



# Greater Things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2024

## “The Power Of Gratitude”

by Emily Kauffman, Minister of Outreach

In a world filled with challenges and uncertainties, it's easy to find ourselves dwelling on what's wrong. Yet, within each day lies an opportunity to shift our perspective—to seek and embrace the positive. Gratitude is the key that unlocks this transformation, enabling us to find joy and contentment amidst life's trials.

The Bible offers wisdom on this topic. Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

This verse serves as a gentle reminder to direct our minds toward the good, the beautiful, and the uplifting.

Gratitude is more than a fleeting feeling; it's a deliberate practice. When we focus on what we have instead of what we lack, our hearts open to the blessings around us. These blessings don't need to be monumental.

They might be as simple as the warmth of the sun, the laughter of a friend, or the kindness of a stranger.

Consider this: when we intentionally look for positive things, we're likely to find them. It's a principle grounded in both scripture and psychology. Studies have shown that practicing gratitude rewires our brain, improving mental health, fostering resilience, and enhancing relationships.

Life isn't perfect, and challenges are inevitable. But even in difficult seasons, there is something to be thankful for. Philippians 4:8 invites us to train our minds to focus on what is noble, pure, and admirable. This doesn't mean ignoring pain or pretending challenges don't exist. Instead, it's about choosing to dwell on hope and beauty despite them.

For example, during a tough day at work, you might feel overwhelmed. But in the midst of the stress, you might recognize the support of a colleague, the opportunity to learn, or the simple blessing of having a job. When we intentionally shift our focus, even small acts of gratitude can bring a sense of peace.

### Simple Ways To Cultivate Gratitude

- *Keep a Gratitude Journal:* Each day, write down three things you're thankful for. Over time, this practice will help you notice the good in your life more easily.
- *Express Thanks To Others:* A heartfelt “thank you” can brighten someone's day—and yours.
- *Pause To Reflect:* Take a few moments daily to reflect on what's going well, even in challenging times.
- *Pray With Gratitude:* In prayer, thank God for His blessings and ask for eyes to see His goodness, even in hard moments.

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

## REMINDERS

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SIGN UPS

\$16 EACH ~ ORDERS DUE DEC. 8

Flowers - Red  
Foil - Silver | Ribbon - Red

These can be in memory of a loved one, or just to help beautify AMC for the Christmas season.

Sign up sheet is posted on the foyer bulletin board. Please put your name with money in the treasurer's church box.

DID YOU MISS GETTING YOUR PHOTO TAKEN AT CHURCH? IT'S OKAY! YOU CAN SUBMIT A PHOTO OF YOUR FAMILY VIA EMAIL TO:  
ARTHURMENNONITE@GMAIL.COM

COMING IN  
2025!



## CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Sunday  
December 8  6PM  
in sanctuary

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We encourage everyone to join us for this important meeting, which will include:

- Review & affirmation of 2025 Budget
- Affirmation of 2025 Commissions Slate
- Minister of Youth & Family Life information
- Updates from all commissions

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1st - Archer Borntreger  
3rd - Eve Hughes, Sandy Snyder  
5th - Austin Kauffman  
Kendall Schrock  
11th - Lucy Yoder  
12th - Janet Gingerich, Trinity Schrock  
13th - Michael & Brittnay Yoder  
17th - Linda Schrock  
19th - Edna Gingerich, Jackie Carter,  
Les Helmuth, Vera Yoder

21st - Larry & Pat Yoder  
22nd - Xander Everhart  
25th - Levi Yoder  
27th - Cory & Emily Kauffman  
Ervin & Nancy Kuhns  
Jake & Maranna Chupp  
28th - Larry Yoder, Lela Reynolds  
Vernon & Irlene Chupp  
29th - Bob Plank, Ron Thomas  
31st - Vernon Chupp

**The Christmas Season is here!  
There are many exciting events  
and activities to celebrate! Join us!**

**AMC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
December 15th at 6pm  
carry-in finger foods to follow

# THE Wish

**CHRISTMAS | DEC. 18**  
**CAROLING | 6:00 PM**  
\*no special talent required



## CHRISTMAS SUNDAY AT AMC

**DECEMBER 22**  
9:30am CE Classes | 10:30am Worship



**Bring family and friends to worship with us as we  
celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**

**JESUS IS LORD! Merry Christmas!**

### FIRST FRUITS ~ STEWARDSHIP ~

Oct. 27 - \$5,350 | Nov. 3 - \$6,009

Nov. 10 - \$2,395 | Nov. 17 - \$5,954

**\*no tithes/offerings were taken on  
November 24 due to AMA Community  
Thanksgiving Service**

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