

We Live to B.L.E.S.S.

Believe. Love. Evangelize.

Support Christian Education. Serve.



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 09/10: Nursery: Karen Alphenaar & Lily
Coffee Fellowship: Ron F. & Sandy Volkers
- 09/17: Nursery: Lis Miedema & Maelin Vlasma
Coffee Fellowship: Education Committee
- 09/24: Nursery: Sherrie Wolffis & Mary Patton Maat
Coffee Fellowship: Randy & Becki Fisher
- 10/01: Nursery: Laurie DeJonge & Tayla Vlasma
Coffee Fellowship: Bob & Susan Vanderlaan



ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES

***Pray for the * Missionary this Week**

- Stephan and Alicia – Kenya
- Rev. Jerry – Back to God Ministries
- Angel Community Church – Muskegon
- Zuni Christian School – Zuni, New Mexico
- *Eric and Judith – Western Asia**
- Paul & Charlotte – Mission French Africa



ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Joann Deitz | Wilma Doctor | Jim Doornbos |
| Vicky Fisher | Lois Grinwis | Pearl Kitchen |
| Joel Stefanits | *Betty TenBrink | Ro Verheul June Walcott |

***Send "Care List Member" Betty a card this week!
1350 W. Hackley, Apt. 113, Muskegon, MI 49441**

Remember, Care Members, how much you are loved!

CRC DENOMINATION & AACRC COUNCIL NEWS

The **deacons** are thankful for \$22,756 in General Fund offerings for the month of August. They are also thankful for \$182 for the Step-Up program and \$251 for the Muskegon Rescue Mission.

The **council is humbled and excited** by the positive finance response for the parking lot project. The pledge goal of \$37,500 was exceeded and additional gifts have been received bringing the total to over \$43,600. Thank you all for your continued support!

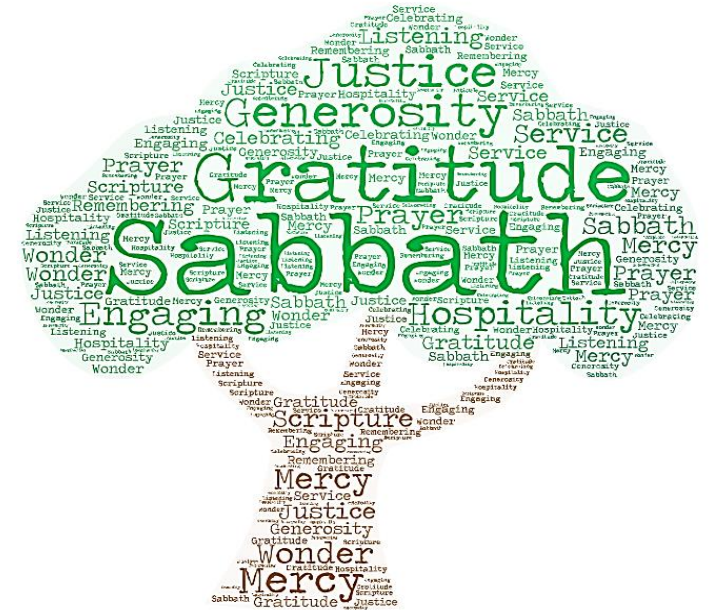
The **special offering** for Sunday, September 10, will be for **Muskegon Chrisitan School.**

-Remember to pray for the nomination of our new Elders and Deacons and who God would have serve our congregation on Council. The nomination forms were handed out last week and are also located by the front and side entrances. Please return your nomination form in a sealed envelope with your name on it and place it in the baskets by the extra forms by Sunday, September 24.

Join us in the church-wide study on the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives by using the book "Still Day One - Living in the Day after the Day of Pentecost". The daily readings for the study begin on Sunday, September 17 with the first after church discussion group meeting on September 24. The new study books will be available after the morning worship service in the front of the sanctuary. Please look for Steve Rop. The cost of the book is \$15.00. If you are not in a small group and would like to participate in this study on Sunday mornings after the morning worship service, please sign up. Sign-up sheets for this group are in Susan's office and downstairs by the coffee window.

Kids Corner: Angels Around Us - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When you read the Bible and find out that there are angels around us, how do you picture them? Do you think they have a glowing, heavenly light shining on them? Or majestic wings like the ones on Christmas ornaments? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the KC's Liz and Friends Podcast "At Your Service."

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



**PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
September 10, 2023**

A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests, And Members on our First Fall Weekend! We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worshipping our amazing Savior today! This summer we have worked our way through the disciplines of *Sabbath, Gratitude, Generosity, Hospitality, Engaging Scripture, Justice and Mercy, Listening, Celebrating, Prayer, Wonder, Remembering, and will conclude this series with Service.* What life-changing sermons these have been. If you are visiting, please fill out the Welcome card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as you leave the sanctuary. **Join us downstairs in the Fellowship Room for coffee and cookies!**

“Come...Now is the Time to Worship”

Pastor Mark Hofman- Sunday, September 10, 2023

WE GATHER

Prelude

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship (from Psalm 104 – The Message)

Leader: Let us declare the greatness of God,

People: who fills this earth with his beauty.

Leader: He set the earth on a firm foundation,

People: and nothing shall ever shake it!

Leader: He blanketed the earth with oceans,

People: and covered the mountains with deep waters.

Leader: He started the springs and rivers,

People: and sent them flowing among the hills.

Leader: Meanwhile men and women go out to their work,

People: busy at their jobs until evening.

Leader: He calls us to be his servants,

People: caretakers of his entire creation.

*Song of Praise *We are Called* LUYH 296

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

WE CONFESS

Call to Confession: Psalm 51:1-2

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant, our obedience incomplete.

People: In your tender love, forgive us, and help us to grow in your likeness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Assurance: Psalm 32:5-7

*Song of Thanksgiving *You are My Hiding Place* LUYH 412

Children's Message Stephanie Hofman

Children's Blessing (in unison):

Remember: God keeps his promises. He loves you, He cares for you, and He promises to be with you always. Go in peace.

WE PRAY

Prayers of the People Pastor Mark

WE LISTEN

*Song *Take My Life and Let It Be* LUYH 863:1-3

Scripture Passage: Luke 22:24-30

(Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord" **People: "Thanks be to God"**)

Message: "The Benefits of Service"

WE RESPOND

Offering: General Fund & Muskegon Christian School
*[offerings may be given online at allenavechurch.org
or placed in the baskets at each entrance]*

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*God's Parting Blessing

* Song of Dedication *The Servant Song* LUYH 309:1-4

*Postlude

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: Luke 22:24-30

Message: The Benefits of Service"



Contact Us:

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church
695 Allen Ave. Muskegon, MI 49442



(231) 722-6411



www.allenavechurch.org



aacrcsecretary@gmail.com



STONES THAT HELP US REMEMBER

-Carol Dirkse gives thanks that God brought her through three cancer surgeries, especially pancreatic 9 years ago. Praise the Lord!

-Stan Rop recalls and gives thanks and praises to God. "My wife came home from a church retreat at Maranatha. She told me she wrote a song at the retreat and the whole group was able to sing it because the speaker that year was Dana Harris. Dana was a very talented musician and singer from Muskegon, and she helped put chords to the music and led those at the retreat. Since then, I have enjoyed many songs God has given my wife and the joy that has come from listening, singing, and hearing them played in church. Praise God!"

-Peg Rop- "Since I gave my life to God at an after-school home bible group in 2nd or 3rd grade, I have seen so many ways God has guided me and changed my mind from making bad choices. But the most wonderful gift was my husband. I remember telling my friend before going off to MI State, "I guess Stan is not the man God has for me. I thought he was but since it appears he is not. I am going to trust that God must have someone better planned for me. I am leaving it in His hands." The very next week, Stan asked me out & the rest is beautiful! Oh, the wonders of our beautiful Shepherd!"

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Prayers for the start of a new Education year at Allen Avenue and all the opportunities for us to grow and learn more about our great God.

-Pray for our Council - for vision, wisdom, leadership, steadfastness, and unity...for Brian Schuitema, Bob Vanderlaan, Sherrie Wolffis, Stan Rop, Gabe Vlasma, Kelly Dauser, Karen Alphenaar, Jean Botting, Pastor Mark, Judy Vaandering, Dave Miedema, Scott Schuitema, and Charry Snyder. May you find joy in this journey as you minister to us and serve the Great Shepherd.

-Every day lift **Pastor Mark, Stephanie, and Asher, August, & Aethan** in prayer with all the joys and struggles in daily ministry.

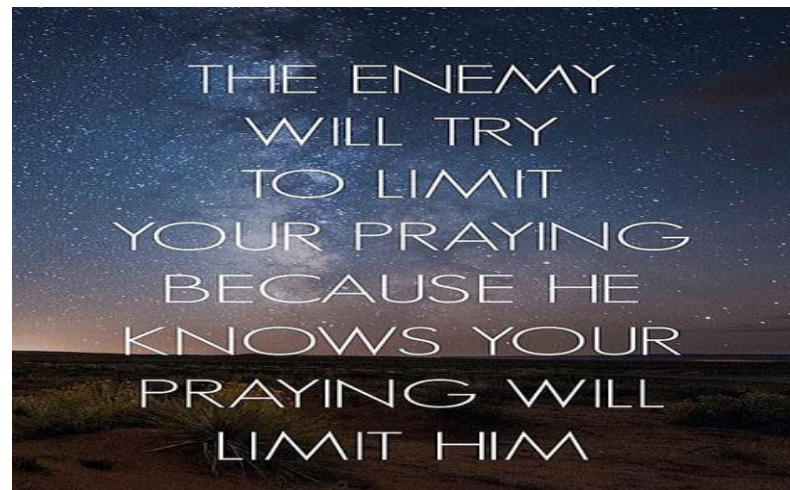
PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Sandy Volkers asks for prayer coverage for her upcoming surgery next week Tuesday the 12th. She will be having knee replacement surgery.

-Stephanie Hofman asks us to serve in prayer by bringing her friend Melissa's husband, Anthony to the throne of Jesus. Since July 9 Anthony has been fighting for his life and was readmitted for abdominal pain. Diagnosed with a major lung disease (ARDS- acute respiratory distress syndrome where fluid builds up in your lungs.) Anthony thankfully was able to go on to a ventilator after a special treatment called ECMO via a tracheostomy. He has been such an amazing person and Melissa stresses that they will never lose hope or faith. God will heal him. Thanks so much for keeping Anthony in your prayers.

-We pray for all who have medical needs(physical/mental), awaiting surgeries, procedures, or appointments, waiting diagnosis', undergoing therapy/rehab or are ill in some way. Those suffering with cancer, etc.

-Jim Secord needs us to pray they can get him into the Pulmonologist rehab before October so he can build up his breathing state and maybe get off the O2. Pray for both Sue with her vertigo and Jim as they travel to so many appointments--tests and surgery this month.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Freezer Ministry will gather to prepare meals next Friday, September 15, starting at 9:30am...come join in the fun!

Don't forget to sign up for the September 17 Cookout/Potluck to kick off the Fall Education programs. Sign-up sheet is in the basement by the coffee. Please sign up today!! The Education Committee will provide burgers and hotdogs and fixings. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Just letting you know that a Cadet Coordinator is still needed. If you think this is something you could do, please let Jill Schuitema know as soon as possible. Thanks.

Muskegon Christian School is prayerfully looking for volunteers on the following dates from 2:50-4:30pm: September 11, October 9, November 6, and December 4 to watch our staff children during teachers' meetings. We are also searching for some new volunteers to help with the SCRIP program. The commitment would be once every other week for about 3 hours. The current day is Wednesdays, but potentially switching to Friday mornings in the future. Please reach out to Nate Schout with interest.

nschout@mchristianschool.com

Prayer Partner update - We have half of the mission completed. We have all the student, teacher, and principal information so now we need YOU! *Should you accept the mission*, we are asking that you get to know your partner and pray for them throughout this school year. What could be more wonderful than to know that prayers are being offered just for you! Please go to the corner table downstairs to get your partner. What a fabulous way to BLESS our school people!

CROP WALK - DID YOU KNOW?? The Crop Walk is being held on Sunday, October 1. This is the 43rd year for helping our neighbors in Muskegon and in the world. Our faithful church has been a part of the walk for many of those years! Would you like to join us walking or giving pledges to our walkers? Questions, please contact Russ and Deb, Karen, and Sue!!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Ladies Bible Study: We will be studying "Matchless-The Life and Love of Jesus" by Angie Smith, author of "Seamless." We will start on September 21, at 1:30pm-2:30pm. The books can be picked up in the office...just put your \$10 in the envelope. Still want to join? Talk to Marcia Breuker or Laurie DeJonge!

Ferrysburg Community Church is presenting a free concert featuring The Browns! You're invited to join us Sunday, September 10, at 6:00PM (doors open at 5pm) at 17785 Mohawk Drive in Spring Lake. No tickets are required and a free will offering will be taken.

Allen Avenue Prayer Ministry Prayer Time is every Tuesday, from 7-8 pm. Join us by selecting this link:
Passcode: 573272 Meeting ID: 810 3565 0227
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81035650227?pwd=cUhpVTdzTVlUbEMyVGs3UTBLWE5pQT09>

Live streaming of our worship service is slated to begin at 9:55am on Sunday morning. The live stream will be located under the Live section of the YouTube page. The worship videos will continue to be available as a recording if you are unable to watch live.

Did you know that Allen Avenue CRC has a FREE Church Assistance Program (CAP) with Pine Rest? Contact Pine Rest COUNSELING SERVICES by calling **800-442-0809 and PRESS 1** to access their 24-hour Hotline and to schedule appointments. Please remember that the key to FREE services is when you make your call, please say, "I have a CAP with Allen Avenue CRC." (Otherwise, you will receive a bill in the mail.) Our CAP Benefits Include:

- 3 sessions of free, confidential counseling per episode of care
- Psychiatric Urgent Care Center services for ages 18+
- 24/7 hotline for crisis calls • Free 30-minute legal consultation
- Free 30-minute financial consultation • Free elder care consultation
- Personal Advantage online library access
- All benefits are available to the congregation member and EVERY person in their household.

STONES THAT HELP US REMEMBER

-We remember the many times in our lives where you, oh God, have been present for us. Pivotal points in our personal and historical lives as we, or your people, built a tower of stones. We build so we don't forget your presence in our lives or the lives of your people. Stories told to those who see or ask about these stones and their purpose, the reason they came to be. And so, we tell our stories below. Stories and gifts of blessings, of how you came to serve us when we needed you the most. Stories of how you used others to make yourself known. Stories that teach us that we, too, have our purpose in you and if we truly are yours our joy is fulfilled in serving in Your Name. Hear our stories, Hear our thanks, O Lord:

-Pastor Stan and Melody give praises that God has faithfully led them once again into HIS SERVICE and Stan has accepted a transitional call to Beckwith Hills Church in Grand Rapids in September. May God once again use this faithful couple to bring rejuvenation, encouragement, and excitement back into this church through them.

-Steve and Nancy Rop give praises that "God has heard our prayers for **Carver and Maddox** (great nephews) who had their two-year checkup with their doctor in Omaha this week. Her words were "AMAZING"! We are so thankful for all your prayers. What a great God we serve!"

-Judy Vaandering gives "thanks and praises for God's wonderful blessing of giving me 53 years with **Case**. And His care in providing a caring church as I work through this time of grieving."

-Sherrie Wolffis gives thanks and praises in how God protected and provided during COVID with so many beautiful days to get outdoors, when we could not do anything else! Some things have changed, but it is reassuring that God is in control as people travel, & we can enjoy roadside stands with summer bounty of the earth & farmer's hands!

STONES THAT HELP US REMEMBER

-Denise Koetje says that every day holds miracles and adventure. "There are an overwhelming number of times I see and have seen Him at work. One of those times He reminded me of the power prayer with the birth of **my daughter**. I was told I'd not have children. When I found out about her and that she was a possible twin, I was overjoyed. Everything went well and the birth was as good as you can get naturally. However, I spiked a fever a few hours later and at the same time my daughter's bilirubin dropped. She went into critical care. They put her on the list to receive a liver transplant. After day three, the doctors asked if she could go on the donor list as they only gave her a few hours to live. Everyone I knew and some I didn't know were praying. We pushed prayers through until the results of the last test before signing her over to the donor list. When those results came back, not only were her bilirubin numbers up but all her liver functions were normal. Prayer works!"

-Deb Vlasma's Children's Sermon reminded us that "God was there" the day at Spectrum (2010) when "**Russ'** cardiologist pretty much told me there was no hope. Praise God!!!"

-Kay Lindsay gives thanks and praise that she has learned to TRUST in Him, not the Courts, in a difficult tenant situation. "God taught me that He, even until the last minutes of a contract, is in COMPLETE Control. My 'weapon' was a melody- 'The Battle is the Lord's'. Peg helped me learn the tune; I need help from others as I continue to learn to Trust our Triune God UNWAVERINGLY. That and consistent prayers helped both me and the tenant get through this difficult season."

-Susan Vanderlaan gives thanks and praises to God in sparing **Bob's leg and Evan's life!**

-AND we all agree with **Sherrie Wolffis** as she added—"Evan Vanderlaan himself is a HUGE answer to prayer this year! He suffered a horrific fall but did not have a head injury! He is healing, has a loving, supportive family, and an awesome God who walks beside him every step of the way!"