

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Passage: Galatians 5:13-26    Sermon Title: The First Step**

**ALLEN AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**



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**Contact Us:**

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**PASTOR MARK HOFMAN  
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024**

# Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, September 22, 2024 -- Pastor Mark Hofman

## GATHERED TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, who created us in love,

**People: create us anew in love as we worship you.**

Leader: O Jesus Christ, who redeemed this world in love,

**People: reclaim our hearts as we worship you.**

Leader: O Holy Spirit, who fills and renews us,

move within us as we worship you.

\*Songs of Praise      *Gift of Christ from God Our Father*      *Sing! 167*  
   *You're Worthy of My Praise*

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet One Another

## RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 115

Q. Since no one in this life  
can obey the Ten Commandments perfectly,  
why does God want them  
preached so pointedly?

**A. First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to know our  
sinfulness and the more eagerly look to Christ for forgiveness of sins  
and righteousness. Second, so that we may never stop striving, and  
never stop praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, to be  
renewed more and more after God's image, until after this life  
we reach our goal: perfection.**

Song      *I Am Not My Own (Getty Music)*

Children's Message      Kelly Dauser

*Children's Blessing*

**As you worship the Lord,  
may he go with you,  
may his Spirit live in you,  
and may his love fill you.  
Praise him with your whole heart.**

Prayers of the People      Sherrie Wolffis

## LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK

\*Song of Preparation      *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*      *LUYH 325*

Scripture Passage      Galatians 5:13-26  
(Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord."  
**People: Thanks be to God.**)

Message      The First Step

Prayer of Application

## OUR RESPONSE

\*Song      *Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading*      *LUYH 320:1-3,5*

Our Offerings: General Fund  
*[offerings may be given online at allenavechurch.org  
or in the baskets at each entrance]*

## SENT OUT

\*God's Parting Blessing

\*Parting Song of Praise      *There's No God as Great*      *LUYH 275*

\*Postlude

## We Live to B.L.E.S.S.

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.  
Support Christian Instruction. Serve.*



### NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

9/22: Nursery: Nancy Rop & Jasmine Snyder  
Coffee Fellowship: Travis & Jasmine Snyder  
9/29: Nursery: Mary Maat & Laurie DeJonge  
Coffee Fellowship: Roger & Laurie Slorf  
10/6: Nursery: Carol Peterman & Karen Alphenaar  
Coffee Fellowship: Ron & Kristen Vlasma  
10/13: Nursery: Renee Vlasma & Beth VanRees  
Coffee Fellowship: Judy Vaandering & Sue Secord

### ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES



#### **\*Pray for the \* Missionary this Week**

Stephan and Alicia Lutz – Kenya

#### **\*Rev. Jerry An – Back to God Ministries**

Angel Community Church – Muskegon

Paul & Charlotte Mpindi – Mission French Africa

Charles & Hensel Oh – Philippines



### ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

- |                   |                 |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1) Joann Deitz    | 4) Wilma Doctor | 7) Jim Doornbos   |
| 2) Betty TenBrink | 5) Lois Grinwis | 8) Joel Stefanits |
| 3) June Walcott   | 6) Ro VerHeul   |                   |

\*Please call or send a card to “Care List Member” Joann!  
1350 W. Hackley, Apt. 105, Muskegon, MI 49441

*We pray for you, our Care List Members,  
and thank God for each one of you.  
No matter what you face,  
Jesus is present and each one of you matters  
and is never forgotten. You are LOVED!*

## A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests, & Members!

We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worship this Sunday as we serve our Savior. Pastor Mark will be leading us this morning and challenging us to take “The First Step” from Galatians 5:13-26. Let’s eagerly anticipate the Holy Spirit’s presence in this special service! Please join us after this for a time of gathering in the lower level with our brothers and sisters in Christ to catch up and be a blessing to one another.

## COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

**The deacons are thankful** for \$31,118 in General Fund gifts and offerings in August. They are also excited about the \$725 in financial support for the October mission trip to Kentucky. Thank you for giving to God’s Kingdom!

**The congregation of Spring Lake CRC** invites you to attend the installation worship service for their new pastor, Rev. Brent Pollema, on Sunday, September 29 at 10:00am. Rev. Pollema suffered numerous injuries in a motorcycle accident in early July. We give thanks to God that he has sufficiently recovered and is now ready to begin his ministry at Spring Lake CRC. Spring Lake CRC would be delighted to see people from the churches of classis attend the installation service. If you’re not able to attend, know that the church and Rev. Pollema’s family are thankful for the prayers that have been offered on Brent’s behalf and for the visits and words of encouragement that have been given.

**Pray for Our Council.** Pray for vision, wisdom, leadership, steadfastness, and unity...for Brian Schuitema Sherrie Wolffis, Gabe Vlasma, Jean Botting, Pastor Mark, Judy Vaandering, Dave Miedema, Scott Schuitema, Charry Snyder. Barb Malda, Mary Kortman, Amber Johnson, & Nate Schout. Also, for the **PVC Team**-- Pastor Mark, Jean Botting, Steve Rop, and Stan Rop.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**The Men's Bible Study** sign-up sheet will be located downstairs. We are planning on meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month around 6 or 6:30. We are hoping to study/use John Mark Comer’s book *Practicing the Way* as our resource. More details about cost, etc. will become available once the sign-up process is over. Let’s gather together in fellowship and God’s Word! Any questions or for more information, talk to Dave Miedema.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**Don't forget the CROP Walk on October 6!** We are so pleased this year to be able to help the Holton Community Center, Fruitport Christian Reformed Church, First Congregational Church and the Muskegon Salvation Army with the proceeds from our Walk. Anyone willing to walk or donate to this "Walk for Hunger," please contact Russ or Deb Vlasma.

**Ladies Craft Day** is next Saturday, September 28, in the lower level at church at 10:00am. Today is the last day to sign up in the lower level at church. Invite your friends along. The cost is \$10 per person to be collected on arrival. You can also contact Laurie Slorf or Kelly Dauser for questions. **This is the last day to sign up** as we need time for preparation. Can't wait to make our own pumpkin patch!

**Focus on Life Annual Dinner, Tuesday October 8, 2024**, Bella Maria Event Center. We invite you to join us and hear our guest speaker, Ed Rivet, explain the implications of the work occurring behind the scenes in our state to bring back Physician Assisted Suicide. Other details and the reservation form can be found at [Muskegonrtl.org](http://Muskegonrtl.org). New this year: A silent auction! Have an item to donate to our auction? Email us at [office@muskegonrtl.org](mailto:office@muskegonrtl.org)

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Dear Allen Avenue Family, I am writing to thank everyone for all of your guidance, wisdom, kindness, love, prayers, patience, and encouragement throughout my faith journey. I am so grateful to be a part of such a loving congregation. Thank you for making me feel so special during my baptism and for accepting me! Love, **Emma Peklar** (As always...Go Green!!! 😊)

Prayers for those serving on our **Mission trip** to Floyd County, KY October 5-11.

**Al Calderon** is in the Battle Creek Veterans Hospital until November 10, where he is receiving the second of his three 28-day treatments for his disability. He is doing OK but misses us! Please keep him in your prayers and know he would love to receive cards of encouragement: Al Calderon C/O Battle Creek VA Hospital, Building 22, 5500 Armstrong Rd., Battle Creek, MI 449037-7314.

**Carol Dirkse** suffered a vertebral compression fracture. At this writing she is home, recovered from covid, starting therapy, and waiting for a surgery date. If you would like to send Carol a card of encouragement, here's her address: 1450 S. Ferry, St., Apt. 111, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

**Jim Doornbos** continues to have a positive perspective as he deals with Parkinson's and Diabetes. He is thankful that he is able to take walks, be independent and enjoys watching all the wildlife outside his apartment. Mary and Ed will be coming to visit and celebrate birthdays at the end of this month.

**Ro Verheul** has such a upbeat attitude. She enjoys all the wonderful times with Roger and Laurie, Nancy, & families. Currently she is having pain in her neck and shoulders. Pray for her doctors to find help for this so she can continue to work on those fun puzzles!

**Becki & Randy Fisher**-Please keep our son, **Patrick**, in your prayers as he is having tests to diagnose a growth in his neck.

**Jim Secord**-pray for him as he is having problems breathing and is currently having testing done.

**Karen Alphenaar's sister Kathy**-The doctor's think her cancer may be spreading. They want to do biopsies and chemotherapy. She is looking at alternative treatments.

**Dave & Lis Miedema**-as they prepare for their new baby. Pray for God to keep them close as He knits this little one together. Pray for them as they adjust to all the leadership positions are serving in at work and church. We thank Dave for taking on the men's bible study group. Keep Lis in health and strength for her new position at work, too.

**Jack & Sherrie Wolffis**-continued prayers for Faith. She is currently stable and scheduled for a laser ablation in her brain on 10/8. Then on 10/10 she is to have an RNS type device inserted into her brain which will need to be synced with her computer and downloaded nightly.

Thanks and Praises for a delicious and well-attended "**Start of the Season Potluck last Sunday!**" Thanks to all who prepared, set up, brought food, grilled, and cleaned up! Thanks to those who will serve in all the things happening this fall from Bible Studies, Nursery Bible Stories, Children's Ministry, Sunday School, Catechism, Small groups, Gems, Cadets, Prayer partners, Prayer groups, Youth groups, Worship, Music, Christian Care visits, etc. **YOU ARE AMAZING!!!!**