

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: **Proverbs 6:1-19** (Pew Bible pg. #909)

Message: "Wise Ants"

**ALLEN AVENUE
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH**



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LEARN FROM THE ANTS TO BE WISE

PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
JANUARY 18, 2026
Worship--10:00AM

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Pastor Mark Hofman

GATHERED TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call To Worship

Leader: It is good to praise the LORD

and make music to your name, O Most High,

**People: to proclaim your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night,**

Leader: For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD;

People: I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

Leader: How great are your works, O LORD,

how profound your thoughts!

People: You, O LORD, are exalted forever.

—from Psalm 92

*Opening Songs of Praise *Lord of All Hopefulness* *LUYH 378*

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Reader 1: You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose.

Reader 2: I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

Reader 3: You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.

Reader 4: I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

Reader 1: You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

Reader 2: I closed them, for I did not want to see.

Reader 3: You asked for my life, that you might work through me.

Reader 4: I gave a small part, so that I might not get too involved.

Readers 1-4: Lord, forgive my half-hearted efforts to serve you—only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so.

**All: Father, forgive us, renew us, send us out as usable instruments,
that we might live lives of whole-hearted service for you. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Song

We Are Called

LUYH 296

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

Judy Vaandering

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK

*Song *Our Labor is Not in Vain* (congregation joins on stanza 3 & 4)

Scripture Passage

Proverb 6:1-19

(Pew Bible pg. #909)

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

Message

"Wise Ants"

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response

For the Fruit of All Creation

LUYH 396

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 Praise

All Praise to You, My God, This Night
(sung in canon)

LUYH 394:4

*Postlude

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

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



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



1/18: Nursery: Laurie DeJonge & 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: Congregational Life Hot Chocolate Bar
2/8: Nursery: Jasmine Snyder & Karen Alphenaar
Children in Worship: Beth VanRees & Barb Malda
Coffee Fellowship: Congregational Life Hot Chocolate Bar

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 during this New Year and always!*



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

In our 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 6:1-19 - "Wise Ants."

Please join us downstairs after the service for a time of fellowship!

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

- ♥ 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

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 about how you are a vital part of Allen Avenue's mission.

Valentine bags will be available for our five college students beginning Sunday, 1/25 through Sunday, 2/8 in the basement of church. Please feel free to fill with goodies and cards, so we can show our love and support. Our current college students are:

- ♥ **Emma Peklar** is in her 4th year at Michigan State University majoring in Human Development & Family Studies with a minor in Women's Study.
- ♥ **Yeabsira Vlasma** is in his final year at Grand Valley State University and will be graduating this spring with his bachelor's degree in finance.
- ♥ **Emily Snyder** is in her junior year at Grace Christian University studying Human Services.
- ♥ **Danny Maat** is in his sophomore year at Cornerstone University and is pre-seminary in the Ministries Program.
- ♥ **Luke Maat** is in his freshman year at Calvin University & joined ROTC.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECT Group will start back up on Sunday, January 18. We will be joining Pastor Mark's classes for the first three weeks and having a soft rejoining after that. Interested in what CONNECT is? Contact Charry Snyder or Denise Koetje!

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.

GEMS will meet in the church basement on Wednesday, January 21, at 6:15-8:00pm. Be sure to bring your sub and croissant order forms and the money you collected. Also, bring your Bibles, so we can continue our study of the faithfulness of our God.

Men's Bible Study will be held on Monday, January 26, at 6:15pm. Come join us as we continue our study of Hebrews. Questions...see Brian Schuitema.

Carol's House (i.e. 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!

Calling all ladies! Has cold weather got you down? Need to get out of the house? Join us Wednesday, January 28, at 10:00 AM for a fabulous morning of crafting. Supplies will be provided for FREE! There will also be refreshments. Come as you are and bring a friend. Check out the craft at the refreshment counter in the lower level and be sure to sign up by January 25. Questions? Contact Kelly Dauser or Lauri Slorf.

"Hearts on Fire" Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, February 5, from 1:30-3:00pm. Prepare Session Five r personal Bible study on pg. 103-137.

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: February 2 & 9, March 2 & 9, April 13, and May 4 & 11.

This is your last Sunday to order some of those fantastic SUBS AND CROISSANTS that the GEMS are selling. There is a sign-up sheet in the basement. If you have ordered some but still need to make a payment, please see Amber J. The sandwiches are only \$3.00 each. Also, they freeze well. They will be here for you to pick up on Sunday, Feb. 1. Thank you for supporting the GEMS program in this way.

There is a **large chalkboard in the basement** that isn't being used and hasn't been used for a while. It needs a new home. ☺ If you are interested in relocating this chalkboard, please see Jill Schuitema or Sue Sytsema before February 1.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

I just want to thank all the ladies from the Freezer Ministry, that prepare such yummy food and bring it to me every month. I really enjoy it and want to you again for caring. Also I want to express my sincere thanks for the Christmas bag that was delivered from Allen Avenue at Christmas time. What a fun surprise and with such heartwarming gifts from everyone. - **Ro VerHeul**

Grateful that **Peg & Stan Rop** made it safely to Florida for the winter. Pray for the many others who will be taking winter get-aways in pursuit of the sun & fun!

Bob Malda, Jim's brother, had successful brain surgery on Monday for his epilepsy.

Prayers needed for **Connie Weirs** (Jack & Sherrie Wolffis' son Jake's mother-in-law) who suffered a ruptured appendix and needs a speedy recovery in order to travel next week.

Ron Bol has been hospitalized with a broken fibula due to a fall. Physical therapy is deciding when he can be discharged and if he can return home.

Continue to pray for **Tatiana & Baby Bobbi Marlene** that they both continue to heal after the spina bifida surgery at U of M and that Tati's contractions will stop for a few more weeks. -**Randy & Becki Fisher**

Steve Rinks, Melisa Vlasma's dad, has been diagnosed with cancer in multiple areas of his body. The family covets your prayers as his medical team do additional testing and meet with doctors at U of M in regard to the course of treatment as they move forward.