

*Arbor Covenant  
Church  
Madison Wisconsin  
Newsletter*



## *Christ the Lord is Risen Today - Alleluia*

### **Resurrection Now**

During Lent, we've reflected upon repentance. The movement of faith that involves turning away from brokenness and turning towards the fullness and wholeness of God or having an experience of grace, an encounter with God that changes our perspectives, challenges our worldview, forces us to wrap our heads around new implications of God's goodness. This movement is the pattern of faith in scripture, it is migration towards God and God's promises.

In the last few weeks we've also been reading stories about resurrection. John's gospel presents epic episodes in which God's transformative goodness is made evident. These stories share the good news of the (sometimes challenging) implications of resurrection. A widowed and divorced woman previously defined by abandonment and tragedy affirmed as a daughter of God and a witness to Christ's goodness. A blind beggar has his sight restored, his place in the community challenged, before finding welcome for the first time. And finally a dead man and his two sisters, separated by the pain and grief of loss, their lives interrupted by death, called forth into new life and renewed friendship.

In each of these instances, Christ brought liberation and reorientation. These incidents changed people's lives, ushering in a new way to understand and experience life and human community. These events created renewed and redefined self-images for each who had an encounter, and renewed and redefined ways to understand relationships with God and neighbors.

In each case encounters with Jesus Christ — the resurrection and the life! — had immediate effect that transformed lives then and there. Resurrection wasn't something to plan for, it wasn't something to confess, it wasn't something to grapple with merely as an idea. Resurrection was a lived, experiential reality that changed everything in an instant.

We tend to think of resurrection as a promised future that transcends generations and the boundaries of times, opening for us eternal life. But what if we let the immediacy of these biblical resurrection encounters reshape our understanding? What if we understood it not primarily as a promised future, but as an experiential reality that we are invited to know now, to share now, to live now. What if resurrection was for today?

On Easter Sunday, we begin the season of resurrection celebration. We rejoice in Christ's triumph over death and embrace the new life it makes possible. Not just for the future but for right now.

Pastor Peter Morris



Can you name these Easter children? (Hint: they are all grown up now. Several are parents.

In your Easter bonnet  
Karin Brown and  
Ulrika Swanson  
(~ 1990)



An Easter Tradition: Miss Joyce and the Easter story. And then the Egg Hunt.

## *Easter 2017*

### **April 5, 6:00-7:30PM Metanoia Meal**

Resurrection

Metanoia Question:

What if Resurrection isn't merely a quantitative descriptor of the duration of life after death, but a qualitative descriptor for life now?

## *Holy Week*

### **Mundy Thursday**

April 13, 7:00PM

A service of story and table, tracing the events of Holy Week.

### **Easter Sunday**

**April 16, 10:25AM**

A service of celebration and resurrection hope.

The children will participate in worship and then enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt.

## In Memory of Ardeth Lindgren

Arbor Covenant Church mourns the death of Ardeth Lindgren on March 30, 2017. Ardeth was a charter member of Arbor. Along with her husband Dick, she worked tirelessly to support this church. For many years, her soprano voice rose above all others whenever the choir sang. She will be buried in her home state of Iowa next week. A memorial service will be held in June at Arbor Covenant. (We will include more memories in our May newsletter)



Dick and Ardeth Lindgren in 1963. They are holding Eric and Amy.



Ardeth, front and center, singing in the Arbor choir.

## Farewell to Gunnard Swanson



It is so hard to say goodbye to our friends. But we know that we will see Gunnard frequently. Our prayers and best wishes will follow him to his new home in Golden Valley MN.

## On Community and the Arbor Community Garden



Jan Gietzel called me a couple of weeks ago to say she had a volunteer to manage, or perhaps shepherd would be a better word, Arbor's Community Garden. With Jim Stehley's moving on to Glory Land as Joyce would say, we needed a new head gardener. And we need a gardener quickly as Spring is here.

I wasted no time in calling Ron to see what might become of this lead. And it made me think in the back of my mind of the thoughts that God is present in this place, and that God will provide. Ron and I met on Friday afternoon, and Marge at Creek volunteered to join us as she was also interested in the Garden. The USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) is encouraging more nutritious foods at schools including using gardens and local farms as providers of fresh produce. Creek Day School had submitted a proposal for help with its garden within the Arbor Community Garden and has received a grant that will cover the costs of rototilling of the garden and some other things.

Ron's story is fascinating. He is a paleontologist by training and is currently focused as a house husband on raising a 12-year-old son as his wife works as a patent attorney. They moved into Arbor Hills a few years ago and he is looking for opportunities to be part of and active in community. Somehow (through the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association perhaps), he learned of the work of the Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry. That spoke to him, and he is now a regular volunteer with Jan, Janis, and the other volunteers. It was through GNPEP that he saw the Community Garden, and wanted to work on that as well.

I've just invited Ron to attend our Leadership Team meeting on April 20 so we can introduce him and hear what he is thinking and planning. I've also promised Ron that we'll get a few of us from Arbor out behind the garage to try to salvage the old tool shed that got toppled in a recent storm. We'll see what God has in store for us in the coming weeks and months. And if you see Ron, say hi.

Mark Hanson

## A Welcoming, Inclusive Statement for Arbor Covenant



On March 21st, the committee charged by the Arbor Covenant Leadership Team to develop a draft statement of Welcome and Inclusivity at Arbor Covenant met for the first time. Ann-Britt Keillor, Hannah Lund, Rachel Woofter, Susan Springman, Pastor Rod Johnson, Pastor Peter Morris and Jan Gietzel spent a good deal of time studying the statements of other churches, both Covenant and other denominations. We discussed specific language, scope and intention of these different statements and agreed to prayerfully consider those which we believed were meaningful and contained aspects that we might want to include in our draft. Eventually the draft will be presented to the Leadership Team for approval and then to the Congregation for ultimate approval.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 18th at 7:00 pm at Ann-Britt Keillor's home.

Committee Chair  
Jan Gietzel

## Housewarming Party

On April 1st, Arbor celebrated Ulrika Swanson and her move to her new home. Ulrika has been a faithful member of Arbor since she was born. Her father, Gunnard, recently moved to the Covenant retirement home in Golden Valley MN. The family home has been sold and Ulrika has recently moved. Several women in the church wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate Ulrika for her faithful membership in Arbor where she has participated in so many ways. Lunch was served after church and then we had a lively trivia team. Ulrika then opened a wonderful collection of gifts ranging from spices to kitchen towels to homemade table runners.



## Covenant Women Book Discussion



For more than a decade (2004-2017) Covenant Women has been sponsoring a Book Discussion in the spring. We will once again be doing this on May 1. It will be held at Ann Britt's at 6:00 pm. We will have some time to visit while we enjoy a salad supper. Following the supper, we will have a time to share some of our favorite reads for the past year. If you get your favorites to Kris Brown, she will make up a list of our books so that we have something to take home with us.

It is not too early to begin collecting your list of recommended books. Kris Brown is accepting recommendations at any time. Simply send her an email ([kristinelbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinelbrown@yahoo.com)) with a title, author and short description of the book. If you do not include a description, Kris will find one for you. Some people recommend one book and some recommend many more. All genres of books are welcome. Men are invited to submit their favorite books too. Kris will compile a booklet of the recommended books and distribute them to those who attend the Covenant Women book discussion. The document will also be available on the church website. Extra paper copies are also available. For many, this booklet provides a reading list for many months to come. It also allows people to talk with each other about their favorite books and authors.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to share your favorite books and then read some great books that your Arbor friends are recommending.



## Parish Notes



Congratulations to **Fabio Mora** for becoming a US citizen on March 22 in Milwaukee. Fabio, a native of Costa Rica, and his family, Hannah, Ian, and Leah live in Madison. Hannah's parents, Ken and Elrene Lund, joined them at the ceremony. 68 people from 40 countries became citizens.



Mark and Glenn Hanson's father, **Paul Emery Hanson** passed away on Thursday March 23 in Fort Myers Florida at the age of 94 ½.

Grandson Carl Hanson wrote that Emery was a devoted husband, loving father of four children, grandfather of seven, and great-grandfather of seven, faithful Christian, second-generation Swedish American, successful businessman, life-long Republican, avid golfer, world traveler, and WW II Navy veteran.

Our prayers and sympathies to all of the Hansons.


### *April Birthdays*

April 7            Sam Kessenich  
 April 9            Teresa Foster  
 April 10          Duane Anderson  
 April 12          Jan Gietzel  
 April 24          Deb McGill  
 April 25          Sue Pecotte  
 April 26          Lowell Nordling  
 April 28          Carin Goettler  
 April 29          Gunnard Swanson

### *April Anniversaries*

April 16            Deb McGill and Glenn Hanson  
 April 19            Holly and Stuart McCoy

**Good Neighbor Personal Essentials Pantry**  
**Item of the Month**



**Toilet Paper**

Please leave your donations in the bin in the front narthex.

### *Volunteer Responsibilities*

	Host	Nursery	Lay Reader	Projector
<b>April 2</b>	Ulrika's Housewarming Party	Deb Levin	Debby Meyer	Michelle Stachowiak
<b>April 9</b>	Ruth and Dale Hallblade	Ulrika Swanson	Kris Brown	Chuck Gietzel
<b>April 16</b>	Joyce Boggess and Mike Johnson	Deb Levin	Sue Pecotte	Debby Meyer
<b>April 23</b>	Sue and John Pecotte	Debby Meyer	Michelle Stachowiak	Mark Hanson
<b>April 30</b>	Tamsin Ford and Peter Morris	Elrene Lund	Matthew Fledderjohann	Sue Pecotte

# April 2017 Calendar

<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<p>9:15 AM Sunday Study Group            10:25 AM Gathering Music            10:30 AM Call to Worship            Communion            Deacon Fund            11:45 AM Housewarming Lunch/Party for Ulrika Swanson</p>			<p>6:00-7:30 PM            Metanoia Meal</p>		<p>10:00 AM – 1:00 PM            Personal Essentials            Pantry</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<p><i><b>Palm Sunday</b></i>   9:15 Sunday Study Group            10:25 AM Gathering Music            10:30 AM Call to Worship</p>				<p><i><b>Maundy Thursday</b></i>            7:00 PM            Maundy Thursday Service  </p>	<p><i><b>Good Friday</b></i>              10:00 AM – 1:00 PM            Personal Essentials            Pantry</p>	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<p><i><b>Easter</b></i>            10:25 AM Gathering Music            10:30 AM Call to Worship            Easter Egg Hunt  </p>		<p>7:00 PM            Welcoming/Inclusion Statement Committee</p>		<p>10:30 AM Community Meals at Luke House            5:30 PM -7:30 PM            Personal Essentials Pantry            6:30 PM Leadership Team</p>	<p>10:00 AM – 1:00 PM            Personal Essentials Pantry</p>	
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<p>9:15 Sunday Study Group            10:25 AM Gathering Music            10:30 AM Call to Worship</p>					<p>10:00 AM – 1:00 PM            Personal Essentials Pantry</p>	
<b>30</b>		p				
<p>9:15 Sunday Study Group            10:25 AM Gathering Music            10:30 AM Call to Worship</p>						