



FIRST
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
ALLENDALE

FIRST IN FOCUS


Published by First CRC of Allendale
5734 Country View, Allendale, MI 49401

▪ Phone 616-895-4969 ▪

E-mail: info@firstallendalecrc.org

www.firstallendalecrc.org

MARCH 2024



HOPE
for All

HE HAS RISEN! HE IS NOT HERE.

MARK 16:6 (NIV)

HOW CAN I PRAY FOR?

BY PASTOR KEN

I have had the distinct blessing and honor of being invited to speak to the students of Allendale Christian School several times over the past two months. First, I got to talk to the seventh grade class about the book of Job and the problem of suffering. Second, I got to speak to the second grade class about the impacts of prayer and different ways that we can pray for others. Finally, I got to speak in a chapel service for the whole school on the importance of honoring God by being "loving communicators" to one another. So fun!

What struck me is how closely these things are related to one another, and how they are related to questions I often encounter from Christians of every age: How should I pray for the hurting? How should I pray for those who don't know Christ? How should I pray for someone I don't get along with? How should I pray for elected officials? Where do I start? I like to come at these kinds of questions from two directions:

1. OUR PRAYERS REVEAL OUR CARES

If you were to note all the things that you pray for, you would have a pretty good diagnostic tool for the issues and people that you are most concerned about. It is sobering a way of checking how well our heart is functioning, and we ALL have some deficiencies. We struggle to pray for some people because we struggle to care about those people. We know we are supposed to pray for our enemies (Matt. 5:43-45, Luke 6:27-28) and even rulers whose policies might not be to our liking (2 Tim. 2:1-2), but we feel convicted that we don't care enough even to know where to begin with our prayers. If this is you, know that you are not alone, but you are also not off the hook! In this case, our first prayer should be "Lord, help me to care about these people enough to want to pray for them!"

2. OUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS SHOW THAT WE CARE FOR THEM

Charles Spurgeon was arguably the most influential preacher of the English speaking world during the 1800's, and his success brought enormous criticism. He was attacked for everything from his appearance—he, too, had a glorious beard—to his preaching style. In the midst of all his struggles with criticism and depression, he said "No man can do me a truer kindness in this world than to pray for me." If you have had the humbling experience of being prayed for in this way, you know what he means!

This is a powerful side effect of prayer that we don't often think about. When I was a seminary intern, I went with a group of brothers and sisters on weekly prayer walks through rough inner-city neighborhoods. We stopped and prayed at street corners, in front of schools and police stations, and at memorial shrines for the victims of drive-by shootings. We prayed with all kinds of people from sweet grandmothers to gang members and drug dealers. Some didn't want us to pray for them, but we did anyway! I was amazed that far more people appreciated our prayers than rejected us. We often heard responses like, "You really come out here every week in this heat, in this neighborhood to pray for people you don't even know? You are either crazy, or you really care! Either way, thanks!"

It isn't as complicated as we try to make it. If you want to know how to pray for someone and show them that you care for them, just ask! You'd be surprised at how many will take you up on your offer. Even if they don't respond well, I suggest trying the B-L-E-S-S acronym that the second graders at ACS are going to use on their prayer walk throughout the community on February 29th. I'm blessed to be able to join them!

We can BLESS others when we pray for them.

B BODY
HEALTH

L LABOR
WORK, BUSINESS

E EMOTIONS
HAPPINESS, JOY

S SOCIAL
FAMILY, FRIENDS

S SPIRITUAL
KNOWING JESUS





Council Meeting Highlights January 2024

Present: Pastor Ken, Kevin Bosch, Herm Kloosterman, Jon Vander Wal, Scott Berens, John Broene, Duke Busman, Dave Vollink, Keegan Morren, Ron Nykamp, Karl Kuzee, Ken Knoper, Jeremy Brower, Dave Schroedter
Absent: Karl Kuzee, Ken Knoper, Dave Schroedter

1. Opening Prayer and Devotions - Herm Kloosterman I Thes 5:1-11 Encourage & Build
2. Approval of Council Minutes of November 7, 2023 MMS&A
Old Business:
3. Interim Committee
 - a. Noteworthy Items:
 1. Processed form from Classis clerk for transfer of Scott Stark
4. Pastor Ken's Monthly Report – received report for October and November
5. Joel's Monthly Report – received report for November
 - a. The council expresses gratitude and thanks to Cheri, Joel, Sharon, Jeremy – all those involved with decorating the Sanctuary for the different seasons
6. Reports – for approval – MMS&A
 - a. Elder Report (**Minutes of Nov 7**)
 - b. Deacon report (**Minutes of Nov 7**) Zeeland Classis Pledge Form in Dave's packet.
 - c. Education Committee (**NA**) Next meeting January 14, 2024.
 - d. Worship Committee (**NA**) Next meeting Dec 14, 2023.
 - e. Tech Committee (**Minutes of Nov 14**) Next meeting Jan 16, 2024.
 - f. Building and Grounds (**NA**)
 - g. Congregational Care (**NA**)
7. Reports- needing action
 - a. Transfer paperwork for Stephanie Russcher (Oom), in Herm's packet.
 - i. MMS& Approved the transfer request from Stephanie to Drenth CRC
 - b. Letter from Thelma (De'gag'e') regarding current needs.
 - i. Recommend this letter be distributed to all via mailboxes
8. Correspondence
 - a. COD Highlights - RFI
9. Round Table – Comments, Prayer Requests, Other Matters
 - a. Discussed having the Deacons compose a summary letter comparing the trends of budgeting, contributions, expenditures over the last several years
 - b. The gift bags/boxes will be delivered Dec 17
10. Closing Prayer - Duke Busman
11. Next Meeting: February 6, 2024, at 6:30 pm

First Allendale CRC
Monthly Financial Report
January 31, 2024

Beginning Checking Balance **\$94,770.20**

Revenue	January	Year-To-Date	Budget	Remaining
General Fund Collections	\$22,142.00	\$203,633.05	\$357,000.00	\$153,366.95
Christian Education Tuition Assistance	\$1,305.00	\$15,084.49	\$22,000.00	\$6,915.51
Causes	\$6,277.40	\$48,798.91	\$65,000.00	\$16,201.09
Cadets	\$385.00	\$2,475.00	\$2,500.00	\$25.00
Gems	\$0.00	\$3,906.54	\$6,000.00	\$2,093.46
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Interest Income	\$60.67	\$343.62	\$100.00	-\$243.62
Total Revenue	\$30,170.07	\$274,241.61	\$452,600.00	\$178,358.39

Expenses				
Facilities	\$4,782.89	\$38,604.93	\$104,200.00	\$65,595.07
Worship and Music	\$1,160.00	\$5,498.98	\$10,300.00	\$4,801.02
Education	\$1,483.03	\$8,318.27	\$12,500.00	\$4,181.73
Staff	\$14,962.09	\$116,091.03	\$200,180.00	\$84,088.97
Local Ministries	\$740.12	\$57,236.73	\$88,270.00	\$31,033.27
Denominational Ministries	\$0.00	\$30,372.31	\$66,720.00	\$36,347.69
Total Expenses	\$23,128.13	\$256,122.25	\$482,170.00	\$226,047.75
Reserved Funds Used	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Net Income/Loss	\$7,041.94	\$18,119.36	-\$29,570.00	-\$47,689.36

Reserved Fund Balances	
Restricted Bequests	\$12,704.36
Building Maintenance	\$17,382.19
Christian Education Tuition Assistance	\$14,608.70
Causes	\$6,277.40
Ministry Shares	\$3,878.92
Total Reserved Funds	\$54,851.57

General Funds Available **\$46,960.57**

Barnabas Accounts	
Ministries Fund	\$71,884.19
General Reserve	\$102,829.92
Building Maintenance	\$38,486.60
Total Barnabas Funds	\$213,200.71

Geurink Link

Hispanic Ministries Update

February 1, 2024

January 21, 2024. Arturo Rojas - Ordination

On January 21 Arturo Rojas was ordained into the Christian Reformed Church as a Commissioned Pastor! This was the culmination of lots of hard work, study, preparation, and then the examination by Classis Holland back in October of 2023. Finally, the day had arrived. The celebration took place at Providence CRC of Holland in a bilingual service, English and Spanish, with the members from Providence, The Way Church, and Drenthe CRC. The ordination ceremony was led by Pastor Toby Gruppen with participation from Elder Gary Van Rhee of Drenthe, an elder from Providence, and Pastor Scott Geurink. Then Pastor Arturo preached to the congregations on Joshua 1:7-9 and Scott translated into English. After the service, the celebration continued around cake, cookies, coffee, and great conversations.



Pastor Pablo Lee - The Hispanic Church plant that meets at Immanuel CRC of Hudsonville is doing well and growing in number. Pablo works hard visiting members and visitors, reaching out to new contacts, and even is part of the jail ministry here in Ottawa County at the Fillmore site.

Pastor Robert Garcia – Continues to lead the church plant in Grand Rapids. He is working hard on raising up leaders both internally, and also internationally via zoom. Robert is also serving as the President of the Hispanic West Michigan Pastors Association.

Pastor Ricardo Tranquini – he and his wife are working hard to make new contacts in the Bravo/Fennville area, disciple believers, and raise up leadership. They were thankful for over 60 people that came to their Thanksgiving Service, and another good number for the Christmas dinner.

New Opportunities – Please continue to pray for two possible open doors for new ministry. The New Era CRC has been interested in hosting a new church plant in New Era and we have been in conversation with them for the past year. They are making progress and taking some good steps. Finally, we are pursuing the possibility of a new church plant in the McBain area. Vogel Center CRC, Ebels General Store, and other McBain churches are in conversation about developing a ½ time position for a Hispanic Church planter that would reach out to local Hispanics working on the dairy's and area businesses.

Consejo Latino – Scott also has the privilege of being a part of the Consejo Latino (Latin Council) of the Christian Reformed Church. They are working to promote education, leadership development, and church planting among Hispanics.

Confraternidad Hispano on February 6th – Please pray for the meeting of West Michigan Hispanic Pastors and leaders in the CRC. This is sponsored by the Consejo Latino and Resonate.

On a personal note, Marcia and I celebrated the birth of our 10th grandchild, Amaia Braden, born on November 24th. Grandchildren are a gift from the Lord, and we have been so enjoying this gift. Here is a picture from our family Christmas 2023 get together that includes Amaia being held by her Abuelito (Grandpa).

Thank you again for your prayers and support that make it possible for Scott to coach and mentor Hispanic church planters like Arturo, Pablo, Robert, and Ricardo, and develop new possibilities for church plants.

Scott J. Geurink



Mailing address: 11195 Rich Street, West Olive, MI 49460 Phone: 619-723-8331

E-mail: smgeurink@gmail.com

Donate: Zeeland Classis, attn: Marcia Gemmen 15448 Blair Street, West Olive 49460



CM
CAMPUS
MINISTRY

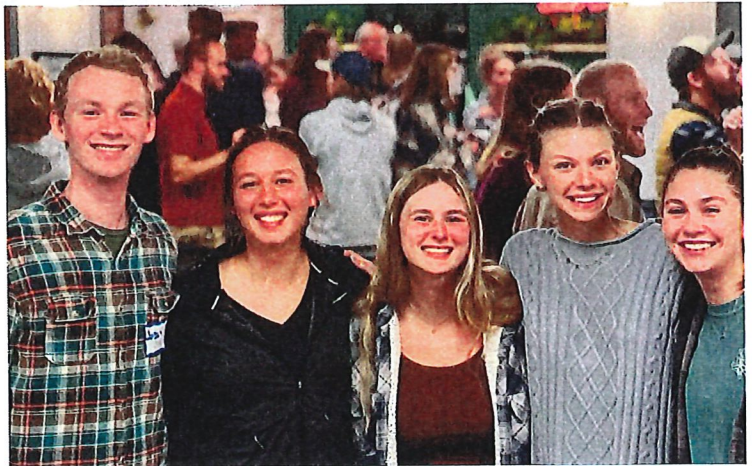
WINTER 2024 CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE

Spring Break: Go. Engage. Learn.

One of our most anticipated events of the year are our Spring Break Service Trips, and they are right around the corner! On March 2nd, 237 students (over 50 more than last year!) will be sent to 16 different locations across the US and Central America for a week of service, learning, and relationship building.

A few weeks ago, we had two spots left for our NJ/NYC trip, and after announcements at The Well, two students came to sign up right on the spot. AFTER they committed to going, they learned who one of their trip leaders was, and their faces lit up! They already knew him from an academic setting (it was their first time at CM), and their exact reaction was, "Chris? He's leading the trip? NO WAY! I love that guy!" Our students are dedicated to living their lives as salt and light not only in the confines of CM, but in their classes and clubs and jobs and homes.

Please pray for our students as they prepare to spend their spring break with us. May this week be a catalyst for so many lives to be lived passionately and relentlessly for the Lord. May students know Jesus, serve Him only, and internalize how deeply loved, seen, known, and important they are in and to the Kingdom of Heaven.



CM @ GR Student Highlight: Hanna

Hanna, the student in the center, graduated last semester with degrees in criminal justice and psychology, but her formal education isn't the only way she has grown during her time at GVSU. She came to Campus Ministry two years ago looking for community and hoping to join one of our worship teams as an acoustic guitarist. After a couple months on the team, we added an unplugged microphone and encouraged her to start singing out as she played. A couple months later, she transitioned into co-leading the worship team with another student. Slowly we increased the volume on her microphone as her confidence and leadership grew.

This year, she leads a band of her own: equipping, encouraging, and raising up more worship leaders from among us. She studies the Word with a group of students and staff each week to help develop the sermon for Sunday nights, select songs for worship, and shape our gathering into a place of deep encounters with the Lord. She meets every other week for spiritual formation with CM staff and has stepped into the role of discipling others. All along the way, she has developed an awesome community. This story is just one snippet--there are so many other leaders like Hanna that God is raising up through Campus Ministry.





Allendale Intern Gatherings

Our intern program is one of the more behind-the-scenes portions of our ministry, without which we could not do what we do. This year, we have 28 interns in Allendale that lead our various leadership teams, closely walking with the leaders they oversee in discipleship relationships.

Once a month, these interns gather in Executive Staff Ben and Stacie Post's house in Holland for an "Intern Gathering." These Friday nights have become sacred space. We start our time with worship, pictured above, and you can hardly hear our worship director, Julia, singing over the booming voices of students praising their Savior. Interns next listen intently as someone--sometimes a staff member, sometimes a guest--shares some stories of God's faithfulness in their lives, never ceasing to impress us with their depth of question asking and desire to engage with wondering about how God might be writing THEIR story. Then, we share a meal, enjoying some time to check in with one another and deepen relationships amongst the team before heading into our training portion of the night.

At the end of each intern gathering, the students have the option to hang around for some unstructured time at the end, and, without fail, almost every intern stays to engage in conversation with staff and with each other. In one corner, you'll find a student and a staff member discerning where God is calling them post graduation together, and in another you'll find a group of students lamenting about how much time their homework takes up because they wish they could steward more of their energy toward meeting with their leaders or reading their Bible. These students are passionate about pursuing a life with and for Jesus and it is a great honor to walk beside them.



CM @ Grand Rapids: Making Space

The CM @ Grand Rapids team holds many meetings in public spaces on Grand Valley's Pew Campus, believing that simply being in that space makes an impact! Recently, the Program Team was meeting and after they studied the text for The Well together, talking about the balance of sin and grace, a student approached them. He said "I like what you're talking about....are you a part of a group or something?" Since then, this student, an international graduate student has **BECOME** part of that "group!" He has begun coming to The Well and joined a house group where he is now a part of many similar conversations to the first one he overheard.



Will you run with us?

We have an invite for YOU! Campus Ministry is running the Amway River Bank Run on May 11th as a fundraiser and we want you to join us! We have people on our team running the 5k, the 10k, and the 25k so no matter your skill level, there is a place for you. Scan the QR code above for information about registration! See you at the starting line?

THANK YOU for praying with us and for being a part of the story God is writing at Campus Ministry. It sure is a great one.

Grace + peace,
The CM Staff Team



**GIVE TO
CAMPUS
MINISTRY:**



ONLINE AT
CAMPUSMINISTRYGV.COM/GIVE
OR BY CHECK TO
"CAMPUS MINISTRY @ GVSU"
AND MAIL IT TO OUR OFFICE:

CAMPUS MINISTRY @ GVSU
1 CAMPUS DRIVE | COOK DEWITT
CENTER | ALLENDALE, MI 49401

February 2024

Dear supporters, friends, family members, greetings from Mexico City!

COMPA!

Now that it is 2024 I am working alongside Compa, a ministry to university students and young professionals.

Last weekend (Feb 3-5) I gave a workshop on the attributes of God at the camp for the Mexico City and Guerrero region of Compa. I organized the workshop around difficult questions, and thoughts from theologians to help move us toward answers.

My 12 students and I looked at issues such as “If God sees our future, does that mean we don’t have freedom of choice?”, “Does God have emotions?” and “Why couldn’t God just pardon us instead of having Jesus die for our sins?”



What a great group. They shared their opinions freely, asked a lot of questions, and took a lot of notes. They even laughed at my groaner jokes. And they presented me with a book as a thank you

**Dave and Blanca Gifford
In Mexico City with**

Resonate™
GLOBAL MISSION

Email: dgifford@crcna.org
Website <https://giffmex.org>

gift, but what touched me most were the comments they added inside of it.

After being out of teaching for a while, this workshop was a joy. God used it to encourage me. I look forward to March 23-26, when I lead a conference at another camp, in Santiago, Nuevo León.

Please pray for Compa and my ministry with them.

Spotlight on Blanca

Blanca has been very active this quarter in helping people from our church. She has prepared meals for Victoria, a fairly new attendee of our church and a retired athlete who is recovering from her second knee surgery to address an infection from her first surgery.



Blanca provided work and encouragement for Eliuth (photo above), a 17 year old who came to our church full of enthusiasm for the gospel. His less than ideal family situation sometimes hinders him from coming. And it puts a strain on his mental health. He is even at risk for an embolism.

And Blanca has also been busy at church, decorating for Christmas, preparing meals, helping others in need, and teaching studies at Sunday School and the ladies's society.

Benevolence

In 2022 we asked for benevolent funds to help people in need here in Mexico City. Many of you graciously responded, and we raised over \$8,000. This quarter we are helping several people from these funds.

- Lizet is a friend from RUF ministries who has come to our game nights. Last fall she had a surgery on her thyroids, and will soon be getting radiotherapy.
- Guadalupe had surgery on her cataracts last year and is being operated on again this Monday (Feb 12). A pastor whom I met during my networking visits last year recommended her.
- Victoria (mentioned above) has been waiting for a prosthetic leg for a couple years. We will be able to cover about 20% of what she needs.
- We mentioned Jesús in our September prayer letter. We will likely be helping him again when he gets his surgery lined up. He has been through so much. Every few weeks he gets hospitalized to drain the fluid from his body.
- Please pray for these people in need. And praise God for this opportunity to help!

Honduras!

After almost 19 years, we are finally getting back to Honduras. We will attend the regional missionary retreat February 15-19 in Roatán, then head inland to visit Blanca's family. I will come back to Mexico on the 27th, and Blanca will return March 5. Please pray for our trip and for good

times with our fellow missionaries and Blanca's family.

Miscellaneous matters

Pray for all good things for our kids, Daniel and Alexandra. Daniel had a birthday in January, and Alexandra's is in March. They are living with us and working here in Mexico City.

Pray for all of us across the mission as our budgets were reduced. The Mexico field budget was reduced by over 20%. Don't panic. We are not running out of money. It was mostly about bringing Resonate budgets more in line with actual spending. But still, we appreciate your prayers for our wisdom in spending, and your donations to Resonate.

Speaking of which, praise the Lord, and a big thanks to all of you, for our support, which is already at 59% of our annual goal.

Thank you all for your prayers, financial support, and words of encouragement. God bless you all in Christ Jesus!

Dave, Blanca, Daniel and Alexandra Gifford



First Mary, Then Martha

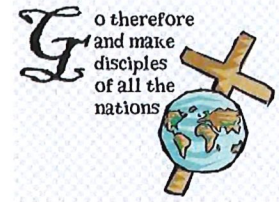
SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Day 1: Luke 10:38-39 | Day 17: Psalm 119:36-37 |
| Day 2: Luke 10:40-42 | Day 18: Isaiah 40:30-31 |
| Day 3: John 12:1-3 | Day 19: Isaiah 55:6-7 |
| Day 4: Deuteronomy 4:29-31 | Day 20: Jeremiah 29:12-13 |
| Day 5: 1 Samuel 12:21, 24 | Day 21: Hosea 10:12 |
| Day 6: 1 Chronicles 16:10-11 | Day 22: Matthew 6:31-33 |
| Day 7: 2 Chronicles 7:14 | Day 23: Matthew 7:7-8 |
| Day 8: Psalm 27:4 | Day 24: Luke 21:33-34 |
| Day 9: Psalm 27:7-8 | Day 25: John 12:26 |
| Day 10: Psalm 34:8-10 | Day 26: Romans 2:6-8 |
| Day 11: Psalm 40:16 | Day 27: Romans 12:1-2 |
| Day 12: Psalm 63:1 | Day 28: Romans 12:9-13 |
| Day 13: Psalm 119:1-2 | Day 29: Ephesians 5:15-17 |
| Day 14: Psalm 119:10-13 | Day 30: Colossians 3:1-2 |
| Day 15: Psalm 119:14-16, 18 | Day 31: Hebrews 11:6 |
| Day 16: Psalm 119:33-35 | |

This writing plan can be used any month, hence the 31 days. Write each day's scriptures in a notebook or our faith journal. Feel free to underline important words, read them aloud, or use these scriptures as a springboard for your prayers.



Writing List for Missionaries



MARCH & APRIL

DAVID & BLANCA GIFFORD

Cerro el Vigilante 149
Col. Romero de Terreros, Del.
Coyoacan
C.P. 04310, Mexico D.F., Mexico
E-mail: giff@giffmex.org

Julie DeVries
Kenny & Gwyn Ellens
Jon & Jessica Geurink

MISS BRENDA VANDER SCHUUR

PO Box 438
Conakry
Guinea, West Africa
E-mail: bvanderschuur@cs.com

Jennifer DeWinter
Rog & Bev Ezinga
Russ & Cheri Geurink

BEN & STACY POST

130 W. 23rd Street
Holland, MI 49423
E-mail: sstarkcm@gmail.com

Ed & Darlene Diemer
Craig & Marie Fazakerley
Tom & Lori Geysbeek

RICARDO & YULEIDA TRANQUINI

5587 113rd Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
E-mail: ricardoyuleuis@yahoo.com

Gary & Marlene Dyke
Gerald & Joan Geurink
Ed & Robin Goen

“Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.”



80+ Birthday Club

Bev Ezinga, 85 years young on March 6
Lee Scholma, 83 years young on March 8
Bob Brower, 84 years young on March 10
Nancy Pleune, 82 years young on March 27
Bill Nanninga, 85 years young on March 31



Cal & Carol Gulker, 56 yrs. March 22
Harley & Marcia Sietsema, 59 yrs. March 26
Fred & Marge Vedders, 62 yrs. March 31



Today was the absolute worst day ever
 And don't try to convince me that
 There's something good in every day
 Because when you take a closer look
 This world is a pretty evil place.
 Even if
 Some goodness does shine through once in awhile
 Satisfaction and happiness don't last.
 And it's not true that
 It's all in the mind and heart
 Because
 True happiness can be obtained
 Only if one's surroundings are good
 It's not true that good exists
 I'm sure you can agree that
 The reality
 Creates
 My attitude
 It's all beyond my control
 And you'll never in a million years hear me say that
 Today was a good day.

NOW READ FROM BOTTOM TO TOP!




Quilts

We are planning on assembling quilts again this year. Annette Rosema has all the blocks sewn together to make twin size quilts like we did last year. We have all the supplies



we need, we just need your willingness to help to tie them! Mark your calendars for Thursday and Friday, **April 11 and 12** to come and help! The quilts will be donated to several places – Bunk Bed Ministry, Be A Rudy Organization, Young Life Allendale, Beautiful Soul Ministries. If you know of any other places in need, please let us know. If you have any questions, please contact either Eileen Moelker or Jean Scholma.



Grape EXPECTATIONS

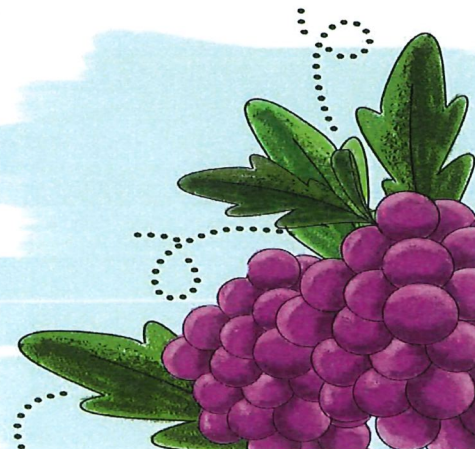

Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!

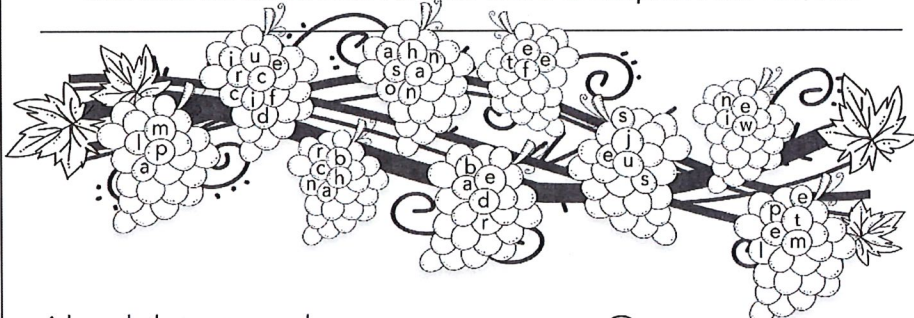



PUZZLE

A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



A branch that was waved	---○
How Jesus was put to death	---○-----
A stick attached to the vine	---○---
People shouted this to Jesus	○-----
Jesus washed these	○---
This was broken and eaten	---○---
The Messiah	---○---
A drink from grapes	---○---
Jesus drove the money changers from here	○-----

"I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15:5, NIV*

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple; much fruit



"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

II Cor. 9:6-8

Offerings for MARCH 2024:

- March 3 Love INC
- March 10 Family Life Center
- March 17 Right to Life
- March 24 Christian Education
- March 31 Missions

Love In The Name of Christ:

A local organization where staff and volunteers are there to provide real assistance as witnesses of Christ by being a connecting link between churches and people with unmet physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Family Life Center of West Michigan:

A local ministry that assists young girls with unexpected pregnancies providing love, housing, Pregnancy support, food, and baby items.

Right to Life/Positive Options

A ministry that provides professional care to the men and women in our community facing an unplanned pregnancy. We offer compassion and resources to those who seek support at our center.

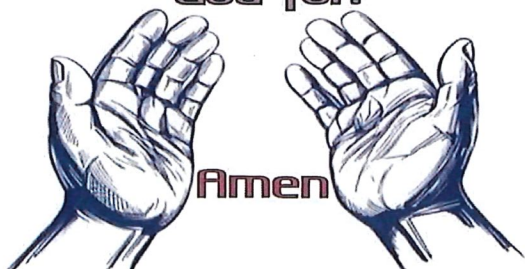
Christian Education Tuition Assistance:

This offering goes to offset tuition costs for families of First CRC of Allendale choosing Christian Education for their children. Assistance is available for K-12th grades.

Missionary Support:

Direct financial support for our missionaries both in Home Missions and World Missions.

I Pray not because I
need something.
I Pray because I
have a lot to thank
God for.



faith



1st Allendale **WORSHIP** SCHEDULE

MARCH 2024

March 3 –

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: “8. Freely Boasting”
 ◊ Text: Galatians 6:11-18
- PM ◊ Sermon Title: “10. Waging War”
 ◊ Text: 2 Corinthians 10



March 10 – New Series: Following the Man of Sorrows

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: “1. Wet Feet”
 ◊ Text: Isaiah 53:3; Luke 7:11-17
- PM ◊ Sermon Title: “11. Jealous Love”
 ◊ Text: 2 Corinthians 11

March 17 – GEMS Sunday

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: “2. Jesus Wept”
 ◊ Text: Isaiah 53:3; John 11:1-54
- PM ◊ Sermon Title: “12. Perfect Weaknesses”
 ◊ Text: 2 Corinthians 12

Sermon

Notes:

*Applying God's
Word to Our
Heart*

March 24 – Palm Sunday, Communion Prep

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: “3. If Only You Knew...”
 ◊ Text: Isaiah 53:3; Luke 19:28-44
- PM ◊ Sermon Title: “13. Exam Time”
 ◊ Text: 2 Corinthians 13

March 29 – Good Friday 7 PM, Communion

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: ""
 ◊ Text: Isaiah 53:2-10
- PM ◊ No Evening Service

March 31 – Easter Sunrise Service in the Cemetery, Easter Service

- AM ◊ Sermon Title: “4. Why Are You Crying?”
 ◊ Text: Isaiah 53:3, 9-12; John 20:1-18
- PM ◊ No Evening Service





I write to you today with great enthusiasm for the future of the pro-life movement. We are just a few weeks beyond the **51st Annual National March for Life**, and the joy and incredible witness that so many of you showed on January 19th is a beautiful reminder of why I have dedicated my life to making abortion unthinkable. This March for Life marked my 11th year as the president of this phenomenal organization, and we have achieved so many wins together!

No matter what abortion proponents throw our way, you never give up! The crowd at our 2024 March for Life was more enthusiastic than ever! And while we received several inches of snow, it was evident that the weather truly elevated the beauty and joy surrounding this year's March for Life. As I stood on stage, I looked over a sea of faces of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life; all united to **be the voice for the voiceless while changing hearts and minds on the issue of abortion**. Hearing your cheers and rally cries inspires me to continue leading the March for Life, year after year.

Our theme this year, **Pro Life: With Every Woman, For Every Child** powerfully underscores the support that we as the pro-life movement have for women, children, and families. With this theme, we were able to highlight the beautiful work of pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes around the country. **Being pro-life has always meant supporting women through every stage of motherhood**: from the moment she conceives a child and throughout that child's life, but it was time for us to shout that truth from the National Mall, and that is exactly what we did!

There are thousands of pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes across this wonderful nation doing lifesaving work in every state. Every single day, the tireless advocates who staff these centers walk alongside pregnant women to provide prenatal care and parental education; baby items like diapers, formula, and clothing; and **most importantly – love for both mother and child**.

In case you missed it, we kicked off the 2024 March with a performance by **3-time Grammy nominee and American Idol finalist, Danny Gokey**.

Former **NFL tight end and SEC Network commentator Benjamin Watson** joined us to share his passion for giving back, and a little about his life as a husband and father of seven.

We heard from two incredible women – Aisha Taylor and Jean Marie Davis – who chose life, and whose testimony proves wrong the narrative that women must choose between having a child and fulfilling their own dreams. Aisha and Jean Marie's lives were **powerfully transformed through the help of pregnancy resource centers** to show them the love they needed to choose life.

I, along with all our marchers were delighted by a surprise appearance by the 2024 College Football National Champion and new head coach of the Los Angeles Chargers, Coach Jim Harbaugh. Coach Harbaugh applauded the witness and testimony of the crowd, rallying them to continue setting the example for Americans to respect the sanctity of life. *(over, please)*

It was inspiring and humbling to be joined onstage by so many clergy and pro-life legislators who shared their support. And, our closing prayer was offered by none-other than **Pastor Greg Laurie and his wife Cathe, whose story inspired the movie *Jesus Revolution***. It was such a gift to share the stage with two such faith-filled people!

I look back on January 19th with such fondness and awe at how those who are passionate about the pro-life cause come together when they have a common goal, which we have now done for 51 years.

Year after year, we come to the National March for Life to share a witness for life with the entire nation.

We come to the National March for Life to show that there is strength in numbers, and our pro-life voices are many.

We come to the National March for Life to share the truth with our legislators that life in the womb is precious.

Most of all, we come to the National March for Life to work together to make abortion unthinkable.

Making abortion unthinkable is all about changing minds and hearts. When *Roe vs. Wade* was overturned in 2022, the Supreme Court ruled that there is no right to abortion in our constitution. However, **the Court did not make abortion illegal**. The Court left that decision up to the people and our elected officials on both the state and federal level.

Unfortunately, **in the "post-Roe" era, many states are working to make abortion more available and accessible than ever before**. For example, in 2023, pro-abortion activists descended on Ohio to pass a dangerous ballot measure adding a "right to abortion" into the state constitution that will now endanger women and the unborn in Ohio for generations to come.

Ohio is only the beginning. Right now, the abortion lobby is preparing to work to **enshrine this same dangerous "right to abortion" agenda into state constitutions** across the country! In Maryland and New York, their pro-abortion legislatures have already placed measures on the November 2024 ballot to enshrine the "right to abortion" into their state constitutions.

Seeing the aggressiveness of the abortion lobby, it is **more important than ever that we come together to March for Life not just once, but throughout the year** to work together and raise our voices to make abortion unthinkable!

This is why we are partnering with so many organizations around the country to hold state-level Marches for Life – currently, we have 14 planned in 2024! With more to come!

Friend, **in order to continue the fight for the protection of the most vulnerable little ones and stand by their mothers, we need your help!** We are well into the work of bringing Marches for Life to states around the country as well as planning for the 2025 March for Life in our nation's Capital.

Organizing and hosting all of these marches requires tremendous resources. **Your donation, no matter the amount**, will help us educate, equip, and mobilize pro-life Americans to fight for life.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to the March for Life of \$150.00, \$200.00, \$300.00, or more, today. My staff and I are dedicated to using every resource we have available to make abortion unthinkable! **By giving today, you are joining us in this great march to end abortion.**

Thank you for your generosity. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your family!

For life,

Jeanne F. Mancini

JEANNE F. MANCINI,
PRESIDENT, MARCH FOR LIFE EDUCATION AND DEFENSE FUND



P.S. Don't let them silence the heartbeat of another innocent, unborn child or hurt anymore women with false messages about the benefits of abortion. Help us to honor and respect the sanctity of life with your gift today.



Rights and Personhood: It is UNJUST and INACCURATE to classify certain humans beings as “non persons”!

There are essentially two questions to ask in regard to embryos and fetuses. The first is, "Are they human beings?" The second is, "Should they be recognized as persons under the law?" We've already established that there is no debate on the first question. It is a matter of plain FACTUAL science. Embryos and fetuses are fully and individually human from fertilization on. If this were not true, there would be no need to even talk about rights of personhood. "Removing a fetus" would be the moral equivalent of pulling a tooth. This, however, is not the case, and so the debate must enter the political arena.

Should humans be recognized as persons under the law? Yes, because humans are persons. Something is a person if it has a personal nature. In other words, something is a person if, by nature, it has the capacity to develop the ability to think rationally, express emotion, make decisions, etc. This capacity is something that a person has as soon as he or she begins to exist, since it is part of his or her nature. **Because humans have a personal nature, humans are persons. As for the fetus, since it is a human (something with a personal nature), it is a person.** Just as a cat qualifies as a feline simply by being a cat, a fetus qualifies as a person simply by being a human.

It is impossible for a fetus to not be a person.

This fact should be enough. The fundamental humanity of unborn children qualifies them as persons and should guarantee their protection under the law. Since 1973, however, this has not been the case in America. There is a huge and singular group of living human beings who have no protection under the law and are being killed en masse every day.



By definition, humanity and personhood go hand in hand. Developing humans in the womb have an intrinsically personal nature and even demonstrate "personality" in many of the same ways that newborn babies do.

Take Action - Contact your Legislator!

Right to Life of MI has created a new web tool on Political Action Alerts. This new tool will allow users to simply type in their address to find their legislator, and a pre-populated email message can be sent with the click of a button. There is also a "call" option and a script that can be used to leave a message or perhaps speak to a staff member of the legislator. Personalized messages garner more attention, so feel free to add a personal touch if you desire.

2 ways to procede:

1. Go to www.rtl.org, click at the Resources tab and scroll to Legislation and on the right hand there's grey sidebar– TAKE ACTION, Contact your legislators here!
2. Type into your search bar: <https://rtl.org/take-action/> -In the sidebar on the right is a box that has a picture of an envelope and a phone and in the box it says Compose Message—follow the steps for a pre-written message.

**Please JOIN us for our
Annual 5k Walk/Fun Run
Saturday, May 18, 2024**

Support Right to Life of Holland Area
by participating in a 3 Mile Walk for Life or 5k Fun Run
Where: Lawrence Street Park in Zeeland at 10:00 am
Registration begins at 9:30 am rain or shine

1. Use the pledge sheet to gather pledges.
2. One PERSON or FAMILY per pledge sheet(s); family consists of parent(s) and all children living at home.
3. An entry of \$30 per person or \$60 per family is required if you do NOT have any pledges.
4. Registration begins at 9:30 am. Bring this form with you.
5. The approximately 3 mile walk begins at 10:00 am, after prayer.
You will be walking on the sidewalk - at your own risk.
6. If you would like to walk on your own, go a shorter or longer distance, or have a scheduling conflict in May, you may still participate. Simply walk at your convenience, collect your pledge money and turn it in by June 14th by 2:00 pm.
7. Children under 15 MUST be accompanied by an adult (18 years or older).
8. NO Shirts will be given out this year - PLEASE WEAR A SHIRT YOU HAVE FROM A PREVIOUS YEAR.

*Equally Human =
Born and Preborn!*

**Stand up for life by participating in our
Annual 5k Walk/Fun Run.**



~PRIZES~

NO prize substitutions

- 1st Place - \$300 Gift Certificate to a hotel, waterpark or amusement park of your choice
2nd Place - \$200 Gift Card to a Gas Station of your Choice
3rd Place - \$100 Master Card/Visa Gift Card

The person who turns in the HIGHEST dollar amount by NOON pm on June 14, 2024 will be considered the 1st place winner!

SCHEDULES FOR MARCH 2024

TLC:

March 3 – Marlene Dyke, Cheri Geurink, Kirsten Keegstra
March 10 – Kathy Knoper, Eric Kraker, Makayla Schurman
March 17 – Carol Gulker, Jan Mohr, Kylee Morren
March 24 – Peggy Vredevoogd, Deb DeVries, Grant Keegstra
March 31 – Kay Schout, Nancee Kraker, Logan Vander Wal



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

March 3 – Marcia Keegstra, Malena Witte, Lucas Schrotenboer
March 10 – Marcia Keegstra, Conni Vollink, Brent Schrotenboer
March 17 – Mallory Kuzee, Danni Kraker, Reka Mesbergen
March 24 – Mallory Kuzee, Cheri Geurink, Brooke Kraker
March 31 – Madison Schrotenboer, Dora Busman, Trevor Keegstra

NURSERY:

March 3 – Conni Vollink, Judy DeVries, Annabelle Kruithoff
March 10 – Brittany Vander Wal, Jean Christensen, Madison Schrotenboer
March 17 – Mary Broene, Gwyn Ellens, Malena Witte
March 24 – Carol Gulker, Peggy Vredevoogd, Kirsten Keegstra
March 29 (Good Friday) – Judy DeVries, Ardy Berens
March 31 – Jan Mohr, Nancy Knoper, Clara Kruithoff



LIBRARY:

March 3 – Elaine Chrstrup
March 10 – Julie DeVries
March 17 – Nellie Scholma
March 24 – Lois Van Wienen
March 31 – Jean Christensen



VALET PARKING/GREETERS:

March 3 – Jon & Jean Christensen
March 10 – Bob & Judy Knoper
March 17 – Lee & Jean Scholma
March 24 – Bern & Nellie Scholma
March 29 – Bob & Judy Knoper
March 31 – Dale & Judy DeVries



OPEN/CLOSE

March 3 – Bern Scholma
March 10 – Bob Knoper
March 17 – Jon Vander Wal
March 24 – Lee Scholma
March 29 – Judy Knoper
March 31 – Bob Knoper





March

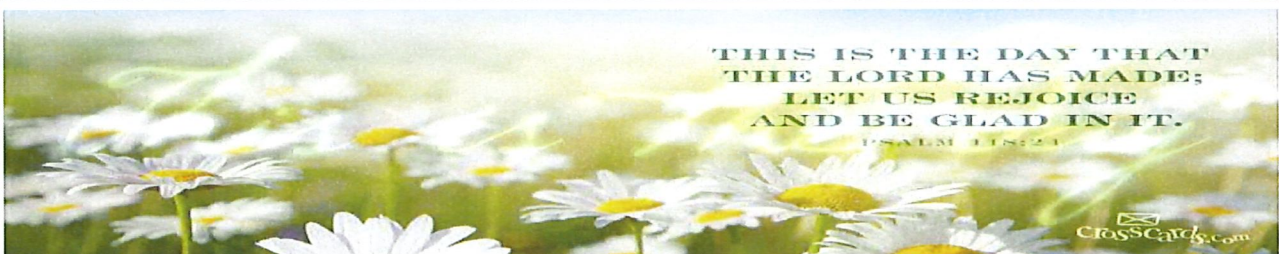
BIRTHDAYS



March

ANNIVERSARIES

Isabella Geurink	2	
Melissa Bosma	3	
Duke Busman	5	
Bev Ezinga	6	
Jean Christensen	7	
Tom Groenink	8	
Lee Scholma	8	
Bob Brower	10	
Trevor Kuzee	10	
Derik Morren	10	
Brent Schrotenboer	10	
Colleen Bauzin	11	
Elaine Brower	11	
Laura Schurman	12	
Seth Christrup	14	
Tom Geysbeek	14	
Kirsten Keegstra	14	
Sherri Schrotenboer	15	
Harley Sietsema	15	
Seth Kruithoff	16	
Brooke Kraker	18	
Danni Kraker	21	
	22	Cal & Carol Gulker
Carol Gulker	25	
Jan Mohr	25	
Nora VanderWal	26	Harley & Marcia Sietsema
Alexandra Gifford	27	
Nancy Pleune	27	
Brian Kraker	28	
Ron Brink	29	
Julia Kruithoff	30	
Mallory Kuzee	31	Fred & Marge Vedders
Bill Nanninga	31	



March 2024 Meetings



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 † Jr JAM/JAM † SNL Bible Study	4	5 † TML Bible Study † Council	6 † Family Dinner † GEMS † Cadets	7	8 † Super Soup Supper Fundraiser for Vicki/Danni	9
10	11 † Young Life	12 † TML Bible Study	13 † GEMS † Cadets	14 † Wyldlife † Zeeland Classis † Life Team Training Class	15	16 † Bowling League
17 † GEMS Sunday † Jr JAM/JAM † SNL Bible Study	18 † Young Life	19 † TML Bible Study	20 † GEMS Mother/Daughter/ Prayer Partners † Cadets Auction/ Fun	21 † Wyldlife † Positive Options Movie Night/Dinner	22	23
24	25 † Young Life	26 † TML Bible Study	27 † DRS Soup Supper † Cadets Pinewood Derby	28 † Wyldlife	29	30
31 † Sunrise Service 8am 