



Sometimes Silence is an Enemy

Not long ago I went to a lecture given by a missiologist (a person that studies mission methods within the church) named Christopher James. His presentation covered key characteristics of emerging Christian communities. One of the themes his extensive work identified was something he called “holy conversations.” By that he meant the practice of communities to intentionally make space for their members to have meaningful conversations about how they are experiencing the work and presence of God.

These are the sorts of discussions where people of faith get to name the ways they have experienced God’s grace and the places they have seen God’s love evident. They’re the sort of conversations where people get to ask questions, articulate needs, as well as process pain, frustration, loss, and hope. These conversations represent chances to interact with scripture and for groups to interact with one another. Dr. James was clear that this practice adds health and vitality to fledgling communities of faith shaping congregational cultures where individuals find meaning, connection, and belonging.

I thought about this presentation recently when I was reading Psalm 32. There’s a line in it that resonates with me, “While I kept silence, my body wasted away....” Contextually it’s in reference to what happens when the psalmist acknowledged his sin. For him breaking that silence opened up a way forward from shame and guilt into a life of surprising grace surrounded by God’s steadfast love. Beyond the freeing nature of confession and the deliverance found in forgiveness, one of the implications is that silence can be an enemy of faith.

To be clear I’m not referring to contemplative silence, or the silent attention required to listen well to a neighbor or loved one. What I’m talking about is the silence that preempts us from voicing the things that weigh on our souls or enliven our hearts. This is a kind of wasting silence that prevents growth, undermines possibilities, and leaves us feeling lonely. When we are silent about our own sins and brokenness it can intensify our pain, sometimes sending us into spirals of shame and guilt. When we are silent about injustice that injustice tends to perpetuate. When we are silent about our frustration they can fester into resentments. When we are silent about our hopes they can begin to shrivel up. When we are silent about our ideas for positive change things often begin to grow stale. When we are silent about our joy it doesn’t get to become contagious.

Christian community, like ours, is a place to break ‘wasting’ silence. It’s a place to say the things we need to say, to have the meaningful, necessary conversation that allows us to connect with God and with one another. My hope is that each of you — maybe through small group, or occasional get-togethers with other members, or during Sunday gatherings for worship and fellowship — are finding space in our community to do just that. If you are not, please speak to me. Or if you have ideas on how we can create new spaces, especially for new people to get involved in “holy conversations,” please speak to me. I’m eager for us to be a community where all people can break whatever wasting silence they may find themselves keeping.

Pastor Peter Morris

An Invitation ...

I'm planning to attend All Saints Lutheran's Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday November 27th at 7:00 PM. It will be a good chance to reflect with prayerful gratitude on God's goodness at the outset of the holiday weekend. It will also be a good chance to connect with a partner congregation who works alongside us and Christ Memorial UCC to operate the Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry. Plus, I'm told by Pastor Kristin that the pie fellowship following the service is something to look forward to. I hope you'll join me there that evening. All Saint's address is 2951 Chapel Valley Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53711 — You can see it from McKee Road.

Pastor Peter Morris

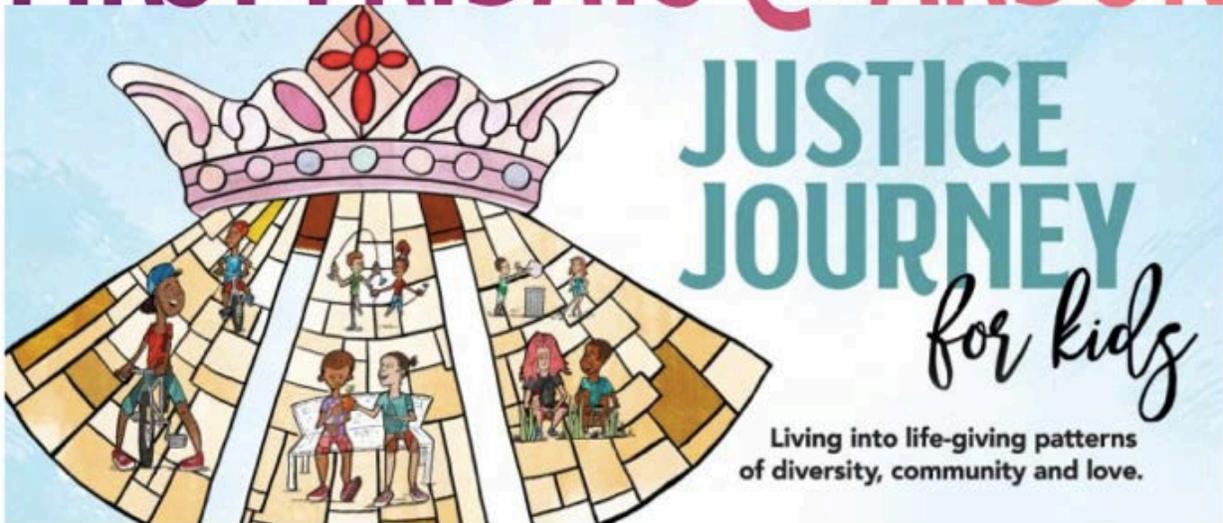
October Leadership Team Meeting

At our October meeting, the Leadership Team met with Peter Sjoblom from the Central Conference to share why & how the church made a statement of dissent following the ECC Annual Meeting this summer. Rev. Sjoblom also listened to members' reactions and stories following this annual meeting. The rest of the October LT meeting was spent reviewing connections made with local churches, and other community partnerships moving forward.

ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW					
January	January 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019				
Offerings & Creek	Actual Expenses	Reimbursements Received		Net Income (Loss)	
Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date
General Offerings	\$ 54,422.88				
Creek Day School Reimbursement	\$ 18,945.00				
TOTAL	\$ 73,367.88	\$ 76,143.15		\$ (2,775.27)	
Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) Received YTD					
	TOTAL				
Deacon	\$ 207.00				
Good Neighbors Pantry	\$ 10,506.97				
Levin Camp	\$ 408.00				
Memorial					
Women's Ministries					
World Relief					
Youth Mission					
Other	\$ 330.00				



FIRST FRIDAYS @ ARBOR



November 1
December 13
5:30-7:00

For kids ages 4-11
Dinner provided! Come for Bible teaching, singing, and activities in a small group environment.

This year we are exploring the diversity of God's kingdom and how the love of Christ empowers us to overcome injustice.

At our Friday Night in October, we heard the story of creation, and talked about how all people are created in God's image, but also created with great diversity! In November, we'll keep talking about diversity, and how the church represents more of God's creativity and diversity.



SAVE THE DATE! We're planning to have the kids Christmas program on Sunday, December 15. Stay tuned for more details!



Prayer corner:

- Pray for our Friday Night program! We've had a great group of kids coming consistently, and are also working to reach out and include other communities.
- Pray for the kids in the Arbor community: those that come on Friday nights, those that come to the pantry on Friday mornings, those that come to the daycare every day, those who come on Sundays, and those we haven't seen in awhile!
- Pray for the parents and caregivers of these kids--for wisdom, patience, and joy as they lead & parent.



Last Friday Chuck and Jan Gietzel spent an evening with the Fledderjohann Family in their new home in Syracuse, New York. As you can see Lee, Sam and Jess are growing and adapting to an exciting change in their lives. Going from their tiny Eagle Heights apartment to a house with a bedroom for everybody and a large living room with a fireplace as well as a dining room and breakfast nook is quite amazing. Lee loves school and gets to bike with his dad every morning and afternoon since Dad's college position locates him right across the street from Lee's school. The family is attending an Episcopal church that is not much larger than Arbor and they are settling in their new neighborhood although they often miss Madison. Matthew and Amanda send their warmest greetings to the Arbor community that they love so much. They also extend an invitation to everyone to come and see them whenever anyone is in the area.

Grace Miriam Woofter was baptized on October 13. Her parents, Mike and Rachel, and her big brothers, William and James, were joined by their families.

May God bless Grace as she grows in the love of her family and church.



November Birthdays**November 3 Adrian Swanson****November 4 Mark Hanson****November 11 Will Woofter****November Anniversaries****November 26 Amanda and Matthew Fledderjohann****Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry****Item of the Month**

Skin Lotion (approximately 10 oz.)

Volunteer Ministries

	Host	Nursery	Children's Church	Reader	Projector
November 3	Kris and Phil Brown	Tamsin Ford	Rachel Woofter	Sue Pecotte	Chuck Gietzel
November 10	Jan and Chuck Gietzel	Ulrika Swanson	Ruth Hallblade	Mark Hanson	Chuck Gietzel
November 17	Ann-Britt Keillor and Ulrika Swanson	Joyce Boggess	Rachel Woofter	Elrene Lund	Mark Hanson
November 24	Sue and John Pecotte	Amanda Pecotte	Joyce Boggess	Jan Gietzel	Sue Pecotte
December 1	Elrene and Ken Lund	Amanda Pecotte		Jan Gietzel	Mark Hanson

November 2019

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

Shelter Volunteers: Dan Meyer and Peter Morris