



ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Upcoming Schedule Shift

Arbor's collaborative relationship with foundry414 will enter a new phase in the next couple of weeks. As the Omicron variant subsides and our ability to gather in person expands, we're going to make some changes to our schedule so we can accommodate multiple gatherings. For Arbor this means moving our normal worship time will switch from 10:30 to 9:30. This change will begin March 13th. This change will make space for foundry414 to plan their own in person gatherings which will take place every other Sunday at 11:15am.

New Gathering Times

*Arbor – 9:30am (*will continue to be broadcast on Zoom to go along with in person option)
foundry414 – 11:15am

A "Good Enough" Lent

Often Lent is understood as a season focused on spiritual self-improvement. When taken to an extreme it can become a type of 40 day bootcamp during which we're meant to power through our faults and achieve some sort of personal upgrade wherein we've achieved new heights of spirituality. But right now, the very thought of a Lent understood along these lines feels exhausting and quite frankly painful. More than that it feels devoid of grace and like a trudge through impassable sludge. After two years of the pandemic mingled in with all the rest of life's complexities, bootstrapping through a Lenten journey now sounds bleak and unduly arduous. To speak personally, I'm too tired and too weary for any sort of clichéd conceptualization of Lent that is little more than a penitential, onerous slog to Easter. I want something more. I need something more.

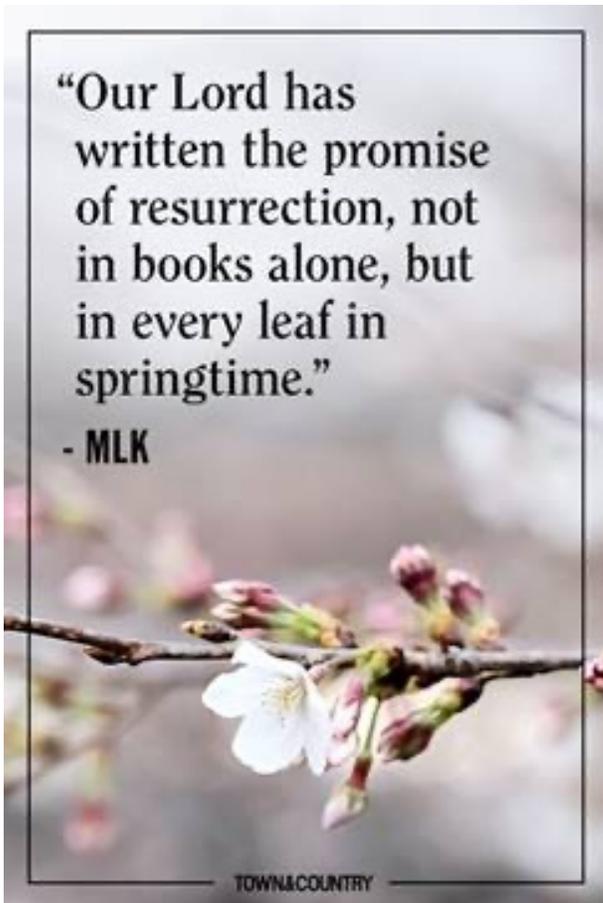
The good news is that Lent can be so much more, and is meant to be so much more. Lent isn't merely a season of remorse-induced spiritual endeavor, it's meant to be a time of preparation during which hope and anticipation can take shape in our lives. It's a time when we are meant to learn deep lessons about ourselves and the world in which we live. And maybe this year, the lesson that we need to learn is the lesson of compassion.

I know I need to learn it (or relearn it again). Especially now. I am irritable and I don't think I'm unique. My capacity for patience has eroded. And when I interact with others, I sense that I'm not alone in that. It's been a long two years. None like any of us have experienced. It's been an overwhelming torrent of grief and disorientation, filled with false hopes of "normality" (whatever that's going to eventually mean). And now there is tragedy unfolding in Ukraine and the specter of a full-fledged war in eastern Europe threatening global stability. It all feels like too much.

In my estimation, Lent doesn't need to feel like something more to do, at least not this year. Maybe instead Lent 2022 can be a time when we simply acknowledge everything we've experienced and are experiencing and grant our neighbors and ourselves compassion, empathy and understanding. Maybe it can be a season where instead of trying to power through our imperfections, we embrace the grace of a God who loves us no matter what.

We will begin this Lent on Ash Wednesday (March 2) with a couple of opportunities for collaborative encounters with our friends from Memorial UCC and the wider. You'll have the chance to engage one of them during your morning or afternoon commute by receiving a blessing and ashes at Memorial UCC between 7am and 9am or between 5pm and 6:45pm. The next opportunity will be at 7:00pm during a worship service that you are welcome to experience in person or online. (The service can be accessed online here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MemorialUCC>)

During that worship service, we'll explore the idea of a "Good Enough" Lent – one that dares us to accept that we are beloved even though we aren't perfect, and invites us to extend compassion and empathy to everyone including ourselves.



Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry Item of the Month

Product of the month is Toothpaste 6 oz.

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



Calendar March 2022

		1	2 Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM Service at Memorial UCC	3 7:00 PM Small group study	4 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	5
6 1st Sunday in Lent 10:30 AM Worship Zoom and In Person options	7 6:45 PM Leadership Team	8	9	10 7:00 PM Small group study	11 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	12
13 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Worship Zoom & In Person options 11:15 AM Foundry414 gathering	14	15	16	17 5:30 PM-7:00 PM Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry 7:00 PM Small group study	18 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	19
20 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Worship Zoom & In Person options	21	22	23	24 7:00 PM Small group study	25 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	26
27 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Worship Zoom & In Person options 11:15 AM Foundry414 gathering	28	29	30	31 7 PM Small group study		

Birthdays:

March 1st – Ken Lund March 7th – Lindsey Lund

Upcoming Dates

Holy Week

Palm Sunday	April 10
Maundy Thursday	April 14
Good Friday	April 15
Easter Sunday	April 17

How is the date of Easter determined?

Easter is a moveable feast as opposed to a fixed date each year. Easter being celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon of spring (March 21 or later) dates back to the [Council of Nicea](#) in 325.

How long is Lent?

Lent lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday, excluding Sundays. Sundays are an important part of Lent, but we do not include them in the "40 days" because on every Sunday we remember and celebrate the Resurrection of Christ

Communications from Leadership Teams

Amended Arbor Covenant Church Bylaws (as passed on February 6, 2022)

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 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 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 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. A credentialed pastor or staff member may be suspended by their credentialing body during this process. However, any minister who fails to become credentialed 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 10 members. Unless otherwise noted in these Bylaws, ten percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for any other meeting, with a minimum of 10 members.

ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 10, 2022

Attendees: Peter Morris, Jan Gietzel, Rachel Woofter, Mark Hanson, Ken Lund, Ruth Hallblade, Ulrika Swanson, Deb McGill

1. WELCOME (Jan)
2. BEHAVIORAL COVENANT (All)
3. DEVOTIONS (Ken)
- a. Selected readings from chapter 1 of Ruth Haley Barton's book "Pursuing God's Will Together"
4. WHERE/HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK THIS LAST MONTH? (Peter)
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2021 MEETING (Jan)
- a. Approved with one small correction
6. FINANCIAL REPORT (Ulrika)
 1. Presented year-end 2021 financials
 - i. Dec giving was up
 - ii. Money currently in checking acct plus December donations covered remaining expenses for 2021
 - iii. Mission Budget, paid as scheduled plus contributions from individuals
 2. Presented preliminary 2022 budget
 - i. Pastor's compensation calculated with Peter moving to part-time starting June 1, 2022
 - ii. New budget reflects 5% raise for Peter
 - iii. If giving is consistent with 2021, we will need to use some savings to cover deficit but will be able to keep at least \$10,000 in reserve
 - iv. Comment from Jan: Foundry414 giving may bump up contributions depending on what is decided in the end
 - v. Decision: recommended to submit Ulrika's 2022 budget as is to the congregation. Unanimous approval.
7. PLAN FOR JANUARY DISCUSSION(S) WITH ARBOR CONGREGATION TO TALK ABOUT WHAT DO WE WANT/EXPECT/HOPE CHURCH TO LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE (Peter)

1. Comments on first session/any change in format or instructions needed
2. Decision: Ask for continued input. Could also prompt with specific questions. Jan suggested we give an update on each question before asking for responses.
3. Possible discussion points:
 - i. Ministries we are doing now
 - ii. Common Wealth project
 - iii. Collaboration (Foundry/Memorial or others), possible types of worship services
 - iv. Door openers/closers for young people

8. FOUNDRY414 COLLABORATION (Jan)

1. Discussion of December letter from Foundry414 and response to it
2. Space use agreement
 - i. Foundry is offering \$200/mo for first 6 months of 2022 to use the worship space
 - ii. Question: Are we ok with \$200 per month for shared use of the space?
 - iii. Decision: Yes, granted we can work out the details to both groups' satisfaction
 - iv. Question: What do they want for that money? Need to think about sanctuary arrangements and how that would work
 - v. Decision: Jan will work on a space use agreement over the next two weeks

9. UPDATE ON COMMON WEALTH DEVELOPMENT (Mark, Ken, Peter)

1. Land-banking - Establishing a price if this is a viable option
2. Covenant Living Status (no change)
3. Decisions:
 - i. Ken, Mark, Peter will work with CW to sketch out a land bank agreement (i.e., how much they might be willing to pay us, what assurances can they put in that it will be used for low income housing)
 - ii. Peter will contact Cov Living one more time to see if there is interest in helping develop the property and request a timely response (next two weeks)

10. PLANNING FOR YEAR-END REPORTS AND ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA 2/6/2022 (Jan)

a. Jan is working on annual meeting agenda, looking for input

b. Who needs to write a report?

- i. Pastor's report (Peter)
- ii. Pantry report (Jan)
- iii. Proposed 2022 budget (Ulrika)
- iv. Properties report (Mark)
- v. Common Wealth (one page statement on Land Banking option...not really a report)
- vi. Children's ministry report? (skip that one this year)
- vii. Volunteer to assemble (Peter)

11. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Ongoing organizing of minutes, financials and member list continues
2. Establishment of a preliminary completion date

12. CLOSING PRAYER (Peter)

Next meetings: Monday, **Feb 14** at 6:45 pm and Monday, **March 7** at 6:45 Devotions: February meeting (Ruth); March meeting (Rachel)

Arbor LT Meeting Minutes Monday, Feb 14, 2022

Meeting run by Jan Gietzel via Zoom

Attendees: Peter Morris, Jan Gietzel, Ken Lund, Ulrika Swanson, Deb McGill, Rachel Woolfer, Ruth Hallblade Absent: Mark Hanson

- I. WELCOME (Jan)
- II. BEHAVIORAL COVENANT (All)

- III. DEVOTIONS (Ruth)
 - A. Read from the book "An Alphabet For Change: Observations on a Life Transformed" by Steven Hallblade (Dale's nephew), in Chapter W (Wisdom)
- IV. WHERE/HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK THIS LAST MONTH? (Peter)
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2022 MEETING (Jan)
 - 1. **Vote:** Corrected minutes approved by voice (thumbs up) vote
 - 2. Discussion: Request from annual meeting to distribute LT meeting minutes to the congregation in a timely manner via email
 - 1. Decisions:
 - 1. a) Deb will send draft1 of LT meeting minutes each month to Jan/Peter within 7 days of the LT meeting
 - 2. b) Jan/Peter will send draft1 to congregation
 - 2. Note: LT is responsible for final review and approval of the minutes at the subsequent LT meeting
- VI. FINANCIAL REPORT (Ulrika)
 - 1. Proposed change to Pastor Peter Morris' 2022 compensation allocations
 - 1. Peter requested that salary and housing allocations be changed to \$33,000 (housing) and \$10,899 (salary) for 2022
 - 2. **Vote:** Changes approved by voice (thumbs up) vote
 - 2. YTD 2022 financials
 - 1. Giving is down. Do we need to cash in a CD to pay bills?
 - 2. Discussion: There is money coming from Creek yet this month (Jan)
 - 3. Are we close to the end of a term for the CDs? (Ken) Is there a penalty if we withdraw them? No penalty according to Ulrika. CDs earn 1%.
 - 4. Decision: Will wait for Creek to contribute unless bills are urgent
 - 5. **Vote:** Financial statement approved as amended (see Item A above)
- VII. BY-LAWS (Ken)
 - 1. Recording of changes approved at Annual Meeting
 - 2. Consideration: Since the original proposed changes to bylaws submitted to the congregation for consideration 90 days prior to Annual Meeting were then amended at the meeting, we may need to wait for the next congregational meeting to approve the amended bylaws (due to the 90 day notice requirement)
 - 3. **Note:** Upon later review of Robert's Rules of Order, Ken determined that the LT worked within those rules since the amendment "diminished" (rather than "enhanced") the changes. So no further congregational vote is needed. See updated section of bylaws (attached).
- VIII. UPDATE ON COMMON WEALTH DEVELOPMENT (Mark, Ken, Peter)
 - 1. Land-banking - status of possible offer to purchase from Common Wealth
 - 2. Status: Nothing has been requested from CW at this point
 - 3. Discussion: There is some dissension within the congregation re: the asking price for the property
- D. Decision: will move ahead and ask CW to submit an offer for the agreed-upon amount as this was voted on and approved at the Annual Meeting
- IX. FOUNDRY414 COLLABORATION (Jan)
 - 1. Update on collaboration
 - 1. Both congregations/groups agreed to share newsletters with the other congregation/group
 - 2. F414 is waiting on space-use agreement
 - 2. Space-Use Agreement
 - 1. Approval of collaboration team
 - 1. a) Jan asked LT for approval to put together a F414 Collaboration Team (currently Peter, Jan, Mark & Deb)
 - 2. b) **Vote:** approved
 - 2. Several meetings with Jan, Mark, Peter (Deb on vacation) and F414 have already occurred
 - 3. Jan put together Space-Use Agreement first draft with input from both groups
 - 4. Draft was sent to LT for review and comment prior to Feb LT meeting
 - 5. Agreement still has some items to be worked out (mainly meeting times for worship and sanctuary layout)

1. a) Meeting times (both groups selected Sundays at 10:30 am as ideal; F414 also requested 45 min of music practice beforehand) (1) Discussion: Three possibilities:
 - (a) Two separate services (timing is a big issue with this one)
 - (b) Collaborate on each weekly service
 - (c) Have Peter do two services per month and F414 do two per month
2. b) Arrangement of sanctuary (F414 likes tables, Arbor typically uses rows of chairs)
 - (1) Discussion: Could try a hybrid arrangement (half the room with rows of chairs and half with tables)
3. c) LT agreed that the F414 Collaboration Team can make decisions on their own without having to wait for the next LT meeting

X. WORSHIP - LENT & EASTER (Peter)

1. Arbor will have joint Ash Wednesday service with Memorial UCC
2. May have joint Maundy Thursday service with Memorial UCC as well but not Easter
3. Peter will work with Chris Gordon (Memorial UCC Pastor) re: these shared services for Lent
4. Jan encouraged Peter to talk with F414 about these shared services (do they want to join in?)

XI. CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS (All)

XII. CLOSING PRAYER (Peter)

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Ongoing organizing of minutes, financials and member list continues
2. Establishment of a preliminary completion date

XIV. CLOSING PRAYER

Attachments: 1 (Constitution and Bylaws Amendment) Next meeting date: Monday, March 7, 2022

ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW					
January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2022					
	Offerings & Creek		Actual Expenses		Net Income (Loss)
	Reimbursements Received		Year-to-Date		Year-to-Date
	Year-to-Date				
General Offerings and CD Interest	\$ 1,696.50				
Creek Day School Reimbursement	\$ 2,110.00				
TOTAL	\$ 3,806.50		\$ 8,551.20		\$ (4,744.70)
Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) Received YTD					
	TOTAL				
Deacon					
Good Neighbors Pantry	\$ 125.00				
Levin Camp					
Memorial	\$ 1,200.00				
Women's Ministries					
World Relief					
Youth Mission					
Other (bank interest)	\$ 0.01				