



## Arbor Covenant News

### Mustard Seed Faith

Have you ever done a new exercise, or done a physical activity that caused soreness in muscles you didn't even know you had? If so, you know that it can be as surprising as it is painful. Obviously, those muscles have been there all along, but only when you engage them do you realize that they are there – and even as they ache you might be encouraged by their discovery. There's something about this that is not unlike faith. It too is something that you might not realize you have until you begin to exercise it.

Aware that Jesus' insistence on forgiveness (even to those who repeatedly do wrong) is a seemingly impossible demand, his disciples said, "Increase our faith." It wasn't a bad request, at least not from the perspective with which we typically think about things. We are often eager for quantity – believing that more is more desirable and bigger is better. But Jesus' response urges us to consider faith's quality and the idea that once it's engaged it can have a surprising effect on our lives and the world around us.

"If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." With this statement Jesus makes the counterintuitive claim that faith the size of the smallest of seeds, so small it can easily be overlooked or go unnoticed, is plenty big enough. That is if we are willing to exercise it.

That's not to say that relying on faith is easy or that engaging it is simple. There's often a harrowing component that forces us to risk the unknown and do things that might not be comfortable. But once discovered we begin to realize that faith's surprising power has little to do with us or our circumstances and everything to do with who we have it in.

Few things in life are ever certain. We face concerns and challenges, individually and collectively, in our families and in our congregation. They are inevitably daunting – forcing us to consider change and opportunity that we might just as soon avoid. But Jesus tells us that he will be with us even to the end of the age – that God's love is eternal. These promises are enough. By engaging the world with them, we are sure to make surprising discoveries.

Pastor Peter Morris

### Thursday Night Study Group

Are you looking for something new to challenge you this fall? Please consider joining the Thursday Night Study Group. They meet at Dan and Debby Meyers' house from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. They have opportunities for sharing, prayers and songs. They also study a book. The first book this year is by Rachel Held Evans and is entitled "Inspired". The group welcomes anyone who wishes to come.

#### **Rachel Held Evans Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible**

If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is *inspired*? When Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she began a quest to better understand what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. What she discovered changed her—and it will change you too.

Drawing on the best in recent scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and even a short screenplay. Undaunted by the Bible's most difficult passages, Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world.



Kids' Friday Fun Night will be this Friday October 4 from 5:30 PM-7:00 PM. All kids are invited to come for supper and some fun activities. If you know any children who would enjoy coming, please invite them to join us. Questions? Rachel Woolfer



Please pray for our children – that they would come to know God.  
Pray for our children's church teachers as they prepare to share with our children.  
Pray for our church family – that God would lead us as we move forward.

**ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

**January 1, 2019 - August 31, 2019**

	Offerings & Creek		Actual Expenses	Net Income (Loss)
	Reimbursements Received		Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date
	Year-to-Date			
General Offerings	\$ 50,011.70			
Creek Day School Reimbursement	\$ 16,840.00			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 66,851.70</b>		<b>\$ 69,488.38</b>	<b>\$ (2,636.68)</b>
<b>Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) received YTD</b>				
	<b>TOTAL</b>			
Deacon	\$ 163.00			
Good Neighbors Pantry	\$ 9,309.72			
Levin Camp	\$ 408.00			
Memorial				
Women's Ministries				
World Relief				
Youth Mission				
Other	\$ 330.00			

**Good Neighbor Personal Essentials Pantry**



Children and Adult Toothbrushes

Please leave donations in box in the front hallway. Thank you so much.

**October Birthdays**

October 3      Erika Hanson  
 October 12     Paul Kent  
 October 18     Glenn Hanson  
 October 24     Elrene Lund  
 October 25     Judy Douglas  
 October 28     Marijo Kessenich  
 October 30     Harry Engstrom

**October Anniversaries**

October 1      Chuck and Jan Gietzel  
 October 18     Roger and Sue Springman

**Volunteer Ministries**

	Host	Nursery	Children's Church	Reader	Projector
October 6	Joyce Boggess & Mary Keehn	Ulrika Swanson	Ruth Hallblade	Joyce Boggess	Chuck Gietzel
October 13	Deb McGill & Glenn Hanson	Joyce Boggess	Mark Hanson	Kris Brown	Sue Pecotte
October 20	Sue and Roger Springman	Amanda Pecotte	Rachel Woofter	Ruth Hallblade	Debby Meyer
October 27	Rachel and Mike Woofter	Amanda Pecotte	Joyce Boggess	Ann-Britt Keillor	Mark Hanson
November 3	Kris and Phil Brown	Tamsin Ford	Rachel Woofter	Sue Pecotte	Chuck Gietzel

## October 2019 Calendar

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

Shelter Volunteers: Glenn Hanson and Ken Lund