

April 2018



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Jesus the Victor!

The cross and the resurrection of Jesus are inextricably linked. In those events, Jesus won several victories for all who put their faith in him. The consequences of sin are horrible and far reaching. Guilt, condemnation, physical decay, separation from God, separation from other people, and death are some of the most brutal consequences of sin. Through the cross and resurrection, Jesus began to reverse the curse of sin. On Resurrection Sunday we will rejoice in the victories he won for us and look forward to the time when all of the consequences of sin will be done away with.

Following that Sunday we will continue in our study through the book of Luke in the Bible, one of the biographies of Jesus. Several important topics are coming up including a Gentile who recognized something in Jesus that the religious professionals of his day failed to admit. The different results are stark and revealing.

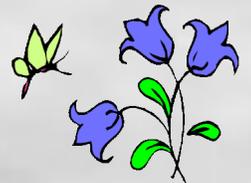
Also coming up is Jesus' response to John the Baptist when he asks through some messengers if Jesus is the One. Now if someone should have known it was John the Baptist and yet his personal situation was challenging his faith. If circumstances of life have ever challenged your faith, I encourage you to be there to hear how Jesus answered him. His answer may help you in a crisis caused by circumstances.

Additionally, Jesus grants forgiveness to a sinner who sinned a lot. This caused some controversy with a man who didn't sin as much (he thought)

and Jesus' answer to him gives hope to all of us who know we have sinned. This service will be one that is intentionally evangelistic from beginning to end. Bring someone who knows they're not perfect that they might hear Jesus' words of hope and forgiveness.

Finally in this five Sunday month, Jesus uses a graphic illustration to show that how we listen is critical to our relationship with him. Your progress in the faith can only go as far as the quality of your hearing will take you. In the words of Jesus, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

In His Joy,
Rodney Price



APRIL SERMON SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | “Jesus the Victor!” |  |
| 8 | Luke 7:1-17
“More than What People Thought” | |
| 15 | Luke 7:18-35
“Children of True Wisdom” | |
| 22 | Luke 7:36-50
“Forgiveness for Many Sins” | |
| 29 | Luke 8:1-21
“How Is Your Listening?” | |



YOUTH-MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

Who do your kids go to with questions? I'm not talking about the easy questions like, "what should I wear today?" or "what's for dinner?" I'm not even talking about future dating, marriage, career and college questions. I'm talking about faith questions, God questions, the most important questions. You might think your teen is "ok" because they go to church with you every Sunday and are part of youth group. They talk to you about things and you have a solid relationship with them. You might even think they would come to you if they had faith questions, but do they? Part of growing up and making the Christian faith your own, comes with asking questions. Learning to look at the world with a Christian world view and not the postmodern, secular view will require questions. Especially so they can sort through the information they have access to on social media and through the Internet. If they don't ask questions how do they learn to separate truth from lies? Our society does not reflect Christ. The world's current, "what's ok with you is ok with me," mentality is not going to make it any easier to live as a young Christian, especially once they leave your home.

For me, growing up in a Christian home with a father who was also my pastor lead me to hold my questions deep inside. The number one reason I did not ask my parents questions was because of the pressure I felt to already know the answer. I lived in a Christian home with parents who lived out their faith and who attempted to pass that down to me and my brother. Luckily I couldn't turn to the Internet for answers at that point. But instead of searching out someone to talk with, I just didn't ask. Eventually, thanks to the relationship of marriage and all that God can use that for, I could no longer NOT ask my questions. My faith and whether I was going to live it out or not was no longer an issue. I was either 100% in or 100% out. I could no longer walk the line of living with one foot in the world and one foot as a Christian. Making that choice began years of learning and growing closer to God. It helped me realize that my world view had to be Christ centered and that the Bible was absolute truth. I fell in love with the Bible, the book that once utterly confused me. (It still does at times, but that confusion doesn't bother me the same way it did when I was a teen.) Thankfully I also found people I could talk to and listen to. I also matured enough to realize that my dad wasn't perfect and had questions of his own. Not only could I take my questions to him, I could share what I was learning and we could learn more about God together. Who would have thought that could happen!?

So what do our kids say on this subject and how do I know? Well, here are some statements that I have heard from teenagers over the past few years, including, "I already know what you're going to say," from my own son. "I can't talk to them, they don't understand." "I already know what they are going to say." "I do ask, but then they just say, 'That's what we believe' and no further information is given". "I'm from a church family, I'm not supposed to question this stuff." "I don't want them to know how confused I am or that I have doubts." "It doesn't really matter, does it?" "I just go by what my dad says, that's good enough for me." I promise you, this is what is in their heads. Like I said, I heard one of these from my teen and the rest I have heard from your teens and their friends.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 4:2 to "preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction." It also says in 1 Peter 3:15 to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks. Our kids watch with very keen eyes how we live out our faith. But it's our faith. They need to figure out their faith. In order to do that, they MUST ask questions. If you feel inadequate in answering their questions, well you just found your next bible study or the questions you need to ask someone else. It's ok to not know everything (believe me) and to let your kids know that you don't know. So if you have a kid and wonder if they are stuck believing that they can't ask you questions, help them find a trusted adult, a believer that you know and trust, to answer their questions. Because if you don't...Google or a friend who believes we are made from "star dust that resulted from natural forces we are just learning about" may be the person they ask.

...until next time,

Rebecca Anderson





The snow is melting, the birds are chirping, and soon the flowers will start budding from the ground. As the weather starts to get nicer **outside**, we will notice more people coming **inside** our church to visit on Sunday mornings. Visiting a church for the first time can be intimidating. And although first time guests may have different reasons for walking through the doors, all are hoping to feel welcome and find a place to belong as they grow in their faith.

In his book Becoming a Welcoming Church, Thom S. Rainer provides some practical suggestions for regular church attenders to help visitors feel welcome:

1. Acknowledge guests—even a simple smile and hello can help people feel welcome
2. Introduce yourself and take an interest in their life
3. Make an effort to connect with someone new **before** the service begins
4. Invite guests to sit with you, or if they already have a spot, ask to sit with them

These are a few simple ways that anyone can communicate to a guest that they are seen, valued, and can have a place to belong!

Information shared from: Rainer, Thom S. *Becoming a Welcoming Church*. B & H Books, 2018



If you feel that welcoming others is a strength of yours and you would like more information about the opportunity to serve on our Greeting Team, please contact Danielle Blomberg at 715-922-0002.

Upper Room Worship - a new small group at OBC

Join us for songs of worship, testimony and prayer in a small group setting.

~ April 7 & 21 ~

7:00 - 8:30 p.m., at Sam and Aimee's house

Ladies' Night Out—Sunday, April 29—6:30-8:30 p.m.



All ladies high school age and older are invited to join us for our last moms' night out this spring.



Project: Hanging Shelf

Discussion: An Honest Look at Mental Health Struggles

A panel of ladies with first hand experience with depression, anxiety, eating disorder, and OCD tell us their stories of struggle, victory, how to recognize symptoms, and tools & strategies that have been helpful for them.

Please join us & invite a friend!!

Fun Project - Snacks - Friendship - Growth - Encouragement

Community Ecumenical Choir Concert at OBC

"Days of Elijah"

Sunday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship time with cookies & coffee following the concert.

Easter Sunday Morning

8:00-9:30 Breakfast

Everyone welcome! Donations go to the youth missions trip to Haiti this summer.



9:30 Baptismal Service

in Upper Worship Center

10:15 Easter Worship Service

with mini-concert

Nursery & Children's Church provided



Kingdom Quest Family Night

Wednesday, April 18

6:30—8:00 p.m.

With special guests John & Diane

Windle and their puppet friends!

BRING YOUR WHOLE FAMILY!



April Birthdays

- 1 Heather Olson, Teri Byrd
- 2 Dan Mattson, Kyle Nussberger, Klara Swan
- 3 Tzeitel Jo Stolhammer
- 4 Ledger Jones
- 5 Sue Strombom, Brian Ulrich
- 6 Colby Winter
- 8 Steven Wear, Thomas Monroe
- 9 Meg Gustafson, Patrick Daniels
- 10 Ben Blomberg, Lance Mattson, Myra Grapa
- 12 Stephanie Karlik
- 14 Jennifer Blomberg
- 15 Kevin McIlhany, Barbie Monroe, Mark Winter, Will Rhody
- 16 Roger Bartoszewski, Karen Anderson, Dolly Hadden
- 19 Bradley Blomberg, Brian Mattson, Emily Espinoza
- 21 Sheri Archer, Jenae Mattson, Matt Temby, Jake Walcisak
- 22 Greg Donahoe, Josh Sarkkinen
- 23 Lexi Blomberg
- 24 Randy Blomberg, Arnita Elleman
- 25 Mark Wildberg
- 27 Jenna Meier
- 28 Derek Foster, Emily Blomberg, Jim Palmquist, Elizabeth Nelson
- 29 Pattie Swan



Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family has an address change
 - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
 - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: info@ogemabaptistchurch.org

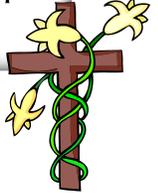
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Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am
Wednesday Student & Ladies' Ministries - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



Whatever your age or stage in life,
YOU are WELCOME here!

*"For it is by GRACE you have been SAVED,
through FAITH—and this not from
ourselves, it is the GIFT of GOD—
not by works, so that no one can boast."*

Ephesians 2:8

Missionary Spotlight Randy & Bev VanDeLoo

Evangelical Hospital Chaplain, Marshfield, WI



Chaplain Randy VanDeLoo and his wife Bev serve the Lord in the Marshfield, WI, area through *Evangelical Hospital Chaplain Incorporated*. Last fall this ministry celebrated 50 years of service to God, 50 years of sharing God's love and the Gospel with hospital patients and their families.

"Our hope is not in this life but in the eternal life that Christ offers to those who believe and trust Him for salvation. Jesus paid it all at Calvary. He willingly laid down His life to pay the debt we could not pay. By receiving His free gift of salvation through faith and repentance He guarantees us a home in Heaven. In a series of visits with a dying patient, it was my privilege to share the life changing promises of God's Word to him and to all who believe and receive God's free gift. Ephesians 2:8-9. Later, I was asked to do the funeral service and share these same truths to a standing room only crowd. ... The choice of receiving or rejecting Christ has eternal consequences. Are you ready?"

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of this ministry. With your help I am able to continue the work of the Evangelical Hospital Chaplain. ... Let us continue together to do the Lord's work. I count it a privilege to be your missionary to encourage the sick, support the weak, and lead the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please remember if you or a loved one will be admitted to the Marshfield Medical Center, give me a call, text, or email and let me know when you will be there. In addition, indicate to the admissions person that you would like a visit from Chaplain Randy. I will make every effort to see you.

In HIS Service, Chaplain Randy" (taken from newsletters to OBC from Chaplain Randy, *Evangelical Hospital Chaplain Incorporated*)
Email: vandeloo1@juno.com Phone: 715-650-0990