



ARBOR

NEWSLETTER

November 2017

Arbor Covenant Church
Madison Wisconsin

The Committee on Ministerial Standing

Twice a year, in the spring and in the fall, I go to Chicago to serve as a member of the Central Conference Committee on Ministerial Standings. During these meetings, we interview candidates for clergy credentials from Covenant congregations throughout the conference. These candidates describe their ministry, they explain their sense of call, they attempt to articulate their theological perspective, and demonstrate their professional competency, our job as a committee is to discern with them next steps, whether they qualify for a ministry license (a temporary credential) and, if and when, they should go forward with ordination (a permanent, lifetime credential).

Each year candidates for ministerial licenses and ordination apply with the conference. Applications, among other things, include evaluations and letters of recommendations from their congregation and other supervisors/colleagues. Along with these materials, the candidates also submit a paper that addresses distinctively Covenant questions regarding theology and ministry. They also tackle important questions about a person's capacity to provide appropriate pastoral care and ethical leadership. These papers then become the basis for a candidate's interviews with the committee.

Often moving, these interviews are a time for candidates to chronicle their spiritual journey, talk about pivotal moments in their life when they encountered God's grace or sensed a movement of the Spirit that they decided to follow. Sometimes the stories involve sacrifice to pursue education, the voice of a friend or mentor challenging them to explore a gift, or sometimes they highlight the persistent determination required to follow a long winding road towards the place God intends. All of them point towards the goodness of God and a community's role in leading a person to the meaningful work of proclaiming and embodying God's love for the world.

As we hear these stories we push the candidates to grow in their self-awareness, to think critically about the ways they communicate and reflect on their ministry, and to make sure that they have structures and habits in place to preserve their spiritual, emotional, and physical health. This is a significant part of our work. Central to the committee's role is determining that a candidate will be a safe care provider who will maintain professional standards.

Some candidates are older, arriving at ministry as a second career, others are young, just out of college. They are men and women. They are black, white, Asian, Latinas and Latinos. They represent a wide range of communities: rural, urban, affluent, and under-resourced. They come from different backgrounds and have varying perspectives on the world and on faith. But they are all people attempting to be faithful, people trying to authentically grow into and live out the life they believe God intends for them.

The colleagues I encounter in these meetings, their stories and their faithfulness, are a semiannual reminder of the faithfulness of God, They inspire me to give thanks for God's inexhaustible willingness to engage and partner with God's children, and to celebrate the diversity that marks God's people.

These meetings have become a highlight of my year. It's a blessing to meet these colleagues and to get to serve the denomination in this way. It's also a blessing to serve a congregation that encourages me to do so.

Pastor Peter Morris

Children's Ministry



This school year, kids ages 4-11 are invited to Arbor on the first Friday of every month for dinner, a Bible story, craft, and games. We will be learning the Fruits of the Spirit all year, and studying a Bible story that goes with each trait.



The first Friday Fun Night was a success! We welcomed 13 kids to Arbor, and talked about love, the first of the fruits of the spirit. Our next event is this Friday, November 3, from 5:30-7:00. The theme is joy! Kids ages 4-11 are welcome for dinner, a message, singing, crafts & games.

Rachel's Poster is on the next page. You can make copies and hand them out to others who might like to attend.

In order to include children in the church body as much as possible, kids will stay for the first scripture reading, and rejoin their parents for the last hymn and benediction. Children will also stay in the service for communion and other special markers in the life of the congregation.



Curriculum Update: Beginning on December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, we will be using a new curriculum for Children's Church. Connected to the weekly lectionary readings, the curriculum explores the same story and message as the adults do during the full worship service. This means more continuity for our kids on a Sunday morning, and families can continue conversations at home!



Pray for the kids of Arbor! That they would grow in their knowledge of God and see themselves as part of God's church at Arbor.

Pray for the kids who come to Arbor in various ways: Friday Fun Nights, Personal Essentials Pantry, the neighborhood association, and Creek Daycare. That they would see Arbor as a welcoming, safe space, and build meaningful relationships here.

Pray for the volunteers, caregivers, and parents who are continually forming the faith of the children in their care.



Registration is OPEN for **Christmas Camp** at Covenant Point. Soak up the Christmas season with a relaxing week in Christian community in the Northwoods. The Woofers had a great time last year! Go to www.cpbc.com for more



The children's Christmas program will be during the service on Sunday, December 17th.

Friday Fun Night

Arbor Covenant Church

November 3

5:30-7:00 pm

For kids ages 4-11

November's theme:

JOY

Enjoy a Friday evening while your kids explore their Christian faith in a safe environment!

On the first Friday of each month, we explore the Fruit of the Spirit with a Bible story, songs, games, and crafts.

Dinner provided



Questions?
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Christmas at Arbor

December 2	Decorate for Christmas (9 AM-12 noon)
December 9	Christmas Feast
December 17	Children's Christmas Program during morning worship (10:30 AM)
December 24	Christmas Eve service at 10:30 AM

Mark your calendars for Arbor's Christmas Feast

Saturday December 9th



We will begin gathering at 1pm and plan to eat by 2pm. You will not go away hungry
I have been here at Arbor for better than 40 + years and there are always leftovers (may want to consider bringing to go containers)

What to bring: Food: your favorite dish you like to make, can be appetizers, salad, breads, deserts, main dish, vegetable dish. You are not required to bring a dish to pass – just join us for the feast

Be creative- In a smorgasbord, there are always many choices of entrées to try and enjoy.

Invite family and friends to join us to begin the holiday season celebrations.

I will have a sheet to list what you are planning on bringing- this is not intended to restrict anyone from bringing what they wish to bring. It is for people like me who have a list of foods I love to make and bring but do not want to duplicate too many times.

For those who do not know the history of the Lucia/holiday meal celebration, at Arbor Covenant we had many years of the traditional Lucia Celebration. Time has passed and traditions are changing. Now Arbor (and this meal) reflects multiple traditions, countries, and cultures.

Deb Levin

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please note: This year Christmas Eve is on Sunday. We will gather to worship together at 10:30 AM. This will be the Christmas Eve service. Please plan to be at Arbor as we celebrate the birth of the Lord.



WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT– Held September 15th-17th



This year, five Arbor Covenanters and one woman from Fountain of Life attended this retreat on Lake Geneva during a beautiful fall weekend. The theme was Living the Questions – John 14:6. “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Pastor Karen Hinz, chaplain of Covenant Village of Northbrook lead us in worship during the entire weekend. She asked, “In our culture of data-gathering and fact-checking, how do we understand the above verse from John 14? Could ‘living the questions ‘ be an act of faith?” She challenged us to prayerfully consider how we might live with faith and integrity in today’s world.



Workshops were also available on topics ranging from “Scripture and Same Sex Marriage” to “Serving Globally.” Of course, all of us enjoyed time in fellowship with each other whether it was in sharing a great meal, sitting looking at the lake, riding the golf carts on steep hills, venturing on the water in a pontoon boat or giggling about our dorm-style accommodations. Think about joining us next fall when we embark again on the Central Conference Women’s Fall Retreat!

No Holiday Bazaar

As most of you know, we have participated in a Holiday Bazaar for many years. We are taking a break this year due to a busy summer for some of us with no work done for the bazaar.

The money from our bazaar has for the last few years bought the coffee, creamer, and sugar for church and the Essentials Pantry. Since you are not crafting or baking for a bazaar this year, please consider making a donation to the coffee fund. Elrene is the treasurer for Women's Ministries and you could give her your donation. Thank you in advance!



REMINDER

Daylight Savings Time ends this weekend. Clocks are set back one hour on Saturday night.

PARISH NOTES

The people in this word art would appreciate your prayers.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 3 Adrian Swanson
November 4 Mark Hanson
November 11 Will Woofter
November 23 Doug Keillor

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

November 26 Matthew and
 Amanda Fledderjohann



**Personal Essentials Pantry
Item of the Month
Toilet Paper**



VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES

	Hosts	Nursery	Children's Church	Reader	Projector
November 5	Joyce Boggess Mary Keehn	Deb Levin	Mark Hanson	Sue Pecotte	Michelle Stachowiak
November 12	Rachel and Mike Woofter	Amanda Pecotte	Sue Springman	Kris Brown	Mark Hanson
November 19	Deb Levin and Michelle Stachowiak	Elrene Lund	Ruth Hallblade	Matthew Fledderjohann	Michelle Stachowiak
November 26	Ruth Hallblade		Rachel Woofter	Michelle Stachowiak	Debby Meyer

November Newsletter

			1	2 7:00 PM Small Group @ Meyers	3 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry 5:30 PM-7:00 PM Fun Friday	4 
5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship Communion Deacon Fund Offering	6	7	8	9 7:00 PM Small Group @ Meyers	10 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	11
12 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	13	14 6:30 PM- Leadership Team	15	16 10:30 AM Community Meals at Luke House 5:30 PM-7:30 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	17 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	18
19 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	20	21	22	23 	24 4:30 AM-7:00 AM Homeless Shelter @ Grace Episcopal 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	25
26 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	27	28	29	30 7:00 PM Small Group @ Meyers		