

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Scripture:** Proverbs 3:21 – 4:27 (Pew Bible pg. #906)

**Message:** "Heart-Guard"

**ALLEN AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**



**Contact Us:**

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**"Keep thy heart with all  
diligence; for out of it  
are the issues of life."**

Proverbs 4:23 KJV

**PASTOR MARK HOFMAN  
JANUARY 11, 2026  
Worship-10:00AM**

# Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, January 11, 2026

**Pastor Mark Hofman**

## GATHERED TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call To Worship

Leader: In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

**People: We gather, alive to the Word of God.**

Leader: You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant, ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

**People: We listen, alive to the Word of God.**

Leader: You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom, sometimes startling and unexpected, sometimes still and quiet, but always dwelling among us.

**People: We watch and wait for the Word of God.**

\*Opening Songs of Praise

*Cry of My Heart*  
*Ancient Words*

LUYH 762

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet One Another

Children's Message

Kelly Dauser

Children's Blessing (in unison):

**Jesus is Lord of all.  
Love him with  
all your heart,  
all your strength,  
and all your mind.  
Praise and worship him alone.**

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mark

## LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK

\*Song of Preparation *I Will Hide Your Word Inside My Heart* LUYH 761

Scripture Passage Proverb 3:21-4:27 Pew Bible page #906

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

Message "Heart-Guard"

Prayer of Application

\*Song *Take My Life and Let it Be* LUYH 863:1,4,5

## GATHERED AROUND GOD'S TABLE

*The congregation is invited forward in groups  
for the celebration of the Lord's Supper*

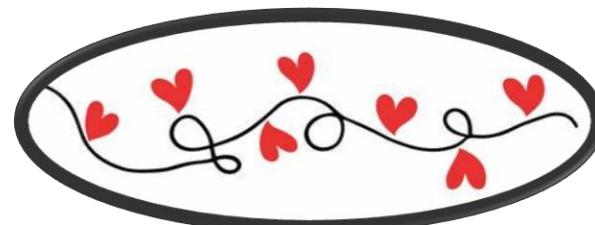
## SENT OUT

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

\*God's Parting Blessing

\*Parting Song of Dedication *Take My Life and Let it Be* LUYH 863:6

\*Postlude



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

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



## NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



1/11: Nursery: Laurie DeJonge & Deb Anderson  
Children in Worship: Jill Schuitema & Amber Johnson  
Coffee Fellowship: Rog & Laurie Slorf  
1/18: Nursery: Carol Peterman & Maelin Vlasma  
Sunday School/Catechism  
Coffee Fellowship: Jack & Sherrie Wolffis  
1/25: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Becki Fisher  
Children in Worship: Deb Anderson & Carol Peterman  
Coffee Fellowship: Judy, Eric, & Stacy Vaandering  
2/1: Nursery Susan Vanderlaan & Addie Maat  
Sunday School/Catechism  
Coffee Fellowship: Amber & Dean Johnson



## 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

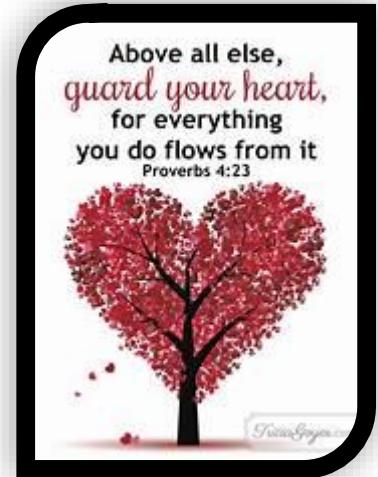
- 1) Betty TenBrink
- 4) Ro VerHeul
- 2) Joel Stefanits
- 5) **Jim Doornbos**
- 3) Wilma Doctor

\*Please call or send a card to Care List Member, Jim!  
1900 Surrey Place, Apt. 11, Muskegon, MI 49442

*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 during this New Year and always!*

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

We are so thankful you are here to worship the Babe of Bethlehem and our Bright and Morning Star! We are beginning this new year with a new sermon series. Pastor Mark will be taking us through the book of Proverbs as we journey on to greater wisdom in our Christian pilgrimage. Today we will be looking at Proverbs 3:21 – 4:27 – "Heart-Guard." Please join us downstairs after the service for a time of fellowship with the family of God here at Allen Avenue!



## **January/February Sermon Series: "Resolute - A Study in Proverbs"**

- ♥ January 11 – Proverbs 3:21 – 4:27 "Heart-Guard"
- ♥ January 18 – Proverbs 6:1-19 "Wise Ants"
- ♥ January 25 – Proverbs 9:1-18 "Feast or Death"
- ♥ February 1 – Proverbs 11:2-11 "Righteousness in the City"
- ♥ February 8 – Proverbs 12:1-4 & 31:10-31 "Nobility Crowned"
- ♥ February 15 – Proverbs 13:24 & 17:1-17 "Household Wisdom"

## **COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS**

**Update from our sister church in New Era CRC RE: their Latino Outreach Ministry:** We're grateful to Classis Muskegon churches for their continued support of our Latino Ministry. Despite disappointment, we've experienced incredible joy this past year. Even though Rev. Villatoro was unable to join our ministry, we nonetheless expanded our outreach to Oceana County through the New Era Farmer's Market, Personal Care Pantry, and Love INC of Oceana County. This year, we hosted two English tutoring students, visited migrant worker housing, and distributed over 200 Spanish Bibles throughout our community. This coming year, we're hosting an ESL tutor training and hope to launch a Bible study. We're also exploring factory chaplaincy at the local canneries and translation tools for worship, even as we continue the search for a Latino pastor with four promising candidates. We appreciate your prayers and support as we strive to be a church for our whole community!

On Sundays after the morning service, from January 18 through February 1, **there will be a three-week “class” on making profession of faith** and joining Allen Avenue as a member of the congregation. Do you want to know more about baptism and making profession of faith? Are you discerning God’s call to join the church as a member, with its privileges and responsibilities? Come join us for conversation, led by Pastor Mark and the elders, about how you are a vital part of Allen Avenue’s mission to “Live to Bless.”

**Paul’s Place/Carol’s House** (ie. Mike Fongers’ group home) is having a bake sale fundraiser on **Monday, January 26, from 3-7PM @ Northway Lanes** bowling alley. Any baked good items are requested - if able to list allergic ingredients or suggested price, it would be much appreciated. Call Carol Dalson (231-740-5412) with questions or volunteering interest. Thanks for your considering, Allen Avenue!

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

### A new 2026 church directory will be coming out in the next few weeks.

Please take a moment to check over your information in the sample directories placed in the church office, by the cookie window, and on the collection tables. Make any corrections or additions needed. If all information is correct, please put a “check mark” next to your name, so we know that you have seen and ok’d your information. **If you are new to Allen Avenue** and would like to be added to this new directory, please write your name, address, email, and phone number(s) on one of the sample copies...thank you for your prompt attention and action to connect us better!

**It's Allen Avenue's turn to assist the residents of Christian Care** with their worship and Lord's Supper on Wednesday, January 21, at 1:00pm. If you are able to serve with Pastor Mark, please talk to him today.

**Muskegon Christian School** has been very blessed with members from AACRC watching staff kids during Monday staff meetings and faith integration training. We are prayerfully looking for volunteers on the following dates from 2:50-4:30pm: January 12, February 2 & 9, March 2 & 9, April 13, and May 4 & 11.

**Men's Bible Study** will start up on Monday, January 12, at 6:15pm. Come prepared to discuss Lesson 12.

**“Hearts on Fire” Women’s Bible Study** will resume on Thursday, January 15, from 1:30-3:00pm. Prepare Session Four personal Bible study on pg. 81-105.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**It's that time again. Time for the GEMS sub and croissant fund raiser!** As we have in the past, the GEMS are selling subs and croissants for a mere \$3.00 each! These are the most delicious sandwiches and are just what you need for your lunch, for your after school snack, for your Super Bowl party, etc. Don't miss out on this opportunity to support our GEMS and enjoy some good sandwiches. There is an order sheet in the basement for your convenience. The very last day to place your order is Jan. 21. Payment with the order is preferred but other arrangements can be made. The sandwiches will be delivered for the GEMS to pick up on Saturday, Jan. 31. Please see either Jill or Amber if you have any questions or if you want to make a payment. Thank you for your support of our GEMS program.

**The Cadets invite all interested Allen Avenue attendees to join us** for a Muskegon Lumberjacks game on **Saturday, January 17th @ 6PM**. Tickets were pre-ordered last week, but you can try to get them at the door to join in on the fun! See Pastor Mark as to what section they will be in.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

"Thank you to everyone that contributed to our family's meal train. It helped our family out so much while we navigated through appointments and procedures to get a steady schedule set up. I also want to thank you all for the continued prayers, calls, texts, and cards. The amazing support shown by our congregation is such a BLESSING! We appreciate and love you all so very much!"

~Ron, Kristen, James and Avery

### Ongoing Prayers

**For those who mourn:** Ron Bol, the Huttengas, Gloria Price, Marijean Smith.

**For medical healing/progress:** Ron Vlasma, Charry Snyder, Steve Rinks (Melissa Vlasma's dad), Dan Brouwer (Barb Malda's brother-in-law), Bob Malda (Jim's brother) having surgery on the 1/13, Tati & Cobey Wadland (Randy & Becki Fisher's grandniece) pre-born daughter with Spina Bifida, Patti Steigenga (former member of AACRC), Emma Peklar's friend Bryton, Ron Friday's nephew TJ, Kathy (Steve and Nancy's friend who shares foster kids) in foot surgery recovery and with new case worker, Susan Vanderlaan's mom Marian recovering from pneumonia and a broken arm, John Schuitema recovering from sickness and recent hospitalization. Jim & Sue's daughter, Megan Secord- headaches are a touch better so she is able to work but still waiting tests (also, for Jim and his health). Hear our prayers, O Lord, for all these folks we love and care about!