



November/December 2023

Allen AveNews

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Mark Hofman
695 Allen Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442



November 11
Veteran's Day



November 22
Thanksgiving Church Service



November 23
Thanksgiving Day



December 25
Christmas Day



Special Collections:

November 5
World Renew
November 23
Special Thanksgiving
Envelopes
December 10
Starlight Ministries
December 25
Love INC

Excerpt from blog post by Sara Hagerty at <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-survive-a-spiritual-winter>

Winterizing

Psalm 1 talks about the man who meditates day and night on the Lord:

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (Psalm 1:3)

“The deciduous tree knows seasons. It shoots out nascent sprigs of life and verdant leaf in spring. They and their accompanying fruit unfurl under the summer heat, lush and alive. In fall, the mossy-green alights into gold, but only for a flash before brown takes over and winter starts her pull. This tree is disrobed in winter, but not dead. Motionless, with roots resting and waiting, it ever so slowly grows. The tree prospers in winter, fulfilling its God-intended purpose. Though, to the unknowing eye, it sure looks barren. Without recognizing seasons, we might only see that barrenness. We see a prospering life in God akin to the opulent tree in early spring, with leaves and fruit intertwined. We forget that this blooming comes forth because of the preparation that winter provides.”



What does it mean to prosper in winter? To spiritually *winterize* as a form of preparation?

At the auto shop, it might mean changing your type of wiper fluid. At home, cleaning gutters or putting plastic and blankets over windows to keep out cold air. But what do we do to prepare for the spiritual season of winter; to open our hearts to God's slow work? It might look like resting and waiting – the “motionless” slow-growth of practicing silence. Of acknowledging darkness. Of seeking God's face in the face of change, or loss, or barrenness.

As we will sing the Psalms and hear the voice of prophets, here at Allen Avenue our *winterizing* will sound much like the words of the hymn, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

May Jesus take our longing, our desires, our fears and sins, and lead us to himself. Born to set his people free, and to find our rest in him.

~Pastor Mark

Mission Trip to Mississippi



During the same week that an Allen Avenue team went on a mission trip to Kentucky, I went with a different group on a mission trip to Mississippi. That trip was sponsored by Third CRC in Zeeland and included members of their church and co-workers from my former employer. A total of ten people made the trip. We were joined in Mississippi by two volunteer site coordinators from World Renew along with their tool trailer.

We served in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, which was heavily damaged by an EF-4 tornado on the evening of March 24, 2023. It was followed by 2 inches of rain on March 26, which caused further loss

to homes with damaged or missing roofs. Rolling Fork is a town of about 1,900 people located in one of the poorest counties in the United States. More than 300 homes were damaged, about one third of the town, with many of them completely destroyed. Many businesses were also destroyed or heavily damaged as well as the schools, several churches and most of the municipal buildings. About two thirds of the residents rent, and most landlords are choosing to not rebuild. As a result, quite a few residents have moved away from the area with many unlikely to return, leading to continuing economic challenges for the town.

The trip was coordinated through the CRC's World Renew DRS (Disaster Relief Services), which is teaming up in that area with the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church. We stayed in a dormitory at Cary Christian Center (an established ministry center with West Michigan roots) located about eight miles south of Rolling Fork. Our work was blessed by the Rolling Fork United Methodist congregation which opened their arms to us in a worship service on Sunday and with fresh baked goods during the week. They also opened their building to us for use as a lunchroom and bathroom during the day. They are a small congregation with a big heart!

We worked on three homes in the week we were there. Most of our work was at the home of Julia and Jermaine and their two daughters. We finished re-siding the home, painted the exterior board siding, soffits and fascia, fixed a leak in the water piping, replaced two exterior doors and one interior door, replaced the ceiling in the living room with drywall, mudded previously installed drywall ceilings, primed and painted most ceilings in the home and installed some new light fixtures. At the home of Annie we replaced some rotted floor joists and piers under the bathroom area, jacked up the floor in that area (it had sagged down about 3" at the toilet!), reset the toilet and lavatory cabinet and replaced the water heater. (continued on next page)

Note: If you exchange assignments with someone, let Susan Vanderlaan know so she can have it right in the bulletin. aacrsecretary@gmail.com or 231.722.6411

Nursery Schedule



November	5	Emily Snyder & Lily
	12	Toni Schuitema, Becki Fisher
	19	Charry Snyder, Addie Maat
	26	Karen Alphenaar, Mary Patton
December	3	Lis Medema, Tayla Vlasma
	10	Dale Johnson, Kristin Vlasma
	17	
	24	
	31	

Coffee Schedule



November	5	Barb & Jim Malda
	12	Charry & Phil Snyder
	19	Toni & Scott Schuitema
	26	Laurie & Jack DeJonge
December	3	Marcia & Mike Breuker
	10	Joann & Dave Bishop
	17	Becki & Randy Fisher
	24	Sandy Volkers & Ron Friday
	31	Stephanie & Mark Hofman

(Continued from previous page) At the home of Jackie we installed new laminate flooring in three bedrooms and the living room. A team of fifteen volunteers was scheduled for the following week to continue the work in those homes and to start work on some other homes.

One of the challenges we faced was the availability of building materials. As a small town, Rolling Fork does not have many shopping choices. The local lumberyard and hardware store were both destroyed by the tornado. The lumberyard was back in business but was still working to build their Lk on three rows of shelving in an auto parts store. The nearest fully stocked stores were in Greenville, 35 minutes away. Despite this we were able to obtain all the materials we needed, sometimes in surprising ways through the generosity of complete strangers. Besides the work we also had some time for other activities. On the way down to the site we stopped in Greenville, MS, located about 40 miles north of Rolling Fork, to experience their Hot Tamale Festival. On Sunday afternoon we visited the Vicksburg National Military Park, the Vicksburg National Cemetery and the USS Cairo ironclad gunboat, then enjoyed dinner and the view of a Mississippi Delta sunset from a local restaurant. We spent some time in our dorm getting to know each other a little better, playing games, preparing meals together and working on a jigsaw puzzle. Two of the families whose homes we worked on joined us for supper on Thursday night.

We are blessed to have participated in this mission trip. We built community within our team on the rides down and back, on the worksites and in our leisure time. We were able to spend time listening to our home owners and others in the community, hearing their stories of both horror and blessing, and walking with them through the process of recovery. We heard a good sermon on the working of the Holy Spirit (good followup to Pastor Mark's series) and were reminded that we were brought to that community by God to do His work. All in all, a good trip!

—Bob Botting

Kentucky Mission Trip



Back Row: Sue Sytsema, Stan Rop, Mark Hofman, Jack DeJonge, Charry Snyder (with the tennis ball), Roger Slorf, Laurie Slorf, Steve Rop, Barb Malda, Jim Malda, John Kortman. Front Row: Brian Schuitema, Jill Schuitema



Some of the ladies scraped the floors in a new house to prep them for flooring installation.



Jack and Steve hung drywall on the kitchen ceiling of this house.

Break time



These pictures are from the mobile home on which we tore off the vinyl siding and replaced it.

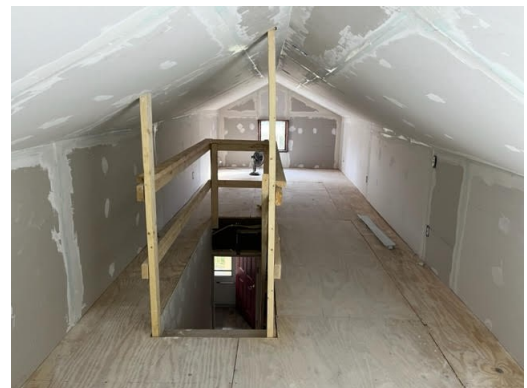




Brian, Sue, Jill and John installed electrical outlets and installed drywall in this attic. It was a very hot place to work!

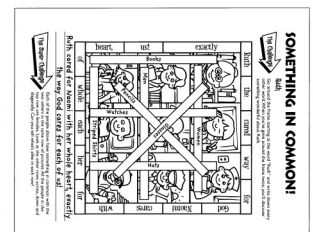


Before

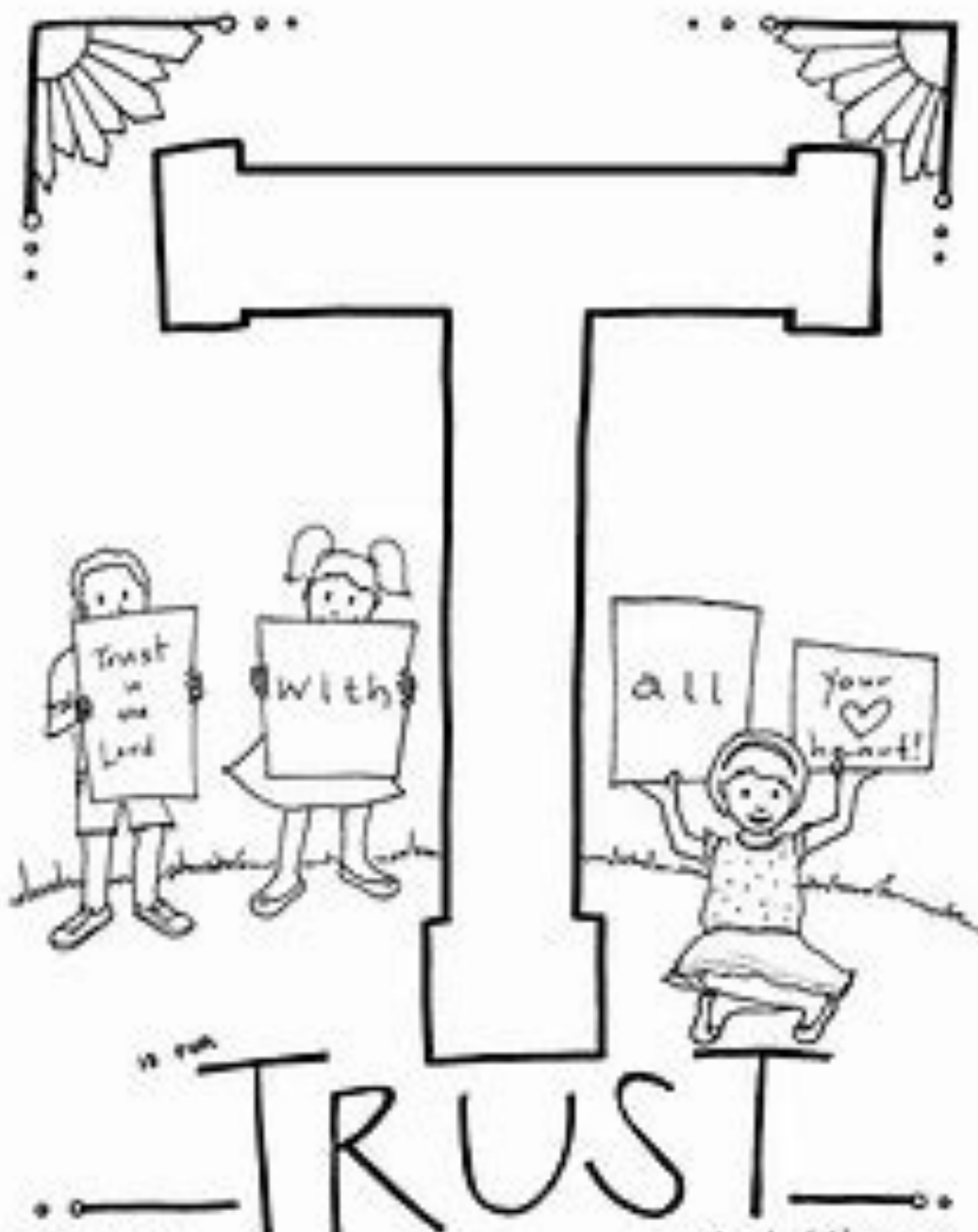


After

Break Time



Answers to page 0



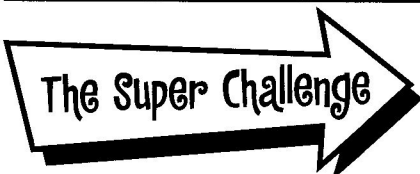
SOMETHING IN COMMON!



Ruth

Go around the frame starting at the word "Ruth" and write down every other word. When you've gone around the frame twice, you'll discover something wonderful about Ruth.

	Ruth	the	cared	way	for	
exactly						God
						Naomi
us!						cares
heart,						with
	of	whole	each	her	for	



Each of the people above have something in common with the two others in the same row of pictures. All the people in the top row are females. Look at the other rows across, down and diagonally. Can you tell what's alike in each row?

The Nativity Crossword



Across

2. The Wise Men followed this.
4. Precious metal given to the baby Jesus as a gift.
5. Mother of Jesus.
6. The town that Jesus was born in.
8. Mary was visited by one to tell her she would have a baby.
10. There was no room here for Mary and Joseph.
11. Baby Jesus was born in this building.
12. An angel visited them to tell them about the birth as they watched their sheep.

Down

1. Mary rode on one.
3. The number of kings or wise men who visited Jesus.
7. Jesus was laid in here as a crib.
9. Mary's husband.



When Jesus Was Born

A Christmas Word Search Puzzle

X S W J I M B S S C A S G N P
 X H Q K A R T E H H K U E E R
 L E I R B A G R T A E S D M E
 T P Y D B T I E O H N E S E S
 D H E L O S G M L E L J P S E
 X E E V T R I C C I O E M I N
 H R S M U R E N G O L D H W T
 T D A S A L I H N Y B A B E S
 E S O C E K Y T I V I T A N M
 R M L G N L H O L Y G H O S T
 A E N A F T B J D H P E S O J
 Z A R S W O C V D O N K E Y S
 A F H R X Q N S A V I O R Z R
 N R E G N A M O W T T A N N U
 B I R T H D A Y S M Y R R H Z



Miracle
 Holy Ghost
 Nativity
 Herod
 Mary
 Son of God
 Nazareth
 Gabriel
 Blessed
 Joseph

Jesus
 Baby
 Savior
 Bethlehem
 Stable
 Manger
 Swaddling Cloths
 Shepherds
 Wise Men
 Star

Angel
 Gold
 Frankincense
 Myrrh
 Birthday
 Donkeys
 Cows
 Sheep
 Presents
 Christmas



O Come
let us
Adore
Him

November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 June Walcott Judy Vaandering	6	7	8 Mary Kortman	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Dave VanRees	16 Jean Botting	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Asher Hofman	24	25
26	27	28 Scott Schuitema	29 Bob Vanderlaan	30 Marcia Breuker		



December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6	7 Addie Maat	8 Cam Vlasma Charry Snyder	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Mark Hofman	19	20 Dave Bishop Takalegn Vlasma	21 Barb Malda	22	23 Trent Alphenaar Luke Maat
24	25	26	27	28 Becki Fisher	29	30
31						

