

# Arbor Newsletter

Arbor Covenant Church  
Madison, Wisconsin

April 2018



The season of Easter is for loud alleluias celebrating resurrection. It's a time to be joyful and to revel in Christ's victory over death, to proclaim that God's love overcomes hate, God's peace overcomes violence, God's grace overcomes division.

But this victory doesn't erase all fears. It doesn't immediately eliminate all hatred. It doesn't solve all our problems in one fell swoop or instantly make the world a safe place. It doesn't simplify every complex situation, answer all our questions, or nullify all our lingering feelings that we're not quite living the life we're called to, at least not as completely as we could be. This victory doesn't wipe away all our tears all at once, much less stop us from crying them.

Resurrection isn't the end of the story.

That's the truth of scripture. Resurrection doesn't end the story, it doesn't tie everything up in a nice bow, or make the narrative tidy and neat and easy to consume. In fact, resurrection in the scriptures leads to disorientation, to confusion, to new questions, all of which propel the story forward into new disorienting territory.

That's true of Mark's gospel, even with its abrupt, somewhat janky ending in which the Mary and Salome are left fleeing in bewilderment, unable to speak because of their fear. If you look in a bible, you'll notice that there's probably a bracketed section that follows Mark 16:8. These verses offer a longer ending not included in the earliest manuscripts, with accounts of post resurrection appearances by Jesus with instructions about handling snakes and ingesting poison. It's unsettling stuff, none of it original to the text, all of it an addition contributed by elements within the early church who read the short, abrupt ending to Mark's account and thought, "let's make this easier to deal with by adding some snakes and poison."

Mark's short ending is unsettled and unsettling, more unsettled and unsettling than snakes and poison. It leaves narrative strands dangling, with speechless, fearful people seemingly paralyzed by bewilderment. None of their fears erased. None of their questions answered. Nothing simplified or made easy.

All they get is a promise.

They are promised that Christ would go before them. They are promised that Christ's presence will persist to meet them, to lead them, to provide a path forward as God's Kingdom continues to advance into and transform the world.

And that's all we get — promise.

Resurrection hasn't ended our story. It has propelled it forward. And in doing so it invites us to imagine new possibilities beyond or in spite of our fears. It invites us to imagine new possibilities for life that spring up amidst our confusion, maybe even because of our confusion. It invites us to imagine new possibilities that might only come about because of our disorientation, that might only arise as we acknowledge the reality of our bewilderment.

Resurrection invites us to imagine new possibilities that emerge in a world where God is still working and loving and saving, a world where we are promised that Christ has gone ahead of us and his presence will persist as our stories continue.

Pastor Peter Morris



## Commitment, De-Commitment, and Changing Commitment

I think of Arbor as a small, vibrant and active church. I've watched the work and missions of Arbor evolve over many years and much appreciated the leaders and workers who have stepped forward and accepted the call to meet needs within the church and in the community. Some of this work spans international borders.

Some of our service began decades ago. Think of the Men's Homeless Shelter, when there wasn't. Other examples come to mind including Luke House, mission trips with Merged Ministries and more recently Re-Member at the Pine Ridge Reservation, and the work with Jim Gustafson and the Global Development Network in Thailand. The Community Garden serves the community and congregation. One of the more recent additions is GNPEP (Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Panty) which serves in collaboration with other churches our neighbors in need with various essentials that you can't buy with food stamps or money you don't have.

More than one of our members has recently raised the question of whether we want to continue supporting our current mix of missions and services. Other members have asked about some new initiatives. The time seems ripe to sit back and reflect on these questions. How is God calling us and leading us today?

Where do we commit, re-commit, and de-commit?

Such a profound question will not be answered in one meeting. But this question can be asked and begun to be thought about. Arbor will be having this conversation as part of a Congregational Meeting on June 3. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Most importantly, your callings, ideas, reflections, doubts, and concerns are needed as we continue to listen to God's calling and the Spirit's voice.

Mark Hanson

## Change in Worship Time



The Leadership Team has decided to have worship at 10:00 AM this summer. This will start after Memorial Day. There will be opportunities for all friends of the church to give input on whether this new time should continue.

## Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on June 3 to discuss the church's outreach commitments. See Mark Hanson's article above.



## Annual Meeting of the Denomination

The Annual Meeting of the denomination will take place June 21-23 in Minneapolis MN. While anyone may attend the meetings, voting and speaking are limited to elected delegates who are members of their individual churches. Our church is permitted two delegates – one will be Pastor Peter and the second will be a member selected by the Leadership Team. If you would like to attend as a delegate, please contact Jan Gietzel as soon as possible.

## Covenant Women Book Night



For the last fifteen years (!!!) Covenant Women have met in the spring to talk about books. Each year members and friends have submitted titles of their favorite books from the last year. Kris Brown has prepared a list of these books along with brief descriptions. Please send your submissions to Kris at [kristinelbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinelbrown@yahoo.com) as soon as possible. Titles are fine – but you can add a brief description if you wish. Previous years' lists are on the [church website](#) under Past and Present Announcements.

This year women are invited to gather on April 16 at Ann-Britt Keillor's condo for the discussion. Women will share a light supper before the discussion.

If you would like to join the gathering, please contact Ann-Britt or Ruth Hallblade for more information.

## Arbor Community Garden

It seems appropriate to start thinking about gardening. The 2018 Arbor Community Garden Registration Form can be found below. You can also find this in the lobby of Arbor Covenant Church along with a box to drop off completed forms with payment. For those who have had plots in previous years the registration deadline is April 30th, after that new applications will receive priority in the order they are submitted.

Hopefully we will have a drier spring than last year and we'll be able to till the garden in early April. A soil analysis last year indicated that additional nitrogen would be of some benefit so we will plan to add that to the garden prior to tilling. With any luck the garden will be ready for planting early vegetables by the middle of April.

Any questions would-be gardeners might have can be directed to Ron Heinrich at 608-515-3288 or by email at [reheinrich64@gmail.com](mailto:reheinrich64@gmail.com).

### ARBOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

#### 2018 Registration Form

Welcome to Arbor Community Gardens and the 2018 vegetable growing season! Arbor Community Gardens provides a place for individuals, friends, and families to enjoy the health and social benefits of growing and harvesting their own food with like-minded people. All those interested in this enjoyable, creative, and rewarding endeavor are encouraged to apply – EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



This registration form provides you an opportunity to apply for a garden plot or half plot at Arbor Community Gardens located at the Arbor Covenant Church, 2509 McDivitt Road in Madison. All who gardened with us in 2017 are guaranteed plots for 2018 as long as their registrations forms and payment are received no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The remaining plots will be assigned after that date in the order that registration forms are received. Completed registration forms and payment can either be left in the “Completed Registration Forms” box at Arbor Covenant Church or mailed to Arbor Community Gardens c/o Ron Heinrich, 14 Pelham Ct., Madison WI 53713 in the envelopes provided. If you have any questions don’t hesitate to contact me at 608-515-3288 or by email at [reheinrich64@gmail.com](mailto:reheinrich64@gmail.com).

Please fill out all of the information below including any particular plot assignment you may wish to garden (we have last year’s plot map so “same as last year” is fine). Once completed registration forms are received you will be notified and, if plots are available, assigned a plot or half-plot. Depending on plot availability new gardeners may be assigned half-plots to accommodate as many individuals as possible. A handout with helpful gardening suggestions and rules of the garden will be posted on the Community Gardens Board and available at the church. Water in barrels will be located within the garden and some gardening tools will be available for general use. Weather permitting, the entire garden will be tilled by the 15th of April with the garden officially opening on May 1st. Be well and good gardening.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Plot (16x18 feet, 280 sq. ft.) is \$20      \_\_\_\_\_ Half Plot (8x16 feet, 140 sq. ft.) is \$10

Plot # Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



# Children's Ministry



Pictures attached from Easter (just one, hunting for eggs) & camp rally: trail mix bar, playing rock, paper scissors tournament, exploring tent, and talking to interns/playing bingo.

We had a great time with kids on Easter Sunday. After a retelling of the Easter story, the kids made alleluia signs and paraded them during the last hymn of the service. Then we celebrated with an Easter egg hunt in the church yard. Thanks to Miss Joyce & family for helping with the egg hunt!

Almost 30 people gathered at Arbor on March 24 to celebrate camp and learn about camp options for the summer. We were a collection of adults and kids, and everyone enjoyed the games, singing, and chatting with Covenant Point interns Kennedy and Alex--many adults seemed to love reminiscing on their own camp experiences! It looks like we'll have some Arbor kids at camp this summer!




## Our Prayer Corner

For Covenant Harbor & Covenant Point, as they hire staff & prepare for summer camps.

For kids who's have been coming to Friday night programs, that our church would continue to be a safe and nurturing community for their faith.

For creativity and wisdom as we start to think about summer programming for kids at Arbor

## Parish Notes



Congratulations to Dan and Debby Meyer on the birth of Benjamin. Ben’s parents are Nathan and Katie and they live in Madison.

While it may seem like the Meyer family grows every month, we know that Ben and all his cousins are blessed to be born into such a loving family. He will always know that his parents love him and that his larger family will be there to spoil him with fun and love. God bless them all.

Please continue to pray for Judy Douglas and Tom Collins.

## Birthdays

- April 7 Sam Kessenich
- April 10 Duane Anderson
- April 12 Jan Gietzel
- April 24 Deb McGill
- April 25 Sue Pecotte
- April 26 Lowell Nordling

## 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 contributions in the box in the front hallway. Thank you.

## Volunteer Responsibilities

	Host	Nursery	Children’s Church	Reader	Projector
<b>April 8</b>	Sue and Roger Springman	Amanda Pecotte	Matthew Fledderjohann	Sue Springman	Mark Hanson
<b>April 15</b>	Janis and Mark Hanson	Ulrika Swanson	Sue Springman	Michelle Stachowiak	Sue Pecotte
<b>April 22</b>	Deb McGill and Glenn Hanson	Joyce Boggess	Rachel Woofter	Joyce Boggess	Michelle Stachowiak
<b>April 29</b>	Joyce Boggess and Mary	Deb Levin	Ruth Hallblade	Kris Brown	Chuck Gietzel



## April Calendar

<b>1</b> 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship Communion Deacon Fund Offering	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>          7:00 PM Small Group @ Meyers	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry  5:30 PM-7:00 PM Fun Friday	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>   6:30 PM Leadership Team	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship Afternoon- Arbor Hills Neighborhood Meeting	<b>16</b>  5:30 PM Covenant Women book night	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:30 AM Community Meals @Luke House 5:30 PM-7:30 PM Personal Essentials Pantry 7:00 PM Small Group @ Meyers	<b>20</b> 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>          7:00 PM Small Group @ Meyers	<b>27</b> 4:30 AM-7:30 AM Homeless Shelter @ Grace Episcopal 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 Call to Worship	<b>30</b>					