

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: Ephesians 3 :1-21

Message: From Far and Wide to Near and Wide

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Contact Us:

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church
695 Allen Ave. Muskegon, MI 49442



(231) 722-6411



www.allenavechurch.org



aacrcsecretary@gmail.com



PASTOR STAN STURING
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 5, 2023

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



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

03/05: Nursery: Sherrie Wolffis and Lily
Coffee Fellowship: Brian & Jill Schuitema
03/12: Nursery: Amber Johnson/Dale Johnson
Coffee Fellowship: Congregational Life
03/19: Nursery: Nancy Rop and Addy Maat
Coffee Fellowship: Phil & Charry Snyder
03/26: Nursery: Renee Vlasma & Toni Schuitema
Coffee Fellowship: Jessica W & Kristen V

ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES



Stephan and Alicia – Kenya
Rev. Jerry – Back to God Ministries
Angel Community Church – Muskegon
Zuni Christian School – Zuni, New Mexico
Stan & Bessie – Philippines
Eric and Judith – Western Asia
Paul & Charlotte – Mission French Africa



ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

Joann Deitz	Wilma Doctor	Jim Doornbos
Vicky Fisher	Lois Grinwis	Pearl Kitchen
Joel Stefanits	Betty TenBrink	Ro Verheul
June Walcott	John Walhout	Tillie Witt

-We love and pray for all the families on our care list and for their care givers who so lovingly serve and help them...Bless them! Amen!

WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE CRC

A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests, Members!

We are so glad you have come to join us in worship today! If you are visiting, please fill out the Welcome card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as you leave the sanctuary. Join us in the Fellowship Hall in the lower level for a time of refreshments immediately following today's worship.

Live streaming of our worship service is slated to begin at 9:55am on Sunday morning. The live stream will be located under the videos section of the YouTube page. The worship videos will continue to be available as a recording if you are unable to watch the service live.

COUNCIL NEWS

The Installation Service for Pastor Mark Hofman will be Sunday, March 12.

A celebration dinner will follow the worship service. In order to provide the caterers with accurate numbers, the council is asking you to sign up on the clipboards by the coffee window if you can join us on this very special day!

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church Council Notes - February 22, 2023

- Because of another winter storm, we met via zoom.
- Opening devotions were led by Bob Vanderlaan.
- We were thankful to have Pastor Stan back and discussed the transition when Pastor Mark arrives.
- Reports were received.
- We commented how wonderful it is to have so many members working behind the scenes for different ministries, and how grateful we are for the involvement of so many of our congregation members at church and in their community.
- The Welcome Dinner for Pastor Mark and family will be after installation on March 12, and the Appreciation Gathering & Potluck for Pastor Stan and Melody has yet to be determined. Congregational Life will oversee these two events.
- We transferred the memberships of Dan and Arlene DeKam to Bethany CRC in Muskegon and Carol Dirkse to Second CRC in Grand Haven. Both families sent letters of appreciation to Allen Avenue CRC for the role the church served in their lives and in their children's lives for so many years.
- The meeting was closed in prayer.

COUNCIL NEWS

Our March 12, our special offering will be for WMCHS. Founded in 1948, Western Michigan Christian High School, or WMCHS, has been a part of the greater Muskegon community and Allen Avenue for decades, impacting multiple generations. Many of our members, spouses, parents and children are graduates. Several of us are employees or former employees. Let's support the WMC mission to educate with excellence, integrate faith with knowledge, equip students to work and serve Christ in their communities.

Did you know that Allen Avenue CRC has a FREE Church Assistance Program (CAP) with Pine Rest? Contact Pine Rest COUNSELING SERVICES by calling **800-442-0809** and **PRESS 1** to access their 24-hour Hotline and to schedule appointments. Please remember that the key to FREE services is when you make your call, please say, "I have a CAP with Allen Avenue CRC." (Otherwise, you will receive a bill in the mail.) Our CAP Benefits Include:

- 3 sessions of free, confidential counseling per episode of care
- Psychiatric Urgent Care Center services for ages 18+
- 24/7 hotline for crisis calls
- Free 30-minute legal consultation
- Free 30-minute financial consultation
- Free elder care consultation
- Personal Advantage online library access
- All benefits are available to the congregation member and EVERY person in their household.

Focus on the Cross – Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the eBook! Subscribe at: todaydevotional.com/lent.

Remember our Council Daily in Your Prayers – Brian S, Bob V, Sherrie W, Stan R, Gabe V, Kelly D, Karen A, Jean B, Judy, Scott, Dave, Charry, and Pastor Stan. For **joy in their journey** and knowing that **God chose them** to be in leadership at such an exciting time in Allen Avenue's history! May God be honored by their service.

.....

*“Do not be afraid of growing slowly...
but only of standing still!”*

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

MCS needs supervision of staff children from 2:50-4:30pm on Monday, May 1 & 8. If you can help in this way, please call Nate at 231.773.3221.

Alerting the faithful cooks that Freezer Ministry will be Friday, March 10, at 9:30am.

Pastor Stan's *Gospel Love: Grace, Relationships, and Everything that Gets in the Way* study will meet on March 9, 16, 23, and 30. We plan to have a bite to eat together at 6:30 and then start the study.

Allen Avenue Prayer Ministry Prayer Time is every Tuesday, from 7-8PM. Join us by selecting this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81035650227?pwd=cUhpVTdzTVlUbEMyVGs3UTBLWE5pQT09> Passcode: 573272 Meeting ID: 810 3565 0227

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Pray for Our Care List Member of the week – **Joann Deitz**

-Allen Avenue Missionaries of the week – **Stan and Bessie – Calvin University**

-We give thanks that **Pastor Mark, Stephanie, Asher, August, and Aethan** are arriving along with the moving truck on Sunday, March 5! Pray for safety, joy, adjustment, excitement, and pieces to all fall in place for everyone.

-**We pray for our school children of all ages**- Simon, Nora, Karrissa, Yeabsira, Tekalegn, Maelin, Tayla, Emily, Devon, Travis, Katelyn, Trevor, Tiffany, Molly, Kayla, Taylor, Danny, Luke, Adele, Joe, Matthew, Carlie, Daniel, Serenity, Lily, Riley, Pao, Asher, August, and Aethan.

-**For MCS and WMC as well as all schools**, teachers-Lis, Dave, Nate, Becky, Stephanie

- **“Dear Freezer Ministry Ladies**, Greetings from warm, sunny Florida! We would like to thank you for the many wonderful meals we received from you. I am finally recovering. It's great to have so many people caring and praying for us.” -**Ron Friday & Sandy Volkers**

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-**Carol Dirkse** gives thanks that her visit with her new doctor went well. Results came back from her Echo showing a minor leak in one of the valves. She is going for a follow-up X-ray for this degenerative condition.

- **“Dear Family of God at Allen Ave,** Eric, Stacy, and I would like to thank everyone for their care for us during the time that Case was ill, and when he passed away. It is wonderful to belong to a caring church. You helped us so much with our loss. Thanks to the church for the lovely flowers and crystal cross in the arrangement. Thanks also for the meat and cheese plate with bread. It allowed us to have all the out-of-town relatives over at our house after the funeral. It was appreciated by all of us. **-Judy, Eric, and Stacy Vaandering**

-**Many of our members and those we know are suffering from illnesses.** Please Lord, heal them and bring them back to health and if that is not your will, be with them as they go through each minute of every day. May they know you are holding them close.

-Prayers for those who have loved and lost their dear one and miss them greatly. We think of **Judy Vaandering, Norm Boeve, Jim and Sue Secord, Ron Friday and Sandy Volkers, Joyce Vanderlaan’s family, Kim Walstra, & so many others.**

- **Norm Boeve** - please keep him and the family close in prayer as they joined together on Friday, March 3, to celebrate Nella’s earthly life, mourn her death, and celebrate the everlasting, eternal, awesome presence she now has in heaven.

-**Tom Friday (Ron’s brother)** in the loss of his wife that was totally unexpected. Sandy and Ron ask for prayers as there is no service and Tom is taking it very hard. They have been together since high school.

-**Carol Schuitema** - please pray that the progress being made on her breathing issues will continue. Please keep her, John, and the family in your prayers.

-**Mary Kortman’s brother-in-law, Hubert,** is now on chemo treatments and is doing ok. But please keep his wife in your prayers as she now has covid. Prayers that he doesn’t get it and peace and for ease of breathing. Thank you.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-**Please pray for Renee Vlasma’s parents, Peggy & Jerry.** Peggy suffers from dementia and the care needed is so very hard. We pray that God gives the family the needed strength to help them care for Peggy. For grace sufficient for each day.

-**Carla Kieft** - Continued prayers for healing of throat and swallowing problems.

-**We also pray for those who are carrying burdens that are keeping them awake at night.** Maybe their time schedules are so busy they can’t keep up with routine things, maybe they are trying to make ends meet with bills, maybe they are forced to work many hours, or the kids are sick, and they have no time left to take off from work. Maybe it is a problem with school or activities, parents, friends, or making bad decisions. So much STUFF!!! We pray for Jesus to look into their eyes so they can see the love in HIS. We pray for calmness, wisdom in dealing with the stresses of this life and that may Jesus give them just the right person, place, bible verse, song, smile, gift to help them know they are ok. They are not forgotten. They are loved eternally.

