

May 2016

Arbor Covenant Church

Madison Wisconsin

ARBOR NEWSLETTER

Resurrection Hope during Paternity Leave

The last four weeks have been wonderful (and exhausting).

I have been with my son every day. From the time he wakes up in the morning to the moment he goes to sleep. Feeding, diaper change, play time, nap, repeat...his life and mine have been lived on a three or so hour cycle without much time when being a dad hasn't been my sole priority.

Along the way, a realization about parenthood continues to sink in. This child is dependent on his mom and me, and the ways we care for him will have a lasting impact on his life.

As much as I wish my wife and I could be perfect parents, the ineradicable truth is we never will be. And the unfortunate fact is the mistakes we make will create a lasting imprint on his life. There will be times when we fail our son. Times when our love for him will become more an overbearing burden than suitable support. There will be instances when we'll miss the source of his pain and fail to ease it. There will be times when we will miss the depth of his frustrations or pain and fail to care for him appropriately. There will also likely be instances when our egos get entangled with his accomplishments and we end up failing to give him the space he needs to be his own person, and others when our hopes for him will differ from his own and we'll hesitate to grant him room to make his own good decisions. Whatever the case, the imperfections of our parenting will imprint his life. And they're probably going to wound him to one degree or another, they're most likely going to cause him confusion and pain, and make his life more difficult than it otherwise may be.

We all bare wounds of these sort, to some extent or another, because no matter how stable or loving the people who raised us were or are, none of them are perfect. We all bear the imprint of our parents or guardians inevitable imperfections, of our family's inevitable imperfections, of our upbringing's inevitable imperfections. For some people this can become a staggering obstacle, some take steps to address them through self-examination and perhaps therapy, others just live with these imprints without ever confronting them, no matter, what they become part of our own inevitable imperfections

Despite all that is at stake and the certain realization that I won't be a perfect dad, transitioning into parenthood during the season of resurrection has given me boundless hope. Because regardless of the inevitable imperfections I imprint on my son, I know that they will never have the last word over his life. Nothing will other than the grace and goodness of God.

Theodore's life won't be all feedings, diaper changes, play time, and naps. As hard as it is for me to imagine now, it will also include heartbreak and struggle, some of which I will regrettably cause. It will include seasons of frustration and loss, times when he will be wounded and he will wound others. The hope of resurrection is that none of this will determine his worth, his identity, or his destiny. None of it will make him less lovable or less a gift worth cherishing, because his truest self will always be determined by God's love and Jesus' triumph over all the forces that might separate him (and us) from it.

Resurrection is good news for all of us. It means all pain will one day cease, all brokenness will be made whole, every tear will be wiped away, every imperfection will be overcome. It means no matter what we've done, or what's been done to us, our identities are irrevocably forged in God's inexhaustible love for each of us and all of creation.

This is good news for people of all ages, from every place and background. It's good news for four-month olds and maybe even better news for the parents of four-month olds.

Pastor Peter Morris

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Arbor Covenant Nomination Committee is pleased to announce the following four Leadership Team candidates to the congregation. **They are Jim Stehley (2nd Term), Dan Meyer, Sue Springman and Rachel Woofter.** We will vote to accept them as new Leadership Team members at our next Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 15 following worship. We are grateful and excited about their willingness to serve in this important part of our church.

Gunnard Swanson, Chair
 Pastor Peter Morris
 Ann-Britt Keillor
 Jan Gietzel

WEBSITE DEVELOPER

In April the Leadership Team selected Amanda Fledderjohann as our new website developer. Amanda is a member of the congregation who had expressed an interest in making our website current and appealing. She will begin working by meeting with the committee which defined the position – and then will work this summer to develop the site. We look forward to exciting developments ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS BEN JACOBI

Ben is a pharmacy student from Minneapolis. He has been staying with Jim Stehley while finishing his last 8-week rotation at the Dean Clinic on the west side. He will be graduating May 15 with his Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D.) degree from UW. He is very musically talented and will be playing the piano at church Sunday. His father is the pastor at Crosstown Highway Covenant Church in Minneapolis. His mother is a nurse practitioner with CVS pharmacy. *(Thanks to Jim Stehley for sharing this information)*

Congratulations and best wishes Ben. We have enjoyed having you worship with us.

PRAYER REQUESTS

JOYCE BOGGESS

Joyce is recovering from a broken leg which occurred while showing children how to fly a kite!! Please pray for patience for Miss Joyce who is not used to being immobile!!

PEGGY AND PAUL KENT

Peggy continues to undergo chemotherapy rounds and appreciates the prayers and concerns of the congregation. Paul also needs our prayers as he supports Peggy.

COMING EVENTS

MAY 1 – BAPTISM

On May 1 Michelle Anna Stachowiak, infant daughter of Daniel and Michelle Stachowiak, will be baptized during the worship service. God's blessings on this little one.

MAY 7 – WORK DAY

We will have a work day from 9:00 AM until noon. There are many indoor and outdoor jobs that need to be done – and you are encouraged to come and help out. Treats will be served.

MAY 8 – MOTHER'S DAY

A Mother's Day breakfast will be served at church from 9:00 AM until 10:00 AM. Lissa Turner will be preparing the breakfast and the children will be helping her. Bring your family and enjoy this time together before worship.

MAY 15 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting after church. The Nominating Committee (Ann-Britt Keillor, Gunnard Swanson, Jan Gietzel and Pastor Peter) will present their recommendations for new terms on the Leadership Team. The congregation will vote to approve the slate.

SAVE THESE DATES

JUNE 19 – CHILDREN'S DAY.

We will celebrate the lives of our children during the service and then have a cookout/potluck after church.

AUGUST 5-6 CHURCH CANOE TRIP

Once again, we will have an all-church canoe trip down the Wisconsin River – There will be a focus on the children, but all adults are welcome

GARDEN PLOTS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GARDEN PLOT IN THE CHURCH GARDEN, PLEASE SEE JIM STEHLEY!!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP JIM WITH THE GARDEN MAINTENANCE, HE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

BOOK LIST 2016

The Booklist for 2016 is now available on the church [website](#). Look under Resources. This list has contributions from 25 people in our congregation. There is something there for everyone! Thanks to all who contributed.

MAY 17 – BOOK DISCUSSION

Everyone is invited to join a discussion of The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (Michelle Alexander) .

This book was very highly recommended by members of the congregation last year when the Covenant Women Booklist was published.

Amazon's review says,

"Once in a great while a book comes along that changes the way we see the world and helps to fuel a nationwide social movement. The New Jim Crow is such a book. Praised by Harvard Law professor Lani Guinier as "brave and bold," this book directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. In the words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a "call to action."

It is our hope that we have a large diverse group to discuss it – Our discussion will certainly be improved by more people who have different experiences to bring to the conversation. Please consider carefully this invitation to be part of an important discussion even if you have not read the book. And please invite friends who would like to join the discussion. While this book is not explicitly faith-based, we as people of faith can benefit greatly from reading this book and discussing it with others in our community.

Chuck and Jan Gietzel have once again invited us to their condo for this meeting. It is centrally located at 360 W.Washington Avenue, Unit 402. The meeting will take place on Tuesday May 17 at 7:00 PM. The coffee will be out. All are welcome.

We'll be gathering around Chuck & Jan Gietzel's fireplace in folding chairs since their furniture has not been moved back yet to their newly-restored condo. But, this won't stop us from having a thought-provoking discussion about The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander. This is a "must-read" for all of us who care about the persistence of racism in this country. *(Jan Gietzel)*



May Birthdays

- May 8 Sarah Howard
- May 8 Debby Meyer
- May 22 Jeremy Henning
- May 24 Janis Hanson
- May 25 John Pecotte

May Anniversaries

- May 22 John and Sue Pecotte
- May 25 Ken and Elrene Lund

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES

Date	Host	Lay Reader	Children's Church	Nursery	Projector
May 1	Phil and Kris Brown	Rod Johnson	Mark Hanson	Susan Corrado	Chuck Gietzel
May 8	Dan and Debby Meyer	Mike Johnson	Lissa Turner	Debby Meyer	Debby Meyer
May 15	Ken and Elrene Lund	Gunnard Swanson	Fabio Mora	Deb Levin	Mark Hanson
May 22	Deb Levin and Michelle Stachowiak	Kris Brown	Ruth Hallblade	Ulrika Swanson	Susan Corrado
May 29	Joyce Boggess Mike Johnson	Joyce Boggess	Mark Hanson	Matthew Fledderjohann	Michelle Stachowiak
June 5	Dale and Ruth Hallblade				Chuck Gietzel

Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry

The Item of the Month is Disposable Diapers – size 3,4, or 5

Please leave any donations in the box in the narthex. Thank You.

May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15AM Sunday Morning Small Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship BAPTISM COMMUNION Deacon Fund Offering	2	3	4	5 7:00 PM Small Group at Meyers	6 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	7 9:00AM-noon Work Day
8 MOTHER'S DAY 9:00- 10:00 AM Mother's Day Breakfast 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	9	10	11	12 6:30 PM Leadership Team	13 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	14
15 9:15AM Sunday Morning Small Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship Congregational Meeting after worship	16	17 7:00 PM Arbor Book Discussion	18	19 10:30 AM Community Meals at Luke House 5:30 PM-7:30 PM Personal Essentials Pantry 7:00 PM Small Group at Meyers	20 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	21
22 9:15AM Sunday Morning Small Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	23	24	25	26 7:00 PM Small Group at Meyers	27 4:30-7:00 AM Homeless Shelter at Grace Episcopal (M/G Hanson) 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	28
29 9:15AM Sunday Morning Small Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	30	31	1	2 7:00 PM Small Group at Meyers	3	4