

# Arbor Covenant Newsletter



Arbor Covenant Church  
Madison Wisconsin

June 2017

In recent months, a group from our congregation has worked on a statement outlining a congregational position of welcome and inclusion. It's been an encouraging time, filled with good conversation, openness towards one another and openness towards the Spirit of God. We've thought critically about how to articulate our values, our aspirations, and our convictions. We've shared with each other deeply held feelings and beliefs. We've explored stories from scripture. We've spoken to friends and neighbors from the LGBTQ community and attempted to consider other potentially exclusionary lenses people see themselves and others. We looked for examples from other churches who have set out to undertake similar projects.

But what started off as a statement of welcome evolved into a something that touches on additional aspects of community. It turned out that the process of articulating welcome to our neighbors lead us to recognize the ways we are called to renew the welcome we extend to each other and the commitments required for authentic Christian unity.

The statement we've written, along with our church's life together, affirm that differences are okay. We don't all come from the same backgrounds. We don't all have the same opinions. But we are still called to embrace one another as members of a community that gathers around Jesus Christ's love for humanity. Differences don't have to always divide. There are bigger, more important things that draw us together — God's love, God's justice, our resurrection hope. The process led us to affirm that unity does not necessitate uniformity. It does however require grace — grace we receive from God and share with each other.

We want this statement to communicate the welcome and hospitality that we share and that we aspire to live into more fully. We desire that this become an area of growth as we pursue God's grace together and in turn share that grace with our neighbors in compelling, inclusive ways.

We'll meet as a congregation on June 11 to look at and discuss the statement. I look forward to feedback and conversation as we continue to seek life together that reflects God's glory and pursues our neighbors' good.

Pastor Peter Morris

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## Christian Community Where Unity Doesn't Mean Uniformity

At Arbor Covenant Church, we believe thoughtful, faithful followers of Christ reflect diverse backgrounds, have contrasting opinions, and arrive at differing conclusions.

We can't tell you that we all ascribe to one theological viewpoint or one set of doctrinal claims. We can't tell you that we all vote alike or have the same stance on every hot-button issue. We can't tell you that we all agree about all the details of our faith, have all the answers, or whether we all think the last sermon was any good. We can't tell you that community at Arbor is always neat or that it will never disappoint you.

**We can tell you** that we value one another and aspire to be a welcoming, inclusive community that offers grace and lives out reconciliation. We can also tell you that we seek unity regardless of differences in ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, immigration status, physical/mental ability, criminal history, economic status, level of education, or any other means people use to discriminate against others. What unites us is a common desire to discover more about Jesus Christ, our pursuit of community centered around Christ's love for the world and our intention to share in God's grace together.

## Memorial Service for Ardeth Lindgren



Ardeth Lindgren, a charter member of this church, passed away on March 30 in Madison. A graveside service was held last month at Lost Grove Cemetery near Lanyon, Iowa, with Pastor Allan Redenius of First Covenant Church, Fort Dodge, Iowa, presiding.

A Memorial Service for Ardeth will be held at Arbor on Saturday June 3 at 11:00 a.m. with Pastors Peter Morris and Rodney Johnson presiding. Visitation will be held at the church from 9:45 a.m. until the time of the service. Lunch will be catered following the service.

Ardeth loved this church and gave her care and concern to many of us. You are invited to join her family and friends on June 3 as we remember a wonderful woman. Praise God for the life of Ardeth Lindgren.

## Summer Events for Arbor Friends and Family

This summer we will have many events for you to participate in. Some are familiar and some are new. Please take a moment to put these events on your calendar. More details will follow with each monthly newsletter.



### Trip to the Vilas Zoo – June 13

When was the last time you went to the Vilas Zoo? Have you seen the “new” polar bear display? We are planning a multigenerational trip to the zoo in the morning June 13. Everyone who is free is invited to come. If you need a ride, we can arrange it. If you just want to stop over for awhile, meet us at the zoo. If you have a little one who would like to join us, he/she is welcome. After wandering around for awhile, we will plan to eat a picnic lunch in the park. Bring your own lunch or you can buy food at the zoo.

It is important to let Kris Brown know if you will be coming. Kris will be in church the next two weeks. Her email is [kristinelbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinelbrown@yahoo.com) and her cell phone is 335-4601. She would like to have your cellphone number in case we can't connect. Hopefully it will be a beautiful day.

### Concert on the Square - June 28

Let's plan to have a group gather on the Capitol Square on June 28 for a Concert on the Square. The concert features 2017 Young Artist Concerto Competition Winner, violinist Emily Hauer and provides a wonderful opportunity to join your church family for a lovely relaxing evening. Children are welcome! We will plan to meet at 6 PM and the concert begins at 7 PM More details to follow – We will plan to meet at a specific spot on the Square and bring food. We can help with rides.



## Future Events this summer: Save the Dates !

### July 30 –Covenant Harbor Bible Camp Sunday

This year we will be trying something new. We will be cancelling church at Arbor on July 30 and going down to Lake Geneva Bible Camp to join in the worship service, enjoy a picnic lunch, and then spend time visiting and playing on the shore of beautiful Lake Geneva. Rev.Dr. David Kersten, Vice President of Church Relations and Dean of the North Park Theological Seminary will be preaching. More details will follow.



### Week of August 14 -Vacation Bible School –

Theme: This little light of mine

## Other possible events – we will be gathering information



Mallards Baseball Game - no definite date. Last year we went on July 15 weekend.  
Talk to Pastor Peter if interested.



Canoe Trip - Last year is was August 5-6 but this year the Covenant Point Triathlon is that weekend. Talk to Mark Hanson if interested.



Covenant Point Triathlon - August 5-6 weekend. See Pastor Peter or Rachel Woofler if interested in participating. You can participate as a team or as an individual.

Pontoon Boat trip – We are tentatively thinking about July 8 or July 9. More details to follow.



Olbrich Gardens – We may plan a walk around the beautiful Olbrich Garden later this summer.



Everyone is invited to the Kessenich home to celebrate Randy's graduation from  
Verona High School

### **Graduation Open House for Randy Kessenich**

Saturday, June 17 from 3-8pm  
2643 Stardust Trail, Verona WI

**Congregational meeting** on June 11 after the  
fellowship time.

The agenda includes:

Budget adjustment relating to Pastor's compensation

Arbor Christian Community Statement

Nominating Committee Report and election of new  
Leadership Team members



## Summer Schedule Changes



There will be no Children's Church until after Labor Day

The Sunday Study Group will not be meeting until after Labor Day.

The Wednesday Study Group will also not meet until the fall.

### *Parish Notes*

**Tom Collins** has asked for prayers and contacts. He is largely confined to his home now and truly appreciates contact with all friends.

**Keillor family** – Sympathies and prayers are extended to the Keillor family following the death of Freddy Keillor, age 17, in St. Paul MN. Freddy was the son of Ann-Britt and Phil Keillor's nephew, Jason Keillor, and the grandson of Phil Keillor's brother, Garrison.



Congratulations and best wishes to **Erika Hanson and Jordan Doll** who were married May 6. Erika is the daughter of Deb McGill and Glenn Hanson.

### *June Birthdays*

June 2        Gloria Stehley  
 June 4        Tamsin Ford  
 June 5        Sue Springman  
 June 8        Andrew Powell  
 June 12       Dick Lindgren  
 June 15       Amanda Pecotte  
 June 16       Lynda Collins  
 June 25       Chuck Gietzel

### *June Anniversaries*

June 11       Duane and Harriet Anderson  
 June 17       Mark and Janis Hanson  
 June 25       Kevin and Susan Corrado

### **Personal Essentials Pantry**

#### **Item of the Month**

#### **Laundry Detergent**

**(approx. 32 load size)**



**Thank you for your donations.**

### *Volunteer Responsibilities*

	Host	Nursery	Lay Reader	Projector
June 4	Jan and Chuck Gietzel	Debby Meyer	Mark Hanson	Sue Pecotte
June 11	Deb Levin and Charlie Volk	Deb Levin	Sue Pecotte	Michelle Stachowiak
June 18	Debby and Dan Meyer	Elrene Lund	Jan Gietzel	Chuck Gietzel
June 25	Joyce Boggess and Mike Johnson	Joyce Boggess	Michelle Stachowiak	Chuck Gietzel
July 2	Elrene and Ken Lund	Amanda Pecotte	Mike Johnson	Mark Hanson

## June 2017

				1	2 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	3 Ardeth Lindgren Memorial Service 9:45 AM Visitation 11:00 AM Service
4 10:25 Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship Communion Deacon Offering	5	6	7	8 6:30 PM Leadership Team	9 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	10
11 10:25 Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship 11:45 Congregational Meeting	12	13 10:00 AM Zoo Trip/Picnic Lunch	14	15 10:30AM Community Meals@ Luke House  5:30 PM-7:30 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	16 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	17
18 10:25 Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship	19	20	21	22	23 4:30 AM-7:00 AM Homeless Shelter @ Grace Episcopal 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	24
25 10:25 Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship	26	27	28 6:00 PM Concert on the Square	29	30 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	1

*'This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.'* ~ Psalm 118:24