



The Allegan Congregationalist

November 2022

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

Musings on Thanksgiving

by Todd Wagner

Upcoming Events:

- 11/12 Hymn Sing
6:30 PM
- 11/19 Annual Bazaar
9 AM–2 PM
- 11/27 Advent begins
- 12/4 UMC Carols by
Candlelight 7 PM

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With the beginning of November, we slowly leave the colorful autumn season behind and enter another which soon ushers in several months of winter. Do you anticipate this time or dread it?

When I think of November, two big things stand out to me. One is the time when I go into the woods enjoying time in God’s creation. Though I intend to bag that trophy deer and fill my freezer, I am simply satisfied by having alone time with God in His creation. In case you’re wondering, you can take the best naps ever while in the woods!

The second thing that more notably stands out is the anticipation of Thanksgiving: a time when the family gathers to enjoy time together, not to mention a wonderfully prepared meal with all the

best desserts. It’s not every day that someone prepares a turkey dinner with all the seasonal fixings! This is something to anticipate.

As I reflect on Thanksgiving, I’ve come to realize how much we take this holiday for granted, just like everything else in America. This holiday, like many others, has been commercialized and directed toward worldly things, including money and material possessions. It’s no longer a time to stop and reflect on the blessings God has provided, but a time to kickoff shopping sprees with big Black Friday sales! Our culture has lost the historical perspective of how we came to celebrate Thanksgiving in the first place. Not only why we celebrate it in America, but why we celebrate it as God’s children. When was



the last time you thought about Thanksgiving from a biblical perspective instead of an American one?

I’ve come to realize just how fortunate I am. Not because of anything I’ve done or American opportunity, but because of God’s provision and the gifts He has afforded me to share with others. I’ve also come to realize how little I thank God for all the blessings He has not only provided my family and me, but also the blessings He has provided to others I know. Whether good or bad, they’re still blessings from God. In the Bible, we find two words for Thanksgiving. The

Musings on Thanksgiving (cont.)

Hebrew word is *todah* and the Greek word is *eucharistia*. These words mean the act of offering thanks or being thankful, usually to God. They mean gratitude or conveying gratefulness to God as an act of worship. Often these words are connected to provision, deliverance, or God's character and are associated in Scripture with meals and worship. In the Old Testament, thanksgiving was commonly tied to blessing, thanks, and confession.

Thanksgiving bears a prominent place in the Psalms, both on an individual (Ps. 116) and communal (Ps. 100) level. In the New Testament, thanksgiving is tied to the concept of "grace."

When was the last time you took a moment to think about everything

in your life for which you're thankful? Better yet, how often do you convey your gratefulness to God? I'm not just talking about all the "good stuff" either. Even the "bad stuff" is something we should be thankful for because it is a time when God does some of His best work in our lives. It's how he changes us from within, shapes our way of thinking, and helps us to endure trials while He strengthens our hope. Paul does a great job explaining this in his letter to the Romans.

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because

God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

(Romans 5:1-5)

As believers, we are truly blessed to have the peace of God through Jesus to whom we now have access through our faith in Him. Thus, as we approach Thanksgiving, do not be thankful for just the material blessings you have. I encourage you to be thankful from a biblical perspective. To spiritually reflect on how God has blessed you. Thanks, confession, and praise were a priority for King David, and they should be for you too. In Psalm 69:30 we read,

"I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving."

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

(Psalm 95:2)

Whether through prayer, relational conversation, song, or a meditation on His word, praise God with gratitude, gratefulness, and thanksgiving.

He is worthy!



An Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

What song transports you back to a specific time and place whenever you hear it? Is it the last song played at high school dance you enjoyed? A lullaby that brings rest? A tune song offkey and on repeat on a family road trip?

What songs of faith make your heart soar? Your eyes tear? Your smile raise? Can you hear a loved one humming that song as she made dinner? Can you feel the rumble of a bass voice sing with heartfelt triumph?

Music holds memory. It makes a direct connection with our hearts. It fills our sanctuary every Sunday

and will do so again this coming Saturday, November 12. At 6:30, Pastor Greg Carlson will join us to play the organ and we're going to rattle the roof of the First Congregational Church.

Participants will have an opportunity to select their favorite hymn. Music of our faith will transport us and carry us to joyful thanksgiving. A dessert reception will immediately follow the songfest.

Please join us! This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend or a neighbor.



A Treasure of Trunks were a Treat for All

We had an awesome turnout for our first Trunk or Treat event. God blessed us by withholding the rain, providing warm weather, and more importantly directing families to our church.

We had a total of 7 cars decorated with biblical themes ranging from Racing to Jesus, Soaring High with God's Love, Daniel's Lion Den, Noah's Ark, Fishers of Men, Fruit stand with Fruits of the Spirit and God at Work.

Approximately 411 bags with an invitation to worship with us at the First Congregational Church were handed out to families throughout the event and we even had a couple of people asking about our church as they're looking for a church home! We definitely got the "4.1.1." out to the community in those 411 bags.

Believe it or not, the biggest desire wasn't the candy, but the enjoyment of seeing the cars

decorated and fresh popcorn which was a hit.

We're thankful for God's blessing and provisions. Please join us in prayer that the seeds that were planted would take root and begin to grow. Pray that those who were seeking a new church home would come and find open arms into a welcoming family of believers.



Our Church Bazaar: Saturday, November 19



On Saturday, November 19 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM the Women’s Fellowship will host our annual church bazaar. This is the largest fundraiser for our group and will help with housekeeping projects, ladies’ ministry programs, and fellowship events.

How Can You Help?

Donate

We are seeking your donations of baked goods, cookies, Christmas décor, & craft items. It will be most helpful to have your items by Friday, 11/18, when set-up commences.

Volunteer

Come join the fun. Many hands make light work and we’d love to join together for a successful fundraiser. Volunteers are needed to setup, oversee tables during the bazaar, and teardown.

Shop

New this year, we have invited local vendors to join us with their own wares. Vendors will have an assortment of items including homemade cards, lotions, art, smittens, Mary Kay, Scentsy. A few tables are yet



available. The cost for a vendor table is \$50. Please contact Theresa Prolo at 269-650-2037 for additional information.



Each week following service, the Women’s Fellowship hosts coffee and snacks to help foster community within our church family. How can you participate? Please stay after and join us on Sunday mornings. Also, let us know if you would like to host one Sunday to celebrate a special occasion. We’ll be right along side you to help with the coffee, set-up, & clean up.

Missionary Update: The Dickersons

Will & Julia Dickerson serve in Budapest, Hungary with One Mission Society. In their monthly newsletter, they shared the following requests:

Praise:

- Successful adoption of Reese by Will’s daughter & family

- Julia’s involvement with MOPS and the fruit it will bear

Please pray:

- Will’s healing following hernia surgery.
- Julia’s skin cancer removal and diminishing eyesight



- Labor tensions at school and the upcoming appointment of a new school principal.

Can You Hear Me Now?

Soon you will be able to hear our worship service better. Work began on 10/31 to replace the speaker. We anticipate the project to be completed later this month with the arrival of new microphones.

The improvement to sound quality will be evident. The former speaker was removed and replaced with one from Martin Audio. Sound specialists then tuned the speaker through our amp for the sound acoustics of the sanctuary. The result will be pleasant to your ears.

Online streaming will also

experience an improvement to sound quality. We have made some adjustments and routed sound through the board. In addition, our wonderful sound technicians will be able to adjust volume both for the sanctuary and online, independently.



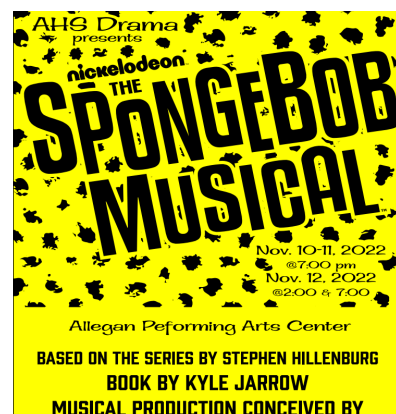
Community Connections

- 11/5 Blessed Sacrament Fall Harvest Bazaar 9AM—1 PM
- 12/3 United Methodist Bazaar
- 12/4 Carols by Candlelight 7 PM at UMC
- Following extensive training & preparation, the Allegan Bible Church will launch a Christ centered 12-step Celebrate Recovery program this coming Feb-Mar. It is a

safe place to address destructive or compulsive behaviors, unhealthy relationships, addictions, and so much more. People can find freedom from any hurt, hang-up or habit that is making their life unmanageable. Volunteers are desired, find more info:

www.alleganbiblechurch.com/recovery

- 11/10 & 11 at 7 PM; 11/12 at 2 PM. Come out to support the Allegan Drama program. You'll see a familiar face or two!





01 Al & Lisa Letts
 05 Stub & Cathy Moored
 07 Rob & Denni Proctor

04 Lizzy Ehrich
 Jacob Hansen
 07 Kim Klein
 10 Joan Simmons
 Elaine Cochran
 16 Elsie Jones

17 Olivia Belden
 19 Doug Nooney
 Dale Hedberg
 21 Cathy Moored



2022

Please call the office if there is an anniversary or birthday you would like to add to the list.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 9:45 & 12:30 Food Warehouse 3-5:30 CK Take-out Dinner	4 8 Food Warehouse	5
6 9 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Noon CE Mtg	7 5:30 Women's Fellowship Mtg	8 10 Grief Group 7 Diaconate Mtg	9 5:45 Prayer Mtg	10 9:45 & 12:30 Food Warehouse 3-5:30 CK Take-out Dinner	11 8 Food Warehouse	12 8:30 Men's Breakfast 6:30 Hymn Sing!
13 9 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Noon Trustee Mtg	14	15	16 5:45 Prayer Mtg	17 9:45 & 12:30 Food Warehouse 3-5:30 CK Take-out Dinner	18 8 Food Warehouse	19 9-2 Church Bazaar
20 9 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	21	22 10 Grief Group	23 5:45 Prayer Mtg	24 Happy Thanksgiving 	25 8 Food Warehouse	26
27 9 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	28	29	30 5:45 Prayer Mtg			

The First Congregational Church of Allegan



323 Cutler St - Allegan, MI 49010

Church Phone: 269-673-3139

Email: fccofallegan@gmail.com

Website: fccofallegan.weebly.com

Office Hours: M, W, F 9 AM—Noon

Worship with us on Sundays at 10:30 AM!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Communion will be served on 11/20

Father –
we live in what seems
to be dark times.
In a world that appears
to be spinning out of control
and where evil things
are taking strong root.
But we praise your holy name
and are thankful
for even these times
because we know

you are in complete control
and that we are yours.
You have provided
the cup of thanksgiving
in your blood to us,
and you have
broken the bread of life
and given it to us.
Though we are many,
we belong to and share
in the one loaf.

Your Word tells us we
***“receive a kingdom that cannot
be shaken, let us be thankful,
and so worship you acceptably
with reverence & awe.”***
(Hebrews 12:28).
***“Let the peace of Christ
rule in our hearts
and be thankful.”***
(Colossians 3:15).