

# ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2016



MADISON WISCONSIN

**Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~Melody Beattie**

## *November Thoughts*

It's been divisive. It's been demoralizing. It's gone on and on and on. Finally it's nearly over.

The presidential election of 2016 has catered to our baser instinct; peddling fear, exacerbating anxiety, inflaming animosity. Too much of it has been a sensationalized argument that has focused more on insults than on ideas, doing precious little to point the nation forward to a productive future. It has largely devolved into an R-rated shouting match that's highlighted persistent anxiety among communities where economic changes have undercut longstanding industries, leaving people to wonder about the quality of life their children will experience. It's also revealed the pervasive realities of racism, sexism, and xenophobia in our country. All of it has contributed to a seemingly intractable divide between polarized political factions, many members of each are angry and adamant about their opinions.

On November 9, 2016 this disheartening, toxic campaign will be over. One party will presumably be happy, and the other may well be indignant. Either way, life will go on and there will be a mess to clean up.

We will wake up that morning and go to work, to school or to the store and interact with people who voted differently than us. We may even wake up and have breakfast with a family member who voted differently. And after this 2-year slog to election day, the temptation to perpetuate and further political divides will be there.

But as people of faith we are called to do the work of reconciliation, unity, and hope. It's our vocation to overcome divisions and to mend broken relationships. It's our calling as people of Christ to follow his example by reaching across every border and boundary to extend friendship and worth even to those who seem diametrically opposed to many of our most strongly-held convictions.

Doing this work of unity doesn't mean that we concede the causes we care about. We still must speak out for justice, work for peace, and seek systems that affirm human dignity. But we may need to let go of some anger and resentment. We may need to do some work in our lives to help us cultivate empathy so that we can try to understand a person's experience and motivation and no longer merely see them as disdained members of a caricatured voting block.

Martin Luther King Jr once memorably said, "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." After this season of division and fear, it's time for us to embrace this idea with renewed commitment, to seek to befriend people no matter where they might sit on the political spectrum, to do the work of reconciliation, to demonstrate that there is a better version of life than this polarized process so many of us have been consumed by.

We have the chance to be menders of a breach, to share and embody grace. Praise God for this opportunity. And praise God that the election is almost over.

Pastor Peter Morris

### *North Park Choirs Concert*

On October 22 the Arbor Community was treated to a wonderful concert by the North Park University Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. Over 50 strong, they filled the sanctuary with glorious music which ranged from short pieces illustrating various quotes from Albert Einstein to a full-voiced rendition of **Fairest Lord Jesus**. Those of us from Arbor and the guests we brought were enthralled with the skills and enthusiasm of this young group and enjoyed talking with them individually after the concert. Deb Levin led a group of hard-working volunteers who produced a spaghetti dinner and tables of salads, desserts and treats for the group before they headed out to their next stop in Racine. The efforts of the kitchen crew should be highly recognized since we could not host events like this without everyone's incredible efforts. Kudos!



A special offering was taken at the concert to benefit the Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry at Arbor. An amazing \$1500 was raised during the concert and at worship the next day. This amount along with other ongoing fund-raising should allow GNPEP to provide personal and household hygiene articles to our guests through the end of December. God has been incredibly faithful to this mission and GNPEP and its guests are exceedingly grateful for your contributions.

*(Submitted by Jan Gietzel)*

### *Neighborly Halloween Party*



Arbor Covenant Church again supported the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association Halloween Party at our church on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The party which was organized and run by the neighborhood association was attended by many young costumed Trick or Treaters from the neighborhood and church that enjoyed games, lunch and a bag of Halloween treats. Of course, the adults greatly enjoyed seeing the kids in their costumes which ranged from a "hamburger" to a "pirate". What a great opportunity to share our building with the neighborhood! *(Submitted by Jan Gietzel)*

### *Website- Media*

Have you checked out the new online presence for Arbor? Our website has been updated and now provides a beautiful welcome for any who are curious about our church. ([arborcovenant.org](http://arborcovenant.org)) We also have a Facebook page which will provide reminders of upcoming events. If you don't use Facebook, it is simple to make an account – you don't even have to use it. Then all you have to do is open to Facebook.com and type in Arbor Covenant Church. If you then click "like", you will receive reminders in your email. Thanks to Amanda Fledderjohann for all her hard work. She says a Twitter account is next!!

### *Good Neighbor Personal Essentials Pantry*

The product for the month of November is laundry detergent. (Approx. 32 load size). Please place in the bin in the narthex. Thank you so much for your support of this outreach ministry.

## Parish Notes

Please keep Judy Douglas in mind. She is at Oak Park Place in hospice. Her address is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship room. She appreciates all cards and phone numbers. See Elrene Lund if you have questions.

Prayers for Ann-Britt Keillor who is recovering from a shoulder injury.

Congratulations to Phil and Kris Brown on the birth of their first granddaughter, Linnea Sehr Brown who was born on September 30. Linnea's parents are Jason and Liz Brown and she has a big brother Grant. Blessings to all.



### November Birthdays

November 3	Adrian Swanson
November 13	William Goettler Jr.
November 18	William Goettler
November 23	Doug Keillor



### November Anniversaries

November 25	Matthew and Amanda Fledderjohann
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## Volunteer Responsibilities

	Host	Nursery	Lay Reader	Children's Church	Projector
November 6	Amanda and Matthew Fledderjohann	Ulrika Swanson	Michelle Stachowiak	Mark Hanson	Sue Pecotte
November 13	Deb McGill and Glenn Hanson	Deb Levin	Rod Johnson	Fabio Mora	Chuck Gietzel
November 20	Debby and Dan Meyer	Debby Meyer	Ann-Britt Keillor	Lissa Turner	Michelle Stachowiak
November 2	Rachel and Mike Woofter	Elrene Lund	Ulrika Swanson	Ruth Hallblade	Debby Meyer

### Advent Calendar

November 29 is the beginning of Advent. Please put these events on your calendar.

December 3	9:00 AM	Decorate the church for Christmas
December 10 –	2:00 PM-5:00 PM	Christmas Smorgasbord
December 17	6:00 PM	Christmas Open House at the Gietzels
December 18	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Children's Christmas Pageant
December 24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service



## NOVEMBER 2016 CALENDAR

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00 PM Small group at Meyers	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b> 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship Communion Deacon Offering		<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>ELECTION DAY</b> 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Leadership Team	<b>11</b> 10:30 AM- 1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM Small group at Meyers	<b>17</b> 10:30 AM Community Meals at Luke House 5:30-7:30 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>18</b> 10:30 AM- 1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>19</b> 9:00AM- 3:00 PM  Covenant Women- Holiday Bazaar at Monona Community Center	
<b>20</b> 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music <u>10:30 Call to Worship</u> 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Covenant Women- Holiday Bazaar at Monona Community Center	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> HAPPY THANKSGIVING 	<b>25</b> 4:30AM- 7:00 AM Homeless Shelter at Grace Episcopal NO Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>26</b>	
<b>27</b> 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 PM Small group at Meyers		<i>Shelter Volunteers Gunnard Swanson and Ken Lund</i>		