

Arbor Covenant News
Church
September 2019



Arbor Covenant
Madison WI

What is it about a new season that makes us think about starting fresh and moving toward something new and different? Remember starting school with that new box of crayons or markers? What about deciding to paint a room in your home a fresh, clean and energizing color? Or, spending more time out walking among the colorful trees in the crisp, invigorating fall weather? Whatever motivates you gives you a new energy and perspective.

Arbor Covenant is embracing a new season in its rich and meaningful history. It is exciting to think about what God has in store for us but also a little scary. That is almost always the case when we move out of our comfort zone and venture into the realm of unknown possibilities.

We actually know quite a bit about our future. We know we will continue to value each other's fellowship and care as we discern what God would like us to do next. We know that including people no matter how they differ from us individually is how God wants us to be in community as equal children of His Kingdom. We know that Christ's ministry was never limited to what happened within a building. We know that God's grace is a gift to everyone and we want to share that message with others in any way possible.

With these truths as a base, how are we moving forward? So far, our movement has been focused on meeting with community leaders and innovative thinkers to imagine how our property and building could be best utilized by community organizations, individuals and groups. With an established base of Creek Day Care and the Good Neighbors Personal Essential Pantry, we have talked with such diverse groups as Joining Forces for Families, the Arbor Hill Neighborhood Association, Madison City officials who are leaders on the Neighborhood Resource Team. Among the highlights from that conversation were potential connections with the Food Policy Council - who have resources for community gardens, native plant restoration, and rain gardens. Other contacts include Slave Free Madison (an anti-human trafficking organization) Sarah White, a preserver of individual and community stories, Sue Gaard, a UW Professor of Nursing active in Community Relations, Sheri Carter (District Alder, who discussed potential connections with Pubic Health, Dane County Housing, Madison Library Book Mobile and a potential movie night at Arbor. There are potential partnerships with the Latino Academy Workforce Development and Urban League who are looking for space for job training programs. More unusual possibilities have been mentioned including money available for cul de sac murals, supervised by artists and painted by community members as a community-building activity. In addition, we are also exploring collaboration with other faith communities such as Foundry 414.

So, as Arbor sets off in a new direction, what are the things we don't know about our future.? Will our focus on community attract believers and non-believers to our fellowship? How will we most effectively focus on community? How can we be better stewards of our building and property? How do we deal with the ramifications of the Evangelical Covenant Church's decisions and their effects on our beliefs? How do we best utilize our limited people resources when focusing on community? Will opportunities for growth present themselves in ways we never imagined? These are some of the questions that initially may produce anxiety but also excitement and hope about what lies ahead. Let your mind wander creatively, let the Leadership Team know your thoughts and know that **“with God, All Things are Possible”** (Matthew 19:26)

Jan Gietzel

“The only way you're going to reach places you've never gone is if you trust God's direction to do things you've never done.” (Germany Kent)

Congregational Meeting

The members of the church held a meeting on August 25. Several items were discussed and passed.

- a) The mortgage will be paid off.
- b) The congregation asked that the worship team proceed with two directions. One- to do more outreach to the community and two – to explore whether another church might be interested in joining with us. This work continues
- c) A declaration of dissent was discussed and passed.



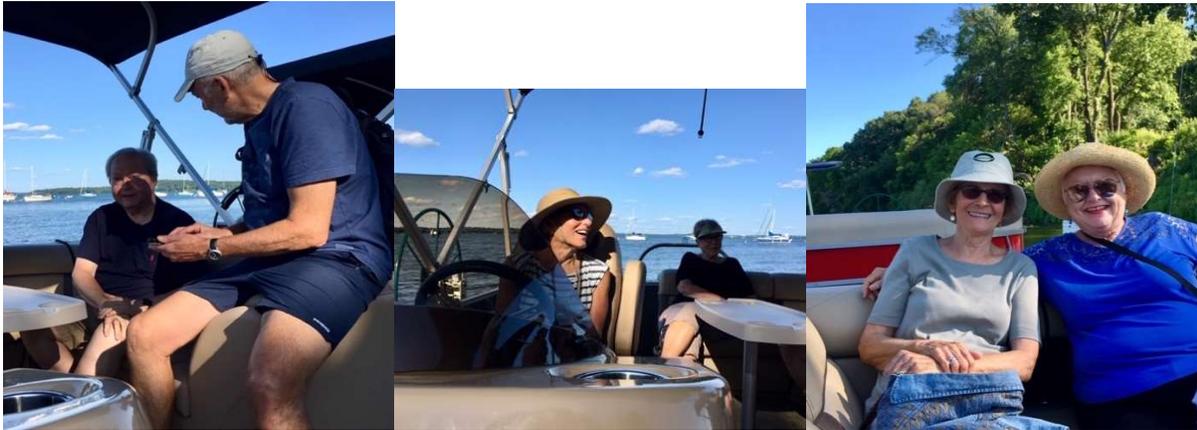
- Pray for all the kids that enter Arbor's doors through the pantry and Creek Day School.
- Pray for the kids of Arbor as they go back to school, and families adjust to new routines.
- Pray for the ongoing children's ministry at Arbor and its volunteers: Friday Fun Nights, Sunday children's church, and countless informal ministry moments.



We'll have a Friday Fun Night on the first Friday in September: September 6. Meet at church for dinner at 5:30, followed by singing and activities. We'll finish by 7. Rachel is out of town this month, so contact Joyce with questions!

Pontoon Boat Ride

It was a beautiful evening for a pontoon boat ride. Thanks to Mark Hanson for organizing.



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

September Birthdays

September 2 Peter Morris
 September 10 Joyce Boggess
 September 17 Tiffany Goettler
 September 21 Jenn Johnson
 September 24 Hannah Lund
 September 24 Reese Simmons

September Anniversaries

September 5 Lowell and Trudy Nordling

Volunteer Ministries

	Hosts	Nursery	Children's Church	Reader	Projector
September 1	Elrene and Ken Lund	Amanda Pecotte	Mark Hanson	Elrene Lund	Michelle Stachowiak
September 8	Janis and Mark Hanson	Ulrika Swanson	Joyce Boggess	Mark Hanson	Debby Meyer
September 15	Deb Levin and Sue Pecotte	Joyce Boggess	Ruth Hallblade	Jan Gietzel	Sue Pecotte
September 22	Tamsin Ford and Peter Morris	Amanda Pecotte	Mark Hanson	Michelle Stachowiak	Chuck Gietzel
September 29	Debby and Dan Meyer	Tamsin Ford	Rachel Woofter	Jan Gietzel	Michelle Stachowiak

September 2019 Calendar

	2 LABOR DAY	3	4	5	6 10:00 AM-noon Personal Essentials Pantry 5:30-7:00 PM Fun Friday	
8 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:00 AM Call to Worship Communion Deacon Fund Offering	9	10 6:45 PM Leadership Team	11	12	13 10:00 AM-noon Personal Essentials Pantry	14
15 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:00 AM Call to Worship	16	17	18	19 5:30PM- 7:30 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	20 10:00 AM-noon Personal Essentials Pantry	21
22 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:00 AM Call to Worship	23	24	25	26	27 *4:30-7:30am Homeless Shelter @ Grace Episcopal 10:00 AM-noon Personal Essentials Pantry	28
29 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:00 AM Call to Worship	30					

*Shelter Volunteers: Mark Hanson and Roger Springman