



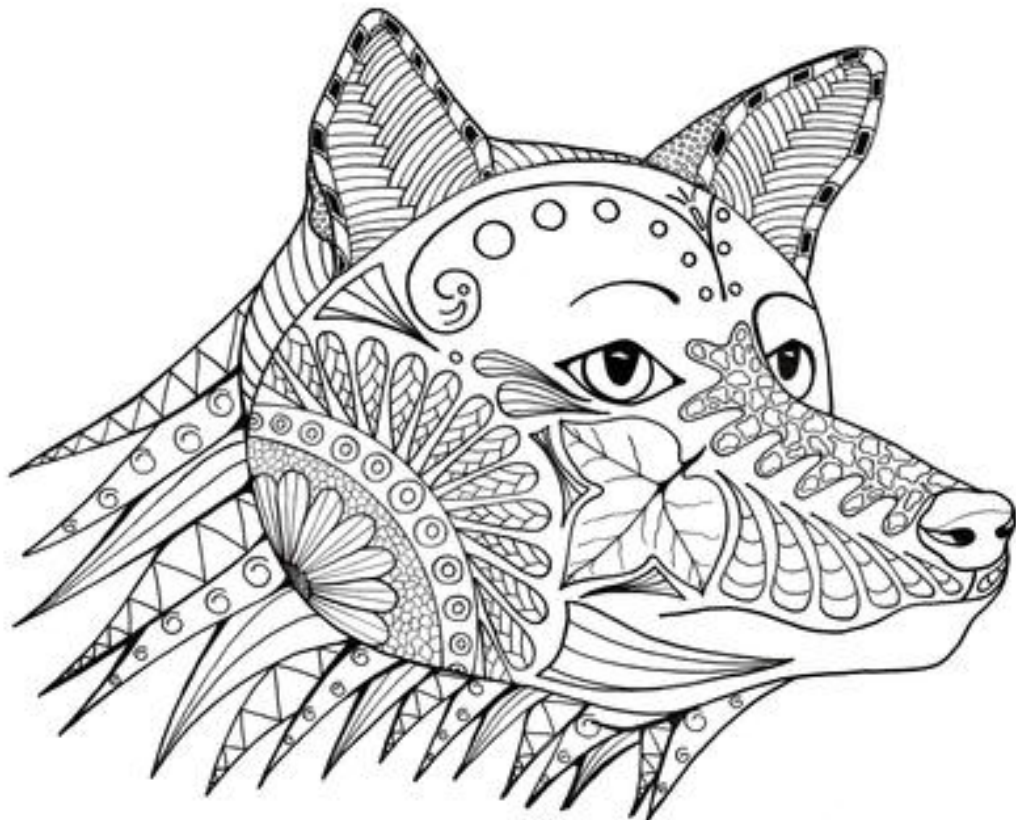
Allegan United Methodist Church
409 Trowbridge Street
Allegan, MI 49010

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Allegan United Methodist Church – June 2020



Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00-12:00 p.m.
Pastor’s Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00-12:00 p.m. or by appointment
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“For you were called to freedom, brothers & sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity to self-indulgence, but serve each other through love.”

Galatians 5:13

Recent words from our District Superintendent, Dwayne Bagley, still linger in my thoughts as I write this note: “Then, amidst all of our concern about reopenings, things fell apart. In the days leading up to Pentecost cities across our country were set on fire, the flames illuminating a fact of our national life we would like to forget. America’s original sin of racism still has a strangle hold on our society.”

These past few months have been like no other time in which I can remember. Beyond Covid-19, the racial unrest that grips our nation and the world divides us rather than unites us! The Pandemic of Covid-19 has no easy solutions, it is not just a “bad flu” that will eventually will disappear. We have to try to understand the systemic nature of this virus and defeat it. The same is true with Racism!

Like a Pandemic, Racism eats away at the very fabric of our society. It is systemic because it is rooted in the socio-economical-religious and political systems of American life.

Racism is the original sin of America that dates back to our independence! The [Naturalization Act of 1790](#) set the first uniform rules for the granting of [United States citizenship](#) by [naturalization](#), which limited naturalization to “free white person[s]”, thus excluding [Native Americans](#), [indentured servants](#), [slaves](#), [free blacks](#) and later Asians from citizenship. The [Naturalization Act of 1870](#) extended naturalization to black persons, while revoking the citizenship of naturalized Chinese Americans.

The Emancipation Proclamation that freed Black Slaves was short lived! Despite black people gaining formal US citizenship in 1870, it wasn’t long before black Americans were [disenfranchised](#) in the Southern States by various strategies, as well as being persecuted and otherwise discriminated against in those states and beyond.

As many of us witnessed in the 1960’s, Racism came to forefront in the Civil Rights Movement. Nonviolent resistance is a relatively new path to social justice. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., were some of the first to convince large groups of people to protest without physical fighting. Gandhi accomplished something that the early Americans did not; he got rid of British colonial rule through peace, not war.

Non-violent protest became a way to express a nation’s recognition of racial injustice yet we know violence continues. Violence is often the desperate response of people who feel they have no other recourse. We can reduce violence by providing better access to justice for everyone.

As we once again struggle with social unrest in our cities, heightened by the fears of Covid-19 and Racism, we must reject violence in every form, destruction of property and gun violence and unite as the song goes, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!”

SERMON THEMES

This month, we move between some of the more startling stories of Jesus and his earthly ministry and Paul’s attempt to put a frame of possibility and understanding around the story of Jesus. Sometimes guided by Matthew’s storytelling, other times led by the beautifully weighty prose of the Epistle to the Romans, we dig down into core of our lived-out faith. How do we live into these miraculous moments in Jesus’ life in our world today?

August 2, 2020 “You give them Something” **Matthew 14:13-21**

Our focus is Jesus. We are looking at Jesus and then looking at us. Not so much so we can emulate Jesus, but so that we can find motivation for what it is that we do. God’s *how* is our *why*, remember?

August 9, 2020 “The Word is Near You” **Matthew 14:22-33**

This is a time for celebrating who we are as the people of God. Instead of prayers asking for what we don’t have, maybe we can claim with joy what we already have

August 16, 2020 “To the Lost Sheep” **Matthew 15: 21-28**

We are wrestling with the wideness of God’s mercy and attempting to answer the question, “Who is included in God’s saving grace?”

August 23, 2020 “Who Do you Say that I Am?” **Matthew 16:13-20**

There is the encounter along the way between Jesus and the disciples: “Who do you say that I am?” Confession time! Statement of faith time!

August 30, 2020 “Holding Fast” **Romans 12:9-21**

Celebrate the working of love in the midst of the people of God.



Sarah Circle will not be meeting for our August potluck due to the church still being closed to meetings. Hopefully all you gals are staying safe and I look forward to seeing you when we can gather together once again.

Judy Jennings

**Ad Board Committee Meeting
COVID-Style**

Just lounging 6-feet apart, enjoying the fresh air, working together to keep our church going strong during this time!

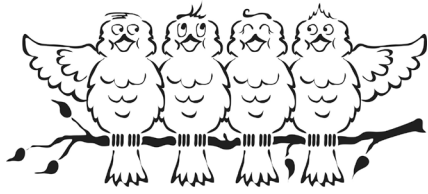


Looking for some fresh produce? Look no further than our church! Some members of our congregation have some extra goodies from their garden that you can get at the church. There will also be freshly caught fish available upon order. Purchasing these delectable veggies is through a goodwill offering. If you are interested, contact the church office and set up a pick up time or delivery of the week’s produce.

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**BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
WORD SEARCH**

(There are no multiples of the names. 56 books in total)



It seems like our fight against Covid will never end, and another fight we are in is for racial justice and it has never ended. We are once again in the midst of riots, marches, destruction, and, sadly, death. Living in Grand Rapids, in my earlier years, I went to school with and had neighbors who were people of color. I had childhood friends who were children of color, but I did not see their color; I saw their smiles and shared happy times with them during recess. When I left Jefferson Elementary, in the 4th grade, I was sad to leave those friends and move to a new school where I would not know anybody. At that time we rented our schoolbooks, and, because we moved during the school year, our deposit was to be returned. When I arrived home, after my last day at the school, my dad was waiting for my brothers and me to give him our deposit. My brothers handed over their deposit money, but I did not have mine. My dad began to question me about why I did not have it. I explained if I took my deposit back my friend, who shared my books, would not have books to do her schoolwork. My dad started to say something but my mom said, “Jim I think that was very nice of Judy to do that!” I am not sure to this day if my dad approved or not, but I am proud of what I did. My friend was a child of color. I truly believe the reason we were moving is my Dad wanted to get us out of the neighborhood that we lived in because the people of color were moving into our neighborhood, and he felt he wanted to get the best value for our home so we moved out to the city of Wyoming. I have always liked the children’s song “Jesus Loves the Little Children” as it says that Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world; red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world. I truly believe that He does, indeed, love all the children of the world. I don’t believe He likes seeing this on-going struggle for equal rights based on color, race, sex, or sexual orientation. He is a God of peace, and He wants that for us, but it takes us to make peace happen. “Let There Be Peace on Earth” says exactly what we need to hear that peace begins with us! We can’t assume that others can make it happen as we all know that has been tried over many years, and every few years we are right back in the throngs of the hatred, violence, and killings that have really never gone away.

There is also a lot of strong feelings about the wearing of masks and this, too, has led to violence. I don’t like to wear a mask, but I do so to do my part to stop the spread of the Corona Virus. I sort of look at it like wearing a seatbelt, wearing a shirt, and wearing shoes when I enter a store. As the sign on the door says “no shoes, no shirt, no service!” Now they have added masks to that sign and I truly have no problem with it. I just wish we could all look at this time of discomfort as feeling like we are doing everything in our power to keep those we know and love safe. Again, peace over wearing a mask begins with me, so I will continue to do so until we are safe again to go without them. Let me leave you with this from the book of Numbers 6: 22; “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.”



Blessings and Peace my friends, Judy

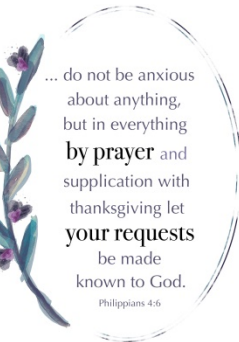
WINDOW TO THE WORLD

GRATEFUL HEART:

Joy Masek – Praise God for his mercy & help; had lots of care both at hospital & home. Grateful heart for the love received.

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Continued prayers for Norm Pierson, Jim Elmore, Kris Blackburn, & Debbie Stutzman, June Querback, Ginny Borgman. 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 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 Wrobleski.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR THOSE

BATTLING CANCER OR HAVING TREATMENT:

Jane Allen, Tom Arlington, 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, Rhyan Veenkant, Jenny Walsh, Jen Wessman, Steve Wrobleski & those known but unnamed.

CONCERNS & SYMPATHY:

Prayers for the friends and families of Shelly Cramer and Roger Morris at their passing. Continued prayers for those unnamed, having health problems, or have suffered loss.

AUGUST Birthdays

- 1 – Judy Curry
- 3 – Jolene Cornell
- 4 – Jill LeMaire
- 6 – Susan Burd-Barnes
Kristy Milbocker
- 8 – Mackenzie Sturman
Morgan Sturman
- 9 – Merle Dalrymple
- 10 – Patty Anderson
June Smith
- 11 – Lori Dickinson
- 14 – Thomas DeBruyne
- 18 – Ben Anderson
Mark Gibson
- 19 – Jan Edgerton
Janice Tuffelmire
Ruby Moore
- 20 – Tyler Brink
Tom Tuffelmire
- 21 – Barb Brewster
- 25 – Jeremiah Wood
- 26 – Paul Griffin Jr.
- 27 – Pat Cantwell
- 28 – Lisa Sebright

AUGUST Anniversaries

- 11 – Terry & Nancy Brink
David & Sandy Oetman
- 12 – Jason & Sara Ramaker
- 13 – Patrick & Leslie Ballard
Lane & Mindy Sturman
- 16 – Hanford & Eilene Brink
- 23 – Don & Barb Sanborn
- 24 – Tom & Lois Giles
Rod & Karen Rambadt
- 25 – Leonard & Susan Barnes



Greetings,
I have been tasked by the Ad Board to come up with a plan for Sunday School this fall. As this is uncharted territory I am asking the congregation for input. Please take a moment to respond to the following questions.

1. Are you/your family interested in Sunday School? If yes, please list your name as well as the names and grade levels for all children that will be attending.
2. Would you prefer on-line, in-person small group setting (abiding by good social distancing practices) or both?
3. Would you be willing to meet outside the normal Sunday 11 am -noon time frame in order to maintain good social distancing practices?
4. Are you interested in leading Sunday school or a small group? If so, please indicate any preferences you may have (i.e. kids; adults, teens, women's small group; etc.).
5. Is there any educational type program that you would like to see at Allegan UMC?

You can either mail in your answers to the church, leave a copy with your answers at the church, or you can personally email me at dcfoune@gmail.com. Any hard copies will be placed in my church mailbox. Thank you for your thoughts on Sunday School.

God Bless,
Cathy Foune



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 am Worship	3	4 9-1145 am Food Pantry	5 9-1145 am Food Pantry 5-7 pm Food Pantry	6	7 8 am Food Delivery 10-11:45 Food Pantry	8
9 9:30 am Worship	10	11 9-1145 am Food Pantry	12 9-1145 am Food Pantry 5-7 pm Food Pantry	13	14 8 am Food Delivery 10-11:45 Food Pantry	15
16 9:30 am Worship	17	18 9-1145 am Food Pantry	19 9-1145 am Food Pantry 5-7 pm Food Pantry	20 6:30 Ad Board	21 8 am Food Delivery 10-11:45 Food Pantry	22
23 9:30 am Worship	24	25 9-1145 am Food Pantry	26 9-1145 am Food Pantry 5-7 pm Food Pantry	27	28 8 am Food Delivery 10-11:45 Food Pantry	29
30 9:30 am Worship	31					



The mission for August, 2020 is Sylvia's Place.

Sylvia's Place is Allegan County's only domestic violence safe house. It offers secure shelter and supportive services free of charge to survivors of abuse and their dependents. Over 63,666 safe bed-nights to women and children fleeing domestic abuse have been provided since 1996. The agency also offers non-residential services to those that have obtained secure housing away from the abuser.

The agency was formed after the tragic death of a 28 year-old mother named Sylvia Allen, who was shot and killed by her violent boyfriend who she was trying to escape from. Her death made it clear that there was no place in the area for victims of domestic abuse to turn to when trying to get out of abusive relationships.

This is why Sylvia's Place exists.

Please consider donating to this local agency throughout missions outreach program. The agency provides vital and life-changing services to our community. Thank you!



• **Donations:**

June: 1 apple juice, 2 coffee creamer, 1 chips; **Donation Center-Feed the Need-**192 rolls of toilet paper, 72 hamburger helper, 60 pasta, 96 veggies, 96 pork & beans, 60 peanut butter, 36 pasta sauce, 270 bars of soap; **Ladders of Hope:** 14 cases of nectarines, 41 bags limes, 10 bags avocados, 4 mangos, 26 pears **Village Market-**8 mini muffins, 11 pudding, 1 mac & cheese, Graham Cracker, 2 Corn chips, 1 G2 juice, 1 instant potatoes, 4 soft tacos-large, 4 soft tacos-small, 12 bread; **July:** 1 stuffing, 2 raisin boxes, 48 soup, 4 peanut butter, 11 pasta sauce, 1 apple sauce, 2 cans mandarin oranges, 5 side dishes, 4 boxes crackers, 5 cereal, 2 laundry detergent, 3 cans of corn, 3 ketchup, 3 pancake mix, 5 tuna, 2 syrup, 8 pasta, 13 misc., 1 bag ketchup pkts, 1 bag mustard pkts, 1 bag relish pkts, 2 rice, 3 juice, 10 cans of vegetables, 2 oatmeal, 1 pkg Jello, 2 cans of beans, 12 soup, 5 cans of fruit; **Donation Center-Feed the Need-**4 dried fruit & nut mix, 1 dried pitted plums, 12 soup, 2 refried jalapeno beans, 3 cans of pork, 2 cans chicken, 1 can corn, 1 box raisins, 17 pkgs hot dogs, 1 bag potatoes, 1 bottle electrolyte solution, 18 Catholic Charity boxes; **Village Market-**56 bread, 20 pkgs tortillas, 22 pies, 14 pkgs sweet items, 18 pkgs of stuffing, 16 snack pkgs, 1 box graham crackers, 2 bagels, 1 Mrs. Dash, 67 coffee pods, 5 pkgs of salad croutons, 7 pkgs walnuts w/white chocolate, 1 24 oz pkg of corn meal; **Ladders of Hope:** 80 zucchini, 1 fennel, 6 pkgs of grapes, 80 summer squash, 34 pkgs blueberries, 8 pkgs of cherries, 1 papaya, 2 raspberries, 64 bread items

- **Donation request for August: Jam/Jelly. Any type of donation is greatly appreciated not just the ones listed.**

Month	2019 Visits	# of People	2020 Visits	# of People	# of Kids
Jan.-June	558	1,765	1,127	1,165	427
July	171	574	46	128	41
Aug-Dec	665	2,176			
Total	1,394	4,515	1,173	1,293	468