



Sundays in January were different than usual. We spent those mornings together sharing our dreams and hopes, asking questions, communicating our sense of how we have dealt with the difficulties of the pandemic and the opportunities we might embrace, as we move forward. We did this not in the quest for certainty but with the belief that navigating the road ahead of us with the desire to please God, does indeed please God.

I'm grateful for everyone who offered their opinions and contributed to the discernment process whether on Sunday mornings or with an email or a phone call. Your contributions, your questions, your vision for Arbor's future are indispensable. Thank you for all you shared.

As Arbor moves towards the next chapter of its congregational life, your perspectives remain valuable. In fact, that chapter's story cannot be told well without everyone's voice included in its telling.

Pastor Peter Morris

### **Improving Communication**

The Leadership Team continues to welcome anyone to join and participate in its monthly meetings. That message, for various reasons, has not been communicated well to everyone. We will try to correct that situation in two ways

- 1.) The date and time of the upcoming LT meeting will be published in the monthly Arbor Newsletter along with the Zoom I.D. and Password to enable each person to join the meeting.

February 2022 Arbor Covenant Leadership Team  
Monday, February 14 6:45 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8026073098?pwd=dG16YnNJYmJkZTZjWko5MTVnUUZUUT09>

Zoom I.D.: 802 607 3098  
Passcode: ARBOR

- 2.) Several days before the meeting, everyone will be sent a reminder with a link attached.

The Leadership Team

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND ARBOR'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
THIS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6 FOLLOWING WORSHIP.**

## **Timeline and Update of Potential Agreement with Common Wealth Development**

The following is a brief summary of Arbor's discussions and decisions in the effort to create affordable/low-income housing with Common Wealth Development (CWD).

### **June 2019**

Following discussions at a congregational meeting out of four potential pathways, Arbor decides on one that represents a renewed commitment to the local neighborhood. We begin to look to invest resources in ways that reimagine our place within the community and our property as a neighborhood resource rather than simply a congregational one.

### **January 2020**

After some exploratory conversations with neighbors, city officials, and others, discussions with Common Wealth Development about an affordable housing project on Arbor's property begin.

### **March 2020**

The Pandemic grinds everything to a halt.

### **Summer 2020**

At a rally at the Capital, Vanessa McDowell, the Executive Director of Madison's YWCA, challenges churches like Arbor to consider how we can use our resources to broaden equity within Madison's African American community. This challenge inspires multiple people at Arbor to think more deeply about if and how our property and other resources might contribute towards McDowell's vision.

Congregational Meeting is held to discuss CWD's ideas for a potential affordable housing development on Arbor property. A motion to invite them to move forward with a proposal passes.

### **Fall of 2020**

Sequoia LLC, a consulting firm associated with Covenant Living (the Evangelical Covenant Church's housing development department), suggests the potential of Covenant Living coming on as a co-developer for the project.

### **Winter 2021**

After a series of conversation with Sequoia, CWD declines working with Covenant Living as a co-developer. Co-development as discussed does not meet some of the requirements of their business model.

At 2021 Annual Meeting, Arbor asks CWD for a formal proposal.

### **Spring 2021**

CWD makes an initial proposal. After evaluating it, Arbor's LT declines and begins working with lawyers from Stafford Rosenbaum to determine the parameters of a counter-offer.

### **June 2021**

Congregational Meeting approves the terms of a counter-offer. These terms include a sale price of \$1.6 million and the understanding that Arbor would then return the \$1.6 million for condominium rights for the existing building or a comparable space in a new development for Arbor's continued use in its missions, including Creek Day School. In other words, it was never intended that \$1.6 million would ever change hands. The \$1.6 million price was based on an estimate of our insurance provider of the replacement cost of our current facility.

Not long after, CWD accepts the counter-offer. An offer to purchase is agreed upon and signed in August. The agreement provided a closing date of 2026, with the understanding that there were many things that would need to fall into place before then.

## **August/September 2021**

CWD's due diligence and discussions with state and city officials indicate that the project as originally envisioned would not be viable within the agreed upon 60-month window for closing.

Obstacles preventing the project from happening within the original timeline notably include inability to obtain WHEDA tax credits due to the site's limited access to public transit and essential amenities like grocery stores, and inconsistency with current zoning and community plans.

## **Fall 2021**

CWD shares a new idea. Anticipating that other developments and community improvements in South Madison will make an affordable housing project viable in 10 years or so, CWD asks Arbor to consider selling the property to them now as a land bank deal. Land banking is a real estate transaction in which an entity purchases property for development at a later date. In this case, CWD would buy and hold Arbor's property for affordable housing development when viable. A land banking sale can be done with conditions, such as a lease.

One condition of this potential land bank agreement would likely be a Triple Net Lease. A Triple Net Lease is a lease where the occupant (Arbor in this case) leases a property and pays for utilities, routine maintenance including janitorial services and snow plowing, and insurance. In this particular case Arbor could pay a nominal rental fee (\$1 per month) and does not need to pay property tax (Arbor and CWD are tax exempt not for profits).

## **January 2022**

Conversations with CWD continue with a focus on the possibility of a land bank agreement with a triple net lease. The conversation has included a potential purchase price in the area of \$250K. The intent behind this below market purchase price is to make a gift that will help facilitate the project and its goal to provide affordable housing in our community. The \$250K figure represents approximately one-half of the land value based on earlier reviewed comparables; the other half then is Arbor's investment in affordable housing in Madison.

## **Opportunities and Risks**

This Land Bank/Triple Net Lease with CWD would be designed to allow our primary capital resource (our property) to be invested towards the development of affordable housing in Madison. It would also provide an influx of cash (potentially \$250K), strengthening Arbor's short term financial position and/or allowing Arbor to invest in other mission-focused opportunities. It would also allow Creek Day School to operate uninterrupted for the foreseeable future. There is some risk involved. There is a possibility that the projected development does not become viable within a timeframe suitable for CWD. In this case they have the right to sell the property and eventually end our lease. The plus side of this scenario is that whatever money they make/recoup from the sale of the property would support their non-profit mission. So while this deal might not end with affordable housing on McDivitt Road, it will likely still fund affordable housing somewhere else in the Madison area.

## **Next Steps**

Assuming the congregation approves the concept outlined here, we would invite CWD to make a specific proposal for purchasing the property with Land Bank and Triple Net Lease contingencies. The exact details of the contingencies would then be negotiated. This new agreement would supersede the earlier sale agreement signed in August.

We will be voting on these proposed changes at the Annual Meeting on February 6, 2022

## 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~~.

**ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
For the Year Ending December 31

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Park Bank Checking - Operating Fund	14,253.24	4,862.47
Park Bank Checking - Deacon Fund	830.57	690.57
Park Bank Savings	6,946.84	1,448.52
Land	160,000.00	160,000.00
Building	1,624,000.00	1,624,000.00
Equipment and Building Contents	290,000.00	290,000.00
NCP - CD#3364-113	7,163.00	7,225.72
NCP - CD#3364-114	10,622.63	10,715.67
	<u>2,113,816.28</u>	<u>2,098,942.95</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Federal Withholding Tax Payable	2,054.76	2,054.76
Wisconsin Withholding Tax Payable	96.60	96.60
	<u>2,151.36</u>	<u>2,151.36</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
	<u><u>2,111,664.92</u></u>	<u><u>2,096,791.59</u></u>

# ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH

## 2022 BUDGET WORKSHEET

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	Variance	Proposed 2022 Budget	Proposed 2022 first 6 months	Proposed 2022 last 6 months
reminder: budgeted deficit of 14258.00				deficit of 9708.00	deficit of 12119.00	surplus of 2411.00
<b>INCOME</b>						
<b>General Contributions</b>	62000.00	43038.00	-18962.00	45000.00	22500.00	22500.00
*** PPP Loan ***	0.00	14542.50	14542.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Designated Contributions</b> (Lilies, etc.)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
World Relief Fund Contributions	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Garden Plot Contributions	0.00	180.00	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Levin Camp Fund Contributions	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pastor's Christmas Gift Contributions	0.00	800.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Events Contributions	0.00	2000.00	2000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Missions Projects Contributions	0.00	4155.00	4155.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Interest Income</b>	181.00	157.00	-24.00	88.00	44.00	44.00
<b>Reimbursed Expenses</b>						
Creek Contributions	18467.00	18467.00	0.00	18836.00	9418.00	9418.00
Creek Copier Sharing	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	150.00	150.00
Creek Utilities	6551.00	6770.00	219.00	7077.00	3538.50	3538.50
foundry414 Contributions	0.00	600.00	600.00	1200.00	1200.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>87499.00</b>	<b>91234.50</b>	<b>3735.50</b>	<b>72501.00</b>	<b>36850.50</b>	<b>35650.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Bank Charges</b>	25.00	0.00	-25.00	25.00	12.50	12.50
<b>Christian Education</b>						
Confirmation	100.00	0.00	-100.00	100.00	50.00	50.00
Covenant Companion	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Covenant Home Altar	0.00	71.00	71.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Curriculum--Youth	150.00	63.00	-87.00	150.00	75.00	75.00
Curriculum--Adult	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nursery Attendant	180.00	0.00	-180.00	180.00	90.00	90.00
Vacation Bible School	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Director	750.00	0.00	-750.00	750.00	375.00	375.00
Youth Group Supplies/Refreshments	100.00	0.00	-100.00	100.00	50.00	50.00
<b>Conference Expenses</b>						
Annual Conference--Lay	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conferences--Pastor	500.00	0.00	-500.00	500.00	250.00	250.00
Midwinter Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Finance Charges</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Fund Contributions Expended</b>						
World Relief Fund	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Levin Camp Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pastor's Christmas Gift Fund	0.00	800.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Proposed 2022 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed 2022 first 6 months</u>	<u>Proposed 2022 last 6 months</u>
<b>Payroll</b>						
Auto Allowance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medicare & Social Security	4889.00	4889.00	0.00	3637.00	2353.00	1284.00
Pastor-Salary	26025.00	26025.00	0.00	20524.00	13281.00	7243.00
Pastor-Housing Allowance	33000.00	33000.00	0.00	23375.00	15125.00	8250.00
Pastor-Pension	7989.00	7989.00	0.00	5942.00	3845.00	2097.00
Pastor-Resource Allocation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Publicity/Outreach</b>						
Brochures/Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Advertising-Newspapers	100.00	0.00	-100.00	100.00	50.00	50.00
Special Events	0.00	1088.00	1088.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Technology</b>						
Computer Supplies	300.00	0.00	-300.00	300.00	150.00	150.00
Internet Service	960.00	1096.00	136.00	1176.00	588.00	588.00
Software Fees	324.00	726.00	402.00	324.00	162.00	162.00
TV Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	120.00	120.00
Website Developer	500.00	0.00	-500.00	500.00	250.00	250.00
<b>Utilities</b>						
Gas & Electric	5000.00	5150.00	150.00	5335.00	2667.50	2667.50
Telephone	1032.00	1023.00	-9.00	960.00	480.00	480.00
Water	3500.00	3589.00	89.00	3750.00	1875.00	1875.00
<b>Worship</b>						
Worship Supplies	200.00	0.00	-200.00	200.00	100.00	100.00
CCLI & Other Licenses	400.00	0.00	-400.00	455.00	227.50	227.50
Guest Clergy/Speakers	2000.00	500.00	-1500.00	2000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Music Accompaniment	1200.00	0.00	-1200.00	1200.00	600.00	600.00
Organ/Piano Repair	200.00	0.00	-200.00	200.00	100.00	100.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u>101757.00</u>	<u>105668.00</u>	<u>3911.00</u>	<u>82209.00</u>	<u>48969.50</u>	<u>33239.50</u>
reminder: budgeted deficit of 14258.00				deficit of 9708.00	deficit of 12119.00	surplus of 2411.00

**ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

January 1, 2021 - December 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	\$ 45,194.23	(includes \$2000 Special Events Contributions for HWM retreat)			
Creek Day School Reimbursement	\$ 25,537.33				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 70,731.56</b>		<b>\$ 104,669.07</b>		<b>\$ (33,937.51)</b>
<b>**PPP Loan**</b>	<b>\$ 14,542.50</b>		including \$2,125 to FFBWW,		\$ (19,395.01)
			\$527.36 to janitor gifts, and		or -\$15,060.01 including
			\$555 to Afghan refugees		FFBWW, garden, janitor gift, and Afghan
					refugee funds received as noted below
<b>Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) Received YTD</b>					
		<b>TOTAL</b>			
Deacon	\$	260.00			
Good Neighbors Pantry	\$	21,145.83			
Levin Camp	\$	25.00			
Memorial	\$	300.00			
Women's Ministries					
World Relief	\$	200.00			
Youth Mission					
Other (bank int, FFBWW, garden, janitor, Afghan)	\$	4,336.68			



**READING PROJECT - MADE FOR ARBOR?**

Harriet Anderson had a vision after reading an article last week that she shared with us. Might Arbor assist in helping families sign up for the project described below?

The article was about a program founded by country music singer Dolly Parton that is partnering with the Madison Reading Project to deliver books to thousands of Dane County kids in the coming years. The collaboration with Parton's Imagination Library program plans to mail a free book each month to registered children until they turn five. The initiative was made possible through funding from the Roots & Wings Foundation, the family foundation of Judy Faulkner, the founder and CEO of Epic Systems. Rowan Childs, director of the Madison Reading Project, said "We know the more books you have in your home the higher your literacy rate." Under the program, children will be mailed "high-quality, age-appropriate" books personalized with each child's name and delivered in packaging that "creates excitement and ignites" the joy of reading. The project's goal is to sign up 30,000 kids from newborn to age 5, roughly the county's entire population of children in that age group.

The Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry and Creek Day School are immediate opportunities for us to assist with this program. If anyone feel inspired to help by connecting with the Madison Reading Project for information and materials, please contact Jan Gietzel ([jgietzel@charter.net](mailto:jgietzel@charter.net)).



### **Blessings are Abundant**

The Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry (GNPEP) community of volunteers, guests, donors and those who keep the Pantry in their prayers is experiencing an over-flowing cup. Ten years ago, when GNPEP was started by Arbor Covenant, All Saints Lutheran and Memorial United Church of Christ, no one knew how long or IF we would be able to sustain this important mission, we just knew a need existed. A group called the PEPartnership was already running a Pantry on the east-side and we decided to partner with them. All these years later, the GNPEP Pantry is thriving and serving hundreds of families in our community who need help obtaining a reliable and sustainable source for personal and household hygiene products that are difficult to fit into limited budgets. Before many individuals knew much about our GNPEP community, we held fundraisers and depended mostly on support provided by the three founding churches. Now we can tell wonderful stories about:

- Yearly support that is given in memory of a beloved child who passed at a young age.
- A woman who carried a box of products into church like the ones she had previously received from GNPEP so that they could be used to help another person through a difficult time.
- 2000 child and adult toothbrushes that just magically appeared at Arbor one day
- Individual donors who, unexpectedly, appear holding checks or carloads of products when we most need them
- Regular monthly support from donors who financially allow us to stock the products our guests need most
- A family that single-handedly supported a special holiday gift bag of products we were previously unable to supply for all our families. Because of their generosity, we can now routinely stock hand and body lotion, an earth-friendly general household cleaner and Kleenex.
- Volunteers who work hours and hours so that the Pantry can function efficiently and compassionately with no overhead expenses.
- A volunteer who sewed many, many COVID masks that provided guests and their families with this important safety tool.
- The founding churches and their generosity of financial and volunteer support.
- The young woman who, after living in a car for months in the winter, showed up one morning to tell us that after getting some help, she had secured a job and so appreciated the help that GNPEP had given her not only in providing products but in listening to her story and caring.

Whatever your role in GNPEP, know that you are truly a blessing that has created a wonderful, caring, and compassionate community. Thank you!

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

Bar Soap 4 oz.

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



**Madison-based author puts  
Black history in perspective**

**This article appeared in Wisconsin Life on January 27, 2022.**

**Written by Christine Hatfield**



*Joyce Salter Johnson has loved history her entire life. But as a descendant of enslaved people, her family history — like the history of many Black families across the country — was largely struck from the historical record. Johnson had to take it upon herself to uncover her family's roots.*

Joyce Salter Johnson's love of history started with a missing link in her family's history.

She says her grandmother appeared to have no roots at all. She essentially lived alone in a nice house in the south that her grandfather sent money home to build, while he worked on the Illinois Central Railroad.

Johnson has always been a storyteller. The holes in her family's history left room for her curiosity to thrive.

"Who we are is determined by where we come from — our parents, where they come from, their parents, where their parents come from, and a chain of unbreakable links that could explain not only our genetic makeup, but also our personalities," Johnson said.

It took years to get answers.

"Before 1866, there was nothing," Johnson said. "Nothing written in any archive about slaves. Nothing. The information that you needed to find out about the enslaved person was in the archives, or the databases, or the journals of the people that held them enslaved."

Eventually, she traced the Salters back to 1792, when Hardy Salter was born to enslaved parents in Virginia.



The journey of the Salters took them to Good Hope, Mississippi. That's where Johnson grew up. It was in 1951 that her family moved to Freeport, Illinois.

“I’ve even come to think of Freeport as my second hometown,” Johnson said. “I grew up with deep ties to both my birth hometown of Good Hope, Mississippi, and the hometown of my youth.”

Later in life, Johnson found her way to Madison, where she’s lived for decades.

But she didn’t leave behind her roots so easily. It was because of Freeport’s historical society that Johnson’s next historical endeavor took shape.

“We would always get these really nice publications about Freeport, and often it was a historic publication about Freeport, and there was never ever one picture of any African American in those publications,” Johnson said.

When she asked why, she was told that there weren’t records of African Americans living there, let alone pictures.

So she went back to do the research herself, seeking out the stories of a century’s worth of Black settlers in the county.

And there were stories to be told. Take Abram Follock, the second documented Black resident of the county, who, with some encouragement, was enrolled into an all-white community school in Freeport.

The school’s teacher David Sunderland faced pushback over Follock sharing a desk with a white student named Silas. When Silas reported his concern to his mother, she went to the school the next day to demand Follock be removed from the school.

“Mr. Sunderland acknowledged the mother’s concern,” Johnson said. “However, he rejected the dictate of the time and prevailed in this conviction that Abe should remain in school.”

“Mr. Sunderland was willing to face down a disdainful boy and an outraged mother to guard Abe’s access to learning,” she continued.

Johnson took the stories she’d uncovered back to the Freeport Historical Society, telling them that the stories needed to be included in the county’s historical record.

“In order for history to be accurate, it must present an inclusive record of all people,” Johnson said. “Unfortunately, in the past, a substantial portion of the history of the Negro and Stephenson County has been omitted.”

That omission allowed generations of the county’s residents, both Black and white, to grow up with a distorted view of Stephenson County and the roles African Americans played in its development, she continued.

“That’s what I had to give to them, and they said, ‘Of course, we’ll publish your book,’” Johnson said.

Two more books took shape from that, “The Early Black Settlers of Stephenson County, Illinois, 1830-1930,” and a corresponding pictorial history.

“I put people of African descent into history where they belong,” Johnson said. “I place people of African descent in that time and place, in that space — in that space, where they should have been automatically put.”

That philosophy carried over to another book on her first hometown, “The Freedmen Settlement of Good Hope, Mississippi.”

“These are textbooks,” Johnson said. “I’m glad to see them as not just my family history, but a textbook to be utilized for children, and to learn from this history. Not just my family, but the history of the early Black settlers of Stephenson County and the history of the Freedmen Settlement in Good Hope, Mississippi.”

As for Johnson, life has carried on through years of research and hard work. Side work as a daycare teacher between university classes eventually led her to buy the center she was working for, leading to decades of taking in children who needed extra care at Madison’s Early Childhood Learning Center.

Johnson’s work isn’t done just yet. She wants to get into consulting work for young women. And she still has more history to share with the world, an anthology that she intends to give permission for anyone to use and copy.



## THE OBSERVATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH DATES BACK TO 1915

The observation of Black History Month dates back to 1915, when Carter G. Woodson, now known as the “Father of Black History,” created an organization called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

In 1926, Woodson initiated the first “Negro History Week” on Feb. 7 to celebrate and raise awareness of Black history. And in 1976, said Texas A&M University Afro-American history professor Albert Broussard, this turned into a month-long celebration and was renamed Black History Month.

“You can learn a lot from history and learning about particular achievements of people who have struggled under great adversity can be tremendously inspiring to all people, not just African Americans, but all groups, whether it is from women or the LGBTQ+ community,” Broussard said. Black History Month not only highlights important historical figures, he said, but is an educational tool that teaches individuals about their history.

“We celebrate Black History Month in February because Black people had traditionally celebrated the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas, both of whom were born in the month of February,” Broussard said. “Oftentimes Black history is taught as a celebration of this great man or this great woman, but that wasn’t what Woodson had in mind. He wanted this time to be a celebration of the achievement of Black people as a race, recognizing that Blacks were part of the history of this country from the very beginning.”

Black Americans are pioneers who’ve built a society from the ground up since 1619, when the first people were brought to America from Africa. However, even though the Black community has contributed to society throughout American history, Black history itself is just now becoming a widely taught subject.

Black History Month emphasizes the history of the struggles Black Americans face, he said. In 2020, the Black Lives Matter movement brought attention to racial inequality in the hope of inspiring change both in America and across the globe. According to Broussard, this movement reinforces the idea of activism in the struggle to achieve racial justice.



[America's Black Holocaust Museum](#) will reopen to the public on Feb. 25, 2022, more than a decade after it was forced to give up its space.

The Milwaukee museum was first founded in 1984 by Dr. James Cameron — himself the survivor of a 1930's lynching when he was only 16 years old — built as a historical and memorial museum to commemorate [Black history](#) from pre-captivity in Africa to now. Cameron passed away in 2006 and the museum was forced to shut its doors just two years later. But in 2012, it came back in an online, interactive format.

The museum, which [defines a holocaust](#) as “a series of atrocities organized by one social group against another,” was initially slated to reopen in a physical space last year, but plans were put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic. When it finally does open, it will welcome visitors in person on what would have been Cameron's 108th birthday.

## Parish Notes

### February Birthdays

February 4	Rachel Woofter
February 14	Michelle Stachowiak
February 14	Lee Fledderjohann
February 16	Kyle Hanson
February 17	Carson Hanson
February 21	Hayden Hanson



## February 2022

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM Small Group Study	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> (Zoom) 10:30 Worship Annual Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Small Group Study	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10:30 Zoom Worship	<b>14</b>  6:45 Leadership Team	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30 PM-7:00 PM Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry 7:00 PM Small Group Study	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:30 Zoom Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Small Group Study	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:30 Zoom Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Ash Wednesday			