



# The Allegan Congregationalist

October 2022

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

## From Your Deacon's Desk

Todd Wagner

### Upcoming Events:

- 10/2 Sunday School Resumes
- 10/8 Men's Breakfast
- 10/23 Quarterly Meeting
- 10/31 Trunk 'N Treat
- 11/12 Hymn Sing
- 11/19 Annual Bazaar

### Inside this issue:

CE: Amazing Race	2
Word of God Classes	3
Hymn Sing	3
Dickerson Update	4
Fraser Update	5
Women's Fellowship	6
Monthly Calendar	7

As we enter October, we notice the inevitable changes that begin to take place as we leave one season and enter another. The days begin to shorten, the air becomes cooler, and the mornings are now crisp with a light hint of frost on the grass. We see the leaves begin to change color and our flowers, which were once in full bloom displaying all their majesty are now fading and turning that wonderful shade of brown. The farmers are out working the fields, harvesting their crops, and preparing for next spring's planting. All these are visible signs of a changing season. A transition from one place to another. But there's another change that's been taking place, ever so slowly. Have you noticed it? Have you felt it in your spirit? This change is that of our current culture. A move away from what is right to what is wrong. At least, from our perspective as believers

in Christ. Recently, Ligonier Ministries and Lifeway Research released their 2022 report called "The State of Theology." The results were quite interesting, to say the least, and seem to correlate with our current post-modern culture. For example, people who were surveyed were asked, "Does God change?" A shocking 51% of U.S. adults agreed that God does change and that He learns and adapts to different circumstances. In another question, 23% of U.S. adults increasingly reject the divine authorship of the Bible, "relegating it to the same category as other religious writings and purportedly sacred texts." Comparing that to a 2014 survey, one sees a 12% increase. While that may not seem like a lot, there is a definite change taking place. Additionally, more and more Americans take the view that the "Bible's commands against homosexuality are no

longer applicable in society today." While there has been some variability, 2022 reveals an overall increasing secular trend over the years.<sup>1</sup>

As believers, we know that the key to Christianity is Jesus' assertion that He alone is "the way, and the truth, and the life," and that "no one comes to the Father except through Me [Him]" (John 14:6). "Trends over time and the 2022 survey results reveal an increasingly unbiblical belief among evangelicals that God is pleased by worship that comes from those outside the Christian faith." As a believer in Christ, you know the truth and you should have a firm relationship with Him.

So, what does this all mean? Just like we can visibly see changes in the seasons, we need to keep watch for the changes that occur in humanity and mankind. While these seasons have come and gone before, each day we grow closer to a time when the

## From your deacon's desk (continued)

seasons will end, and the Day of the Lord will be upon us. Though these things that are occurring in our culture may be disturbing and the cards may appear to be stacked against us, I urge you all to stand firm in your faith! Boldly profess the Gospel to others every opportunity you have. In 2 Peter 1:1-2 the apostle Peter tells us, "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying

the Sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute." Our adversary is hard at work. Be mindful of what you see and hear and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit every day.

While these seasons and trends have come and gone before, it is clear that with each season of sinful deceit there is an increase of those who look to other "supposed truths" falling

susceptible to the false teachings and lies of our time, while those who once professed God's truth decrease. But if we hold firm in our faith, on which we have taken our stand, we maintain hope in the One who will one day make all things new. As Peter reminds us, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by His own glory and goodness."

2 Peter 1:3

<sup>1</sup> [https://thestateoftheology.com/?utm\\_source=ligonier&utm\\_medium=homepage+marketing+block](https://thestateoftheology.com/?utm_source=ligonier&utm_medium=homepage+marketing+block)

## The Amazing Race for Jesus

On Sunday, September 11, five teams raced across, over, and back across the Allegan County Fairgrounds in an Amazing Race for Jesus. The Christian Education Department sponsored the event providing pizza in the fellowship hall to fuel each team member and the entry fee into the fair. Each team was given a passport containing 16 clues. The clues led teams through-

out the fairgrounds in search of taffy, what the H's in 4H represent, a rabbit named Frodo, a garden under the grandstand, chicken dancing, frozen ice cream treats, even a roadblock at the draft horse barn. All teams completed the race at the historic church with a challenge to throw off everything which hinders and to persevere in the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on

Jesus, the pioneer & perfecter of our faith. Much fun was had by each participant, and a special thanks to Mrs. B. for creating the Sunday School Kickoff event.



## We are Falling for Jesus!

Our Word of God (WOG) classes begin on Sunday, October 2nd. Young people, ages 4 through 6th grade, will be dismissed from our church service to attend their classes. Our teachers are anxious to get started once again bringing God's word to life.



Seventh graders through seniors will remain in the service for the time being. We are looking at more options that will help them grow in their worship life.

We know GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE US! Come and join in!

## An Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

What do you think is the most known hymn in the United States? Did *Amazing Grace* come to mind, or *The Old Rugged Cross*? In a blog from *desiringGod* dated 6/21/21, David Mathis makes an argument for *The Doxology*. You know, those 25 words we sing each week:

PRAISE God FROM WHOM  
ALL blessings FLOW,  
PRAISE Him ALL  
CREATURES HERE BELOW,  
praise HIM ABOVE,  
ye HEAVENLY hosts!  
PRAISE FATHER, Son  
& Holy GHOST  
... Amen

These lyrics have been sung for over 300 years. The lyrics are simple and easy to remember, but not shallow, or as Mathis says,

“plain does not exclude profound.” In singing *The Doxology* we connect with the very purpose of God's design for our hearts: to worship Him! “God made our hearts to ache for happiness. And he made the world, and us, to glorify him. And in this act of praise, our souls both rejoice and go public in expressing their delight in Him!”

We have the honor and privilege to host our annual Old Fashioned Hymn Sing on Saturday, November 12 at 6:30 PM. Pastor Greg Carlson will play the organ as audience members call out their favorite hymns. A dessert reception will follow once we become hoarse from raising the roof with song.

If you have attended in the past, you know your heart will overflow with joy in singing wonderful truths about God. You'll

appreciate how some folks can do it in four part harmony (although this skill is certainly not required.) If

you've not joined us in the past, please mark your calendars now and *Come, Let Us Adore Him* as we *Crown Him with Many Crowns* and find out just how much *It Is Well*.

“The greatest realities about God and his world can be captured in the humblest of terms.”



## An Update from Will Dickerson



Julia and I are now back in Budapest after spending the month of August in Nashville with my daughter, Abby, and her family. Abby and Peter are in the process of adopting a 22-month-old boy by the name of Reese. Reese has a plethora of medical issues and special needs — not the least of which is the need for a kidney transplant. Your prayers for all involved would be greatly appreciated

When we returned to Budapest, we had to hit the ground running. The new school year began on September 1. This year, I have been slated to teach 16 lessons/week. This is down a wee bit from last year, but this reduction in classes comes at my request. Last year was quite a challenge, so I thought I should take it a little easier this year.

Julia volunteers with the MOPS ministry by keeping an eye on the children so that the moms can meet, talk, and do their studies together. You can pray that this ministry will bear much fruit this year. Julia will also resume teaching Sunday School.

Another prayer request is for Julia's vision. Some years ago, she was diagnosed with Retinitis pigmentosa, a degenerative eye disease. Her condition had been

relatively stable for the last few years, but recently it has taken a new turn for the worse. Her vision has degenerated to the point where it is becoming increasingly difficult for her to read, even with enlarged print. You can pray that God would strengthen her vision.

Following my quarterly PSA test, which monitors the cancer marker doctors use to follow patients with prostate cancer, I got really good news! I very much appreciate your prayers. Thank you!

Now I have another prayer request. Unfortunately, it seems that something has come unraveled in my abdomen. I am experiencing quite a bit of pain and discomfort. Dr. Mavrogenis determined that I have a hernia of great magnitude, and he told me I have to go find a surgeon. I guess since this is no longer a matter of urological or oncological concern, it doesn't fall within his purview. I am assuming this is going to lead to another up-close-and-personal encounter with the Hungarian medical system. I am also assuming this will knock me out of commission for a few weeks. I wish I could tell you that I was thrilled about this development and that I was full of thanksgiving and praise . . . but

I would be lying. I think the technical word I would use for this is "bummer." At the moment, I am struggling in the attitude department.

During the month of August, I was able to finish *The Weight of Glory*, the collection of C.S. Lewis' essays that draws its title from the lead essay. This is a wonderful and very insightful essay. If you have not yet read it, I urge you to add it to your own "to read" list. I would also add two of his other essays to the reading list: "On Forgiveness," and "A Slip of the Tongue." These are well worth your time! I also finished reading *You Are Not Your Own* by Alan Noble. This is also a very good book that is worthy of your attention. It offers a good analysis of our contemporary culture and its mindset, but also lays out for us a healthy Christian response.

Once again, we would like to express our deep thanks and appreciation to you for all your prayers and support. We are most grateful for the kindness and generosity shown to us by so many of you as we try to let our light shine. We could not do what we are doing here if it were not for you standing behind us. Thank you!

*Will & Julia*

## An Update from the Frasers: Twenty Years in Hungary



It feels like a lifetime ago! When we first packed up everything and moved to Budapest in 2002, Hannah wasn't quite two, and Tricia was three months pregnant with Matthew. When we look back over the years, we see so many ups and downs, trials and difficulties, and yet we also see God's wonderful faithfulness! He has provided for us, guided us, and encouraged us - many times through you, our faithful supporters. Some of you have been with us since the very beginning, and some just got to know us recently. We are so thankful for all of you! We couldn't still be here without you!

We're also thankful for a lot of things about this past summer. Tricia was able to work in the library, keeping it open for those families in the community who were here. And as we shared last spring, we've had a number of ministry families from Kiev and Moscow move to Budapest and enroll their children at ICSB. As they arrived, many of those families were SO excited to use the library. Our summer library mornings were busier than ever, and our summer circulation numbers DOUBLED from previous years. It was a joy to be able to bless our new families this way,



and we trust that providing their kids with great reading material made their move to Hungary just a bit brighter. Classes have resumed, many of which are at capacity with the recent influx of people displaced by the war.

Last week, we had our Teach Beyond school year kick-off. John encouraged us all to keep growing and being transformed by Christ, which is the only thing that will enable us to be agents of transformation in the lives of our students. We're thankful that we're not called to work in our own strength. We're praying that the Lord will work in us and through us.

*As we head into the new year,  
please pray for us:*

Lift up the new staff at ICSB as they adjust to life in Hungary, and teaching in our community. We have three new staff who moved here because of the war, and three new staff with TeachBeyond. Our new



TeachBeyond staff are: Luiza - teaching 2nd grade. Haley - teaching 8th grade Bible and middle grades ELL. Kyle - teaching art and graphic design to middle and upper grades.

Pray for an end to the war in Ukraine, and for peace to prevail. And please lift all those who are displaced. We're thankful that our community can provide a safe landing place for some, but there is still sorrow and loss for everything they've left behind.

Tricia is one of the team leaders in the re-accreditation process for the school this fall. This is a brand new role for her and she'd appreciate prayers as they prepare for the accreditation team that will examine the school in January.

Continue to pray for John as he serves the TeachBeyond team here as team leader. Pray for wisdom for him and for open doors to teach about apologetics and discipleship.

*The Frasers*



## Calling all Sister Chicks



The Secret Sister program is a ministry of encouragement amongst women at FCC. Participants are paired with a sister in Christ. She'll encourage you with prayer and special notes. At the same time, you'll be doing the same. Our goal is to foster deeper connections with one

another. The program will continue through June at our annual reveal party. In order to participate, please submit your responses to the entry form questions by October 14 to Julie DeHaan. For any questions, call 269-673-4071 or email [jacks1jr@gmail.com](mailto:jacks1jr@gmail.com).

## It's Back...The Annual



After a two year hiatus, the largest annual fundraiser for the women's fellowship returns. We will be hosting the Annual Bazaar and Vendor Showcase on Saturday, November 19 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. As in years past, we'll have tables for cookies, baked goods, Christmas décor, jewelry, & craft items. Your donations are appreciated and non-food items

may be dropped off in the basement storage room on the back shelves. New this year, we have invited local vendors to join us and set-up a table with their own wares. The cost for a vendor table is \$50. If you know of someone who would be interested, see Theresa Prolo for more information.

## Did you know....

The Women's Fellowship meets at 5:30 on the first Monday of the month in the fellowship hall. Our officers include: Theresa Prolo—President, Erica Quinones—VP, Julie DeHaan—Treasurer. We

will have nominations for officers in November and are looking for a Secretary. Come and join us. Have an idea? A fun activity? A housekeeping project? Let us know.

## Secret Sister Entry Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

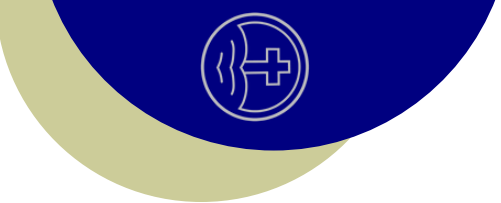
If married: anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

- What is one thing that instantly makes your day better?
- Tell about a decision you made that was easy and you never looked back.
- What are 3 things for which you are thankful?
- Please describe your closest friend? How you met, when, and what fosters your relationship?
- Describe a big challenge you faced.
- What is your useless talent?
- How do you waste time most often?
- What emoji do you use most?
- Do you prefer sweet or salty treats?
- How may your sister pray for....Your family, Your interests, Your work, Your health, Your spiritual walk.



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.

# October 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Usher & Greeter: Rick Allen Liturgist: Jeff Polonowski						1 9:00 Fellowship Hall in use for One Room Schoolhouse Reunion
2 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	3 5:30 Women's Fellowship Mtg	4	5 5:45 Prayer Mtg	6 9:45 & 12:30 Food Warehouse 3-5:30 CK Take-out Dinner	7 8:00 Food Warehouse	8 8:30 Men's Breakfast
04 Autumn Goodenough 07 Sam Goodenough 12 Anderson Letts 16 Denni Proctor 18 Joante Townsend 22 Doris Edwards 26 Donna Overmyer	9 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Trustee Mtg	10 11 7:00 Diaconate Mtg	12 10:00 Grief Group 5:45 Prayer Mtg	13 9:45 & 12:30 Food Warehouse 3-5:30 CK Take-out Dinner	14 8:00 Food Warehouse	15
Isabella Brown 27 Nicholas Goodenough 28 Josephine Cole 31 Ann Carns	16 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 CE Mtg	17 18	19 5:45 Prayer Mtg	20 9:45 & 12:30 Food Warehouse 3-5:30 CK Take-out Dinner	21 8:00 Food Warehouse	22
<b>Celebrating</b> <b>Anniversaries:</b> 01 John & Val Kyles 16 Sam & Tonya Goodenough 21 Dale & Ana Hedberg	23 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Noon Church Quarterly Meeting	24 25	26 10:00 Grief Group 5:45 Prayer Mtg	27 9:45 & 12:30 Food Warehouse 3-5:30 CK Take-out Dinner	28 8:00 Food Warehouse	29
30 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	31 3PM—7 PM Trunk n' Treat at FCC	Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 12 for our annual Hymn Sing at 6:30 with Pastor Greg Carlson on the organ, followed by a dessert reception.				

Want to add a date to the calendar? Call the office.

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

## The First Congregational Church of Allegan



323 Cutler St - Allegan, MI 49010  
Church Phone: 269-673-3139  
Email: [fccofallegan@gmail.com](mailto:fccofallegan@gmail.com)  
Website: [fccofallegan.weebly.com](http://fccofallegan.weebly.com)  
Office Hours: M, W, F 9 AM—Noon  
**Worship with us on Sundays at 10:30 AM!**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Come the North Wind, snowflakes bringing  
Robes the fields in purest white.  
Paints grand houses, trees, and mountains  
On our window-panes at night.

Hills and vales the East Wind visits,  
Brings them chilly, driving rain.  
Shivering cattle homeward hurry,  
Onward through the darkening lane.

Heat the South Wind kindly gives us  
reddens apples, gilds the pear,  
Gives the grape a richer purple,  
Scatters plenty everywhere.

Flowers sweet the West Wind offers,  
Peeping forth from vines and trees,  
Brings the butterflies so brilliant,  
And the busy, humming bees.

Each wind brings its own best treasure  
To our land from year to year,  
Blessings many without measure.  
E'er attend the winds' career.

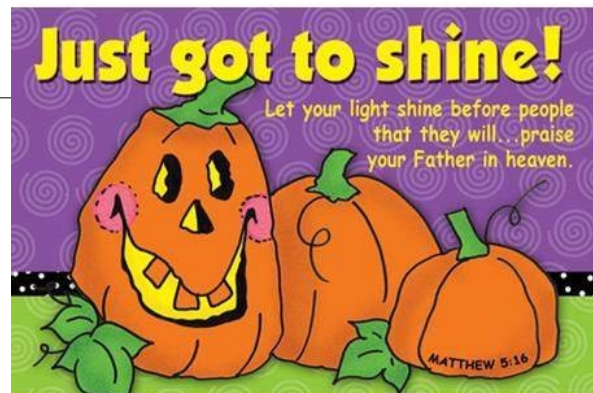
Lillian Cox



## Trunk 'N Treat at FCC

Our Diaconate and Christian Education Board are teaming up to bring our community a HAPPY HALLOWEEN right here in our parking lot! Volunteers and their cars will be decorated and full of treats to hand out to all the kiddos looking to fill their bags! We'll be offering yummy, freshly popped

popcorn right from our porch, too. Come down to watch the fun or see what you could do to volunteer in this special evening event.



**A community outreach project on Monday, 10/31 from 3 PM—7PM.**