

*Who unto man His Son hath given;  
While angels sing with tender mirth,  
A glad new year to all the earth.  
-Martin Luther*

### Worship Services in January

The Arbor Leadership Team hopes that everyone associated in any way with Arbor Covenant will answer an invitation to join us each Sunday in January to express our hopes, dreams and ultimate vision for what we want/expect/hope our church will look like in the future. Between now and this Sunday, January 9, we're asking you to spend some time thinking about the question, **"How would I describe what I hope will be happening at Arbor Covenant Church in the coming years?"**. On Sunday, everyone will have the opportunity to express their individual thoughts in two minutes or less. There are no preconceived notions of what any of us should say. There are no right or wrong answers, smart or silly ideas – just an honest relaying of everyone's thoughts regarding our hoped-for future. There will be prayer, scripture and music along with plenty of time for questions and discussion. Because of the current status of COVID, our first meeting on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> will be held on Zoom. If you do not have access to or are not comfortable handling Zoom, Pastor Peter will be at church before 10:30 am to help you participate from that location.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month, we will continue this series of discussions, worship together and have more information on the Common Wealth Development/Arbor Covenant Project and its impact on our future along with detailed budget information.

On January 30<sup>th</sup> we will worship and wrap-up our series of discussions hopefully with a clearer picture of what God intends for our worshipping community. We highly encourage you to engage in these discussions with a sense of purpose, an awareness of God's grace and a love of our community!

The Leadership Team



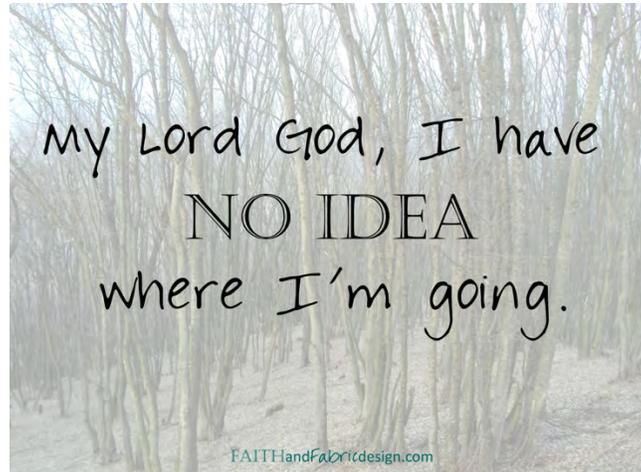
## Merton's Prayer

During our gatherings this month, we will be engaging a series of discussions meant to help us discern together next steps for our community. There will be time for us to share our hopes and visions, to ask and attempt to answer important questions, and to share our sense of where God may be leading us.

These sorts of conversations are seldom easy and rarely yield much if any certainty. Hopefully they leave us with a sense of possibility and inclining of what faithfulness looks like. But, ultimately at the end of any discern process what we're left with is the invitation towards an ongoing journey that we're called to navigate with humility and openness.

Recognizing that what were after in these discussion isn't certainty but faithfulness, the leadership team has chosen to highlight the following prayer from author and Trappist Monk Thomas Merton. It will serve as a sort of refrain that will visit and revisit as we gather together each of the upcoming weeks. May it and the God who hears it, give us inspiration and courage in the weeks to come.

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all I'm doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen*



Last week while my family and I were in the Toronto area for the holidays we visited a bird sanctuary. We met a couple of other families there, all told there were 11 of us headed out into the woods, including 5 rambunctious kids all 6 years old or under. We were never going to be the calmest group of hikers, and I never had any sense that it would be a peaceful undertaking but it was a beautiful day and it was good to be outside with friends and family.

When we got to an area with benches and felled logs, a couple members of the group took out bags of bird seed and started passing it around. At first we began scattering the seeds on stumps and patches on ground near the trail. But with loud kids running around and rough housing it never seemed like any of the birds in the brush or the trees would ever get close enough to engage.

But sure enough, as we quieted down and the kids ventured off a little further down the trail, the birds crept out and began to peck at the seeds we had scattered. Not long after that, a couple of our hiking companions placed seeds in their hands and made themselves as still as possible. Finding a place to sit a little ways off from everyone else, I did the same.

And wouldn't you know it, before long a series of chickadees started landing in my palm. With delicate twitchiness, they'd peck from the small pile of seeds before launching back off into flight.

One of our friends noted that this encounter with nature, the calm and the stillness in required and engendered, felt like church to him. I agreed and immediately thought of a quote from book I read a couple of years ago by an author named Parker Palmer:

"The soul is like a wild animal—tough, resilient, savvy, self-sufficient and yet exceedingly shy. If we want to see a wild animal, the last thing we should do is to go crashing through the woods, shouting for the creature to come out. But if we are willing to walk quietly into the woods and sit silently for an hour or two at the base of a tree, the creature we are waiting for may well emerge, and out of the corner of an eye we will catch a glimpse of the precious wildness we seek."

In Parker's Quaker tradition, to connect to or get a glimpse of one's soul is to make contact with one's inner light. Other's might call this light the image and presence of God within us. No matter what you call it, the wisdom he shares is unmistakable. In a world filled with busy-ness and noise transcendent experiences or divine encounters can become few and far between.

Carving out peaceful space — stilling and quieting ourselves — give us the chance to glimpse things and to discover things that we may otherwise miss. In the process we may begin to discern vital wisdom that God longs to reveal to us — wisdom about next steps, about how we're called to grow, about the love and grace at the center of our truest self.

Pastor Peter Morris



## Duane Anderson



Long time church member and friend of so many, Duane Anderson passed away on December 29. He was 85 years old. His family had been able to spend time with him and his beloved wife of 62 years, Harriet, was with him when he passed. Duane and Harriet raised two remarkable children, Steve and Sheree. In 2019, Steve and his wife Gio combined homes with Duane and Harriet in Verona. Sheree and her husband Paul live in Fox Bluff and are close to the family. Grandson Ian and his wife Jessica welcomed a son in September. Julian is Duane and Harriet's first great grandchild. Granddaughter Alexandra Meza-Araya lives in Madison.

Duane was always an active member of Arbor Covenant. He enjoyed tutoring children at Leopold School and participated in the Luke House Meals Program as well as staffing the overnight homeless shelter at Grace Episcopal. He was also an active supporter of Scouting. He and Harriet hosted over seventy English language learners in their home.

Duane was also active in the Vasa Lodge – a group of Swedes who gather to enjoy their common ancestry. He loved organizing family reunions and was interested in genealogy.

Duane was a quiet man -but one with a quick sense of humor. And he will be remembered for his wonderful smile. He loved his family and his life. Peace be to his soul.

A memorial service will be held at Arbor on Saturday, January 8. There will be a visitation at 1:00 PM and the service will be at 2:00 PM.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/madison/name/duane-anderson-obituary?id=32117803>



## GNPEP Item of the Month

Bic Disposable Plastic Razors.

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



### January Birthdays

January 23 Michelle Stachowiak

January 24 Dan Meyer

January 31 Kristina Keillor

### January Anniversary

January 11 Doug and Sheri Keillor

#### ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

January 1, 2021 - November 30, 2021

	Offerings & Creek Reimbursements Received	Actual Expenses	Net Income (Loss)
	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date
General Offerings and CD Interest	\$ 37,666.45		
Creek Day School Reimbursement	\$ 23,258.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 60,924.45</b>	<b>\$ 92,219.34</b>	<b>\$ (31,294.89)</b>
***PPP Loan***	\$ 14,542.50	including \$2,125 to FFBWW and \$527.36 to janitor gifts	\$ (16,752.39) or -\$13,032.39 including FFBWW, garden, and janitor gift funds received as noted below
<b>Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) Received YTD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		
Deacon	\$ 130.00		
Good Neighbors Pantry	\$ 10,073.75		
Levin Camp	\$ 25.00		
Memorial	\$ 300.00		
Women's Ministries			
World Relief			
Youth Mission			
Other (bank int, FFBWW, garden, janitor gifts)	\$ 3,721.67		

## January 2022

						1 New Years Day!
2	3	4	5	6	7 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	8 2:00 PM Duane Anderson funeral
9 10:30 AM Worship Service (Zoom)-discussion	10 6:45 PM Leadership Team	11	12	13	14 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	15
16 10:30 AM Worship/Discussion	17	18	19	20 5:30 PM-7:00 PM Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry 7:00 PM Small Group Study	21 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	22
23 10:30 AM Worship/Discussion	24	25	26	27 7:00 PM Small Group Study	28 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	29
30 10:30 AM Worship/Discussion	31					