

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2025

“Remembering The Main Thing”

by *Glen Rhodes, Ministry Team Leader, Minister of Discipling*

During the month of January we remembered, celebrated, and reflected on the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. Many other Anabaptists around the world joined us in this recognition, and many communities had special meetings and events to further understand the history and impact that Anabaptism has had on our faith and in our world. While these remembrances and celebrations are important they must not become an idol or cause us to become prideful. Our history is filled with moments of great faith, great division, and great growth, but we must always remember why this Anabaptist movement in the 1500's began in the first place.

Following the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus around 33 A.D. the church of Jesus Christ continued to grow and experienced the Holy Spirit in their midst during that time. Persecution was prevalent but the church continued to grow. Many of the first 12 disciples were martyred for their faith. After several centuries had passed the Emperor Constantine had a spiritual experience in 313 A.D. and allowed Christianity to become the recognized religion of the Roman Empire. This stopped the persecution, but it also changed Christianity and the church for many years during the Middle Ages. Infants were now being baptized, large impersonal cathedrals were built, and faith in Jesus

became more about creeds that one recited instead of how they lived their life.

Some 1500 years later a Catholic Priest named Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany and the Protestant Reformation began. Out of this reformation came a group of radical students, former priests, and peasants who began

baptizing adults upon their professed belief in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. These were the first Anabaptists. In the years since there have been many schisms and other new groups that have formed out of those first Anabaptist groups.

Mennonites, Brethren, Amish, Hutterites, and many other denominations that practice

adult believers' baptism trace their roots back to those first Anabaptists. During the messages in January we looked at some of the core principles of Anabaptism which were...Jesus is the center of our faith, community is the center of our lives, reconciliation is the center of our work, and most importantly, Jesus Christ is our Savior and our Lord. It is important to celebrate our ancestry and heritage, but it is imperative that we celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ and live in the way that he taught us to live. In essence, this was the reason Anabaptism began in the first place. May we always keep the main thing the main thing.



AMC
arthur mennonite church
MINISTRY TEAM

Glen Rhodes
Minister of
Discipling
(Ministry
Team 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



Last month, Glen shared three messages centered around the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Anabaptist movement during the Great Reformation in Europe.

If you missed these messages, we encourage you to visit our website: arthurmennonite.org or the church YouTube channel to listen and/or watch!

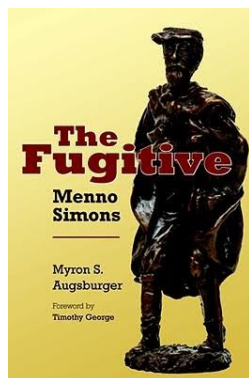
BOOK OF THE MONTH

“The Fugitive: Menno Simons”

by Myron S. Augsburger

It’s 1544 and Menno Simons, a leader in the new - and persecuted - free church movement, is on the run from authorities in the Netherlands. With a price on his head, he stops to catch his breath and prays, “Lord, what do I do now?” Myron Augsburger’s historical novel recalls Menno’s life - from Catholic priest to radical reformer to hunted fugitive.

“Menno emerges as a real, life-and-blood character, not the mythic founder of a denomination, but a faithful disciple for whom the path of obedience was not a straight line but a zigzag pattern through the shadows and byways of his fugitive life.”
~ Timothy George in the Foreword



Find this book in our foyer book rack!

FIRST FRUITS STEWARDSHIP

Giving God Our Best

December 29 - \$9,405 | January 5 - \$9,664

January 12 - \$19,111 | January 19 - \$9,650

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:
710 E Park, Arthur, IL 61911.

Please include your envelope so your number can be recorded.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2 Addison Yoder	19 Cari Plank
5 Emily Kauffman	20 Anna Mary Borntrager
Debbie Miller	Joe D. Gingerich
9 Bill Moreland	23 Grant Helmuth
10 Jordan Gingerich	Karen Miller
14 Ryan Burdick	Nancy Plank
Levi & Gloria Yoder	24 Glen Rhodes
18 Zeb Hughes	

Place your order for the AMC Youth Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser!

\$8 each - pick up Feb. 9 from 11:30am-12:30pm

Did you know... these freeze well and you can cut them into thirds to share with friends!

ATTENTION YOUTH

For every 25 orders collected, your name will be entered into a drawing for prizes AND an additional prize will be given to the person who collects the most orders!



AMC Personal Profile

KEEGAN MILLER



1. How old are you and what school do you attend? *I'm 10 and I'm in the Arthur Elementary School.*

2. What is your favorite verse or story in the Bible? *The book of Matthew.*

3. Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time?
Yes, at MCFI I felt the Holy Spirit a lot one time. I can't really explain, but it felt very serious!
4. What would you say is your favorite meal?
Oreos and milk
5. What is your favorite song or hymn that we sing at church? *“Does “Let It Go!” count? *insert mad giggle* Old Rugged Cross! There's another song we sing at Daddy's family Christmas that is really good too, called “The Finish Line”.*
6. Which season of the year would you say is your favorite? *Winter, because it has Christmas, and Christmas is about Jesus.*
7. What do you regard as your most treasured possession?
It's like a white fluffy rabbit with my name on one of the ears. The ears are really fluffy, too! Well, nothing much makes it so special, but that bunny is just my favorite. My mom put the name on the ear!
8. Do you have a favorite inspirational quote? *Whoever is first shall be last, and whoever is last shall be first.*
9. *An interesting fact about me is that I exited Kindergarten with a 3rd grade reading level.*