

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Scripture:** Genesis 18:1-15 ; 21:1-7 **Pew Bible Page #21**

**Message:** « A Laughing Matter »

**ALLEN AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**



**Contact Us:**

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**Pastor Mark Hofman**

**April 26, 2026**

**Worship 10:00am**

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

**April 26, 2026**  
**Pastor Mark Hofman**

## Gathered to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship (Psalm 100: & Deuteronomy 7:9)

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**People: Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.**

Leader: Know that the LORD is God.

It is He who made us and we are His.

**People: He is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love  
to a thousand generations of those who love him  
and keep his commandments.**

\*Opening Song of Praise      *Cornerstone*

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet One Another

## Ministry Celebration: GEMS

GEMS Year in Review      Jill Schuitema

Songs      *Goodness of God*      *GEMS*  
*Jesus Is All The World To Me ~ all GEMS/Calvinettes*      *Praise 510:1,4*  
*(congregation joins on stanza 4)*

Video      GEMS 2025-26

Children's Message      Amber Johnson

Children's Blessing

***You are a gift from the Lord.  
He planned you.  
He formed you.  
He gave you life.  
He loves you.***

***As his precious children, go and worship him.***

Prayers of the People

Charry Snyder

## The Word

\*Song of Preparation      *Great is Thy Faithfulness*      *LUYH 384*

Scripture      Genesis 18:1-15 ; 21:1-7      Pew Bible Page #21

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

Message      « A Laughing Matter »

Prayer of Application

## Response

Offerings      General Fund & GEMS International  
*[offerings may be given online at [allenavechurch.org](http://allenavechurch.org)  
or in the baskets at each entrance]*

\*Song of Response      *Waymaker*

## Sent Out

\*God's Parting Blessing

\*Parting Song of Dedication      *My Friends, May You Grow in Grace*      *LUYH 938*

\*Postlude

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

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



## NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



4/26: Nursery: Karen Alphenaar & Maelin Vlasma  
Sunday School/Catechism  
Coffee Fellowship: Scott & Toni Schuitema  
5/3: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Serenity Alphenaar  
Children in Worship: Denise Kanaar, Bob & Susan VDL  
Coffee Fellowship: Brian & Jill Schuitema  
5/10: Nursery: Becki Fisher & Susan Vanderlaan  
Sunday School/Catechism  
Coffee Fellowship: Theresa Mason, Bob & Susan VDL  
5/17: Nursery: Toni Schuitema & Becky Schout  
Children in Worship:  
Coffee Fellowship: Kristen Vlasma & Kelly Dauser

## 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) **Wilma Doctor** \*Please call or send a card
- 2) Ro VerHeul to Care List Member, Wilma!
- 3) Joel Stefanits 3637 Whispering Woods Dr.  
Muskegon, MI 49444

*Heavenly Father, thank you for your great care for our loved ones on the care list. Today, we come to you and ask you to shine Your light into the lives of these dear people. Reveal Yourself as their Protector, Provider, & King. You overcame sin and death on the cross, and we pray that your victory will surround our loved ones and offer them hope and peace and Your love! Amen!*



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

We are so blessed to have you worshipping the King of Kings and Lord of Lords with us! During Eastertide at Allen Avenue, we will be studying appearances (theophanies) of God in Genesis. God's way of calling and directing his people from the earliest generations

included visitations of a variety of forms. After the worship service, please join us downstairs in the fellowship hall for a time of refreshments and reconnecting with your brothers and sisters in Christ here at Allen Avenue CRC!

## COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

**The special offering this Sunday, April 26, is for GEMS International.** GEMS International is the go-to ministry for girls' spiritual growth, providing real answers to the challenges girls face. We praise God for our GEMS program, the counselors, and the girls' lives that are changed because of this ministry!

### **April Council Meeting Notes:**

1. The Council expressed their appreciation for the Easter breakfast provided by the Congregational Life Committee.
2. The possibility of a summer outdoor meal with our church neighbors was discussed.
3. The Education Committee reported that they will promote King's Kids, GEMS, and Cadets at the Angell Neighborhood Picnic at McCrea Field on June 25.
4. Our treasurer reported a strong financial first quarter of the year.
5. The Worship & Music Committee shared the congregational survey results.
6. Time was spent in prayer for the Lord's leading toward the future use of our parsonage.
7. Pastor Mark, Bob Holwerda, and Amber Johnson will serve as our delegates to classis on May 5.
8. The Council has sent a letter to Grace CRC, thanking God for their years of ministry and their decision to bless Love, INC with their building and property. As each of their members must now go through the process of finding a new church home, they were assured that they would be warmly welcomed at Allen Avenue CRC.
9. The Council will meet again on May 27, at 6:00pm.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Today is the day to celebrate with the Snyder family! **All women and girls are invited to a dessert baby shower for the new moms, Annabell and Jasmine, this Sunday, April 26, at 1:45pm.** Please bring storybooks as gifts to bless their precious baby daughters, Alkinna and Kacey. All are welcome to enjoy sweet treats and a sweet celebration! See you soon! 😊

**CONNECT** Group meets April 26 after church in the lounge downstairs.

**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: May 4 & 11.



**“Hearts on Fire” Ladies Bible Study** will have our final luncheon to celebrate our year of study and all God's goodness to us on **Thursday, May 14, at 12noon** at Love Café, 557 W Western Ave, Muskegon, MI 49440. Please RSVP to Susan Vanderlaan by Sunday, May 10, so that reservations can be made. If any ladies of the church would like to join us and check out the Love Café, you are warmly welcomed...just let Susan know!

There is a clipboard on a bulletin board in the basement on which you can sign up for your **DISCOUNTED UNITY CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL TICKETS**. Fliers were put in each church mailbox giving you information on the different artists like Crowder, Josh Wilson, Tenth Avenue North, and for King & Country who are coming to Heritage Landing August 5 - 8. If you have never gone to this event, please consider attending this summer. Tickets are only \$50.00 for a 1-day pass and only \$80.00 for a 3-day pass. If you have any questions, please see Jill.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**ALLEN AVENUE MISSION TRIP**--We are planning a mission trip through Disaster Response Services (DRS) to Madison County, NC for the week of September 28, 2026. We currently have about 8 members from Allen Ave. planning to attend. Here are a few details of the trip:

### **Disaster**

Hurricane Helene, September 2024

### **Travel**

About 12 hours by car

### **Volunteer Work Projects**

Work projects will be largely focused on homes that have suffered damage from Hurricane Helene. Potential projects may include debris removal, drywall, framing, painting, flooring, cabinetry, siding, building ramps, weatherization, and more.

### **Housing**

Housing is provided for volunteer work teams at one of two locations depending on availability and work assignments— First Baptist Church Weaverville in Weaverville, NC, or the Hot Springs Volunteer Cabin near Hot Springs, NC.

### **Skill set**

No special skills are needed. Just the physical ability to help with construction or remodeling. Let me know if you have any questions or are interested in joining us.

Steve Rop

(231) 736-8969

[rop.steven@gmail.com](mailto:rop.steven@gmail.com)

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

**Melisa Vlasma** has been with her mom and dad for over a week now as her dad draws closer to death. Please pray for peace for Steve and that Jesus comes for him soon..

Continued prayers for these dear brothers & sisters in Christ:

- ♥ **Ron Vlasma's** day-to-day cancer journey
- ♥ **Jim & Sue Secord** as they manage Jim's ongoing breathing issues
- ♥ **Charry Snyder's dad Orven Nicholes** in kidney failure at home
- ♥ **Peg Rop's sciatica issue**
- ♥ **John & Mary Kortman's daughter Janna's baby is still breech.**
- ♥ **For all our Senior Saints** to find joy and health each day.
- ♥ **For our Education Committee** as they wind down their year.