



ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH

May 1, 2020 (Press ENTER to Insert)

May 2020

Newsletter

## Dispatches from Quarantine

This season of disruption has been difficult for many of us. It's taken us out of old routines and forced us into new ones. It's made big things small and small things big. Some of us have newfound time on our hands that we've used to pursue interests and develop new hobbies. Others of us have experienced a crunch on our time with waves of responsibilities creating anxiety and frustration. We've all been forced to adapt and change — to live into a new reality. It's daunting. But we're doing it. And inevitably we're learning and growing in the process.

As things get stripped away and new stuff gets added, we are inevitably discovering truths about ourselves, truths about our faith, truths about our hopes that we might not have recognized before. Our state of disorientation might have provided us with the chance to notice something that we've never before paid attention to or had the time to see. Maybe this experience is reshaping our priorities or giving us new insights about what it means to live day by day in a situation where many of the things we typically rely on aren't available. Perhaps in this season of collective grief and uncertainty we're discovering some amazing things about God's grace and some wondrous things about God's love.

I'm eager to learn what we're learning as a community. And I'm imagining ways that these new insights can be shared. Can we carve out space during our zoom gatherings on Sunday mornings for some "dispatches from quarantine?" A moment together during which someone can share something they've discovered. Or maybe an article or two in next month's newsletter that outline some wisdom that's been gleaned? Or perhaps some new thoughts shared in new social-distance-friendly ways that we haven't thought of yet?

If you've got something to share — something that you've recognized or noticed or discovered — please let me know. I'd be grateful to hear about it, and excited to help you communicate it with the rest of the community. Amidst all of this, we're learning, we're growing, we're noticing God at work, let's share these things with one another.

Pastor Peter Morris

## Worshipping with Zoom

Most of us had never heard of Zoom before March. Now it has become the vehicle by which we connect with friends and family. The bad news is that we no longer are able to hug each other at worship and that is important. The good news is that we CAN meet together virtually.

You can participate with Zoom if you have a computer, tablet, or modern cell phone. You will need to install the software (which is free). The address is zoom.us. Then you should contact Pastor Peter in order to be put on the invitation list. You will receive an email inviting you to attend, you click on the link in that email when it is time to meet, and you will be connected to the meeting. You will be able to see everyone who is attending. You can be “mute” so that no one hears you or your household. And, when you wish, you can “unmute” yourself and participate orally.

## Book Discussion

Each year in the spring, the women of the church enjoy getting together to discuss books that they have enjoyed in the last year. A booklet is compiled and distributed to include books of all genres that have been enjoyed by the men and women of the church.

In all likelihood we will not be able to meet in person this year but we will prepare the book again.

Please take some time (we all have time these days) to write out a list of books you have enjoyed reading this last year. Include the title and author and, if possible, a brief description of the book. Send your list to Kris Brown ([kristinelbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinelbrown@yahoo.com)) as soon as possible.

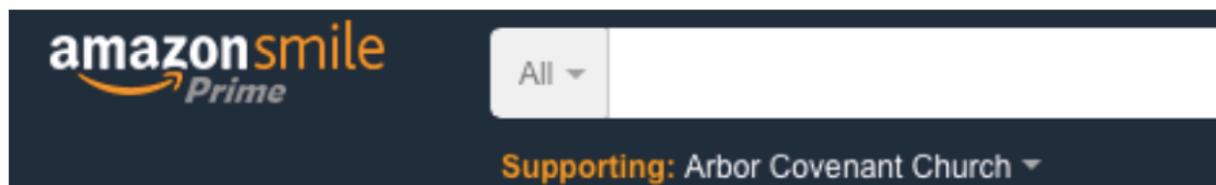
## Amazon Smile

Do you shop at Amazon? If you do, you can take advantage of an Amazon program called Smile.

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you.

“When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as **Amazon.com**, with the added bonus that **Amazon** will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.”

Simply designate Arbor Covenant Church as your charity – and Amazon will send a portion of your purchase to Arbor.



## OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN

WHAT AN UPLIFTING SIGHT! This morning Ron Heinrich, our Arbor neighbor extraordinaire, was spotted plowing the Arbor Community Garden plots. As big a job as it was, I'm sure that Ron is nursing some aching muscles. Personally, I am so grateful for such a sign of renewal and hope. It is also a precursor of things to come as plans are being made to possibly hold a neighborhood farmer's market at the church with the involvement of a few of our community partners. Of course, it will be adapted to the times but with a dose of creativity may provide more blessings than we can imagine. Stay tuned for more information! Please talk to Pastor Peter if you would like to plant a garden plot.

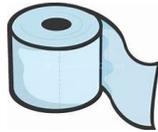
### **Adapting to Covid-19 at GNPEP**

The last number of weeks have been an interesting and challenging time at the Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry. With a skeleton crew of 5 volunteers, we have managed to continue providing essential hygiene products to our guests who remain in their cars while we fill and deliver the orders with products for which they are eligible that week. We wear masks and gloves, social distance and provide cloth masks which are generously made by Janis Hanson to any of the guests who need them for themselves or their families.

One of the problems we face is the inability to get certain products on a regular basis. Toilet paper is one of those products. Feminine products (pantliners, tampons and sanitary pads) are another.

However, the most important thing that both volunteers and guests miss is the chance to visit over coffee and goodies. This socialization is what makes the Pantry a community and the lack of it leaves a large void for all of us. As we all fight the emotions of being disconnected from our normal lives and normal social support, take comfort that even in these times, you are showing our guests that God's people care for one another in any circumstance.

### **Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry May Item of the Month**



Toilet Paper

If you are able to bring toilet paper to the church during the pantry hours (Fridays 10:00-noon, Third Thursday 5:30-7:00 PM), you can simply drive up and leave the donation with the volunteers.

## Information from Ulrika Swanson, church treasurer

There is a new online option for giving through Church Connect! Once you set up an account, you have the option to give by credit/debit, ACH/checking, and even SMS/text. Whether or not you choose to give online, creating an account will allow you to view/print your giving history. In the future, Church Connect may also be used to communicate announcements and upcoming events. If you have questions or want help setting up an account, let Ulrika Swanson know.

Church Connect URL:

<https://www.churchtrac.com/connect?ui=6005FEAA>

Ulrika's contact info:

[ulrikaswanson@gmail.com](mailto:ulrikaswanson@gmail.com)

312-330-7634



Send checks to:

Arbor Covenant Church  
 2509 McDivitt Road Madison, WI 53713  
 OR  
 Jan Gietzel  
 360 W. Washington Avenue, Unit 402  
 Madison, WI 53703

As you know from your personal finances, social distancing hasn't stopped bills from coming in. As you are able, continued giving to church will help us keep up with expenses during this time when we aren't able to gather together physically on Sunday mornings. Checks can be mailed to church or directly to Jan Gietzel, who does the deposits. Thank you for giving!

	January	January 1, 2020 - March 31, 2020		
	Offerings & Creek	Actual Expenses	Net Income (Loss)	
	Reimbursements Received	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	
	Year-to-Date			
General Offerings	\$ 11,452.70			
Creek Day School Reimbursement	\$ 6,421.00			
TOTAL	\$ 17,873.70	\$ 21,654.43		\$ (3,780.73)
<b>Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) Received YTD</b>				
	TOTAL			
Deacon	\$ 107.00			
Good Neighbors Pantry	\$ 3,059.32			
Levin Camp	\$ 725.00			
Memorial				
Women's Ministries				
World Relief				
Youth Mission				
Other	\$ 0.52			

## Welcome Margo

In the midst of the pandemic, Peter and Abbey Brown welcomed a daughter into this world on April 3, 2020. Margo Monroe Brown arrived in a Cleveland hospital, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz.



Kris and Phil Brown are proud grandparents who cannot wait to meet this little girl (although it will be a bit of a wait).

Margo has two brothers and a sister who will no doubt entertain her.



## *Remember in your prayers*

Those who are ill, decision makers, and all of our essential workers. And all of us.

### 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

## Calendar

We don't anticipate meeting in person for the next few weeks. If this changes, we will make sure to contact you. Those who participate in small group meetings will be notified about meetings.