

THE ALLEGAN CONGREGATIONALIST



SEPTEMBER 2021

Barbara Brower

Kay Butler,

Kelly Callan,

Tina Cook

Trevor Ellis

Carolyn Goff

Ellie Hagg

Ruby Hyde

Phyllis Hodge

Ray Hoffman,

Rick Jones

Joyce Ilmberger,

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.

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,.

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

Aaron Siegler in Battle Creek

A PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER

Let me be a voice for the speechless, those who are small and weak; let me speak for all helpless creatures who have no power to speak. I have lifted my heart to heaven on behalf of the least of these—the frightened, the homeless, the hungry. I am voicing their pleas. If I can help any person, respond to a desperate call, I will know that my prayer has been answered by the God Who created them all.

Helen Inwood

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

We would like to thank

Gwen Calkins

for her generous gift, which has made this edition of The Allegan Congregationalist Possible. Thank you!

"EVERYTHINGS PACKED"

A young man preparing for a long trip remarked to his companion, "I am just about packed. I only have to put in a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sword, a hammer and a set of books I have been studying. "How can you pack all this?" his friend protested. "It is impossible to get all that in your suitcase." "Oh, but it doesn't take much room," replied the young man, as he placed his Bible in the corner of the suitcase and closed the lid.



We are so excited to announce that we have a booth to promote and take donations for the Congregational kitchen at the fair grounds during fair week. Dates are **September 10th through the 18th**. We need your help to man the booth from 10:00am —1:30pm, 1:30pm-5:00pm, 5:00pm—9:30pm. We would like two people manning the booth in all our time slots. Entry and parking for the fair will be provided.

To reserve your spot call Carrie Lovett at (269)512-2214.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Many people want to change the world; only a few want to change themselves
-Leo Tolstoy



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS CALLING ALL KIDS, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS! YOU 'DO-NUT' WANT TO MISS SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 26TH AT 9:00 AM! MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING YOUR WAY FOR A VERY SPECIAL KICK-OFF DAY!



- 1 Emily Moored
- 4 Alex Proskurnya
- 8 Deb Mancuso
- 9 Janet Siegler
- 10 Taylor Prolo
Austin Letts
- 11 Stephan Allen
- 12 Jessica Moored
- 21 Terry Johnson
- 25 Cameron Johnson
Katie Proctor
- 28 Dan Wagner
- 30 Cathy Morgan
Randy Sneller

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

ANNIVERSARIES FOR SEPTEMBER

- 3 Eric & Eve Erickson
- 4 Ray & Gerry Harris
- 16 Don & Sue Lucas
- 25 Denny & Leah Van Order
- 27 Rick & Olga Allen
- 28 Pat & Rhoda Ryan

Ushers & Greeters:

Jeff Polonowski

Liturgist:

Joanie Townsend

The Pastor's Pen – September 2021

In John's Gospel we encounter an amazing story of a Samaritan woman who was at a well getting water. Breaking all sorts of Jewish traditions and bigotry, Jesus not only addressed this woman but He also challenged her in her own faith. And it was in this challenge that we discover two things... first, being a Samaritan, she was worshiping God in ignorance and thus in an incorrect manner, and second, that she was living a life of sin, having many husbands and now sleeping with a man who was not her husband. When we look at this woman's life, it is hard to imagine that she would become a faithful follower of Jesus.

Thankfully, Jesus sees beyond what we would consider the makings of a true disciple. Christ knows that God's power is made perfect in weakness. And so He revealed to this woman who He is; that He is the Messiah. Yes, even a sinful Samaritan woman can gain entrance into the Kingdom of God.

But not only does she come into the Kingdom, but look at what she does next...

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" ~ John 4:28&29

Think about her situation. She was a brand spanking new believer. Jesus had only revealed Himself to her just hours prior. And now she was doing the work of an evangelist. Sure, her Gospel testimony wasn't polished. She didn't yet understand all the nuances of what Jesus being the Christ meant. And on top of that, she had a ways to go in her sanctification process. She hadn't had time to clean up her act and make things right with the man she was sleeping with. And yet she did not hesitate to bring the Good News to the people she knew. She simply gave them a modest message in the hopes that they too would come and meet Jesus.

"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

And guess what happened?

They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ~ John 4:30

They didn't reject her testimony. They didn't ignore her because of her checkered past. Instead they listened to her and wanted to meet this Jesus.

How often do we shy away from doing exactly what this Samaritan woman did? We who have been Christians for years often do not have the courage that this woman demonstrated. We freeze up in the midst of expressing a simple invitation to our neighbors in order that they might meet Jesus. Even I, a pastor, have had moments where I've shied away because I was worried about how I would be received.

I think we can all learn a lesson from this Samaritan woman. And we have an opportunity this Fall to implement this practice of inviting people to Jesus. On September 26th we are going to have a "Friends" Sunday. This is a time where we want to invite as many people as we can to our church. In the morning at 9:00 am we will be having a "Building Blocks Breakfast" where families can come, have some food and then meet us downstairs to learn more about our children's ministry. And then at our 10:30 am service we will be having a Puppet Presentation put on by Uncle Tim Marsh. Afterwards we will be having our normal time of fellowship during our Fellowship Hour. This would be a great occasion to try to meet some new people and help them to know First Congregational Church better.

And so this is my challenge to us as a Church. Let us use this simple evangelism method called invitation and let's invite as many people as we can to our "Friends" Sunday. And let's have our goal be that each person will bring at least one new person. Most likely this will mean that you will have to invite many more than just one. But how amazing would it be to see dozens of unbelievers and wayward Christians come to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

And as an encouragement, let the ending of this story of the Samaritan woman give you motivation in this endeavor...

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." ~ John 4:39-42


God's Blessings,

Pastor Cory

First Congregational Ch.
323 Cutler Street
Allegan, MI 49010

SEPTEMBER 2021

Ch. Phone 673-3139 - Fax Ph. - 269-355-1509
e-mail firstcongregationalchurch@firstcongregationalchurch.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
USHER & GREETER: Jeff Polonowski LITURGIST: Joanie Townsend			1 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	2 9:00 am & 12:30pm Food Warehouse 3-6:pm Dinner Take out only	3 8:00 am Warehouse	4 4-7pm Acolytes & Friends
5 9:00 am ALPHA 10:30 am Worship	6 LABOR DAY	7 6:15 pm Incessory Prayer	8 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	9 9:00 am & 12:30pm Food Warehouse 3-6:pm Dinner Take out only	10 8:00 am Warehouse	11
12 9:00 am ALPHA 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Trustees meeting	13	14 10:00 am Hospice 6:15 pm Incessory Prayer 7:00pm Diaconate Meeting	15 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	16 9:00 am & 12:30 pm warehouse 3-6:pm Dinner Take out only	17 8:00 am Warehouse	18
19 9:00 am ALPHA 10:30 am Worship / Comm. 12:00 pm C.E. meeting	20	21 6:15 pm Incessory Prayer	22 6:15 pm Prayer meeting 7:00pm Mid Week Gathering	23 9:00pm & 12:30pm warehouse 3-6:pm Dinner Take out only	24 8:00am Warehouse	25
26 9:00 am Building Blocks Breakfast 10:30 am Worship (Friend's Sunday) 7:00 pm AWAKE	27	28 10:00 am Hospice 6:15 pm Incessory Prayer	29 6:15 pm Prayer meeting 7:00pm Mid Week Gathering	30 9:00 am & 12:30pm Food Warehouse 3-6:pm Dinner Take out only		

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
323 Cutler Street Allegan, MI 49010
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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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