



Holy Week is just around the corner. It's the time when we retell and rehearse the story of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, when we remember his intimate encounter with his friends and disciples around the table, when we reflect on his passionate prayer in the garden, when we gather at the foot of the cross to watch his self-giving courage, and finally when we marvel at the empty tomb and the new life that emerges from death.

This year as Lent draws to a close and we mark these events, we'll do so with a variety of opportunities to engage the richness of this sacred story. It will start Palm Sunday at Arbor on April 10th, as we add our own hosannas to the chorus welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem. Next we will have the chance to participate in a collaborative Maundy Thursday gathering with friends from Memorial UCC. Together that evening (Thursday, April 14th) at 6:30, we're planning to serve a simple meal at Arbor, to share in prayer and conversation around table before sharing communion. On Good Friday, there will be the chance to gather again, this time at Memorial UCC (5705 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg) at 7pm, to reflect on the cross and the crucifixion.

And then, on Easter Sunday (April 17th) we will celebrate the Resurrection. At 9:30 that morning (weather permitting) there will be the chance to gather outside near Arbor's community garden to read the gospel story and to rejoice at the mystery of new life. Later that morning, at 11:15, we'll have the opportunity to gather with our friends from foundry414 for fellowship and music and reflection. Following this there will be a community easter egg hunt in the playground.

If you have any questions or want to help with any of the arrangements, please let me know.

Pastor Peter Morris

More Information on Easter Sunday

This Easter Sunday offers a wealth of opportunities to celebrate our faith and relationships not only with our long-time Arbor friends but also with new acquaintances at foundry414. It is a renewal of sorts as we can finally, with relative safety, be together in-person to celebrate Christ's life and resurrection and cherish our relationships, new and old.

At 9:30, weather permitting, we will start with a worship service, led by Pastor Peter, outside near the garden. After this service, we will have coffee in the main hall and, if we are blessed with good weather, will also set up chairs outside to enjoy a great social time. The Sunday Morning Study Group will not be meeting this Sunday.

At 11:15 we will join foundry414 for a combined worship service where we will eat brunch around the tables in the sanctuary during the service. The church will provide ham, rolls and drinks. **We invite you to bring a side dish to share.**

Following the service, the children will be invited to engage in our annual Easter Egg Hunt outside.

foundry414 and Arbor Covenant Church welcome you to spend your entire Easter morning in fellowship together.

Arbor Covenant Church/foundry414 Space Use Agreement

This Sunday, April 3rd, is the first Sunday that Arbor Covenant Church and foundry414 are operating under our newly signed Space Use Agreement. This is exciting for all of us as we look forward to the opportunities that may present themselves because of this cooperative effort. As in all new situations we expect some challenges to arise in regard to timing issues or minor miscommunications, but both foundry and Arbor are committed to working out any of these situations with common sense and respect. In that regard, if anyone wants to discuss anything in regard to space use, please contact one of the Collaboration Committee members (Deb McGill, Mark Hanson, Jan Gietzel or Pastor Peter Morris) at any time.

We believe that this Space Agreement, along with other collaborative efforts will open the door to more shared mission opportunities in this community.

Jan Gietzel, Leadership Team Chair

Church Records

Our Arbor Leadership Team is currently engaged in the large process of updating and organizing church records. Up until 2012, Gunnard Swanson and Kris Brown had, at various times, taken the primary responsibility of keeping the membership rolls up-to-date and gathering other statistical data. Phil Keillor took on the job of documenting where other documents were stored. Since then, no one has taken responsibility for these tasks and we determined as a team that this was important to get under control. Thus, specific people have volunteered to organize all the meeting minutes that can be located. Other leadership team members have volunteered to do the same with financials and continue the outstanding work done by Gunnard and Kris on membership. How can YOU help? If you have any Arbor Covenant paperwork that has been lying around in your home since you were on the Council or Leadership Team, please give it to Pastor Peter or Jan Gietzel. Also, please email Jan Gietzel (jgietzel@charter.net) with your birthday so we can update our Arbor Birthday List. This is a huge task of organizing and updating approximately 57 years of records but we are making good progress and WILL get it done no later than the end of the year.

Update on the Affordable Housing Land Banking with Common Wealth Development

Arbor is continuing its effort to bring Affordable Housing to McDivitt Road. As a follow-up to the discussion at the Annual Meeting in early February, the Leadership Team asked Ken Lund, Peter Morris, and Mark Hanson to meet with Common Wealth to convey Arbor’s interest in using a Land Banking approach.

Ken, Peter, and Mark met with Common Wealth on February 2. Common Wealth was pleased to hear of Arbor’s interest in pursuing Land Banking. Common Wealth also affirmed their desire for Arbor to continue its ministries at the site, including Creek Day Care. The price discussed was at \$250,000 as discussed at the Annual Meeting along with the concept of a triple net lease that would allow existing ministry efforts to continue at our site until the affordable housing is built. A triple net lease is where the tenant is responsible for real estate taxes (none is our case), maintenance, and insurance. The lease rate is proposed at \$1/month.

The outcome of the meeting was an understanding that Common Wealth will be forwarding two offers simultaneously:

- An offer to purchase
- A triple net lease agreement

Arbor’s terms for a triple net lease agreement have been drafted by Ken, Peter, and Mark and as of March 31 are being reviewed by the entire Leadership Team. Once those terms are approved, they will be sent to Common Wealth so that they can be included in a lease agreement being drafted by Common Wealth.

When Common Wealth’s offer to purchase and lease agreement are received, they will be reviewed by the Leadership Team and a recommendation will be forwarded to the Congregation for consideration.

As you’ve perhaps noticed in the news, the need for affordable housing only continues to grow in the Madison area.

ARBOR COVENANT CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW				
January 1, 2022 - February 28, 2022				
	Offerings & Creek		Actual Expenses	Net Income (Loss)
	Reimbursements Received		Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date
	Year-to-Date			
General Offerings and CD Interest	\$	5,560.00		
Creek Day School Reimbursement	\$	4,295.00		
TOTAL	\$	9,855.00	\$ 15,171.48	\$ (5,316.48)
Special Funds (Non-Budgeted) Received YTD				
		TOTAL		
Deacon				
Good Neighbors Pantry	\$	1,475.00		
Levin Camp				
Memorial	\$	1,550.00		
Women's Ministries				
World Relief				
Youth Mission				
Other (bank interest)	\$	0.01		

Chat around the Church

During the last two years,

it has often felt like we never get a chance to visit with each other and share our thoughts with others.

Below you will find thoughts on the Ukraine crisis.

The tragedy taking place in Ukraine has created one of human history's largest refugee crises. Its scope is overwhelming, millions of people forced to flee, homes and essential services decimated.

Many of us are compelled to find ways to use our resources to respond to the suffering. Perhaps some of us have found organization we've already contributed to. But if you want to give and you haven't found an organization to support, one way you might do so is by donating to the foundry414 Ukraine assistance fund.

Leaders from foundry have a longstanding relationship with friends in Cluj Napoca, Romania not far from the Ukrainian border. This organization has been operating a housing and support program for single mothers for years. Since the war began they have also been arranging housing for refugees and delivering medicine and other essentials to the border so people still in the Ukraine can get some of the resources they desperately need.

If you want to make a donation to this effort you can by visiting this website: <https://foundry414.com/give/ukraine-assistance>

A news story from near the beginning of the war in Ukraine caught my attention and has stuck with me, probably because of the connection to Scandinavia. A couple from Denmark drove their two cars to Poland (I think it was), looking for eight people to bring back home with them. I was moved by their willingness to drive such a long distance and their generous hospitality to as many people as they had empty seats in their cars. (Ulrika)

My grandfather's ancestral home is on the island of Oland in Sweden. We have been able to visit and meet our relatives there. One couple owns a tour bus company. Last week they collected a bus load full of needed supplies and drove it to Warsaw Poland. They returned to Sweden with 56 refugees from Ukraine. Each refugee received a food card along with housing and needed supplies.

The next day, my relative went to the grocery store and commented that it was wonderful to see my "new neighbors" in the store. (Kris)

A reporter in Ukraine commented that he asked people he met to show him "what is in your pockets?" This stayed with me – as I wondered what I would put in my pockets if I were forced to leave my home and family. (Kris)

I was struck by an 88 year old woman who was so afraid. She said she lived through WWII and didn't feel she could live through war again. (Ruth)

I am saddened seeing the images of parents fleeing like the children of Israel running with their youngsters to refuge in nearby countries like Poland and Hungary, I was inspired to say a prayer for their physical and mental and emotional safety. (Jeannie)

I talked today with an American citizen who has worked for many years with a mission organization in Hungary. She talked about what it has been like as thousands of refugees from Ukraine have flooded into Budapest. It seems that both the best and the worst of humanity are displayed. Charitable organizations and ordinary people have offered food, water and housing. Landlords have made space available rent-free, and all manner of welcoming help (sim cards, banking assistance, etc.) have materialized overnight. At the same time, human traffickers, scammers and thieves have converged on the traumatically displaced people as they get off the trains. To counter this, the locals have moved the entry processing center to a secure area away from the railway station and bus the refugees directly there, out of reach of the predatory behavior. Like any war, I suppose, the whole situation causes me to despair over human cruelty and to find hope in peoples' often sacrificial goodness. (Ken)

Parish Notes

Maya and Austin Perron

Congratulations to the Hallblade family following the marriage of Maya and Austin in Tulum Mexico on March 23, 2022. Maya's grandmother Ruth Hallblade was able to attend. Maya's father is Chad Hallblade. Maya and Austin live in Minneapolis where Maya teaches school.



Maya and Austin and their flower girls.

April Birthdays

April 9	Teresa Foster
April 12	Jan Gietzel
April 24	Deb McGill
April 25	Sue Pecotte
April 26	Lowell Nordling
April 29	Gunnard Swanson

April Anniversaries

April 16	Deb McGill and Glenn Hanson
April 19	Holly and Stuart McCoy

Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry Item of the Month

Blue Plastic Bic Razors

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

April 2022 Calendar

 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Easter Lily</i></p>					1	2
<p>3 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 AM Worship Zoom and in person options 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Study Group</p>	4	5	6	7 7:00 PM Small Group Study	8 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	9
<p>10 <i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> </div> <p>9:30 AM Worship Zoom and in person options 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Study Group</p>	11	12	13 6:45 PM Leadership Team	<p>14 <i>Maundy Thursday</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Holy Thursday</p> </div> <p>6:30 PM – Supper/Service at Arbor</p>	<p>15 <i>Good Friday</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Good Friday</p> </div> <p>10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry 7:00 PM Service at Memorial UCC</p>	16
<p>17 <i>Easter</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>9:30 AM Worship 11:15 AM Worship/Brunch (with foundry414) Easter Egg Hunt</p>	18	19	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
<p>24 9:30 AM Worship Zoom and in person options 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Study Group</p>	25	26	27	28 7:00 PM Small Group Study	29 10:00 AM-noon Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry	30