



Receiving and Participating

The ongoing realities of the lingering COVID pandemic and the surge brought on by the Delta variant have dictated some disruption for all of us. This is certainly true for churches. You might say that necessity, in this case, is the mother of some invention. On a temporary basis we're trying some new things, gathering in some new ways, experimenting with some new ways of engaging God's love and the scripture and the tradition that proclaim it. But the essence of what we'll be exploring together is the heart of God's invitation to each and to all — to receive God's love and to participate in it.

Over the next couple of months as we mark a season of collaboration with our friends from foundry414, we'll be doing this by highlighting contemplative and neighborly living. While essentially two sides of the same coin, both connected to and flowing out on a similar journey, each emphasizes a different facet of Christian spirituality. One is the process of receiving the transformative love of God, the other is participating in that love through relationship with the people around you.

Some Sundays (the second and fourth of each month) we will be breaking up into two groups, one focusing on contemplative living, the other on neighborly living. These zoom-based gatherings will include short presentations and conversation. They'll examine ways we can grow in our connection to God (contemplative living) and ways we can strengthen connection to the people around us (neighborly living). They'll each examine one side of the coin, hopefully helping each grow in our understanding and in our sense of wonder of what God is longing to create in our lives in our communities.

On the other Sundays (the first and the third of each month) the hope is to be very intentional about integrating the whole coin, and making connection between the love we receive from God and the life we live alongside our neighbors. Those Sundays, sitting around tables together we will be presenting and reflecting images from scripture that help us see God's love as something we receive and share, something that simultaneously changes us and the ways we interact with those around us. Something that makes possible our own personal transformation while enabling our own capacity to live more fully in the world God intends, where all things are animated by the love that set God's creative heart in motion. On these Sundays we'll also be looking at examples of instances when this love has bubbled over and compelled individuals and communities to pursue their neighbors' good in very tangible and practical ways. These Sunday's will also include time for us to share and to celebrate communion, where all will have the opportunity to receive God's grace and hospitality and experience a foretaste of the community God intends.

If you have questions about all the new stuff that's taking place, and the ways we're trying to navigate this very interesting season, please feel free to reach out.

*Note: You may be aware that there are actually five Sundays this month. October 31st will be Sunday when we'll have the chance to gather to reflect on the theme of harvest even as we celebrate our own. More information about this event is outlined elsewhere in the newsletter. That Sunday, there will also be the chance to participate in a one-time learning circle discussion called Wisdom and Words in which there will be a theological exploration of a yet-to-be announced reading or podcast, more information to follow.

To repeat, we will be providing two different frameworks occurring on alternating Sundays: The first is designed to emphasize the in-person experience. It's a practice that foundry414 has utilized for several years called **Church Around the Table**. The first and third Sundays (October 3 and 17), when we celebrate Church around the Table, we will gather at Arbor for some music, prayer, and scripture. There will also typically be a brief message and time for all of us to engage in conversation and table fellowship before concluding our gathering by sharing communion. Kids will join in the first part of these services before meeting in another part of the building. As COVID continues to linger we will be maintaining as much social distance as possible in our sanctuary, limiting refreshments to beverages, and using prepackaged communion elements to keep us and our neighbors as safe as possible. The second and fourth Sundays of the month (October 10 and 24) will be **learning circles**. Since some families and individuals aren't ready just yet for in person gatherings, these Sundays are geared more for online engagement. There will be two offerings to choose from on these Sundays:

Contemplative Life Learning Circle The contemplative life option will explore spiritual practices, forms of prayer, and other ways Christians have deepened their experience of God's goodness and love. (Ken Lund and Pastor Christina Roberts will lead this group)

Good Neighbor Learning Circle—The good neighbor option will delve into the ways that Christians can share this goodness and love with their communities by seeking to befriend and improve the lives of their neighbors. (Joyce Boggess, Pastor Chris Roberts and Pastor Peter Morris will lead this group)

On Learning Circle weeks, **Zoom links** to each circle will be sent out so that they can be accessed from home. For those interested, it will also be possible to participate in each of the circles, in person at Arbor, where computers for each group's zoom will be set up in different rooms. On these Sundays the children and youth program will also be on zoom, on their own dedicated link that will also be sent out ahead of time.

Fifth Sunday – October 31

We're planning to have a service at Arbor before the Harvest Meal/Festival that Miss Joyce has been working on. The service will explore the idea of Harvest, with expressions of gratitude for God's provision and reflection on how the concept of gleaning and the ways communities are made stronger through connections that allow us to support and be supported by each other.

Also that day, there will be a chance to participate in a special learning circle group called **Wisdom and Word**. The group will create space for theological conversation exploring a still to be identified reading or podcast. More information to follow.

We know that this is a lot of information. And we're glad to try to answer any questions you may have. We're also eager to get your input and for you to share your ideas.



End of Growing Season Fall Harvest Festival

Arbor Covenant Church & foundry414

OCT 31, 2021 12-2 pm

Join us

For a time of “Gathering, Greeting Neighbors and Gleaning”



“Taste Of Fall Harvest” Grilled on Site by Madison Restaurateur and renowned chef, **Barbara Wright**, former owner of the Dardanelles Mediterranean restaurant

Fun activities for kids

Face coverings required

Hand sanitizing stations will be installed around the area.

As with all events on our calendar, we are monitoring the situation daily, and keeping everyone's health and safety in mind, and will post any changes-cancellations here as soon as we can.

Progress Report Regarding Arbor Covenant Church and Common Wealth Development

Common Wealth Development and Arbor Covenant Church signed an agreement in mid-August to move forward with the sale of Arbor's property and subsequent purchase by Arbor of condominium rights to provide a facility for ongoing ministries. As we have discussed in Congregational meetings, Leadership Team Meetings, and in previous newsletters, this will be about a five-year process that will face several hurdles. Key hurdles include City of Madison zoning approvals and WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority) authorization of tax credits for the financial investors in the affordable housing.

The next eighteen months will involve considerable planning and preliminary design work by Common Wealth Development in collaboration with Arbor. Communication with the Arbor Hills/Leopold community will be ongoing as will the discussions with the city. There is a lot to be choreographed.

In many respects, this vision for affordable housing is very timely. It is a growing problem in Madison and Dane County. Both the City and County are working to respond with changes in policies and in providing grants and other financial assistance. It's also a response that other churches are beginning to consider how best to use their resources for God's work.

While this may seem a long journey for us, it won't be on the time scale of Moses with 40 years in the wilderness. Some of the things to consider are how to imagine what our ministries will be in say six years, and how to do ministries in our immediate community and beyond in this transition period. What are the activities to spread the messages of God's hope, love, and redemption? How do we invite and work with a growing number of participants on this journey?

If you have questions or ideas to share, please contact Pastor Peter, Ken Lund, or Mark Hanson.

Mark Hanson
Leadership Team Member

South Madison Community Mainstay Says Farewell Early Childhood Learning Center Inc. Closes Its Doors



After more than 30 years in South Madison, Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) closed its doors on July 22nd.

The Early Childhood Learning Center affectionately known as "ECLC" was not just a place for parents to drop off their children - it has been a place for family and community engagement. Founder Joyce Johnson Boggess in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with declining enrollments, and staffing challenges, made the difficult decision to close the Center. "I am 82 years old. I love what I do and we are concerned about the loss of affordable care, especially for infants. But, after more than 30 years, for me, it's time." "Miss Joyce" as she is known by most in the community says she will continue to work in some fashion with children – albeit her own seven great grandchildren ages 6 months-15years

We thank the church for their care and support. The infant playground- The pear tree, which produced pears this year and for a myriad of other things. Blessing

Miss Joyce Boggess

Parish Notes - Babies Galore

Elena Sofia Gonzalez Pecotte



Elena Sofia Gonzalez Pecotte
Born July 13, 2021
Brenda and David Pecotte Gonzalez are the happy and exhausted parents
John and Sue Pecotte are the happy grandparents
Karen, Amanda and Michelle are wonderful Aunts
Michelle Anna and Daniel Isaiah are the welcoming cousins.

Brenda, David and Elena came to Wisconsin in August and will be leaving in October so that Brenda can start her new job at a clinic near Fresno CA.



Julian Esteban Anderson

Julian Esteban Anderson, born on 9/9/2021.
Ian and Jessica Anderson are the proud parents of 5 lbs.10 oz. baby boy

Grandparents Stephen and Gio are beyond excited!
Great grandparents Duane and Harriet are thrilled.

But how could Duane meet his first great-grandchild? Because of a pandemic lockdown at the nursing home, staff facilitated a lively Zoom session with Duane and the whole family.
(It looks as if they may have another redhead in the family.)

Rhett Philip Collins



There is also new joy in the Keillor/Collins family.
Rhett Philip Collins was born on September 22 and weighed 9 lbs. 12 oz.
Parents are Kiley and Lukas Collins.
Grandparents are Lisa and Mike Collins
Great Grandma Ann Britt Keillor got to visit with Rhett in Deforest this week. Pure happiness.

ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

January 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021

| | Offerings & Creek | Actual Expenses | Net Income (Loss) |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Reimbursements Received | Year-to-Date | Year-to-Date |
| | Year-to-Date | | |
| General Offerings and CD Interest | \$ 26,556.75 | | |
| Creek Day School Reimbursement | \$ 19,038.00 | | |
| TOTAL | \$ 45,594.75 | \$ 69,324.01 | \$ (23,729.26) |
| ****PPP Loan**** | \$ 14,542.50 | including \$2,125 | \$ (9,186.76) |
| | | to FFBWW | or -\$6,466.76 including |
| | | | FFBWW, garden, and janitor gift |
| | | | funds received as noted below |
| Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) Received YTD | TOTAL | | |
| Deacon | \$ 30.00 | | |
| Good Neighbors Pantry | \$ 5,948.68 | | |
| Levin Camp | \$ 25.00 | | |
| Memorial | | | |
| Women's Ministries | | | |
| World Relief | | | |
| Youth Mission | | | |
| Other (bank int, FFBWW, garden, janitor gifts) | \$ 2,721.39 | | |

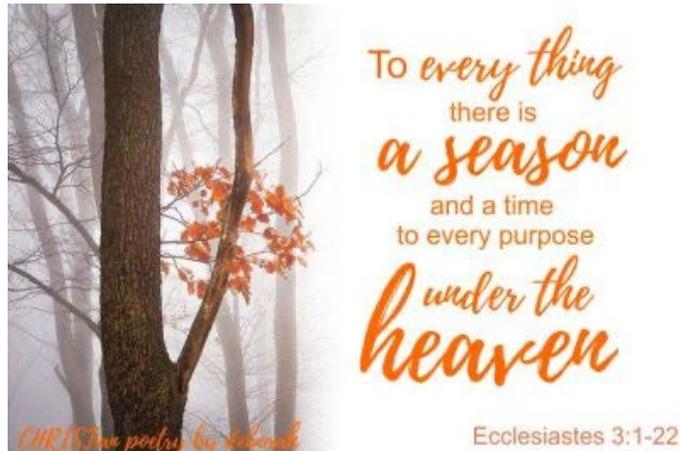
October Birthdays

October 18 Glenn Hanson
 October 24 Elrene Lund
 October 30 Harry Engstrom

October Anniversaries

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

Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry
 Item of the Month
 Bar soap – Bath size





OCTOBER 2021

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|-------------------------------------|----|--|--|----|
|  | | | | | 1 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry | 2 |
| 3 10:30 AM Church around the Table | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 7:00 PM Small Group Study | 8 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry | 9 |
| 10 10:30 AM Learning Circles | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 7:00 PM Small Group Study | 15 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry | 16 |
| 17 10:30 AM Church around the Table | 18 | 19 6:45 PM Leadership Team | 20 | 21 5:30 PM-7:00 PM Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry 7:00 PM Small Group Study | 22 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry | 23 |
| 24 10:30 AM Learning Circles | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 7:00 PM Small Group Study | 29 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry | 30 |
| 31 10:30 AM Worship Wisdom and Word Learning Circle Harvest Meal/ Festival | | | | | | |