

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Passage:** John 16 :29-33 **Sermon Title:** Courageous Commitment

ALLEN AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH



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**Contact Us:**

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church  
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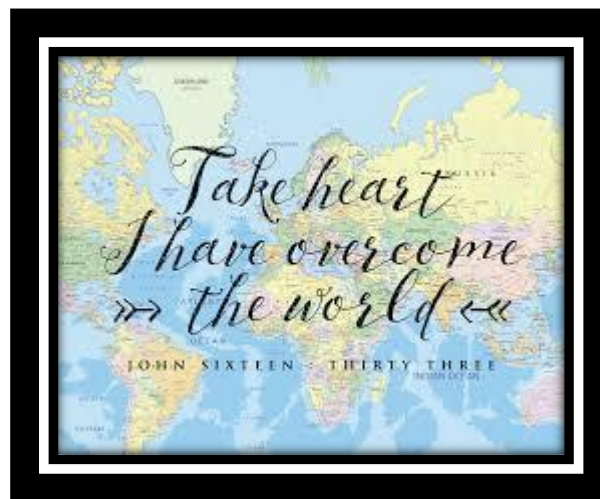
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PASTOR MARK HOFMAN  
GEMS SUNDAY ~~ APRIL 28, 2024  
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM



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

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.*

*Support Christian Education. Serve.*



### NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 4/28: Nursery: Jasmine Fritz & Deb Anderson  
Coffee Fellowship: Steve & Nancy Rop
- 5/5: Nursery: Lis Miedema & Karen Alphenaar  
Coffee Fellowship: Russ & Deb Vlasma
- 5/12: Nursery: Sue Sytsema & Tayla Vlasma  
Coffee Fellowship: Dean & Amber Johnson
- 5/19: Nursery: Steph Hofman & Toni Schuitema  
Coffee Fellowship: Gabe & Renee Vlasma

### ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES



#### **\*Pray for the \* Missionary this Week**

Stephan and Alicia Lutz – Kenya

#### **\*Rev. Jerry An – Back to God Ministries**

- Angel Community Church – Muskegon  
Paul & Charlotte Mpindi – Mission French Africa  
Charles & Hensel Oh – Philippines



### ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

Joann Deitz	Wilma Doctor	Jim Doornbos
<b>*Vicky Fisher</b>	Lois Grinwis	Joel Stefanits
Betty TenBrink	Ro Verheul	June Walcott

\*Please send a card to **"Care List Member" Vicky Fisher!**  
83 Hubbard Woods, Muskegon, MI 49442

*Dear Beloved Care Members,  
You are so loved. More than you'll ever know.  
Adored. Respected. Wanted. Worthy.  
Pursued by the One who breathed the stars into existence.  
Remember that today and always!*

## WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE CRC



### **A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Our Guests, and Our Members on GEMS Sunday!**

We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worship this Sunday as we celebrate & serve our Risen Savior! After Easter, Christians often remember how Jesus appeared to his disciples and reminded them what He taught them. These 50 days

of Eastertide invite us to consider what Jesus said in John's gospel about being a disciple. Pastor Mark introduced the **ABC's of Discipleship** from John 14-16, which include how disciples of Jesus **attend, belong, and commit**. This week, we'll hear about the third letter, **C** for **COMMITMENT**, based on John 16. Please join us downstairs after the morning service to enjoy fellowship together over a cup of coffee and conversation as we do life together at such a time as this. Be blessed & be a blessing!

### **CRC DENOMINATION & AACRC COUNCIL NEWS**

#### **This special offering this Sunday, April 28, is for GEMS International.**

GEMs International is the go-to ministry for girls' spiritual growth, providing real answers to the challenges girls face. We thank God for Allen Avenue's GEMS program that has been changing lives year after year!

**Starting on May 19, a New Members Class** will be inviting anyone who wants to know more about what "We Live to BLESS!" might look like for them at Allen Avenue CRC. The class will run for three weeks, May 19, May 26, & June 2.

Week 1 – **Christian** (what it means to abide in Jesus, baptism & creeds)  
Week 2 – **Reformed** (what it means to confess faith and belong, confessions)  
Week 3 – **Church** (what it means to commit, polity/statements of CRCNA's)

All are welcome to attend, bring questions, and discern how God is moving us as disciples here at Allen Avenue!

**Things to Do This Week: Pray for Our Council.** Pray for vision, wisdom, leadership, steadfastness, and unity...for Brian Schuitema Sherrie Wolffis, Gabe Vlasma, Jean Botting, Pastor Mark, Judy Vaandering, Dave Miedema, Scott Schuitema, Charry Snyder, Barb Malda, Mary Kortman, Amber Johnson, & Nate Schout. Heartfelt thanks for serving and leading our church at this very important time in history...may you find "joy in your journey" on our council!

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**Most of you have noticed the "envelope board" that is at the top of the stairs at the Allen Avenue entrance to church.** Pastor Mark talked about it last Sunday. The board is an opportunity for Allen Ave. to support the combined youth group at Calvin CRC. This summer, July 19-26, Calvin's youth group which includes some kids from Allen Ave. will be heading to Cuba for a service and learning trip. They will be doing some physical labor tasks but will also be spending time with kids, especially kids with disabilities. It's called a service and learning trip because in addition to the "work", the goal is to learn, build relationships, and see how God is already at work in Cuba. You can support this trip by using the envelope board. Just take an envelope, put the indicated amount in the envelope, and deposit that envelope with money into the designated slot. If you are writing a check, please make it out to Calvin Church. The final collection of the donations will be mid-May. Thank you for your support of this project.

**This Wednesday, May 1,** we are privileged to **pray** for the **City of Muskegon**, the justice system, and personnel as well as the citizens - young and old. We live in a beautiful area, enjoying the sights and sounds of a wonderful city. Please pray for safety and common sense for everyone! We also pray for good behavior, that Satan will be crushed and no more murders! Thank you, praying church!

**Ladies' Spring Luncheon will be On May 2 at Whitlow's at 11:30am.**

All ladies are welcome. Call Marcia Breuker at 231-740-3458 to reserve a space. Also, there will be a signup sheet near the coffee window. Hope you can join us!

**Let's help Keri and Fernando Vergara prepare for the arrival of their little one!** To bless these dear friends, you're welcome to join in a long-distance style baby shower. A piggy bank will be available in the fellowship room during coffee hour on April 28, May 5, and May 12. By placing a cash gift in the piggy, you can make it possible for us to send funds to Chile for our friends to use to start a collection of story books for their baby.

**Looking for a great reason to get outdoors, boost your exercise routine, and help the local environment?** Unity Reformed Church is organizing a run-walk, half-marathon/5K in Montague on Saturday May 4. Check out: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Montague/RedeemMiRun> Proceeds will go to re-wilding land previously used by the city for waste. What a great way to give back, get outdoors, and rejoice in God's good creation!

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**It's Allen Avenue's turn to assist the residents of Christian Care** with their worship and Lord's Supper on Wednesday, May 15. If you are able to serve with Pastor Mark in this meaningful way, please talk to him.

**It's time to sign up for your UNITY CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL tickets!!** Brandon Heath, Matt Maher, Tasha Leyton, Matthew West, Mac Powell, Zach Williams, and We Are Messengers are just a few of the Christian artists who will be leading in praise and worship August 7-10 at Heritage Landing. Tickets are only \$40.00 for one day or \$75.00 for all 3 days (Wednesday is FREE!!). Complete the information on the clipboard in the basement and get your money to Jill by the beginning of June. Don't miss out on this family affordable event of the summer!

**Summer is coming and so we have been planning for King's Kids, our Vacation Bible School with Angel Church.** It will be held July 8 - 12 at Angel Church from 6:00-7:30 each evening. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this wonderful opportunity to pour the love of Jesus into the hearts of our neighborhood kids. We will need song leaders, teachers, classroom helpers, registration/welcome helpers, distributors of fliers in the neighborhood, and ice cream sundae suppliers and servers. Let Jill or Barb know how you would like to help. Also, please keep this whole program in your prayers. Thank you!

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

**Judy Vaandering** had successful knee replacement on **Tuesday, April 23.** Please remember Judy as she rehabs and recovers.

**Zoom prayer time** will resume on **April 30.**

**Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help out at Muskegon Christian School** by watching staff kids during the last Monday staff meetings/faith integration training. **Only ONE slot to fill...we are almost there!** Just need volunteers from **2:50-4:30pm on May 13!**

**We pray for parents, students, teachers, and all those in education both at Allen Avenue and in private and public schools:** **Our Students:** Simon, Nora, Serenity, Yeabsira, Tekalegn, Maelin, Tayla, Taylor, Danny, Luke, Addy, Joel, Kayla, Devin, Asher, August, Aethan, Emily, Lily, Jessica, Molly. **Our Teachers and Principals:** MCS -Nate Schout, Lis Miedema WMC-Chris Ruitter, Dave Miedema Fruitport Public Schools (PE) - Becky Schout



## JOIN US FOR A DAY AT THE MUSEUM!

Allen Avenue CRC, Angel Community CRC, and New Era CRC are organizing a group outing to tour the **Mandela exhibit at Grand Rapids Public Museum on Sunday afternoon, May 5**. This exhibit invites us into the life of Nelson Mandela, the late South African anti-apartheid activist, revolutionary, political prisoner, and president. As Christians, Mandela's life raises important questions about race, resistance, violence, power, and public duty.

**Tickets are available at the group rate of \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors until April 28.** After April 28, those who desire to register will pay the general admission price of \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors at the door on May 5. Student and child tickets are \$5. Scholarships are available for those who desire to attend but are unable to afford admission. Contact Pastor John ([necrc.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:necrc.pastor@gmail.com)).

**\*\*\*Dinner at Sundance Grill will be provided through a grant from Classis Muskegon.**

## Tentative Schedule for Sunday, May 5:

?? am - rides will be arranged by each church family

1:00pm - arrive at Grand Rapids Public Museum (272 Pearl St NW)

- gather in lobby

- welcome, short devotions, and prayer

- directions to Mandela exhibit, meet back at 4:00pm

1:30-4:00pm - tour museum (Mandela exhibit takes 30-40 minutes)

4:00pm - meet back in lobby, travel to Sundance Grill (151 Ottawa Ave NW) for dinner and discussion

