THE ALLEGAN CONGREGATIONALIST

MAY 2019

Prayers for members and Friends of our church family:

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

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 MAY

Mid all the traffic of the ways, Turmoils without, within, make in my heart a quiet place, and come and dwell therein. A little place of mystic grace, of self and sin swept bare, where I may look upon Thy face, and talk with thee in prayer.

John Oxenham (1861-1941)

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:
Trevor Faas—WMU
Colton Fairbanks—MSU
Mista Gates at - GRCC
Emmie Henningson—MSU
Abigale Olmstead—WMU
Alicia 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."

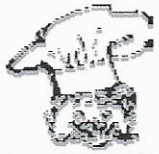
We would like to thank
Marjorie Rupp
For her generous gift, which has made this edition of The Allegan Congregationalist Possible. Thank you!

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
May 11th at 8:00 am
all men are invited.

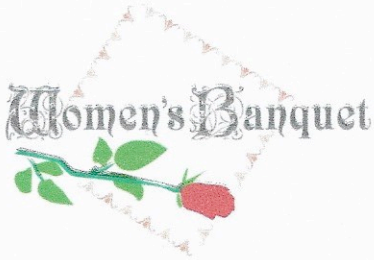


NEW ADDRESSES

Sam & Tonya Goodenough
8647 Summer Ridge
Freeland, MI 48623

Amanda Martin
509 Trowbridge St.
Allegan, MI 49010

Let us believe that God is in all our simple deeds and learn to find Him there.
A.W. Tozer



Just an update to let you know that the annual Women's Banquet will be held on May 7th at 6:00 pm. Dinner is a potluck, so get your favorite dish ready. All ladies of all ages are invited to come. Entertainment will follow. This years theme will be "ADVENTURE AWAITS"

Some men are needed to help serve and clean up. Your help would be very much appreciated. Looking forward to

A PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

On this day of sacred memories, Our Father, we would thank thee for our Mothers who gave us life, who surrounded us early with love and care, whose prayers on our behalf still cling around the throne of grace, a perfume of love's petitions.

Help us, their children, to be more worthy of their love. We know that no sentimentality on this day, no material gifts, no flowers or boxes of candy, can atone for our neglect during the rest of the year. So in the days ahead, may your love speak to the hearts who know love best, by kindness, by compassion, by simple courtesy and daily thoughtfulness.

Bless her, whose name we whisper before Thee, and keep her in thy perfect peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Pastor's Pen – May, 2019

In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity...

This phrase was coined by a 17th Century German Theologian named Rupertus Meldenius. At the time there was discord within the Lutheran Church, so Rupertus penned a book in response. He argued that unity amongst the Brethren should flow out of the commonality they found in the Book of Concord (The Lutheran doctrines of faith).

This saying, has thus been used by many Protestant churches ever since, and for good reason. I feel that Rupertus hit on the essence of the Biblical teaching of unity. Taking a look at the three posited commands, we find that this is in agreement with what we see in the New Testament.

In Essentials Unity: Here we see what makes us Christians. There are certain doctrines (or teachings) that one must believe in order to be called a Christian. Theologians often refer to these things are Primary Doctrines. They include things like Jesus dying for our sins and Him rising from the dead. They include the fact that God is Triune in nature; so the Son, the Holy Spirit and the Father are all God, and yet they are three distinct persons.

Without faith in doctrines such as these, one cannot rightly call themselves a Christian. This is why groups like the Mormons and the Jehovah Witnesses are considered to be outside the Christian faith, for they have rejected one or more of these Primary Doctrines.

Like the Apostle John warned us, we must test the spirits...

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.
~ I John 4:1-3

So our unity comes from what is essential, these Primary Doctrines that we hold dear and upon which we are saved. Without such things, there is no fellowship in Christ.

In Non-Essentials Liberty: There are also Christian teachings that are to be considered non-essential. They are Secondary and Tertiary Doctrines. These are things that are not vital to ones' salvation. It is not that these things are not important; but disagreements upon such teachings should not cause disunity.

An example of this would be the doctrine of baptism. Can an infant be baptized? Must a person have professed faith in Christ before being baptized? There is liberty in such disagreements. Baptists and Presbyterians can have Christian Unity with one another, even though they hold opposing views. Both are in the faith and are therefore brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Apostle Paul teaches us how to stay unified in such disputes...

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.
~ Romans 14:1-3

So we are to give liberty to those who hold differing opinions on these secondary issues. They are not important enough to divide us.

In All Things Charity: Charity (or Love) must be the goal in all our interactions. When we are dealing with ones we consider outside the faith, those with whom we are in disunity, we must not bear them ill will. Rather we must correct them in love, hoping that they will see the errors of their ways and come to saving faith in Christ.

Likewise, when we are dealing with ones inside the faith with which we have disagreement with, we must act in love as well. It is okay to discuss things such as baptism, so long as we do so amicably, willing to accept the fact that we may never persuade the other to our position.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

So we are to bear with one another in charity, remembering the love that was shown to us at the cross of Christ. In this, we shall find true unity.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Cory

First Congregational Ch.
323 Cutler St.
Allegan, MI 49010

MAY 2019

Ch. Phone 673-3139—Fax 269-355-1509
E-mail fccofallegan@gmail.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Usher & Greeters: Bob & Joan Simmons **Liturgist:** Joanie Townsend		Pastor Cory & family will be on vacation starting April 28 th thru May 6th. He will be back in the office on May 7th.	1 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	2 9:00 am—12:30 pm Food Warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	3 8:00 am Warehouse	4 4:00-7:00 pm Acolytes & friends
5 9:00 am Sunday School Ukulele Band 10.30 am Worship 9:00 am Sunday School	6	7 6:00 pm Women's Banquet	8 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	9 9:00 am—12:30 pm Food Warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	10 8:00 am Warehouse	11 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
12 MOTHER'S DAY Ukulele Band 10.30 am Worship 12:00 pm Trustee's 7:00 pm AWAKE	13	14 11:00am Hospice 6:30 pm Diaconate	15 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	16 9:00 am—12:30 pm Food Warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	17 8:00 am Warehouse	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/ Communion 12:00 pm C.E. meeting 7:00 pm Disciple	20	21 7:00 Big Picture Bible Study	22 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	23 9:00 am—12:30 pm Food Warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	24 8:00 am Warehouse	25
26 9:00 am Sunday School Ukulele Band 10.30 am Worship 12:00 pm C.E. meeting 7:00 pm AWAKE	27 	28 11:00am Hospice 7:00 Big Picture Bible Study	29 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	30 9:am—12:30 pm Food Warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	31 8:00 am Warehouse	

LOOK WHO IS HAVING A BRITHDAY THIS MONTH!

01 Winnie Klein
05 Ethan Belden
06 Rob Proctor
09 Rick Hansen
10 Rhoda Ryan
11 Jennifer Anderson
14 Cory Klein
15 Denise Lucas
Julie DeHaan
19 Tonya Goodenough
27 Carl Geupel
Jeff Brown
Allyson Stoughton
29 Jeff Henningson
30 Dan Wagner
31 Anthony Baskin

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

Ushers & Greeters
Bob & Joan Simmons

Liturgist:
Joanie Townsend

Coffee Hour
05 OPEN
12 OPEN
19 OPEN
26 OPEN

ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

12 Rick & Amy Hansen
20 Dean & Rose Michaels
21 Randy & Renee Gleason-Stickley

Praise You, Lord, for the grace of motherhood that sees Your beauty in the midst of bedlam.

My husband asked for a different table, but none was free. He'd brought me to my favorite restaurant for Mother's Day dinner, and a noisy family party was seated next to us.

There were eighteen of them: seven children, eleven adults. The baby in the booster seat was wailing, two men argued baseball scores over the heads between, and no one could remember who had ordered the scalloped potatoes.

In the place of honor at the head of the table, her head barely high enough to see over it, sat a tiny old lady wearing an enormous corsage of white carnations.

As the meal progressed, there were the inevitable spills and scoldings, disagreements over whether the salad plate was on the right or left, and squabbling children The elderly little guest of honor fell asleep.

But watching them, I was glad we hadn't moved. It was chaos, mess, anything but tidy. It was tears, togetherness, confusion, acceptance. It was Mother's Day.

—-Elizabeth Sherrill

First Congregational Ch. Of Otsego
Women's Ministry Team
would like to invite you to:

SATURDAY MORNING LADIES TEA
FEATURING
BROOKE TAYLOR
(Radio Host of JOY99)
SUE CRAMER
(Owner of Mezzo Coffee House)
"How to have JOY when it's
not the BEST DAY EVER!"

May 18, 2019
10:00am (doors open at 9:30 am)
Refreshments following
First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St. Otsego
(Parking lot is on the corner of
Farmer & W. Franklin Streets
Tickets are free you just need to call the office to reserve your seat(s) or sign up at the church (Free Will Basket)
Linda at 269-694-6085
Peggy at 269-694-1194 Leave message
Please call by May 12th.

"HUGS FOR OUR CHILDREN"

"Lay up theses words of mine in your heart and in your soul...Teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
Deuteronomy 11:18-19 NKJV

Have you hugged a child lately? If so you've experienced one of life's great pleasures. Every child is a priceless gift from the Creator. And when we share love and affection with our children, we- and –they– are blessed beyond measure.

As parents, friends of parents, aunts, and grandmothers, we understand the critical importance of raising our children with love, with discipline, and with God. It's a tall order and a profoundly important responsibility. But with God's help, we can do it.

Every child needs the presence of caring adults who serve as positive role models. May we, as concerned adults, behave ourselves-and raise our children-accordingly.

A child's hand in yours-what tenderness it arouses, what power it conjures. You are instantly the very touchstone of wisdom and strength.
Marjorie Holmes

'I LOVE YOU THIS MUCH'
By Solveig Swanson

Even as an infant our Meghan had no time for hugs and cuddles. Knowing how barren life could be without touch, I determined I would teach her how to cuddle.

For months I consciously touched her whenever I could but saw no progress. "Direct eye contact" and "focused attention" helped, but still she would not cuddle. Then one day I began a love litany:

"I love you Meghan. I will always love you. No matter what…" I said more then ended with a question. "How much do I love you?" Meghan thought. "I love you this much," I said, throwing my arms wide apart. Then we laughed. I repeated the process often.

One day after her nap, I did the litany while rubbing her back. Her brother yelled, "Meghan, come outside!" She jumped up, but then she stopped, turned around and said, "Do it again, Mama." I could hardly speak.

Megan is five now, and the other day as we climbed some stairs she said, "Mom, you know what?" "What?" I said. "I love you," she began. "I will always love you," she continued the litany. We reached the top step. " I love you this much?" she finished, as I whirled around to pull her up into my arms. She laughed. I cried.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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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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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.