

From the Heart of the Pastor
Rev. Robert Lynch
Allegan UMC Synergy: The Power of Togetherness!
“Growing People to Love God”
“Hope”

Whether you have decided to return to in-person worship or have remained safe-at-home, these continue to be difficult times to find hope! Whether it is the Pandemic of Covid-19 or the Pandemic of Racism that is attacking our world, we live in troubling times. We can choose to deal with the reality that faces us that 120,000 deaths nationwide have already occurred from this virus, that people continue to test positive to this virus as States try to restart their economies, and we can abide by social distancing and wear masks to protect ourselves and our loved ones! The alternative is to ignore these guidelines and pretend that this is just another conspiracy of fake news and spread the virus!

God never promised us this life would be easy, but God does promise this: Our God is bigger than any storm we will face in this world. And God is always working for our good, even in the places where we can't see, even in the circumstances that we don't fully understand. God did promise that we are not alone and that God is with us, right in the midst of all we walk through.

In some of the most difficult times in life, I've learned the power of praying God's words back to him. Words like "do not be afraid," "fear not," etc. occur over three hundred times in the Bible and arguably 365 times, one for every day of the year. The most common context is when a divine being speaks to a human during a supernatural event (like the appearance and speech of a divine being). It alone holds the ability to soothe our souls, to refresh our spirits, and cause hope to rise above the pain we might be feeling. And though our circumstances may not be immediately changed, though our hearts may still be hurting, we're reminded through His Truth to set our eyes on Him. And that's the best place for them to be – in all of life.

**Hope comes when we embrace the Truth of God's Words
and the fact that God with us during this pandemic.**
"Be not Afraid, I am with you" Isaiah 43:5



Sermon Themes

July 5, 2020

[For Freedom](#)

Romans 7:15-25

"For freedom Christ has set us free." For Paul, freedom is not simply a gift we are given, but a responsibility placed in our hands.

July 12, 2020

[How to Walk in the Dark](#)

Psalms 119:105-112

Would you attempt to make an ascent of the highest mountains of each of the seven continents? Really? Would you do it if you were blind? Erik Weihenmayer did. Perhaps we, too, can learn how to walk in the dark.

July 19, 2020

[Jacob the Sleep-Tracker](#)

Genesis 28:10-19a

It's summer and the days are longer ... and hopefully a little slower. Take the time to be still, to rest, to dream, and to see how Jacob's dream can help you move closer to God.

July 26, 2020

[Breaking News](#)

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Every day, somewhere, something happens that warrants an immediate response in the media. Programming stops or a news flash runs across the bottom of our screens that breaks an important announcement. Jesus had world- and kingdom-shattering news to share, too. And in today's gospel text, he explains.

WINDOW TO THE WORLD

THANK YOU:

Thank you everyone for the cards, food, thoughts and prayers for my family for the loss of my sister. I feel so blessed, cared for, and loved by so many! Continued prayers appreciated for peace and justice.

Thanks! - Jo Anne Giles



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Continued prayers for Norm Pierson, Jim Elmore, Kris Blackburn, & Debbie Stutzman. Pray for Debbie Stutzman that her treatments for pelvic bone cancer and liver cancer will keep the cancer cells contained (which is the goal of the treatment.) Prayers for Jackie Thompson, as she recovers from a stroke and heart attack. Prayers for June Querback as she recovers from a broken femur. Prayers for all those affected by the COVID-19 Coronavirus, whether they are sick, out of school, or off work.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY:

Those connected with this congregation:
John Barber, Alyssa Chamberlain, Sadie Clark, Zachary Cooke, Andrew Cowen, Matt Fullam, Stephanie Hadley, Isaiah Hadley, Aaron Maule, Gregory McIntire, Chelsea Reed, Mara Ruiz, Jason Star, Dai Wessman, and Dan Wroblewski.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR THOSE BATTLING CANCER OR HAVING TREATMENT:

Jane Allen, Tom Arlington, Bill Balgoyen, Evelyn Bierlein, Terry Brink, Ed Bronson, Paul Buckler, Denise Cherry, Jim Conlon, Stacy David, Jessica Green, Vic Hitchcock, Ryan Howrigan, Lesley Kibiloski, Bruce Mejeur, Philip Nicolai, Michele Randal, Terri Stapleton, Toby Star, Judy Stark, Jackson Stout, Florene Stultz, Mindy Sturman, Deb Stutzman, Cessily Wotring Thackler, Nola Thole, Danny Truong, Rhyen Veenkant, Jenny Walsh, Jen Wessman, Steve Wroblewski & those known but unnamed.

CONCERNS & SYMPATHY:

Continued prayers for those unnamed, having health problems, or have suffered loss.

JULY Birthdays

- 4 – Vicki Sebright
- 10 – Sally Adams
- 12 – Tita Balgoyen
Kristen Giles
- 13 – Joan Rininger
Leah Van Order
- 14 – Christianna Trutsch
- 15 – Kris Blackburn
Erika Brower
- 16 – Amelia (Barber) Keel
Kara Dangremond
- 20 – Libby Geurink
Lauren (Lynch) Greenhalgh
- 22 – Marlene Milhiem
Mike Conklin
Becky Rininger
- 23 – Linda Flynn
- 25 – Sara Ramaker
- 26 – Mark Brink
Nancy Brink
Audrey Brink
Jacob DeBruyne
- 27 – Doug Brink
- 29 – Pat Philley
Jeffrey Griffin
- 30 – P.J. McQuaid

JULY Anniversaries

- 3 – Jimmy & Jacque James
- 5 – Matt & Kristy Milbocker
- 20 – Andy & Arlene Branham





THANKFUL CORNER



I feel like I have been in a writer's block these last few months. Now I never really knew what a writer's block was, but if writing about the same subject is being in a block then I am in one! The Pandemic that came into our lives in early March is still here and we are still living in fear of its ability to weaken and sicken people and, in some cases, cause death. We can't see it in the air, we can't feel it as it moves past us, but those who have experienced it can tell you it is like something they never imagined. Many of us know Dean Michaels, and his daughter, Megan, had the virus and on Facebook walked us through her daily journey. She had a fever for 15 days or more and was quarantined away from her family in an upstairs bedroom and bathroom. There were days she could hardly talk, lift her head, eat, and it took all her energy to just breathe! After she was able to be out of quarantine, she wrote about the fatigue and her need for daily naps. Just last week she posted a picture of herself dressed up for a zoom meeting for work and said she had walked her first mile, but her hair and eyelashes were falling out. This stuff is real folks and we need to take it seriously. Something that happened early on in her illness was her church family came and prayed outside of her house as she sat in an upstairs window and that little act touched Megan greatly. At our church we have opened up for worship, but it is worship in a far different way than you could have ever imagined. We greet you outside by having you sign a statement that you don't have certain symptoms, we take your temperature, and someone is there to open the door for you. The railings are wiped down after every use and the elevator too. Hopefully you understand that all of these safe-guards are put in place to keep you and everyone else as safe as possible. Our congregation has lost 7 members to death since the first of March and, thus far, none of them have died from the virus. It is sad that we have not been able to come together to celebrate the lives of those we have lost, but hopefully their families know we hold them and their loved ones in our hearts and prayers. It appears that this virus is going to be with us for a long time yet, and, although I don't want to think this is our new normal, it may be for a while. Until the time comes when we can open the church for gatherings, meetings, classes, and worship like it was, we must be patient and await word from our Bishop, the guidance from the health department, and the leadership from our Ad./Bd. Please be patient as we too want to join together as the Body of Christ and celebrate the Risen Christ as we know He lives!

The song "You'll Never Walk Alone" keeps playing through my head as the words are so assuring that when you walk through a storm you need to hold your head up high and don't be afraid of the dark. The storm we are living in is the Coronavirus, and the dark is all the unknowns that this virus carries with it. We need to walk on through the wind and the rain that the storm brings and know we will never walk alone! This is just one of the many promises that God has given us that He is there to walk beside us through the many storms of our lives.

Blessings my friends, Judy

OPEN HOUSE MEMORIAL FOR BILL BALGOYEN

"The Balgoyen family wishes to express their deepest thanks and appreciation to all who have reached out since the passing of our loving Bill Balgoyen. An Open House Memorial for family and friends will be held at the family farm on July 5 from 2:00 to 5:00 in celebration of Bill's life.



UPDATING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Don't worry; we're NOT going to take your picture!

We are only looking to update everyone's contact information.

Information we are looking for is:

- Name
- Address
- Phone (home/cell)
- E-mail
- Children in your household
- Birthday/Anniversary



Now if you're not comfortable providing all this for the directory, don't worry, we're not picky! If you only want to provide your name and e-mail, you can do that. We just want people to be able to contact our church family if the need arises. If you have any questions, please let the church office know. **Please have your contact information turned in to the church by August 15th.** There will be hard copies available at the church and digital copies available hopefully by September.



Some of you might be wondering, "What is going on with Kids Hope?" Well I can tell you, nothing much right now. With all the uncertain changes brought about with North Ward closing and the COV19 pandemic, we have pretty much cancelled all the activities right now pertaining to the program. We have been accepted to partner with Dawson Elementary when school resumes. The public schools have announced many budget cuts for the 2020-21 school year, one being all teachers' aides have been let go. What this will mean for us as mentors, subs and prayer partners is that we may have to fill that void a little bit more. I have put in a request to meet with the Dawson principal, Becky. I'm just waiting for things to settle. We will be celebrating

our 25th Year Anniversary in the Fall. No date has been determined at this time. As always.....GOD BLESS you all and THANK YOU ALL for your continued prayers for our program and for our children.

Take care, stay safe and stay healthy!!!!

Judy Curry

Kids Hope Director AUMC

Mission Moment

The Wesley Foundation is the mission chosen for July. Due to the economy, funding for the Foundation has been cut dramatically in 2020. The Wesley Foundation provides vital services for the students who attend Western Michigan University, K College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and the local community. It provides the local community a place to worship. In addition to ministry groups and events, they partner with other community groups and ministries to offer diverse opportunities and events in their building for the students and the community of Kalamazoo. They also offer service opportunities to provide ways for students to serve on campus, in the community, nationally, and internationally. Please consider donating to this very worthwhile extension of the United Methodist Church.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

**** DUE TO THE DECREASED AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUALS NEEDED TO SUNDAY WORSHIP; ONLY THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE SCHEDULED.**

CHECK-IN (FRONT ENTRANCE)

Cindy Thiele
Wende Wood/Jennings
Amanda Blom

TV MEDIA

All Month...
Amanda Blom
Or
Rod Rambadt

SOUND

5 – Ed Garvin
12 – Willard Jennings
19 – Tim Borgman
26 – Jon Brink

CHECK-IN (PARKING LOT SIDE)

Rod Rambadt
Corlee Harris
Joyce Brink

VIDEO

5 – Bobby Tremaine
12 – Jon Brink
19 – Clyde DeLaet
26 – Barb Gibson

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE BE HERE ON
YOUR SCHEDULED SUNDAY, PLEASE FIND
SOMEONE TO STEP IN FOR YOU!!**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9-11:45 am Food Pantry 5-7 pm Food Pantry	2	3 8 am Food Delivery 10-11:45 am Food Pantry 4 pm Briarwood Sing-a-Long	4 Pentwater Camp Begins
5 9:25 am Worship	6	7 9-11:45 am Food Pantry	8 9-11:45 am Food Pantry 5-7 pm Food Pantry	9	10 8 am Food Delivery 10-11:45 am Food Pantry	11 Pentwater Camp Ends
12 9:25 am Worship	13	14 9-11:45 am Food Pantry	15 9-11:45 am Food Pantry 5-7 pm Food Pantry	16	17 8 am Food Delivery 10-11:45 am Food Pantry	18
19 9:25 am Worship	20	21 9-11:45 am Food Pantry	22 9-11:45 am Food Pantry 5-7 pm Food Pantry	23 6:30 pm Ad Board	24 8 am Food Delivery 10-11:45 am Food Pantry	25
26 9:25 Worship	27	28 9-11:45 am Food Pantry	29 9-11:45 am Food Pantry 5-7 pm Food Pantry	30	31 8 am Food Delivery 10-11:45 am Food Pantry	



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Pastor’s Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00-12:00 p.m. or by appointment

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God’s Creatures

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| ALLIGATOR | ANT | ANTELOPE | APE | ARMADILLO | BEAR |
| BEE | BUTTERFLY | CAT | CRAB | CROCODILE | DEER |
| DOG | DOLPHIN | EAGLE | ELEPHANT | ELK | FROG |
| GAZELLE | GORILLA | HIPPOPOTAMUS | KANGAROOS | LEMUR | LEOPARD |
| LION | LIZARD | MONGOOSE | MOOSE | OSTRICH | OTTER |
| OWL | PANDA | QUAIL | RACCOON | RHINOCEROS | SHARK |
| SLOTH | SNAKE | SQUID | TIGER | TOAD | WEASEL |
| WOLF | ZEBRA | | | | |

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