

Nine Arguments for Christian Belief

Arguments from historical evidence

- The Resurrection: the empty tomb and resurrection appearances of Jesus are key evidence, supported by various accounts and the rapid growth of the early church.
- Historical Jesus: Arguments are made for the credibility of the Gospel accounts and the historical existence of Jesus, often using legal reasoning.
- The Bible: the Old and New Testaments are argued to be coherent, with the New Testament fulfilling prophecies from the Old Testament, despite being written by different authors over a long period.

Arguments from philosophy

- Cosmological Argument: the universe had a beginning, and because it did, there must be a "first cause." This first cause is best understood as evidence of a Creator.
- Moral Argument: this line of reasoning claims that morality cannot exist without a transcendent standard. Since objective moral values and duties exist, there must be a God who provides that standard.
- Teleological Argument: because the universe exhibits design and purpose, there is a designer. Christianity is the most rational explanation for the existence of reality.

Arguments from personal experience

- The Gospel Application: Christianity's claim - about the deep-seated problem of sin and its unique solution through Christ - is a compelling diagnosis and treatment of the human condition.
- Spiritual and Emotional Satisfaction: many find that Christianity provides *existential* satisfaction by offering a relationship with a personal God and a hopeful resolution to suffering and evil through future judgment and forgiveness.
- Personal Testimony: the personal experiences and transformed lives of believers are powerful evidence for the Christian faith.

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
NOVEMBER 9, 2025
WORSHIP 10:00AM

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Pastor Mark Hofman

We Gather

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship (from Psalm 107)

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People: his love endures forever.

Leader: Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—

People: those he redeemed from the hand of the foe.

Leader: Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

**People: for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.**

*Songs of Praise

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

I Love to Tell the Story

LUYH 262:1,2

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

We Repent

Call to Confession (Lamentations 3:17-20)

I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is.

¹⁸ So I say, "My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the LORD."

¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

²⁰ I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon (Lamentations 3:21-26)

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;

²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

*Song

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

LUYH 347

Children's Blessing

This is a time for joy:

a time to praise, a time to sing, a time to thank,

a time to love. Honor Jesus as you worship him.

Prayers of the People

Gord Peterman

We Listen

Scripture ~ 1 Peter 3:8-22

Pew Bible Pg. #1730

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

Message ~ "Answering Questions – The Hope We Have"

Prayer

We Respond

*Contemporary Testimony (stanza 42)

The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners, called to be holy, dedicated to service. Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others. Knowing our own weakness and failures, we bring good news to all sinners with understanding of their condition, and with hope in God.

*Song

Mighty to Save

LUYH 611

We Go Out

Offering: General Fund

*(offerings may be given online or placed
in the baskets at each entrance)*

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise

I Love to Tell the Story

LUYH 262:3

*Postlude

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

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.
Support Christian Instruction. Serve.*



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



11/9: Nursery: Nancy Rop & Deb Anderson

Sunday School/Catechism

Coffee Fellowship: John & Sue Sytsema

11/16: Nursery: Charry Snyder & Addie Maat

Children in Worship: Sherrie Wolffis and Dale Johnson

Coffee Fellowship: Ron F. & Sandy V. & Judy Vaandering

11/23: Nursery: Karen Alphenaar & Mary Maat

Sunday School/Catechism

Coffee Fellowship: Jack & Laurie DeJonge

11/30: Nursery: Becki Fisher & Becky Schout

Children in Worship:

Coffee Fellowship: John & Carol Schuitema & Sonia Vazquez & April

ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES



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

Eric & Judith Tuls – Operation Mobilization

Rev. Jerry An – Back to God Ministries

***Pastor Jeffery Hough – Angel Community Church**

Paul & Charlotte Mpindi–Mission French Africa

Charles & Hensel Oh – Japan

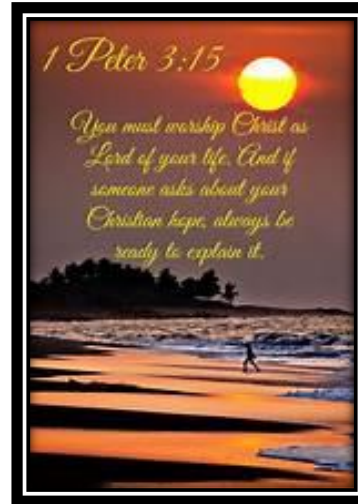


ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Betty TenBrink | 4) Ro VerHeul |
| 2) Joel Stefanits | 5) Jim Doornbos |
| 3) Wilma Doctor | |

*Please call or send a card to Care List Member, Betty!
1350 W. Hackley Ave., Apt. 113, Muskegon, MI 49441

Dear Care List Members, Every time we think of you, we say a prayer that the day will be a gentle one for you...a day that brings you plenty of comfort, reasons to smile, and lots & lots of reminders how very loved you are!



A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests & Members!

We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worshipping our amazing Lord of the Harvest! Today we begin a two week sermon series entitled "Answering the Reason for Our Hope." This week we ponder "Answering Questions – The Hope We Have," and next week we grapple with "Questioning Answers – He is Not Far." After worship we will select two new elders and two new deacons at our town hall meeting followed by a gathering time over coffee & cookies in the lower level. Districts 2 and 4 will then enjoy their "Friendsgiving" Potluck.

COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

Upcoming Dates from the Council:

1) November 9, immediately after the worship service: Members of Allen Avenue will vote to select two new elders and two new deacons for the 2026 Council. Elder nominees are Bob Botting, Bob Holwerda, Gord Peterman, Steve Rop, Sue Sytsema, Beth VanRees, and Dave VanRees. Deacon nominees are Karen Alphenaar, Deb Anderson, Kelly Dauser, Becki Fisher, Dale Johnson, Denise Koetje, and Dave Rop.

2) If you are voting absentee, you must write your choices on a blank sheet of paper, seal it in an envelope, and write your name outside the envelope. Absentee votes must be for no more than four people for each office. Ballots must be received at church prior to the November 9 worship service.

3) November 9, during coffee hour: A town hall meeting will be held to review the year and provide answers for any questions regarding the proposed 2026 budget.

4) November 16, immediately after the worship service: Our annual congregational meeting will include voting on the budget and selecting the names of the new elders and deacons who will serve during 2026-2028.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

District 2 & 4 will be having a potluck all together in the fellowship hall on Sunday, **November 9**, after the town hall meeting. The main course and beverages will be provided...you just need to bring a dish to pass! If you forgot to sign up, you may still join us...we will have plenty to share!

The Allen Avenue Cadets want to thank everyone for their Instant Potato donations for Muskegon Rescue Mission. The Mission will be giving away over 900 Thanksgiving meals to families in the greater Muskegon area! Also, please put **Saturday, November 22 from 8AM to 11AM** on your calendar for a **Pancake Breakfast** fundraiser here at church. The food is free and donations will be gladly accepted for the annual budget of the Cadet program. Join us for pancakes, hash browns, sausage, and more!

AACRC's Thanksgiving Service will be Thursday, November 27, at 10:00am. We have welcomed Angel Church to join us in this service of gratitude to God!

Looking for Thanksgiving Day Singers: Mary Kortman found a beautiful anthem we can practice over the next three weeks and then we will sing it on Thanksgiving morning. She will have music at church on this Sunday, & we can run through it after the service the 9th, 16th and 23rd. Please let her know if you would like to sing - even if you can't make all three weeks!

Muskegon Christian School has been very blessed with members from AACRC watching staff kids in the past during Monday staff meetings and faith integration training. We are prayerfully looking for volunteers on the following dates from 2:50-4:30pm: November 10, December 1 & 8.



Volunteer Opportunity: Fresh Coast Alliance is seeking a volunteer to drive our company van one day per week. We are seeking a volunteer driver to pick up our participants from their home and drive them to their appointments at our building on either a Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday. Our participants usually get picked up between 8:00 and 9:00 in

the morning and get dropped off around 1:30 at their homes. It would be a great volunteer ministry opportunity for a retired person possibly. We usually provide transportation to 5 or 6 people per day. Thank You and God Bless You.

--Jennifer Juhasz, Program Director, Fresh Coast Alliance and ACAC, Inc.

(If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Jennifer at:

(231) 260-2726 1190 E. Apple Ave Muskegon, MI 49442

jenniferj@freshcoastalliance.org

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Many thanks to all who volunteered or donated candy for the Angell Neighborhood Trunk-or-Treat. You helped provide a safe and family-friendly event for "trick-or-treaters" of all ages.

Thank you to the congregation for their prayers for my sister Kathy. She had two plates and some pins put in her foot and is now in a cast. She's feeling well and we're hoping that she'll be able to start putting pressure on her foot soon.
--Karen Alphenaar

Ron Vlasma: We continue to lift Ron and his family up as he starts chemotherapy on November 11 and will go every two weeks indefinitely. Cover them in prayer.

Our church family has organized a "Meal Train" for Ron & Kristen Vlasma to help as they navigate Ron's health journey with cancer. It may become necessary to adjust this meal schedule due to Ron's medical appointments. Volunteers, please contact Kristen to verify delivery arrangements on your day of delivery. Thank you for being Christ to them in such a practical way!
This is the Meal Train link to volunteer: <https://mealtrain.com/r0oo5l>

Patti Steigenga: Continued prayers for comfort and for her and her family as she goes through the process of chemo and cancer. May God bring her peace.

Gloria Price: continued prayers for healing from a procedure she had recently.

Emma Pecklar: prayers for her friend Bryton who is 18 and recently diagnosed with a rare aggressive cancer. Prayers for his surgery to remove lymph nodes.

Pastor Mark's Uncle Jim who has been diagnosed with cancer in his esophagus.

Nate Schout-MCS is doing well. Prayers that staff coming off the Christian Educators Conference will be full of fresh ideas and energy.

Chris Ruiter-WMC prayers for the fall wrap up of the sports programs and the upstart of winter season. Plus, we have an Athletic Director opening that we just started gathering resume's for.

November prayer challenge...pray a blessing of thanks over each of our church families mentioned in the church directory and for our new visitors & friends!