

THE ALLEGAN CONGREGATIONALIST



AUGUST 2019

Prayers for members and Friends of our church family:

Barbara Brower	Jeff Ladd
Kay Butler,	Brenda Mahn,
Kelly Callan,	Norm Pierson,
Tina Cook,	Suzie Pahl
Mike Cullen	Sue Pumpkin,
Bob Hoyt,	Mark Ross,
Phyllis Hodge	Don & Marilyn Sieber
Ray Hoffman ,	Rick Valdez
Joyce Ilmburger,	

We are delighted to include the prayer needs submitted for our newsletter. However, we request that these needs be kept current and accurate. Please let us know if a name needs to be added or removed. Thank you.

Our Members & Friends in the Armed Forces:

Brendan Buck in Norfolk, VA
Shane Coopman in Hill Air Force Base in UT
Cody Davis in Iraq,
David DeZwaan in Afghanistan,
Andrew Hodgson in New River, NC
Alex Proskurnya in Fort Benning, GA,
Aaron Siegler in Battle Creek

Our World: Our US Government and local leaders, for the persecuted Church throughout the earth.

Our Missionaries: Will & Julia Dickerson in Hungary, the Frasers in Hungary, the Johnsons in Indonesia, Mission Mazahua in Mexico.

Our Shut-ins: Barb Brower, Bob Hoyt, Marilyn Kent, Donna Overmyer, Linda Sweet.

A PRAYER FOR AUGUST

Thou art never weary, O Lord, of doing us good. Let us never be weary of doing Thee service. But, as Thou hast pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants, so let us take pleasure in the service of our Lord, and abound in thy work, and in Thy love and praise evermore.

John Wesley (1703-1791)

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Trevor Faas—WMU
Colton Fairbanks—MSU
Misty Gates at - GRCC
Emmie Henningson—MSU
Abigale Olmstead—WMU
Allie Siegler—NMU
If you know of anyone else
Please let the office know

MISSION STATEMENT

“OUR CHURCH EXISTS TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST AND TO TRAIN THOSE WHO ALREADY KNOW HIM.”

We would like to thank

Shirley Ross

for her generous gift, which has made this edition of The Allegan Congregationalist Possible. Thank you!

Hospice Grief Support Service
Coping With Loss

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday
each month

11:00—12:30 am at the
First Congregational Church
LUNCHEON SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the 1st Tuesday of every month at
11:00am—1:00 pm in the
Schuyler Room at AGH.



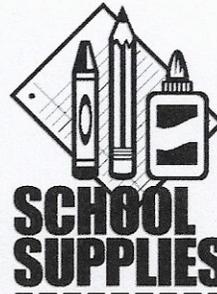
The Episcopal Church is
In need for children's
clothing, Blankets, sheets
all sizes, spring & summer
clothing for men, women, towels &
washcloths. Men's jeans are needed.
The location is in the basement of the
Episcopal church. Please use the
Hubbard St. entrance. Tuesday from
2:00—5:00 pm and Friday from 9:00
am to Noon.

Men's Breakfast is on
August 10th at 8:00am
all men are invited.



We can rejoice, too, when we run
into problems and trials, for we
know that they are good for us—
they help us learn to be patient.
And patience develops strength of
character in us and helps us trust
God more each time we use it
until finally our hope and faith
are strong and steady.

Romans 5:3-4



LOVE INC

Love In The Name Of Christ

We know that summer
just started, but it's already
time to start thinking about
going back to school!

The Backpack Ministry is
COLLECTION an annual ministry of area
churches and individuals providing new
backpacks with age-appropriate school sup-
plies to children in need in Northwest Alle-
gan County.

Backpack requirements are, age appro-
priate, gender colors for boy & girls, NO
character or logo backpacks, NO backpacks
with wheels.

We welcome your donation of School
Supplies for Backpacks:

ELEMENTARY:

Pencils, Erasers, pencil bag/box, scissors,
glue sticks, crayons, markers, colored pen-
cils, wide-rule, notebooks, pencil sharpen-
ers, smaller size backpacks.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL:

4-Spiral notebooks, black pens, 3-ring bind-
ers, red pens, pencils, erasers, graph paper,
rulers, highlighter, loose leaf paper, larger
size backpacks, protractor, pencil sharpen-
er.

Backpacks and supplies are needed at
Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand St. in Allegan
Or

Love INC office, 4621 135th St.
in Hamilton

by Monday, August 12 , 2019, For more in-
formation contact Barry or Eloise at 269-
751-2533, ext. 112.

Thanks so much
God Bless

Quarterly Report - August 2019

We started off this year, by going through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. It has taken us six months to get through it all, but I truly feel that it has been a worthwhile endeavor. Jesus' message describes the journey we as Christians take as we learn to trust in God more and to walk in His Spirit. It is not an easy or safe path, but it is the road that leads to life.

What I have found, as we continue on in this Gospel, is that Matthew is leading us towards a greater knowledge of who King Jesus is and how He is bringing about His kingdom here on earth. He does so one heart at a time as they trust in Him, in His sacrifice upon the cross for the forgiveness of their sins, and in His resurrection that brings victory. It is this Good News that changes a person from within, leading them to a life focused upon doing His will. And we see the culmination of that will at the end of this Gospel in Matthew 28, verses 18 through 20...

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This is the commissioning of every church. We are to go and do these things. Here at First Congregational Church we are attempting this in a number of areas.

First, I see this being done in our children's ministry. Every Sunday we have a dedicated crew that invest in our youth through our Word of God classes. The C.E. Committee is constantly looking for ways to serve not only the kids, but their whole families.

Even during the summer months, they stayed active as they partnered with two other churches and put together a VBS program that was fantastic. And our Acolytes & Friends group continued to meet as well. This group is a big hit with our children and has a steady focus on God's Word.

Second, our teen *AWAKE* group has been very active this year. We worked our way through the book of Judges, learning a great deal about how God rescues a sinful people who cry out to Him in repentance. And to top things off, I was very encouraged by their involvement with our summer partnership with Mack Avenue Community Church in Detroit. Both our trip there and their trip here were life transforming. They gained new friends and had new experiences that will be lasting.

Third, I have been especially encouraged by our *DISCIPLE* group. These men and women who attend are dedicated both to growing in their knowledge of God's Word and to taking the things they learn and using it to make disciples. What has been gained in this time has spawned into a new Women's Bible Study, leadership in our Grief Group, strength in directing our acolytes, boldness to speak out for Christ in our community, and the willingness to speak into the lives of our church on Sunday morning.

Finally, I was especially pleased to see the faith of three of our youths. Kyleigh and Brianna Dillon, along with James Adams, were baptized at our Annual Church Picnic. All three expressed their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior, understanding that He died for their sins and that rose from the dead three days later. I couldn't be prouder of these young hearts.

In many ways, I feel encouraged by what is going on at First Congregational. My hope is that we continue to see King Jesus as we study His Word, and that it will lead us to introduce people to Him and to train those who already know Him. I look forward to what the Fall will bring us.

Thank you,

Pastor Cory



SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE GAZEBO This summer is moving fast and there are only few Sunday's left for you to gather at the Mahan Gazebo for music, prayer and a message from God's Word. We have 4 weeks left, Sunday at 7:00 pm, August 25th will be the last night.

Whether you are a Christian or not, we hope you join us and experience the Good News of Jesus Christ.



MISSION SUNDAY

Our missionaries Will & Julia Dickerson will be here visiting

our church on Sunday, August 11th. They will be speaking about their ministry in Hungary during our church service. And then on August 25th, Ed & Valerie Johnson, along with their family will come and share about the work that God is doing in Papua New Guinea. Both Sundays, we will be taking up a special offering for these missionaries. Please mark these dates on your calendar and come to enjoy fellowship with our brothers and sisters who are serving the Lord throughout the world.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT By Rev. A Purnell Bailey

One of my earliest memories is of my grandfather taking me for a ride by horse and cart from his home to a railroad station some five or six miles away.

When my questions came too often, to get some peace he would suggest that I count the telephone poles from one area to another for about a mile. He could check each time to see whether I had been accurate in my counting.

Then he changed to an automobile and suggested the same procedure, but the fact was not lost on him that, we were passing the poles rather quickly for a small boy to count. One day, in a thoughtful mood, he said to me:

"Son, you'll live a lot better and longer if you always drive so you can see-and count, if necessary-the signs along life's highway!"

Even then, he was suggesting that we might slow down to live better.

*Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way,
which leadeth unto life.*

—Matthew 7:14



We are ready to start our Memory Flower Garden, in front and sides of the church. If you'd like to do a memorial you can donate what ever amount you like and the name of who it's for. You can send your donation and information to the church Stella Vahue 544 Academy or put in the money bag and mark it for Memory Garden.

Each one of us is God's special work of art. Through us, He teaches and inspires, delights and encourages, informs and uplifts all those who view our lives.

Joni Eareckson Tada

Johnson Journal

January 2019

News and Prayer-Requests
from Ed and Valerie Johnson



All smiles at the beginning of two days on the river.

How did YOU spend your time celebrating the birthday of our precious Lord and Savior? Our time was miserable, yet beautiful. It was heart-wrenching, yet encouraging. It was exhausting, yet refreshing.

We used our holiday break to make a long-awaited trip to Obukain. The airstrip had not been cut, and was too dangerous, potentially, to fly in by small plane. So this time, we decided to go "retro". We flew to the nearest commercial-landing strip: Dekai (which, 15 years ago, was a small jungle village like Obukain.)



Marissa connects with local parrot as we wait for canoe.



Marissa, Moriah and Kirinius await the motorized canoe the following morning. We were on the river (actually several rivers) for the next two days. In the middle of the first day we also had a 4-hour jungle hike. Kirinius piloted the canoe, and was one of four young Diuwe men who accompanied and helped us on the way.

At the end of our first long day on the move (including several hours of heavy rain), we arrived at a Diuwe village. We were thankful to find friends, a non-leaking roof, some food, and boiled water, all helping us to get a good night's sleep.

The next morning, (Sunday, Dec 23rd) we met for church, and then reloaded our canoe and headed for Obukain (upstream two more rivers). Arriving late that afternoon, we were greeted by Diuwe friends, many of whom we have known more than 20 years.

We spent the next 10 days chatting, cleaning, repairing, cutting the airstrip, addressing some immediate medical needs, gathering for services (one being a funeral), and chatting some more.

We were heartbroken by a fight that took place on Christmas morning. We did not intervene, as we have often done with past fights, since many Diuwe now try to stop these altercations rather than join them.

On the other hand, we were encouraged by several things. We were surprised at how many people are now committed to attending school in Dekai. They are mostly boys from ages 12 to even 30 who are in Elementary, Middle or High school. Try to imagine the logistics and day-to-day sacrifices they make to fulfill this desire.

Also, we found several who are committed to serving Jesus, by leading church services, women's meeting, Sunday school, and more. Once the new semester starts, there will not be many people actually in the village but when people are in groups – wherever that might be – these individuals (like Titus and his



About 3 hours into our 4-hour hike (from one river system to another), we found a dry spot to take a short break. The girls used the time to remove some leeches.

wife Yuriana, and Nata) want to share what they know of God's Word. **Please pray for these young leaders to grow in Jesus and to live with integrity. Please continue to pray for the many Diuwe who have not yet become unblinded** to the real Truth and true freedom from their many fears.

Thank you for praying and partnering with us!!! We would be foolish to remain here without such a team.

Please continue to also pray for our daily lives and ministries out in the city of Sentani. Ed has been unanimously elected to continue as Field Director for another two years. In this role, he strives to empower, guide, cast vision for, support, pray for, challenge and assist, in numerous ways, our World Team co-workers. He continues to be a catalyst for Hans who is translating the Old Testament into the Momuna language. He also partners with GIDI leadership, liaisons with other mission organizations, encourages his wife and disciples his children.

Valerie is teaching, discipling, and mentoring – mostly at Hillcrest School, where, this semester, she teaches 6th grade Bible, Language Arts, Science and 9th grade Health. She is also mentoring her fellow middle-school teachers, one particular high-schooler and, of course, our growing twins.

Please continue to pray that we will also be able to be supportive, loving, shepherding parents and grandparents to our precious offspring on the other side of the world. **Please continue to pray** that we will move daily with joy and confidence in the arms, and in the will, of our gracious Lord and Father.

Please pray with us:

Giving thanks for :

- a challenging and encouraging visit to Obukain.
- continued progress on the Momuna Old Testament Translation.

Asking God for:

- growth and learning in the young Diuwe leaders.
- many more Diuwe placing their trust in the One who came to seek and save them.
- strength and wisdom in our roles as parents, grandparents, leaders and disciplers.
- constant awareness of his love and provision for us and all those around us.

Very privileged to partner with YOU,

Ed and Valerie



And you? Are you asking God if He wants you to come to serve as a teacher, tech expert, discipler, or in some other capacity? **Contact us!**

Ed and Valerie Johnson
Kotak Pos 222
Sentani, 99352, Papua,
INDONESIA
ed.johnson@worldteam.org

To invest, contact the address or web site below and mention us.

World Team
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Warrington, PA 18976

www.worldteam.org

First Congregational Ch.
323 Cutler Street
Allegan, MI 49010

Ch. Phone 673-3139 - Fax Ph. - 269-355-1509
e-mail firstconchurch@first conchurch.org

AUGUST 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
USHERS & GREETERS: Stella Vahue LITURGIST: Mark Lovett & Ted DeHaan				1 9:00 am & 12:30pm Food Warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	2 8:00AM WAREHOUSE baseball game "Growlers" in Kalamazoo	3
4 9:00 am S.S. 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Quarterly Ch. Council meeting 7:00 pm Sunday night at the Gazebo	5	6 5:30 pm Women's Fellowship 7:00 pm Big Picture Bible Study	7 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	8 9:00 am & 12:30 pm warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	9 8:00 AM WAREHOUSE	10 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
11 MISSION DAY 10:30 am Worship with the Dickerson's 12:00 pm Trustee's meeting 7:00 pm Sunday night at the Gazebo	12	13 11:00 am Hospice 6:30 pm Diaconate Meeting	14 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	15 9:00 am & 12:30 pm warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	16 8:00 AM WAREHOUSE	17 (2:00 pm) <u>Remembering</u> Tom Calkins)
18 9:00 am S.S. 10:30 am Worship/Communion 12:00 pm C.E. meeting 3:30- 5:30 Boy Scouts meeting 7:00 pm Sunday night at the Gazebo	19	20 7:00 pm Big Picture Bible Study	21 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	22 9:00 am & 12:30 pm warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	23 8:00 AM WAREHOUSE Hall in use Lucas family 10:am - 2:pm	24
25 MISSION DAY 9:00 am S.S. 10:30 am Worship/with Ed & Valerie Johnson Our Missionaries 7:00 pm Sunday night at the Gazebo	26	27 11:00 am Hospice 7:00 pm Big Picture Bible Study	28 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	29 9:00 am & 12:30 pm warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	30 8:00 AM WAREHOUSE	31

**LOOK WHO IS HAVING A
BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!**

- 03 Don Lucas
Ivy Belden
- 7 Ray Harris
- 8 Randy Stickley
- 11 Al Letts
- 12 Judy Ewing
- 13 Judy Gavan
- 15 Brian Proctor
- 17 Eric Erickson
Sue Belden
- 21 Marilyn Cook
- 23 Jim Jackson
Aiden Letts
- 26 Jet Klein
- 28 Elaina Wittemore

If your birthday was not listed and you would like it to be please call the office at 673-3139



Ushers & Greeters:

Stella Vahue

Liturgist:

Ted DeHaan &
Mark Lovett

Coffee Hour

- 04 OPEN
- 11 OPEN
- 18 OPEN
- 25 OPEN

**ANNIVERSARIES
THIS MONTH**

- 16 Steve & Debbie Mancuso
- 18 Jim & Grace Richardson
- 19 Gene & Patty Furst
- 22 Cory & Kim Klein

Guide me, O God, in making the inspired words of Scripture my life's project, that I might bring Your hope to the world. Amen.

When I was a kid growing up in Ohio, I made extra money picking strawberries for a man who had a small farm on the edge of town. He sold his produce from a little roadside stand. Because I was paid by the quart, I figured the faster I picked, the more I would make. But the farmer informed me that there was another requirement.

"Don't just fill your boxes to the edge. Fill them till they run over and won't hold any more," he said. "I've always operated on the principle that if I charge a fair price and give my customers a little extra, they'll come back again." And they did.

What I learned was that we reap what we sow...in every facet of our lives. Give the minimum, expect to receive the minimum. Give lavishly, extravagantly, and be rewarded in kind. Not that that should be our motivation. But the law that says you can't out give the Lord is immutable. Jesus confirmed it when He preached, "Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Luke 6:38).

It applies to strawberries—and the fruits of the Spirit, as well.

—Fred Bauer

Trustee News

"WHAT ARE THE TRUSTEES UP TO?"

The Trustees are charged with the care and maintenance of the church building, the properties owned by the church and the grounds as well as church usage concerns. We also keep tabs on our church finances and our financial well being.

If you have any questions or concerns here is a list of our Trustees: James Jackson, Margaret Brown, Bob Simmons, Mark Lovett, Todd Wagner, and Scott Ehrich. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any concerns that need addressing, or to answer a question that you may have. We are all here to serve.

As a group we have been pretty busy in and around our church, here is a partial list of what is going on or will be shortly.

1. Just in case you may have missed it, the cross in the sanctuary is out for refinishing, and should be back soon.
2. The coat hallway and stairs to the upstairs teen room have been painted.
3. We are getting bids to repair and restore the porch on the west side of the church, off the dining hall. It is in pretty bad shape, and is in dire need of repairs.
4. Railings for the front entrance of the parsonage have been completed.
5. A very small but dedicated group of people have been working on clearing out the weeds and such at the front church entrance, and hopefully we can get the funds together to finish re-landscaping the Cutler St. entrance to our church.
6. The encapsulated asbestos in the boiler room has been removed and disposed of.
7. The old fluorescent bulbs for the basement are in the process of being changed out for LED bulbs. The result should be a brighter basement, and a cost savings on our electric bill.

I know there is more going on, as many things happen around the church almost as if by magic. Many thanks to those who step in for our church home to make things happen.

If there are any suggestions concerning our church building, or maintenance issues, please contact the chair of trustees, and the board will diligently look into any items that might be brought to our attention.

Our church attendance for this month:

July 7: 79

July 14: 71

July 21: 69

Sincerely, on behalf of your trustees,

Scott Ehrich

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
323 Cutler Street Allegan, MI 49010
Church Phone—673-3139
Fax Phone—269-355-1509
Pastor Cory J. Klein—269-615-0605
Email: fccofallegan@gmail.com
Web-site fccofallegan.weebly.com
Office Hours Mon—Sat 9:00am—1:00pm
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Our newsletters are brought to you
through the generosity of the following:

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If you would like to contribute, you may send your check to the church or place it in the offering on any Sunday. Please designate the amount for "NEWLETTER". \$25.00 covers the cost of one mailing.