

THE ALLEGAN CONGREGATIONALIST



JULY 2021

Barbara Brower

Kay Butler,

Kelly Callan,

Tina Cook

Trevor Ellis

Carolyn Goff

Ellie Hagg

Ruby Hyde

Phyllis Hodge

Ray Hoffman,

Rick Jones

Kim Klein & family

Joyce Ilmberger,

Amanda Martin

Brenda Mahn,



Dian Main,

Donna Overmyer

Norm Pierson,

Mark Ross,

Don & Marilyn Sieber

Randy Vander Hulst

Known but unnamed

We are happy 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.

A PRAYER FOR JULY

Father in heaven, who loves all, help the children when they call; that they may build from age to age, an undefiled heritage...teach us delight in simple things, and mirth that has no bitter springs; forgiveness free of evil done, and love to all men 'neath the sun.

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

MISSION STATEMENT

"Our church exists to introduce people to Jesus Christ and to train those who already know Him."

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

Our Missionaries: The Dickerson in Hungary, the Frasers in Hungary, the Johnsons in Indonesia,

Our Shut-ins: Barbara Brower, Josephine Cole, Doris Edwards, Marilyn Kent, Donna Overmyer, Linda Sweet.

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 Afghanistan

Aaron Siegler in Battle Creek

Jackson Foster in Lackland, AFB, TX

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Mista Gates at - GRCC

Armstrong Haag—GCC

Annika Hansen at—U Tampa

Emmie Henningson—MSU

Evie Klein —FSU

Alex Letts—LMC

Abigale Olmstead—WMU

Gabby Wagner—KVCC

Maddison Wagner —Adrian College

If you know of anyone else please let the office know.

We would like to thank

Gwen Calkins

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 pm at the

First Congregational Church

LUNCHEON SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the 4th Thursday of every month at

11:00am—1:00 pm in the

Schuyler Room at AGH.

Ushers & Greeters:

Dennis Wells

Liturgist:

Jeff Polonowski



- 1 Sarah Olmstead
- 6 Elizabeth Campbell
- 13 Leah Van Order
- 18 Aida Letts
Beren Klein
- 19 Jason Johnson
- 20 Annika Hansen
Evie Klein
- 23 Sarah Belden
- 26 Abigale Olmstead
- 29 Pam Johnson
Brittany Morgan
- 30 Gabby Belden

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

ANNIVERSARIES FOR JULY

- 1 Dale & Sarah Olmstead
- 18 George & Elaine Vining
- 24 Mark & Carrie Lovett

“PRAYING FOR ANYTHING”

When we were young, we talked to [God] freely. With a child's faith, knowing he loved us, we trusted him with the details of our lives. Nothing was too small and, for sure, nothing was too big to ask of him.. In unguarded innocence, we prayed for anything.

...See if these [letters written to God by children] don't take you back to a time of innocence and openness in your relationship with him:

Dear Lord,

Thank you the nice day today. You even fooled the TV weather man - Hank (age 7)

Dear Lord,

Do you ever get mad? My mother gets mad all the time but she's only human.

Yours Truly David (age 8)

Dear Lord,

I need a raise in my allowance. Could your angels tell my Father? Thank you.

David (age 7)

Dear God,

Charles my cat got run over. And if you made it happen, you have to tell me why.

Harvey (age 7)

—Charles R. Swindoll
In *Hope Again*

The Pastor's Pen – July 2021

Webster's dictionary defines the word *literally* in two ways...

- 1) in a literal sense or manner: such as
 - a. in a way that uses the ordinary or primary meaning of a term or expression
 - b. used to emphasize the truth and accuracy of a statement or description
 - c. with exact equivalence: with the meaning of each individual word given exactly
 - d. in a completely accurate way
- 2) in effect: VIRTUALLY – used in an exaggerated way to emphasize a statement or description that is not literally true or possible¹

Why do these two definitions seem to be describing opposite words? Because the English language (and all languages for that matter) is in a constant state of fluctuation. The word *literally* has seen a major shift in its use over the past five centuries when Martin Luther used the latin term *sensus literalis* to describe the proper way to interpret Scripture. When Luther spoke of *sensus literalis* he was expressing an interpretive approach that would consider the type of literature that one was reading.

For example, when one reads the Psalms, that person must know that he is reading poetic, musical lyrics that were sung by Jewish people thousands of years prior. So in Psalm 91 when we read, *"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty,"* it is understood that the shelter of the Most High does not refer to the base camp on Mount Everest and that the shadow of the Almighty is not talking about the actual shadow of the strongest man alive. We know that this passage refers to trusting in God and finding peace in Him. That is the *sensus literalis*. It is how we can read the Bible *literally* with the original definition of that word.

Why am I talking about this? Because we as a church are about to enter one of the most difficult and often debated passages of Scripture: Matthew 24. In Jesus' Olivet discourse Jesus begins to speak in what is known as apocalyptic language. This is a special type of literature that is used sporadically throughout the Bible. You will find such language employed in the Old Testament by many of the prophets. It is also predominant in the book of Revelation.

¹ Merriam Webster online dictionary; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/literally> : (accessed July 1, 2021)

Apocalyptic language is known for its heavy symbolism and hyperbole. A great example of this is in the book of Isaiah, chapter 19, when God speaks of judgment coming upon the nation of Egypt...

An oracle concerning Egypt:

See, the LORD rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt.

The idols of Egypt tremble before him,

And the hearts of the Egyptians melt within them.

Now when this judgment came upon Egypt, did people actually see God riding upon a speedy cloud? Did the gold idols really begin to tremble as if they were afraid? Did the hearts of the people truly melt away as if they were made of wax? Of course not. Yet this picture accurately describes the judgment of God upon this nation.

When we get to Matthew 24, we will see Jesus using very similar language. He will describe the sun being darkened and the moon not giving its light. He will speak of the stars falling from the sky and the heavenly bodies shaking. How are we to interpret this if we are to take the Bible *literally*?

I believe the older definition of the word, the definition that Martin Luther used, the *sensus literalis*, is the proper way to go about this passage as well as all passages in God's Word. Let us understand that Jesus is speaking apocalyptically. Let us know that He is employing heavy use of both metaphor and hyperbole. Only then can we get to the true sense of the text and what Christ was actually communicating to both His disciples and to us.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Cory

First Congregational Ch.
323 Cutler Street
Allegan, MI 49010

JULY 2021

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e-mail firstcongrchurch@firstcongrchurch.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div> USHER & GREETER: Dennis Wells LITURGIST: Jeff Polonowski </div>						
4 4th of JULY 9:00 am ALPHA 10:30 am Worship	5 5:30 pm Women's Fellowship	6	7 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	8 9:00 am & 12:30pm Food Warehouse 3:-6:pm Dinner Take out only	9 8:00 am Warehouse	10
11 9:00 am ALPHA 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Trustees meeting	12	13 11:00 am Hospice	14 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	15 9:00 am & 12:30 pm warehouse 3:-6:pm Dinner Take out only	16 8:00 am Warehouse	17
18 9:00 am ALPHA 10:30 am Worship/Comm. 12:00 pm C.E. meeting	19	20 7:00pm Diaconate Meeting	21 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	22 9:00pm & 12:30pm warehouse 3:-6:pm Dinner Take out only	23 8:00am Warehouse	24
25 9:00 am ALPHA 10:30 am Worship at Little John 12:00 pm Church Picnic	26	27 11:00 am Hospice	28 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	29 9:00 am & 12:30pm Food Warehouse 3:-6:pm Dinner Take out only	30 8:00 AM Warehouse	31

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 Tues.—Sat. 9:00am—1:00pm
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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