

Arbor Covenant Church News Madison Wisconsin



May 2019

Resurrection Reckonings

Easter is the defeat of death. It is the emptying of Christ's tomb and the prying open of every tomb where dying dwells. With it we celebrate that God has vanquished every obstacle to love and life, establishing a new world of hope and resurrection possibilities, where all things will be made new, where every tear will be wiped away, where all truth will be made known, every relationship restored, and all wrongs made right.

Easter is God's decisive yes to life, God's decisive yes to love, God's decisive yes to hope. But often to embrace these "yeses" (or to re-embrace them again) there needs to be a reckoning, a moment of recognition, a moment of courage, an instance where we overcome our own resistance, our own despair, our own self-imposed identities so that we can fully live into God's promises.

It can be a little surprising to look at the gospels' account of resurrection appearances. Despite the ways Jesus tried to prepare his friends for these events they arrive as a disorienting surprise that usually unsettles the disciples. These accounts often seem more awkward than they do awe-inspiring, more tense than liberating, more confusing than inspiring. In them, frightened beleaguered people encounter something they can't explain and receive a call towards a new life they can't immediately comprehend.

It's a profoundly good thing that the hope of resurrection isn't delayed until the first disciples (or the rest of us) were 'ready' for it. But since it arrives on us unprepared, we often have to go through a process through which come to terms with it. A reckoning that we usually end up fumbling and stumbling through as we begin to realize that our experiences have been redeemed and our lives redefined.

Perhaps no life better exemplifies this process more than Peter's. His post resurrection life is vastly differently than his pre-resurrection one. He learns of God's inclusiveness on a roof top in Joppa, he engages in barrier defying relationships with gentiles, and leads the newly formed church to pursue a universal mission far beyond the shores of the Sea of Galilee where his life began. But it's on these shores in an awkward and painful encounter where we see him first beginning to embrace what this new life means.

There back at his day job as he fished with his friends, a man that none of them recognized told them to cast their nets on the other side of their boat. Doing this they go from having caught none to catching a net full of fish— 153 to be exact. In this moment of abundance, they recognized the Risen Christ and hurry to shore to share breakfast with their friend and Lord.

But it's in an intimate conversation with Christ that the transformative hope of the resurrection really begins to take hold for Peter. Mirroring his threefold denial of Christ from the night of his arrest, Jesus asks Peter if he loves him three times. It's not an easy series of questions for Peter, in fact scripture says that it hurt. You can almost hear the exasperation, the grief, the regret in Peter's responses, but with each answers a shameful experience is redeemed, and a new identity is more deeply conferred. As he confesses his love and acknowledges their relationship, he affirms an identity that he had three-times denied, an identity that would lead to a new life of servant leadership tending and caring for Christ's sheep. Commentator Karoline Lewis writes of this encounter and the resurrection reckoning that it yields, "what Peter needs is to accept who Jesus needs him to be." And by grace that's exactly what happens.

Peter wasn't the only one the Risen Christ confers a renewed identity and new life upon. He's not the only one whose shame can be redeemed by the Risen Christ. Resurrection life is new hope we all need to reckon with. New hope that will change our lives as we grow deeper in faith, further in mission, and encounter joy we never knew possible.

Pastor Peter Morris

Webpage Administrator

Arbor Covenant Church is looking for a part-time paid webpage administrator.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Pastor Peter Morris.

This position will start in mid-June but a training period is possible before the current person moves.

A Community Connection

On April 27th, Arbor played host to a training for the Ziedler Center. They are an international organization, headquartered in Milwaukee whose mission “is to foster civil dialogue and invite trust in the midst of differences.” They are establishing conversations in South Madison between community police officers and neighborhood residents. The training that took place at Arbor was to equip the facilitators who will be leading some of these discussions. [Zeidler Center](#).

Leadership Team Notes

While Pastor Peter was on sabbatical, much of our April LT meeting was spent reflecting on ideas for Arbor’s direction in the coming years. We are dreaming about the future of Arbor—stay tuned for more information and ways to share your own vision. And mark your calendar for the congregational meeting on June 23!

ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

January 1, 2019 – March 31, 2019

	Offerings & Creek		Actual Expenses	Net Income (Loss)
	Reimbursements Received		Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date
	Year-to-Date			
General Offerings	\$ 15,916.70			
Creek Day School Reimbursement	\$ 6,315.00			
TOTAL	\$ 22,331.70		\$ 22,500.50	\$ (168.80)
Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) Received YTD				
	TOTAL			
Deacon	\$ 99.00			
Good Neighbors Pantry	\$ 4,257.53			
Levin Camp	\$ 115.00			
Memorial				
Women’s Ministeries				
World Relief				
Youth Mission				
Other				

Parish News

Fledderjohann Family News



Amanda and Matthew Fledderjohann are wrapping up their time in Madison. They came so that Matthew could earn a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition at the UW-Madison. Matthew will receive his PhD at the UW Graduation in May.

When the Fledderjohanns arrived in Madison, they had one young son, Lee. In short order, Lee and his parents endeared themselves to our congregation. Over the years, they have added so much to our church – beginning with their enthusiastic presence, their beautiful voices and their commitment to children’s ministry.

In December, their twins were born and our joy was increased many fold. Jess and Sam may be very young but they are often the center of attention when they come to church.

Matthew has now accepted a job at Le Moyne College, a private Jesuit college in Syracuse New York where he will become the director of a new campus writing center. They have bought a large house near the campus. They will be leaving on June 13.

On May 12, the twins will be dedicated during the worship service. Many family members will be joining them at Arbor. After church we plan to offer a light lunch and cake to those present.

On June 9, before the family departs, we will be having a farewell get-together to thank them for their participation in the life of our church. More details to follow.

Saturday May 4 Work Day with Creek Day Care

Plan to spend some time at Arbor on Saturday May 4 from 9:00 AM-noon. There will be many jobs to do – indoors and/or outdoors. This is also a nice opportunity to meet some of the parents who have their children in Creek Day Care during the week.

Monday May 6 – Covenant Women Book Discussion Night

Women of the church are all invited to share an evening of fellowship and a book discussion.

We will meet at Janis Hanson’s house. We will begin at 6:00 PM with a light dinner. Ruth Hallblade (837-8241) is organizing food.

Then we will have our annual book discussion led by Kris Brown.

Please let Janis (335-0403) know if you plan to attend. You are welcome, even if you don’t have food or books to contribute!!

Save these June dates:

Sunday June 9 – Rev. David Husby

Rev. David Husby, the Director of Covenant World Relief, will be joining us on June 9th. He'll be bringing a message about the work of CWR. He's also going to make himself available after the service to share some thoughts and answer questions about Covenant World Relief with those interested in learning more.

Sunday June 9- Special recognition of the **Fledderjohann family** during and after church.

Sunday, June 16 – Dick Lindgren, a charter member of our congregation, can still be found contributing to each week's worship service. Dick and Ardeth raised their family at Arbor and have always been active supporters whether remodeling the kitchen, fixing the plumbing, using the old tractor to mow the lawn or ushering every Sunday in church. We want to show our appreciation for Dick's more than 50 years of service and will do so on the 16th after worship.

Sunday, June 23 – Congregational Meeting

Please plan to gather after worship on June 23 when we will be voting on new Leadership Team members and having a discussion about the future of the church.

June 25-27 Denominational annual meeting – Omaha Nebraska

If you are a member and would like to attend the denominational meeting in June, please talk to Pastor Peter or Joyce Boggess.

May Birthdays

May 8 Sarah Howard
 May 8 Debby Meyer
 May 24 Janis Hanson
 May 25 John Pecotte

May Anniversaries

May 22 John and Sue Pecotte
 May 25 Ken and Elrene Lund

Good Neighbors	Item of the Month Shampoo 12 oz.	Personal Essentials Pantry
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Volunteer Ministries

	Host	Nursery	Children's Church	Reader	Projector
May 5	Kris and Phil Brown	Amanda Pecotte	Rachel Woofter	Mark Hanson	Sue Pecotte
May 12	Jan and Chuck Gietzel	Tamsin Ford	Mark Hanson	Elrene Lund	Michelle Stachowiak
May 19	Ann-Britt Keillor and Ulrika Swanson	Ulrika Swanson	Ruth Hallblade	Jan Gietzel	Chuck Gietzel
May 26	Sue and John Pecotte	Amanda Pecotte	Joyce Boggess	Michelle Stachowiak	Debby Meyer
June 2	Elrene and Ken Lund	Amanda Pecotte		Joyce Boggess	Mark Hanson

Children's Ministry:

Easter Sunday Children's Moment – Arbor Style!



Thanks to Miss Joyce and her family for organizing and running the Easter Egg Hunt after church on Easter Sunday. It was the perfect way to celebrate the resurrection and perfect spring weather!

Prayer Corner:

- Pray for the kids of Arbor as they finish another school year and look to summer.
- Pray for the parents, families, and caregivers in our church community.
- Pray for the adults who volunteer on Friday nights and Sunday mornings to teach the young people in our church.

Covenant Camps

Any kids or families interested in summer camp should talk to Rachel soon! Registration is happening and filling up. Check the camp websites for availability!



www.covenantharbor.org



www.cpbc.com

Fun Night is on May 10th.

We need help with dinner for our next Friday Fun Night! Please contact Rachel if you could provide & serve a kid friendly meal. Rachel.wooffter@gmail.com

~~First~~ Friday
Second

**Pushed back
one week in
May!**

A monthly kids program
@ Arbor Covenant Church

JOIN US!

May 10

5:30-7:00 pm

For kids **ages 4-11**



MAY

Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see
Jesus, and Jesus blesses him.



Dinner provided!

Come for a Bible story,
songs, craft, and games!



Questions?

Rachel Wooffter
Children's Ministry Leader
rachel.wooffter@gmail.com
(414) 416-8210

Arbor Covenant Church
2509 McDivitt Rd
Madison, WI 53713
(608) 271-1955



May Calendar

			1	2 7:00PM-8:00 PM Small Group	3 10:00 AM-noon Personal Essentials Pantry	4 9:00-noon Work Day
5 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:00 am Call to Worship Communion Deacon Fund Offering	6 6:00 PM Book Discussion Night	7	8 6:30 PM-9:30 PM Leadership Team	9 7:00PM-8:00 PM Small Group	10 10:00 AM-noon Personal Essentials Pantry 5:30 PM-7:00 PM Kids Fun Friday	11
12 Mother's Day 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:00 am Call to Worship Fledderjohann Dedication	13	14 6:45 PM Leadership Team	15	16 5:30PM-7:30 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	17 10:00 AM-noon Personal Essentials Pantry	18
19 9:15 AM Sunday Study Group 10:00 AM Call to Worship	20	21	22	23 7:00PM-8:00 PM Small Group	24 4:30 AM-7:30 AM Homeless Shelter @ Grace Episcopal 10:00 AM-noon Personal Essentials Pantry	25
26 10:00 am Call to Worship	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 7:00PM-8:00 PM Small Group	31 10:00 AM-noon Personal Essentials Pantry	

Shelter Volunteers: Dan Meyer and Peter Morris