

Greater Things

ARTHUR MENNONITE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2025

“A Season Of Loss”

by Nadine Miller, Minister of Worship

I like my winter, but this winter has seemed extra long with the zero temperatures and the negative below wind chills. I think snow is so beautiful. There is something just so magical about it; it falls so quietly. I love all of my four seasons. After a long winter you are always ready for spring and warmer temperatures. New life starts to begin. The trees start budding, the birds are chirping, and the grass is turning greener. Everything is so fresh and new. Then you have summer where you can run barefoot in the grass and catch fireflies at night. You can grill out and stay outside longer and soak up some rays of sunshine. Fall comes next. I really enjoy fall and all the beautiful colors that come with nature and the turning of the leaves on the trees.

The last year and 9 months have been a very hard season for me and my family. We lost Ryan in April of 2023. The next day after we lost Ryan, Lamar had to have surgery to remove a kidney stone. Three days before Ryan died, we lost a sister-in-law. Lamar had shoulder surgery in April of 2024. In June of 2024 we lost Lamar's last brother. Lamar was then diagnosed with prostate cancer in August and had surgery in December. Most recently, our son-in-law lost his father unexpectedly in January.

What do you do when you feel like you have lost all hope and can't go on? What do you do when you feel like God has left you and you can't feel or hear from Him anymore? What do you do when you feel your prayers aren't being heard or you can't even pray? What do you do when you are desperate?

Job 23:3-4 says, "If only I knew where to find God, I would go to his court. I would lay out my case and present

my arguments. Then I would listen to his reply and understand what he says to me." Verses 8-9 go on to say, "I go east, but he is not here. I go west, but I cannot find him. I do not see him in the north, for he is hidden. I look to the south, but he is concealed."

I feel like we have been in this dark, depressing, loss of a season for such a long time and I am ready for a new season and new chapter in our lives. I know God doesn't promise us that there will not be trouble. John 16:33 says, "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." God also promises that he will be with us in the trials. "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." Isaiah 43:2. We also find Psalms 46:1 says, "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."

So, what do you do in desperation? What do you do in that valley of dark times? What do you do when you can't feel His presence? You cry out to Him over and over and over again. You cry out daily and sometimes minute by minute. You just keep calling out to Him until you feel his presence again. You keep trusting even when you don't understand. You stay in His Word, even if you are numb and don't comprehend everything at the moment...you just keep reading your Bible. He will calm the storm and the sea to where you can breathe again and this dark season will lift and you will have joy again.

AMC
arthur mennonite church
MINISTRY TEAM

Glen Rhodes
Minister of
Discipling
(M.T. Leader)

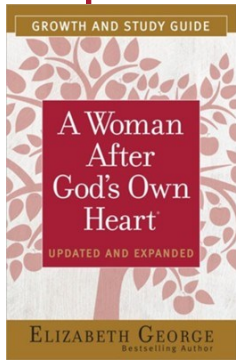
Sam Miller
Minister of Youth
and Family Life
(Community Life)

Emily Kauffman
Minister of
Outreach

Les Helmuth
Minister of
Administration

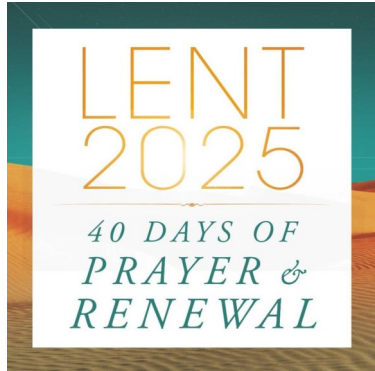
Nadine Miller
Minister of
Worship

New Daytime Women's Bible Study begins on March 5th at 9:00am



Study God's Word and woman-to-woman wisdom on how you can pursue God's priorities for every area of your life, and best of all, you'll become a woman after His heart.

Ladies, there is still time to join this group! Get on the sign up sheet on the foyer bulletin board. Speak with Sandy Miller if you have questions or need more information.



We invite you to walk with us through this Lenten season which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. This year's theme is "40 Days of Prayer & Renewal". How can we grow in our prayer life and our faith during this time? Each Sunday, we will be looking at the many references to 40 days

in the Bible. We'll also be sharing in communion during our worship service on the first Sunday of Lent, March 9th.

First Fruits Stewardship ~ Giving God Our Best

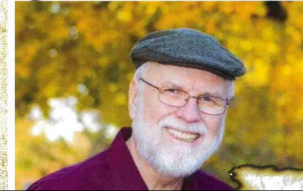
January 26 - \$2,475
 February 2 - \$3,982
 February 9 - \$3,920
 February 16 - \$3,290
 February 23 - \$4,519

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.

Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale Kick-off Banquet

Saturday, March 22, 2025 ~ 6:00 PM
 Buffet Dinner & Program

featuring at **Yoder's Kitchen**
 Christian Story Teller - **John Walsh**
 Rt. 133 E. Arthur, IL



Join us for an evening of food, fellowship and support for this year's Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale in August 2025.

Sign up to attend on the foyer bulletin board. To help sponsor a table (\$100) or half a table (\$50), see Glen & Rhonda Rhodes or Lamar & Nadine Miller.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 - Marlene Helmuth | 19 - Willis Kuhns |
| 4 - Ed & Joanna Yoder | 21 - Kevin Miller |
| 6 - Junior & Judy Beachey | 23 - Junior Beachey |
| Peter Kauffman | 25 - Kevin & Lyndora Miller |
| 7 - Gary Kauffman | 26 - Katie Miller |
| 8 - Olivia Yoder | 27 - Delmar Schrock |
| 10 - Kenny & Erica Schrock | 28 - Juanita Marner |
| 14 - Roger & Anna Mae Schrock | 30 - Kendall Burdick |
| 17 - Andy Marner | 31 - Sarah Storm |
| 18 - Isaiah Yoder | |



AMC Personal Profile

KEVIN EVERHART

1. *What is your job and what does it consist of?* I'm an Operator at South Central FS. My job is agriculturally based. We deal with every aspect of farming, aside from harvesting. We sell and apply all types of chemicals and adjuvants. We also apply dry fertilizer pre-plant, top dress, post-plant, and burn sown. Anhydrous ammonia is one of the more vital, yet toxic chemicals we deal with.
2. *What is your favorite verse/book of the Bible?* 2 Peter 1:3-11
3. *Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time?* The day I got baptized with my beautiful wife. That day, there is no doubt in my mind, we felt the amazing presence of God. One of the greatest times I've ever experienced, hands down.
4. *What do you regard as your most treasured possession?* The time I get to spend with my friends and family. Earthly possessions don't even come close!
5. *What is your favorite hymn or song we sing at church?* My absolute favorite hymn is "It Is Well".
6. *What was your very first job?* I had my first job at 14 years old bailing hay.
7. *What is your best piece of advice?* Spend as much time with those you love and treat every time like it could be the last time you'll ever see them because we never know when that time may come to and end.