

## Summer Church

Starting June 13th and continuing through the summer, we will be gathering in person outdoors at Arbor. Many of our summer services will coincide with activities associated with the farmers' market that we will be hosting in our parking lot starting in July, others will be collaborative worship experiences with Foundry 414, all of them may be slightly unlike what we're used to and slightly different than what we might expect.

It's been a long time (much longer than most people anticipated) since groups have been able to gather normally. Most gatherings have relied on technology like zoom or google hangouts for connection, others have operated in ways that align with health department protocols and guidelines limiting the size of groups and restricting some activities. But as more and more of us have been vaccinated and health professionals have gotten a fuller sense of how to stay safe, new things have become possible. And now as even more restrictions continue to be lifted it makes sense for us to be together again.

But since summer is usually a time of transition and leisure for individuals and families, and generally a season of relative informality for churches, it doesn't quite make sense to just jump right back into the sanctuary. Instead, these next few months create a perfect opportunity for us to gather in new ways.

The constants of community and worship will remain. As we always do, we will focus our attentions on God's love and our collective calling to live into and share it. We'll be spending time together in prayer, wrestling together over scripture, hearing messages of hope. But we won't typically be sitting in pews (we will when it's raining!). Instead we will be outside. We'll be outside in part so we can enjoy the beautiful weather, but also because the love of God compels us to look beyond the church's walls to the broader world. It calls us to engage it with grace and hospitality and hope. It calls us to utilize our resources in inviting and inclusive ways that are welcoming to outsiders looking for friendship and belonging.

Last summer, a small but vital community took shape. It was comprised of members of Arbor, some neighbors from nearby and a few others from further away who seemed to somehow find their way into our parking lot and garden and playgrounds on Sunday mornings. Not everyone who gathered was engaged in what we would call the typical "church service" parts of the morning activities, but everyone was engaged in a community that gave all of us a sense of hope during what was a dark and disorienting time. It wasn't conventional "church" but it felt holy and life giving.

I hope this summer, as we begin to gather again, that we can do so in a way that creates a similar sense of broadened community. I hope it will be filled with opportunities to deepen our faith, but also with more and more chances to engage neighbors and make Arbor Covenant a place where more and more people feel welcome and connected.

\*It's worth noting that even as we begin to gather in person, there will be a continued presence on zoom for those who are not yet ready to get together in a group (as well as those who might be away or just want to participate from the comfort of their own home).

Pastor Peter Morris





## **Foundry414**

The Leadership Team invited the co-pastors of Foundry414 to join our May meeting. Pastor Peter had visited with the board of Foundry in April. Foundry414 will be sharing our worship space beginning this fall. Their church is 12 years old, after moving a team from St. Louis. They were originally planted with Vineyard Church, but left that denomination on mostly good terms after disagreements, largely over inclusion of the LGBTQ community. They are a non-denominational Christian church which is currently affiliated with Blue Ocean Faith which is a connection of churches that agree to a set of principles, but not a full denomination. They are a younger congregation with a culture that draws people with questions and intellectual leanings. Several have been hurt by the church or are close to leaving other church congregations.

Their webpage is <[foundry414.com](http://foundry414.com)>. On their webpage they explain the origins of their name. A foundry captures the idea that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to faith but rather signifies a place where many expressions co-exist together. In John 4:14, Jesus meets with a woman at the well. He says, "But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, gives them eternal life."

Chris and Christina Roberts co-pastor this congregation. We had a wide-ranging conversation and identified many areas of common ministry. We are excited to begin sharing both ministries and our building.

We will begin keeping a list of questions to go through with congregations together: how to handle building, supplies, resources, etc. We are also tentatively planning on a joint discernment process for the month of August. Chris Roberts and Ken Lund have already begun the process of improving the music ministry by discussing ways to combine instruments and presentation areas.

## Common Wealth Development



Plans are proceeding to have Common Wealth Development purchase our church property and develop affordable/low-income housing. Common Wealth needs to own the property before they can get the appropriate zoning, city approvals, tax credits and other necessary funding. They don't want to invest their funds and effort until they control the property. Because of this, Common Wealth, lawyers, and Arbor came up with a revised approach instead of gifting the property. In Arbor's counter offer,

we will ask for \$1.6 million for the property (based on property size and value based on current listings of some similar parcels and a cost estimate for new construction for 6840 square feet which is the low end of Arbor's and Creek's space need at @175/square foot). Mark Hanson provided this building cost estimate based on current work at the firm he works with. Common Wealth has several contingencies, based on zoning and funding and tests. Worst case scenario is that Arbor walks away with \$1.6 million, and we lose the property (very unlikely, because of Common Wealth's goals and reputation in the community, and both groups truly want to see the project be successful)

If our effort with Common Wealth is successful, there are three possible outcomes with the property when all is said and one:

- 1) Common Wealth owns all the land, current building is kept standing, and we would own the building as a condo.
- 2) Common Wealth splits the lot – we would own the lot with the current church building, and Common Wealth would own the lot with the newly built housing building.
- 3) Common Wealth tears down the current church building and builds a new building. In this case we (church and daycare) would be a condo owner in the new building

If our effort with Common Wealth falters, it is highly unlikely that we would face the worst case scenario mentioned above. The most likely outcome is that we would own the land and building as we do now, and perhaps look for other partners to help in developing affordable housing with us at our site.

### Next Steps

Mark encourages the Leadership Team and congregation to visit the Common Wealth owned Yahara River View apartments and see what a nice job they are doing there. Be sure to walk around to the Courtyard side (the main entrance).

Have our attorneys review the offer and counteroffer before the Congregational Meeting. We want to make sure everything makes sense and make sure we're not missing anything.

### Goal:

Have written offer to show congregation for approval at congregational meeting in June.

Congregational meeting is on Tuesday June 15 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

## Gardens and Farmers Market

*Help us to be ever faithful gardeners of the spirit,  
who know that without darkness nothing comes to birth,  
and without light nothing flowers.*

*May Sarton*

Given our good experience with the Farmers' Market from last year and recent discussions (including among the three churches---Foundry, Memorial UCC, and Arbor) , we are planning on doing a Farmer's Market this summer from 9:30 to 1 on Sundays beginning after July 4th and through September 12.

The gardens have had huge progress. The Arbor Children's and the Early Childhood Learning Center Gardens are both about 75% planted and looking terrific. A large thank you to some volunteers Joyce, Scott and Basia (ECLC Board members), Zinah (Staff member at ECLC and community member), Zinah's daughter Raneen, Elrene, Candice, Kris, Jan, who put considerable work on a hot, steamy Saturday. Some of our teammates from Memorial UCC have started preparing and planting the one left-over garden.



**THANKS TO JUNG'S GARDEN CENTER FOR PLANTS, SEEDS AND MULCH DONATIONS**



**THANKS TO MADISON GREEN HOUSE STORE FOR PLANT DONATIONS**

Raneen and Candice will be working this summer as intern gardeners and will be paid a stipend per our grant budget





## Evangelical Covenant Church Annual Meeting

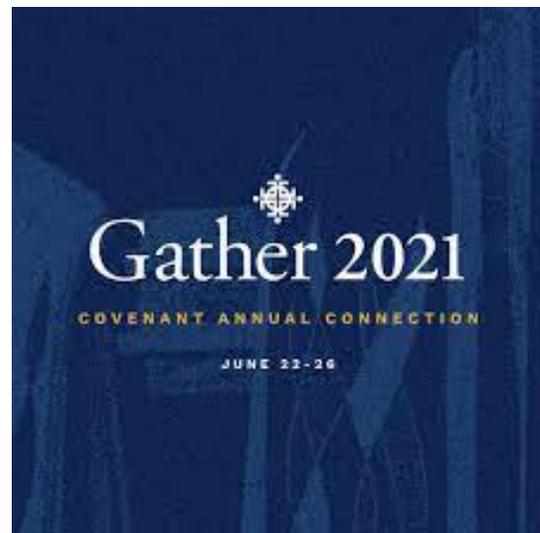
The annual meeting will take place June 22-26 on Zoom. You may attend as a delegate (if you are a member) or as an observer without voting rights. Please talk to Pastor Peter if you wish to be a delegate.

This year the major discussion will involve a proposal on changing the alignment of the denomination.

Below are some links if you are interested in reading about this.

[On Mission together](#)

<https://covchurch.org/news/covenant-executive-board-approves-realignment-of-denominational-team/>



Questions? You may ask Pastor Peter.

## Parish Notes

Please pray for Mary Keehn, who has been recovering from a hospitalization.

Please pray for Amanda Pecotte and David Mulholland as they make difficult decisions about their beloved dog, Reign.



Special Happy Birthday to Dick Lindgren who celebrates his ninetieth birthday.

Special Happy Anniversary to Duane and Harriet Anderson who have been married 60 years.



## Birthdays

June 4	Tamsin Ford
June 5	Sue Springman
June 12	Dick Lindgren
June 15	Amanda Pecotte
June 17	Mary Keehn
June 25	Chuck Gietzel

## Anniversaries

June 11	Mike and Rachel Woofter
June 11	Duane and Harriet Anderson
June 17	Mark and Janis Hanson

## Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry Item of the Month



Toothpaste 6 oz.

Please bring donations to church during the hours we staff the Pantry (see calendar)

Sunday Morning Bible Study group will not meet again until after Labor Day.

The Thursday Evening Bible Study group will continue to meet in June via Zoom.

## June 2021 Calendar

		1	2	3 7:00 PM Small Group Study (Zoom)	4 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry (Arbor Parking Lot)	5
6 10:30 A.M.-11:30 AM Worship (Zoom)	7	8	9	10 7:00 PM Small Group Study (Zoom)	11 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry (Arbor Parking Lot)	12
13 10:30 A.M.-11:30 AM Worship (Outdoors and Zoom)	14	15 7:00 PM Congregational Meeting <i>Followed by</i> Leadership Team Meeting	16	17 5:30 PM-7:00 PM Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry (Arbor Parking Lot) 7:00 PM Small Group Study (Zoom)	18 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry (Arbor Parking Lot)	19
20 10:30 A.M.-11:30 AM Worship (Outdoors and Zoom)	21	22	23	24 7:00 PM Small Group Study (Zoom)	25 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry (Arbor Parking Lot)	26
27 10:30 A.M.-11:30 AM Worship (Outdoors and Zoom)	28	29	30			