

Arbor Covenant Church

Newsletter

Madison Wisconsin

December 2021



Advent Season and Christmas Schedule

Advent began on November 28th, and as we move towards the next three Sundays, Arbor and Foundry 414 will be gathering together each week. We will continue meeting around tables, reflecting on scripture, sharing conversation, and engaging in some interactive prayer practices. We'll also be incorporating more music and new and familiar advent materials. Those gatherings will continue to take place at 10:30, and the possibility to connect through zoom will remain.

Besides Sunday mornings with Foundry, Arbor is also planning to participate in collaborative services with Memorial UCC (5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg). The first will be at 7pm on December 21, for Longest Night. A Longest Night service happens during the longest night of the year, and it creates space for participants to acknowledge grief, to express lament, and to cling to hope. It can be especially meaningful during the holiday season when the expectation to be happy and cheerful can make it difficult to deal with our less than festive feelings. It's not the first time we've shared in this service (we did last year as well) but it's still rather new to us, so if you have questions feel free to reach out with them. There will be the option to gather in person at Memorial or online via zoom.

We'll also have another hybrid service (option to be in-person or online) on Christmas Eve with Memorial. Also at 7:00pm, it will include readings from the Nativity story, music, prayer and reflection.

Finally, for the Sunday after Christmas (12/26) there will be a few options from which to choose. There will be online and in-person gathering possibilities, but there will also be a "take home" service with readings and prayers that can be used as a sort of extended devotion and worship experience that can be engaged in at home.

Look out for more information and opportunities to participate as these days get closer.

Pastor Peter Morris

Advent Season



November 28	First Sunday of Advent <i>The Candle of Hope</i>
December 5	Second Sunday of Advent <i>The Candle of Peace</i>
December 12	Third Sunday of Advent <i>The Candle of Love</i>
December 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>The Candle of Joy</i>
December 25	Christmas Day

TREE OF 40 FRUIT



“In 2008, while locating specimens to create a multi-colored blossom tree for an art project, artist and Syracuse University art professor [Sam Van Aken](#) had the opportunity to acquire a 3-acre orchard from the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. Fascinated by the practice of [grafting](#) trees since a young age, Aken began to graft buds from the 250 heritage varieties found on the orchard onto a single stock tree.

To create the Frankenstein-esque tree, Aken worked with stone fruits (fruits with pits) like peaches, plums, apricots, almonds, and nectarines. Over the course of five years he successfully grafted dozens of plants *onto the same tree*, and with that, the [Tree of 40 Fruit](#) project was born. Because of their similarities, all 40 fruits bud, bloom and fruit in near perfect unison.

Aken has since grafted at least 16 different “Trees of 40 Fruit” which are planted across the U.S. in places like Newton, Massachusetts; Pound Ridge, New York; Short Hills, New Jersey; Bentonville, Arkansas; and San Jose, California. Each tree is specific to its environment, using both local and antique varieties.” *CNN news*

On Sunday, November 21, Pastor Peter used this amazing story as a way to demonstrate how people can come together, each celebrating their own identity, yet together creating a new and unique, diverse community. Using craft materials, participants from Arbor and foundry414 were encouraged to decorate their own tree branch in some way that represented their unique characteristics and personality. We then added our branches to central connected containers to represent our own “Tree of 40 Fruit” (see below). This was a living lesson of how communities can come together and exist in harmony without sacrificing their own identities and cultures.

-Jan Gietzel



GOOD NEIGHBORS PERSONAL ESSENTIALS PANTRY HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS

In December, each of our families who are guests of the Pantry will be receiving a special holiday gift bag filled with a number of special products such as body lotion, body wash, a general cleaner, Kleenex and dish towels. These are all items that we don't usually have in stock on a regular basis. Our guests so appreciate the special efforts to brighten their holidays and the note that we include with their gift.

If you would like to take part in this effort, you may donate 10-12 oz. bottles of body lotion or body wash, square boxes of Kleenex, general purpose cleaner and preferably colorful dish towels (particularly red or green for the holidays). Please bring the products to the Pantry at Arbor between 10 am and Noon on Fridays during the Pantry or contact Jan Gietzel at 608-577-8154 or jgietzel@charter.net to arrange a pickup.

Thank you for your generosity and the joy it brings our guests!



ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

January 1, 2021 - October 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	\$ 30,492.50			
Creek Day School Reimbursement	\$ 23,258.00			
TOTAL	\$ 53,750.50		\$ 84,151.90	\$ (30,401.40)
****PPP Loan****	\$ 14,542.50		including \$2,125 to FFBWW	\$ (15,858.90)
			and \$527.36 to janitor gifts	or -\$12,138.90 including
				FFBWW, garden, and janitor gift
				funds received as noted below
Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) Received YTD	TOTAL			
Deacon	\$ 30.00			
Good Neighbors Pantry	\$ 9,973.75			
Levin Camp	\$ 25.00			
Memorial	\$ 300.00			
Women's Ministeries				
World Relief				
Youth Mission				
Other (bank int, FFBWW, garden, janitor gifts)	\$ 3,721.66			

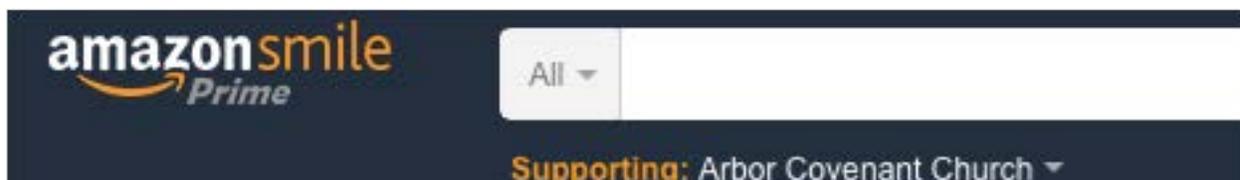
Amazon Smile

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**, 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.



An Update on Arbor's Work on Affordable Housing with Common Wealth Development December 1, 2021

In November's Newsletter, we reported on discussions with Common Wealth Development that indicated that the original plans for developing affordable housing at Arbor would not be feasible in the five-year timeframe that had been planned. The implication was that Arbor might have to move more quickly or more slowly.

As we said then, "The moving more quickly comment might occur in a couple of ways. First, CW mentioned that land banking (by CW or maybe the City) may be something to consider. If that is feasible and Arbor and CW want to pursue that, Arbor could sell the property to CW and then lease the property for missions including Creek until future development takes place. Alternately, we could look to options for developing affordable senior housing."

In the last month, we've learned that Common Wealth Development is very interested in pursuing the land banking option where Common Wealth would acquire our site and hold it for future affordable housing development while using a lease back arrangement where Arbor would continue its mission activities on the site. One way of doing this would be for a minimal lease payment, but Arbor would continue to operate as it does now with Creek and others in maintaining, insuring, paying for utilities, mowing the lawn, and snow plowing etc.

Paster Peter explained in the following note to the Leadership Team. "For some context, land banking is a development strategy wherein an entity (a municipality, a nonprofit, a developer, etc.) purchases land with the intention of holding it until market conditions or other opportunities allow for its future development. My sister who works for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and primarily works with low-income housing providers, tells me that it is a common practice. She was aware of some positive examples of it in Seattle."

Peter goes on to say that "It seems like Common Wealth is willing to work with us to come to an agreement that makes sense for both parties and that they, like us, are committed to Creek's future. They're also willing to hear more ideas about how the space could be used well in the future, like the option to develop infant care."

As of this writing, Arbor is waiting to hear whether Covenant Living might still be interested in a co-development with Common Wealth at our site. This could be part of the land banking or yet another path.

Mark Hanson

PROPOSAL TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH BYLAWS (This is a repeat of a prior notification sent out in October 2021)

To provide flexibility if we someday decide we want to have a pastor who does not have credentials from the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Leadership Team is recommending the changes below to the church bylaws to be voted on at our Annual Meeting in early 2022. In addition, we are also proposing a change to the quorum requirement to reflect the reality of our current membership numbers. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Lund at (608) 239-7557 or 2kenlund@gmail.com.

Thank you for your attention to these proposed changes.

The Leadership Team

Proposed Changes to Arbor Covenant Church Bylaws

Article IV

Section 2. Pastoral Qualifications. Pastors of the church shall meet the qualifications for character, giftedness, and call set forth in the Holy Scriptures. The Senior Pastor shall be a member in good standing with ~~the Covenant Ministerium~~a credentialing body that is deemed acceptable by the Leadership Team, or commit to becoming a member in good standing within a period determined by the Leadership Team. Other pastors shall be a member in good standing with ~~the Covenant Ministerium or otherwise credentialed by the ECC~~a credentialing body deemed acceptable by the Leadership Team in accordance with their qualifications and duties. Pastors shall be members of the church by virtue of the call to serve the church. Pastors shall meet all criteria for ethical standards set forth by ~~the Covenant Ministerium~~their credentialing body.

Section 10. Charges Against a Pastor. Charges against a pastor shall be submitted in writing to the Leadership Team, ~~the pastor's credentialing body~~, and the central conference superintendent, charging a pastor with indiscretion, immorality, doctrinal error, ~~or unethical behavior, or disloyalty to the ECC~~. ~~The superintendent shall confer with the ECC executive minister of the ordered ministry. These two officers shall confer and determine the order of responsibility in pursuing the matter according to the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Ordered Ministry of the ECC regarding discipline, prior to further action by the church.~~ A credentialed pastor or staff member credentialed by the ECC may be suspended by ~~the ECC~~their credentialing body during this process. However, any minister who fails to become credentialed ~~with the ECC~~ may be suspended or recommended for dismissal at any time without prior notice by the Leadership Team.

Article VI

Section 6. Quorum. Fifteen percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the annual meeting; ~~with a minimum of 15 members~~. Unless otherwise noted in these Bylaws, ten percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for any other meeting; ~~with a minimum of 15 members~~.

Parish Notes

Thank you

Big thank you to Joyce, Peter, Mark, Candice, Barbara Wright and all others involved in Arbor farmer's market and Harvest Festival

Workday was held on Sat. Nov 13 - thank you to all who participated

Gatlin Douglas Gleissner



Welcome Gatlin, son of Malina and Matt Gleissner. Gatlin was born November 18th and now is settled in his home in Brookfield WI. He weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz.

Proud grandparents are Doug and Sheri Keillor. Thrilled great-grandmother is Ann Britt Keillor who has yet to meet him but is very excited to welcome him to the family. Ann-Britt now has three great grandsons born in 2021 along with great granddaughter Vanessa who is one!!

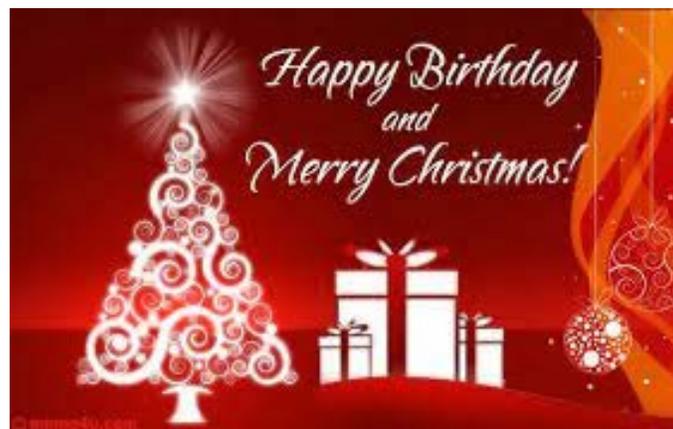


December Birthdays

December 6 James Woofter
December 18 Harriet Anderson
December 18 Ann-Britt Keillor
December 25 Theo Morris

December Anniversaries

December 29 Peter Morris and Tamsin Ford
December 30 Harry and Sue Engstrom (50 years!)



December 2021 Calendar

			1	2	3	4
				7:00 Small Group Study	10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	
5 <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> 10:30 AM Church around the Table	6	7	8	9	10	11
				7:00 Small Group Study	10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	
12 <i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i> 10:30 AM Church around the Table	13	14	15	16	17	18
	6:45 PM Leadership Team			5:30 PM-7:00 PM Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	
				7:00 Small Group Study		
19 <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i> 10:30 AM Church around the Table	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>
		7 PM – Longest Day Service – (at <i>Memorial UCC</i>)			10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	
					7 PM – Service (at <i>Memorial UCC</i>)	
26 10:30 Worship (at <i>Memorial UCC</i>)	27	28	29	30	31	