul writes in Hebrews 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Our hope is in Jesus the Messiah, and Paul's words reassure us that we have not hoped in vain. God is a God of hope who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, fills his people with such joy and peace that they overflow with hope. Paul tells us in Romans 8 that nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from the love of God

In the book of Lamentations, Jeremiah laments over what has happened to his country and to himself. In chapter 3 after describing his feelings of affliction, bitterness, and deprivation, he writes these words of comfort. "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Jeremiah 3:21-23) Jeremiah made a choice. He chose to believe in God's love even though he was experiencing difficult things. He chose to believe that God continued to be with him and his people and was walking with them in their troubled time.

David, too, made the decision to trust in God despite the circumstances of his life. In Psalm 71:14 David writes, "As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more." David continues and says he will tell of God's righteous deeds and proclaim His mighty acts to the next generation. He sums this up in verse 20, "Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up." He writes in Psalm 130:5, "I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope."

Hebrews 6:19 has these comforting words, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." An anchor provides stability in a storm, so that the boat will be intact after the storm passes. Christ does the same for us, He holds us together in the storms of life. I pray that the lives of these men and their words of hope can help us when we face storms in our lives. When you are feeling hopeless, turn to God's word and claim the hope that is found there.

**Minister of Discipling & Worship:**  
Glen Rhodes

**Minister of Outreach:**  
Emily Kauffman

**AMC**  
arthur mennonite church

**Minister of Community Life:**  
Nancy Kuhns

**Minister of Administration:**  
Les Helmuth





## ARTHUR MENNONITE RELIEF SALE HAPPENING AUGUST 23 & 24 How can you help support the sale?

**Ice Cream Social** - August 5 from 5-8pm at Arthur Community Building. Pulled pork dinner, cakes, cobbles, and of course - homemade ice cream! Donations help offset the upfront costs of the sale.

**Hog Donations** - \$50 for a half/\$100 for whole hog. Speak to Glen R. or Lamar M. to donate.

**Lunch Stand Help** - Sign up for time slot(s) on the bulletin board to help in the sale's lunch stand. Contact Kim K. or Jackie C. if you have questions.

**Registration Desk Help** - A friendly welcome and some computer experience is helpful with this job. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

3 - Kendra Hughes	13 - Cassie Olivero
6 - Pat Yoder	Waylon Yoder
7 - Dory Kauffman	14 - Larry & Dory Kauffman
8 - Irlene Chupp	17 - Jeff Snyder
10 - Floyd & Anna Mary Bontrager	20 - Lynn & Marla Kauffman
11 - Irene Freeman	21 - Courtney Gingerich
Jenni Marner	Logan Schrock
Michelle Schrock	27 - Sandy Miller
12 - Kollin Borntrager	29 - Mike & Katrina Taylor

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



## AMC Personal Profile COURTNEY GINGERICH

1. *What is your job and what does it consist of?* Until June, I worked for One Hope United which consisted of ensuring children were safe by going into their homes and advocating for them. Recently, by the grace of God, I accepted the position of school social worker. I'm excited to advocate for children and be more hands on!
2. *What is your favorite verse/book of the Bible?* Psalms (Psalms 91 is amazing), the book of Job, and Proverbs are some favorites. John 3:16-17: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." I've also been enjoying 1 Corinthians 2:9 - "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."
3. *Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time?* Most recently, I felt God's presence very heavily around the time of my Grandma's passing. This was so strong that God spoke to me about the future of my grandma while a group of my Grandma's church family and I prayed over her, a couple weeks before her passing. It was so real that I actually looked around me in the middle of the prayer to see if someone whispered in my ear. In the past I had been spoken to through thoughts or dreams, but never like this. It was very amazing and it was very true. There were several other miracles, blessings, and God's grace during this time.
4. *What is the happiest memory of your life?* I have so many memories, big and small, that have made me so happy. The gift of being able to go to Europe was amazing!
5. *What do you regard as your most treasured possession?* My wedding ring, my grandma's ring, which was her parent's ring/stone. And the ring I was gifted from my aunt at age of 19. It was my first 'real' ring I'd ever had.
6. *What hobbies do you enjoy?* I enjoy making people happy, walking a lot, spending time with my family, doing crafts and taking photos.
7. *What would you say is your favorite meal?* I love CHICKEN! I really love hibachi, Texas Roadhouse, and Drew's famous Philly cheese steaks he makes on the Blackstone.
8. *What is your best piece of advice?* Don't be quick to anger. Don't worry or stress about silly things. Life is a gift, and it is important to actually 'live' in this life. Make sure your heart and soul are ready and in line with God, because at any moment or second it could be your time to go and you don't want to regret your last actions or thoughts.

## FIRST FRUITS ~ Giving God Our Best Stewardship

June 30 - \$2,745 | July 7 - \$4,480 | July 14 - \$4,300 | July 21 - \$1,940

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.