THE ALLEGAN CONGREGATIONALIST

OCTOBER 2018

Prayers for members and Friends of our church family:

Kay Butler,
Kelly Callan,
Bill Carr,
Tina Cook,
Chic Heckman,
Bob Hoyt,
Ray Hoffman ,
Joyce Llimburger,
Jeff Ladd,
Brenda Mahn
Donna Overmyer,
Norm Pierson,
Sue Pumpkin,
Mark Ross,
Don Sieber
Randy Vander Hulst

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
Matt Cockran is home
Shane Coopmans in Hill Air Force Base in UT
Cody Davis in Iraq,
David DeZwaan in Afghanistan,
Andrew Hodgson in New River, NC
Christian Ofalla in Yuma AZ,
Alex Proskurnya in Fort Benning, GA,
Aaron Siegler in Battle Creek

Our World: Our US Government and local leaders, for peace and justice in the Mideast.
Our Missionaries: Will & Julia Dickerson in Hungary, the Frasers in Hungary, the Johnsons are in Indonesia, Mission Mazahua in Mexico.
Our Shut-ins: Dorothy Chacey, Jane Nahikian, Linda Sweet , Forrest Tiff.

A PRAYER FOR OCTOBER

We thank Thee, Lord, that of Thy tender grace, in our distress Thou hast not left us wholly comfortless. We thank Thee, Lord, that of Thy Wondrous might into our night Thou hast sent down the glory of the Light. We thank Thee, Lord, at all thy wondrous ways, through all our days are wisdom, right, and ceaseless tenderness

John Oxenham (1861-1941)

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Trevor Faas—WMU
Colton Fairbanks—MSU
Abigale Olmstead—WMU
Alicia Olmstead—WMU,
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
Cheryl Joyce
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
10:00—11:30 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.

Men's Breakfast is on
Oct. 13th at 8:00am
all men are invited.

The Deacons are planning an outing to Harvest Moon Acres in Gobles again this year. We will meet at the front entrance on Saturday, October 20th at 1:00 pm and enter in together as to get the group discount. If we have a group of 20 or more, the cost is $9.00 per person instead of $10.00. (Children 2 and under are free). The Fun Zone closes at 6:00 pm. The Maze and Hay rides close at 10:00 pm. Harvest Moon Acres is located on M-40 South just outside of Gobles city limits.

Groupon is currently running a deal on tickets to Harvest Moon Acres. If you are planning on going with our church on October 20th, you may want to grab this deal! It is better than the group discount. You can choose admission for 2 for $11, admission for 4 for $21, or admission for 6 for $28. It says "Limited Time Remaining", so get it while it lasts! Email is https://www.groupon.com/deals/harvest-moon-acres-5

OCTOBER 28TH following the morning service we will hold our Quarterly Church Council meeting.

All Chairpersons are asked to have their reports ready. These reports can be given in writing or orally.

Church Clerk—Elaine Cochran
Pastor—Pastor Cory Klein
Diaconate—Elsie Jones
Christian Education—Ted DeHaan
Memorial—Joanie Townsend
Missions—Joanie Townsend
Congregational Kitchen—Don Lucas
Music—Rhoda Ryan
Women's President—Theresa Prolo
Women's Treasurer—Julie DeHaan
Financial Secretary—Ann Carns
Trustee—Scott Ehrich
Financial—Julie DeHaan

- Are you ready for the annual Fall Bazaar? Time is a wasting and before you know it November will be here. Your hand-made items, home canned goodies, pies, cakes, cookies, jewelry, Christmas items that you have not used for awhile. We hope that you have been planning for this and you are ready! Without your help the bazaar will not be as successful as in the years past.

_ It's October and you know what that means....all the stores have Christmas decorations, etc. out! The anticipation of the real reason for the season is building in Your Christian Education. Watch for updates to come your way.

The Pastor's Pen – October, 2018

As Christians, we often talk about being saved. **Saved from What?** Biblically speaking, Jesus saves the believer from the wrath of God. That being the case, is the concept of wrath really essential to proclaiming the Gospel? Or should we set it aside, leaving it for a later date, lest we lose people before they even enter the church door?

Why do we Need a Savior?

I am currently in the middle of preaching through the story of John the Baptist, so the doctrine of a wrathful God has been on my mind frequently. When the Pharisees and Sadducees came to see what John was up to, John said to them these words...

"You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ~ Matthew 3:7b

John spoke of a judgment that was coming. This is why he told people to repent. Unfortunately, this idea of a wrathful God has found its way to the cutting board of many evangelistic methods. Biblically, there is no arguing that God's wrath is what sinners need saving from. So why are so many Christians afraid to share this truth when witnessing to unbelievers? Either the word "wrath" is softened to mean something else, or it is left out altogether.

The Separation Gospel

There is an evangelistic method that is often employed, which I have coined the 'separation gospel'. Using this method, God is described as being too holy for sin to be in His presence. Therefore, a sinner is separated from God. That separation becomes eternal after death unless the sinner repents and believes in Jesus. In a nutshell, 'separation' is how God's wrath is described.

While there is some truth in this method, it is not without its flaws. Many mistakenly think that if a sinner came into God's throne room, then God would become tainted in some way. The analogy I have often heard is of a drop of cyanide into a cup of water. Just as only one drop of cyanide would make the water undrinkable, so would one sinner in God's presence, make Him polluted. This just isn't true.

A better analogy would be of a filthy rag being flung into a raging fire. The fire is unaffected, yet the rag is destroyed. God's holiness cannot get tainted. A sinner may enter His presence. Yet that sinner cannot enter and live.

Think about Isaiah being swept up into God's throne room (Isaiah 6). Isaiah was in a state of ruin, for he had seen God's glory. Yet the burning coal that touched his lips cleansed and atoned for his sins. Only this atonement allowed Isaiah to stand before God. God's Holiness was not affected by Isaiah's presence in the throne room, rather it was Isaiah who was the one affected by a holy God.

The Apostle John writes about the lake of fire, which is also called the second death, in Revelation 20:14. It is a place where God pours out his judgment for all eternity. Hell is not an eternal absence from God's presence, but rather the devastation of sinful creatures under the full weight of God's wrath.

The Biblical Word Pictures

In the Hebrew there are two words used for wrath... אַף (pronounced 'af') and חֵמָה (pronounced 'khay-maw'). אַף (Af) has three meanings... nostril, face and anger. Context of the passage will determine its use. When this word is translated as wrath, a good concept to think of is a raging bull snorting from its nostrils.

חֵמָה (Khay-maw) can mean hot fever, venom or a burning anger. Again, context will give the meaning. When it is defined as wrath, one might picture a person who is so angry, that his face turns hot and red. This person has his anger stored up and is about go off in a fury.

In the Greek, two different words are employed as well. The first is **ὀργή** (pronounced 'or-gay). It means to teem, such as a fruit that is teeming, swelling with juice. When it is used to describe anger, the idea is that it is swelling up from within. This wrath is slowly building, ready to be released.

The second Greek term is **θυμός**, (pronounced Thu-mos), which has the imagery more of a passionate anger, or a drunken anger. It is swift and quick, but will subside just as quickly.

To say that God's wrath is one way (cold and calculated) or another (hot and unbridled) is incorrect thinking. His wrath contains many aspects. This is why the Biblical authors use these different word pictures to describe it.

Cultural Sensitivity

In the world of evangelism, the concept of wrath is often avoided. The reason given is cultural sensitivity. In America today, the concept that Jonathan Edwards made famous in his ***Sinners in the Hands of an angry God*** is no longer in vogue. Instead, God's love is emphasized and set up as a contrast, opposed to wrath. Such a dichotomy is false. God is both loving and wrathful.

Does such confusion exist because the concept of a wrathful God cannot be understood and accepted by our culture? This just simply is not the case. Just because a concept is difficult at first, should not mean that the listener does not have the ability to comprehend. Though love and wrath may seem like polar opposites at first glance, when God's holiness and greatness are explained, many of the misconceptions disappear.

The burden of clarification is upon the evangelist. He or she must make known what the Bible says in a clear way. This is true contextualization. And if that truth offends the cultural senses, does it make it any less true? Who is to blame; God's Word or the culture that rejects such notions? Yet time and again the truth is obfuscated for the sake of 'winning souls'.

Bait & Switch

The argument is also made that wrath is not important to the saving message and can be avoided until a later time during the discipleship process. Yet if one looks closely enough at the Gospel message, wrath is unavoidable. To claim that Jesus saves a person from their sins implicitly demands a wrathful God. Why should a person even worry about their sins if not for God's wrath?

In truth, this topic cannot be pushed to the curb unless a false gospel is being proclaimed. And if that is the case, then false converts are the result. And if the wrath of God is taught at a later date, the 'convert' will for the first time be confronted with the truth of their sin and will either fall away or finally be brought to true repentance and faith in Jesus. However, if God's wrath is forever swept under the rug, then this could lead to the most tragic outcome of all... a false convert living out their days under the notion that they are saved, when in reality they lack faith in the one true God.

This is a challenge for the modern evangelist. What will take prominence in you share your faith with others; the truth of God's Word or cultural capitulations? Will you trust in the message that Christ has given us, even though it may result in 'lower numbers'? Are you willing to become an offense to those who are perishing?

If you want to preach the true Gospel, the wrath of God is unavoidable. Without the bad news about God's anger against sin, the good news of rescue from sin and judgment just doesn't make sense.

Pastor Cory

Caveman Dinner PARTY

Acolytes: COME. EAT. GROW.

DATE: Saturday, October 6

TIME: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Ted & Julie DeHaan's
2951 127th Ave
Allegan, MI 49010

BRING: Your Bible, a flashlight, and feel free to wear something in animal print/camo, if you have it. Weather permitting, we will be outdoors.

RSVP: Please let us know if you can join the fun!! 673-4071 or jacks1jr@gmail.com

During our morning worship service, our acolytes bring the light into our worship service. The candles they light at the front of the sanctuary each morning remind us of our Lord. In John 8:12, Jesus said, *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

Acolytes are eligible to serve at age 8 (about 3rd grade) and generally continue through 6th grade. The schedule is coordinated by Julie DeHaan. Please see her with any questions or if your child would like to be included in the schedule.

This year, we are planning monthly youth group gatherings for the acolytes (and their friends) on the first Saturday of the month from 4-7 PM. We'll play games and share dinner together. (Traditionally, at this event we share the meal in a unique way!)

This year, we will be studying a curriculum called, "Lighthouse: An overview for children on the Book of Acts and Glory of God." The first night, we'll review several Bible stories where God has revealed his glory through light. We'll continue to discover how God spreads his light through his people.

Women's Fellowship

Side by Side for the Faith of the Gospel

Ladies, would you like a weekend away to rejuvenate and refresh your spirit?

We have been invited by the Women's Ministry of the First Baptist Church to join their fall retreat at Camp Beechpoint. Worship will be led by Jordyn Osbourn and attendees will be encouraged to grow in their love for God's Word and be rooted and grounded in it. The event is very flexible: attend the days / evenings that fit into your schedule. Cost varies from $50 to $130, and can include overnight accommodations and meals. The deadline to register, October 7, will be here soon! Registration forms were previously in bulletins and are available in the office. We'd love to grow with you.

(Don't let cost be a restraint. We have set aside funds to assist with registration. See Theresa Prolo.)

Bountiful Blessings

Rummage Sale Recap. At the end of August, we had our first Rummage Sale fundraiser with proceeds to be used to glorify God through our service to the community. Your generosity of donations was overwhelming! In fact, the largest portion of items collected in Stella's barn were transported to the church in a full 27' U-Haul. The threat of rain moved most off the sale inside the fellowship hall and tables were overflowing with kitchenware, clothing, books, and home décor. Gross proceeds were just a few dollars shy of $1,200. Many treasures were discovered by shoppers. In fact, one of our neighbors was delighted to refurnish her patio. Another shopper summed it up quite beautifully saying, "I just love these church sales. Prices are so reasonable and items are provided in genuine good will." We can't thank you enough for the items donated and for the many hours of time given by volunteers. A special thanks is extended to Joan Simmons for (she'd humbly say *unofficially")* organizing the event.

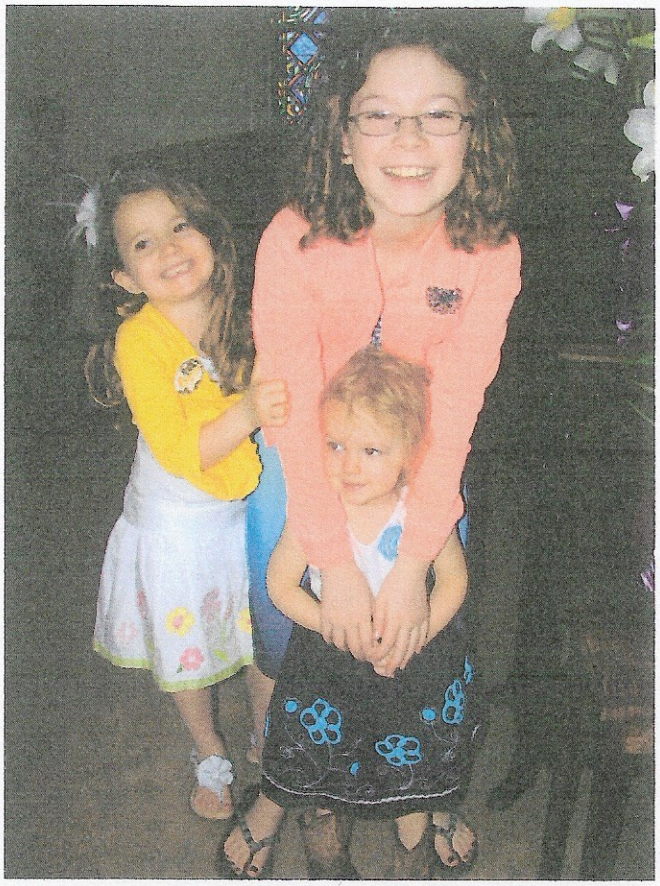
Please mark you calendars...

The Annual Bazaar is Saturday, 11-17.

The Baked Goods & Cookie tables always are very popular. We're hoping for each family to donate a favorite holiday treat!

W.O.G.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY SCHOOL



Grow in His love! Ephesians 3:17

GOD'S LOVE IS TREMENDOUS!

Let's GROW together in God's "TREE-MENDOUS" love!

Welcome back to WORD OF GOD Sunday School 2018-2019! We are looking forward to continuing to grow and learn of God's love through His word. After beginning in the worship service, the stuents in K-6th grades will meet together in our Chapel in the lower level. We will work on scripture, take offering, sing, and pray before going to our classrooms. This year we are delving into the FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT! WATCH for cards coming home each week to CATCH your kiddo(s) showing him/her putting that week's fruit into action! Fill it out and have them BRING it back the next week to build up their classrooms chance for a sweet treat at the end of the month! Our 5th/6th grade students will also be using our class camera to snap photos of the Fruits of the Spirit as they see them happening. Each student will take the camera home for a week to take photos. The photos will be developed and the students will vote and choose the best representation of each fruit. Those photos will be enlarged and framed to hang on the wall in our tunnel! The 7th grade through High School students will meet up-up stairs after the sermon to have discussion time and continue the study of The New City Catechism. They also have the opportunity to stay longer and enjoy hot chocolate, tea, and coffee together.

TEACHERS FOR SEPT/OCT

4/K Mrs. Kline
1-2 grades Mrs. Belden
3-4 grades Mrs. DeHaan
5-6 grades Mr. DeHaan
7th -HS Mrs. Ehrich

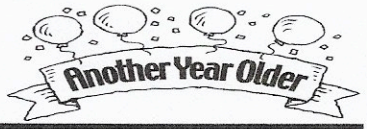
TREMENDOUS -- Extraordinarily large; huge; vast; amazing; wonderful. Causing astonishment by its force.

First Congregational Ch.
323 Cutler Street
Allegan, MI 49010

OCTOBER 2018

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	**2** 5:30 pm Women's Fellowship	**3** 6:15 pm Prayer meeting 7:00 pm Choir	**4** 9:00 am & 12:30pm Food Warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	**5**	**6** 4:00 pm- 7:00 pm Acolyte & Friends
7 9:00 am SundaySchool 9:30 am Ukulele Band 10:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Disciple	**8**	**9** 10:00 am Hospice 6:30 pm Diaconate Meeting	**10** 6:15 pm Prayer meeting 7:00 pm Choir	**11** 9:00 am & 12:30 pm warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	**12** 2018 Ladies Retreat 12th - 14th	**13** 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
14 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Ukulele Band 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Trustee's meeting 7:00 pm AWAKE	**15**	**16** 7:00 pm Big Picture Bible Study	**17** 6:15 pm Prayer meeting 7:00 pm Choir	**18** 9:00 am & 12:30 pm warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	**19**	**20** Harvest Moon Acres in Gobles 1:00pm
21 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Ukulele Band 10:30 am Worship/Communion 12:00 pm C.E. meeting 7:00 pm Disciple	**22**	**23** 10:00 am Hospice 7:00 pm Big Picture Bible Study	**24** 6:15 pm Prayer meeting 7:00 pm Choir	**25** 9:00 am & 12:30 pm warehouse 6:00 pm Dinner	**26**	**27**
28 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Ukulele Band 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Quarterly Ch. Council meeting 7:00 pm AWAKE	**29**	**30** 7:00 pm Big Picture Bible Study	**31** Reformation Day 6:15 pm Prayer meeting 7:00pm Choir	Usher & Greeter: Bob & Joan Simmons Liturgist: Jeff Polonwski		



1 Charlie Cox
2 Andrew Siegler
Janet Hughes-Smith
4 Autumn Goodenough
7 Sam Goodenough
8 Scott Ehrich
12 Andreson Letts
15 Dana Garlow
16 Denni Proctor
Mike Walsh
18 Joanie townsend
19 Steve Mancuso
21 Cathy Moored
22 Doris Edwards
23 Pam Ellinger
25 Otto Baskin
26 Donna Overmyer
Isabella brown
Brittany Rector
27 Nicholas Goodenough
Stub Moored

28 Josphine Cole
31 Ann Carns
Lisa DeArmond

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:

Coffee Hour
07 OPEN
14 OPEN
21 OPEN
28 OPEN
QuarterCh.Council meeting

1 John & Val Kyes
16 Sam & Tonya Goodenough
21 Dale & Ana Hedberg

All night the winds howled, seemingly happy with their damage. Branches were twisted from trees and some trees were toppled to the ground.

The next morning, as my husband and I assessed the damage in our avocado grove, a young mother passed, pointing out the toppled trees to her small child..

"Why did some trees fall and others not?" the little girl asked.

"Only the trees with strong roots were able to stand up in the wind," her mother explained.

How important it is, I thought, *to sink our roots deep into the love of God.* And then when trials come, we will not yield to temptation. We may weather the storms for a time, but like the unsteady trees, eventually we too will topple.

It takes time for faith to grow, but it will take root and then we can stand straight in a storm and whole in the clearing of the dawn.

—June Masters Bacher

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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Pastor Cory J. Klein—269-615-0605
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Office Hours Mon—Sat 9:00am—1:00pm
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SPONSORS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:
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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.