

## October's Forum and Supper Gatherings

Arbor Covenant church acknowledges and affirms the centrality of scripture in our life together. In our worship we try to reflect this as we do in our small group studies and leadership. As we continue to consider, together, our postures and perspectives towards the LGBTQ community we will continue to acknowledge and affirm this commitment.

In October we will hold gatherings to discuss some of what scripture has to say about human sexuality. It's an exhaustive topic, and these gatherings may prove to be just a first step, but they will be important nonetheless.

Immediately, when people think about this topic, they may direct their attention to a select group of passages that seem to specifically address human sexuality. We will do our best to address these passages, unpacking their contexts and considering how they inform our convictions. But beyond considering specific texts, we will spend time considering the role and function of scripture as a whole.

The Evangelical Covenant Church asserts that the Bible is the story of God's work in the world to create, befriend, and redeem all things. It's an inspired word that illustrates the contours of God's fidelity and outlines a picture of humanity's faithful response to God and to each other. To do this it incorporates a series of different genres, literary devices, and storytelling techniques. While it tells the great and universal story of God's love, it reflects the concerns and perspectives of the particular times and places where it was written and compiled.

Scripture is exceedingly relevant. It is "living and active" as the book of Hebrews informs. There is truth and grace to encounter in it, a vision for the whole of creation that is filled to overflowing with abundance and hope. But taking scripture seriously requires much of us. It demands that we work through questions about its context and that we address the perspectives that we each bring to it as readers. It requires our humility, our prayerful discernment, and our willingness to listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit.

Please join me on October 11 and/or October 21 to consider together how God might be leading us, through scripture, to respond and share God's love, grace, and truth with each other and with our LGBTQ neighbors. If neither the 11th nor the 21st work for you and you're still interested in being part of the discussion, please let me know so we can sit down for a conversation.

Pastor Peter Morris

## Future Forums

October 11 @11:45-12:45 —  
**Second Human Sexuality  
Discussion Forum (scripture)**

October 21 @6:30-8:00PM —  
**Second Human Sexuality  
Discussion Simple Supper  
(scripture)**

November 8 @11:45-12:45 —  
**Third Human Sexuality  
Discussion Forum  
(congregational/denominational  
distinctive & policies)**

November 18 @6:30-8:00PM —  
**Third Human Sexuality  
Discussion Simple Supper  
(congregational/denominational  
distinctive & policies)**

December 6 @ 11:45-12:45 —  
**Fourth Human Sexuality  
Discussion Forum (our hopes &  
fears)**

December 16 @ 6:30-8:00PM —  
**Fourth Human Sexuality  
Discussion Simple Supper (our  
hopes & fears)**

January 10 @11:45-12:45 — **Fifth  
Human Sexuality Discussion  
Forum (the inevitable loose  
ends)**

January 20 @6:30-8:00PM — **Fifth  
Human Sexuality Discussion  
Simple Supper (the inevitable  
loose ends)**



## Covenant Trust Company

At last month's Leadership Team Meeting, Peter Heintzelman, from Covenant Trust Company (CTC) made a presentation regarding the Trust Company's asset management, trust, and estate planning services. He shared how important legacy gifts are to individual ministries and the benefits of investing in a faith-based investment management firm such as CTC. As Arbor Covenant moves into the future, it is important that we remain good stewards of God's gifts to us. Acknowledging that, anyone who is interested would be welcome to help us explore not only this company but any other options available to us as well as development of a legacy giving program. Please contact Mark Hanson, Leadership Team Chair, if you are interested in this topic

<http://www.covenanttrust.com>



## October Get-Togethers -

Book Discussion - On October 7 at 7 p.m. everyone is invited to Jan and Chuck Gietzel's condo to discuss the book Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. The book and the discussion will focus on the American criminal justice system – and specifically on capital punishment. If you plan to attend, please let the Gietzels know so that they will have a chair for you!!

Thursday Small Group has begun – The group meets (most) Thursday nights at the Meyer's home. This fall they will be discussing Pope Francis' Encyclical on Climate Change and Inequality. New members are welcome..

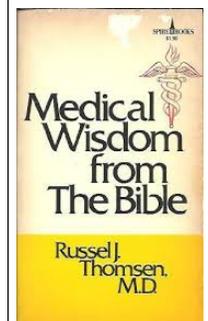
Sunday Small Group meets at church from 9:15-10:15 AM each Sunday. In October Amanda Fledderjohann will lead discussions on the book Medical Wisdom from the Bible (Russell Thomsen). Please join us!!

### **Medical Wisdom from the Bible" (Russel J. Thomsen, M. D.) – Submitted by Dick Lindgren**

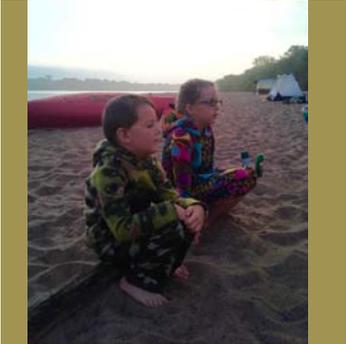
In the October Sunday Morning discussions, Dr. Amanda Fledderjohann will lead a discussion of the book by Dr. Thomsen. It is copyrighted in 1961 and 1970. We have only two copies at this time, and it is out of print. We can copy some parts of the book, and there is one book by him that is larger and printed later.

There is a lot of detail for such a small book. He has a good discussion of miracles, and a good translation of the diseases listed in the Bible along with what we call them today. He discusses homosexuality, a topic that is currently being discussed in our Human Sexuality Forums. This book was written before the problem of HIV and AIDs. He cites Romans One and Leviticus to support his position. He also discusses plagues, death, and the individuals coming back to life. He likes to write about Dr. Luke.

I encourage you to attend - the book will prompt an interesting discussion.



The Human Sexuality Forums will continue in October focusing on scripture. The first forum will be held October 11 from 11:45 AM- 12:45 PM. The second forum will be held on October 21 from 6:30-8:00. Discussion will follow a Simple Supper.



## Children's Church Canoe Trip

The possibility of a canoe trip on the Wisconsin River has been mentioned on and off over the last year or two. Many obstacles stood in the way. Its best when the water has warmed and the water levels have dropped after the snow melt and spring rains. Then there's the question of matching up schedules when most, or at least some, could participate. And for those that have never canoed the river, the question of safety needs to be confronted. Is this safe, especially with children? Most had never heard of the Arbor canoe trips of 25 years ago. With some basic rules and precautions, this is safe.

Everything came together for September 4 and 5 when Fabio, Ian, Lissa, Reba, JD, Josh, Peter, Janis, and I drove to Black Hawk landing and unloaded gear and canoes. This was the first time for all but Janis and me. We had a few others hoping to go, but in the end various things got in the way.

The first night camp site was on a long, low sandbar island just off from shore. No lights could be seen except for one campsite much further down river. The children were soon in full tilt delight running in and out of the shallow waters as adults set up camp. All pitched in to gather drift and other wood and soon a fire was going over which supper was cooked. Reba gave blessing for the food in a lively Covenant Harbor blessing. And we all enjoyed the sunset light show beyond Ferry Bluff by our Creator. After a busy late summer, this was an impromptu retreat and time of fellowship.

The next morning provided sun upriver against a dark sky with lifting fog downriver. It was ethereal. After a gourmet egg breakfast cooked over the fire, we broke camp and paddled downstream with a side hike to the top of the cliff at Ferry Bluff and later a lunch stop and play time. Peter and I walked and swam across the entire river at that point. It was sandy bottom the entire way. And we found the pull-out landing.

Everyone was so thrilled that we decided we would definitely do another canoe trip next summer, and we've heard from a number of people who want to join those that ventured out this year. See you next year.

Mark Hanson

On Friday morning, September 18, five women departed from church at 8:15 am to head for Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva. Our goal was to be there by 10:00 am along with the rest of the organizational committee in order to be ready when the first registrants showed up about 5:00 pm. We spent most of the day in the big tent setting up registration and filling hospitality bags with little gifts and papers on Women's Ministries. While we did this, others were decorating both the JAC Center where we worshipped and the tables in the Lodge and the Geneva Bay center.

Our speaker for the weekend was Evangelist Renee Shepherd who is from one of the Chicago churches. Her theme was Together we are one STRONG. Her theme was based on Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12. It starts out by telling us that two are better than one because they have a good return for their work and ends by saying that though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. She used a large woven cord as she talked and had the parts separated and eventually woven together to illustrate her point. We had four services with Renee.

In addition to our four whole group services we had one workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon. We had a number of selections such as: The Art of the Roman Catacombs presented by Gregory Athnos, Professor Emeritus of North Park University, the Anticipated Messiah also by Professor Athnos, a missionary presentation by Katie Isaza who is a Covenant missionary in Colombia, Conflict and Love in Marriage, presented by Rev. Henry and Diane Stewart; Equip the Women, presented by Donna Robinson, who with her husband ministers at Harvest Covenant Church in Milwaukee. These are just a few of the workshops offered.

Later in the afternoon there was time for going into town or being involved in activities at the camp. Pontoon and speed boat rides were a couple of options as was paddle boarding. Be sure to ask Ulrika about her experience with the paddle board. She looked like she was really enjoying herself! Yoga was also available.

I don't want to omit the music. We had four musicians from the Milwaukee and Lake Geneva Churches. The selection of music was wonderful. There were many songs that were new to us that went beautifully with what Renee had to say to us. I know a lot of work went into those selections. One piece was actually acquired from a person in New Zealand.

As a part of the committee, it was a wonderful feeling to see our work from the last ten months come together for a very meaningful weekend. We are hoping a few more women will join us next year.

Ruth Hallblade

## Covenant Women Fall Retreat



### Birthdays

10/3	Erika Hanson	10/17	Kevin Corrado	10/26	Dale Hallblade
10/3	Mike Johnson	10/18	Glenn Hanson	10/28	Marijo Kessenich
10/9	Peggy Kent	10/24	Elrene Lund	10/28	Rod Johnson
10/12	Paul Kent	10/25	Judy Douglas	10/30	Harry Engstrom
10/12	Maria Drews				

### Anniversaries

10/1	Chuck and Jan Gietzel
10/10	Steve and Nancy McDuff
10/18	Roger and Sue Springman



	Host	Nursery	Children's Church	Lay Reader	Projector
October 4	Gunnard/Ulrika Swanson	Michelle Stachowiak	Ruth Hallblade	Jan Gietzel	Chuck Gietzel
October 11	Peter Morris/Tamsin Ford	Deb Levin	Lissa Turner	Susan Corrado	Debby Meyer
October 18	Joyce Boggess Mike Johnson	Joyce Boggess	Fabio Mora	Kris Brown	Mark Hanson
October 25	Deb McGill Glenn Hanson	Ulrika Swanson	Lissa Turner	Matthew Fledderjohann	Susan Corrado
November 1	Sue/John Pecotte	Hannah Lund	Mark Hanson	Ruth Hallblade	Michelle Stachowiak

<p><b>October Calendar</b></p>				<p>1 7:00 PM-Small Group @ Meyers</p>	<p>2 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 9:15-10:15 AM Sunday Small Group @church 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Worship COMMUNION Deacon Fund Offering</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 7:00 PM – Book Discussion @ Gietzels</p>	<p>8 6:30 PM Leadership Team</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:15-10:15 AM Sunday Small Group @church 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Worship 11:45 AM-12:45 PM Second Human Sexuality Discussion Forum (Scripture)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 10:30 AM-Community Meals @ Luke House 5:30-7:30 PM – Personal Essentials Pantry 7:00 PM – Small Group @ Meyers</p>	<p>16 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:15-10:15 AM Sunday Small Group @church 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 6:30-8:00 PM Second Human Sexuality Discussion Simple Supper (Scripture)</p>	<p>22 7:00 PM – Small Group @ Meyers</p>	<p>23 4:30 AM-7:30 AM Homeless Shelter @ Grace Episcopal 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9:15-10:15 AM Sunday Small Group @church 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7:00 PM – Small Group @ Meyers</p>	<p>30 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry</p>	<p>31</p>
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