

December 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

## Messages of Hope

Hopelessness is rampant in our culture today. People are checking out in many ways ranging from distraction to suicide. The hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus is as necessary now as it ever was. Here are some of the opportunities available this month for you and people you know to get a message of real hope.

On December 2, we will celebrate communion after considering John 1:1-14. The message of hope is “Becoming Children of God.” Jesus’ coming to earth was essential for us to have the possibility to become children of God. This passage explains why and this message will also explain how a person becomes a child of God. Maybe bring someone with you who needs to hear.

The next Sunday is “Aspects of Jesus” and is from 1 John 1:1 - 2:2. Many in our culture think they know all they need to about Jesus and many are woefully misinformed. John was the closest to Jesus of all his followers and his eyewitness information can bring into sharp focus the different aspects of who Jesus really is.

On December 16, the kids will present their Christmas program in the service and the choir along with people from Spirit Baptist will give a concert, “Angels Are Making Their Rounds.” The message of hope in the morning is “The Significance of Jesus’ Family Tree.” If you have no clue as to why Jesus’ family of origin and family tree are important, I urge you to attend. A massive infusion of hope is available with this knowledge.

The next Sunday continues that theme and focuses on “The Origin and Purpose of Jesus.” Jesus came to earth on a mission. He accomplished it. If you believe, you will have eternal hope.

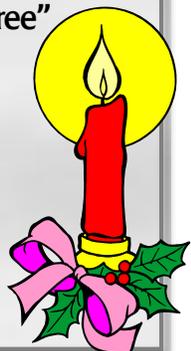
On Christmas morning at 6:00 we will have an awesome service called Julotta. The service features a lot of music, a short sermon and concludes with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus by all who want to join in. Following the service is a fellowship time with some finger foods. This highly attended service is one of the highlights of the year. The message of hope is front and center making this a truly joyous occasion even if life’s circumstances are difficult at the present.

Hope should always be in season and can be for those who know Jesus. This Christmas season, make sure you take time to remember the hope that Jesus brings.

In His Joy, Pastor Rodney

### DECEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE

- 2 John 1:1-14 “Becoming Children of God”
- 9 1 John 1:1-2:2 “Aspects of Jesus”
- 16 Matthew 1:1-17  
“The Significance of Jesus’ Family Tree”
- 23 Matthew 1:18-25  
“The Origin and Purpose of Jesus”
- 25 Matthew 2:1-12  
“The Scandal of the Magi”
- 30 Luke 17:1-10  
“Instructions for Jesus’ Followers”





# YOUTH-MINISTRY



*So I was thinking...* what is one of your strengths? Did you think of one?

What if I asked you for one of your weaknesses? I'm guessing you could give me more than one. Why is that? Why do we focus so much on our weaknesses? While I haven't actually figured out an answer for that question yet, I can tell you that living in your strengths is way more rewarding.

So how do I know that? Well, I spent many years living in my weaknesses. I believe there are three kinds of weaknesses. One type of weakness is the actual weaknesses that we are born with or that change our actual abilities. For example, an accident that removes a hand, eyes that require glasses, ears that require a hearing aid, a learning disability or other medical issue or handicap. These are usually obvious and chances are you don't even think of them as weaknesses because you've figured out how to adapt. The second type of weakness is defined by what others put on us. It's what people say or how they treat us. Examples would be if you were told you talk too much, you're too active, you're too bold. Actions or behaviors that we naturally have that aren't necessarily weakness but because of what someone has said to us, we interpret them as a weakness. The third is our sin weakness. This is our bent. That one thing that trips us up over and over. It's different for everyone. This one can be tricky, because once identified the actual bent might not be a sin.

Let me explain that one. My bent is being uncomfortable. Being uncomfortable is not a sin. But what I choose to do when I am uncomfortable can be. As a teenager, being uncomfortable caused me to make decisions that were dishonoring to God, to myself and to my family. I made bad decisions to avoid feelings or consequences that would make me feel uncomfortable. It was a disaster, but also why I can now say that living in your strengths is more rewarding.

Often times our weaknesses become our thought patterns. Which may explain why we can easily answer the question regarding what our weaknesses are, but not our strengths. So how do we change that? Well, I started with one verse. Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." I actually had to plaster this verse everywhere and say it over and over for probably a year before I started to see a change. I also had to add Colossians 3:2-5, 2 Corinthians 10:5, and Philippians 4:8 to my repertoire. Another thing I did was to create three positive things that I would say to myself each and every time the disturbing thoughts came. I look back at that dark time in my life and am so thankful for the freedom of having gone through it and what I've learned since. I don't always succeed at controlling my thoughts, but I no longer feel consumed by the negative ones all the time and I am quicker at pulling out scripture to defeat them when they come.

I began by asking you to name a strength. So how do you figure them out if you don't know? One way is to ask and really listen to the people in your life. Chances are they see your strengths, even if you don't. Also, think back to the activities, jobs, situations that you have been in that made you feel alive and energized. What were you doing? What did others tell you at that time? Chances are, you were working in one of your strengths. I never understood why talking to individual kids about their interests or possible career fields energized me or how I could possibly teach an entire class when one person needed me more. Well, I have since found out that my strengths include Empathy, Individualization, Learner, Positivity and Achiever. To sum that up in a sentence, I feel energized when I am helping an individual recognize his/her strengths, desires, and goals. If someone is struggling, I can actually feel the struggle and I enjoy helping them walk through options and being there to show them someone cares. I want to learn as much as I can to make sure when I come across a person with a specific struggle or issue, I can help. So what energizes you? You can take an online assessment like the one we did with the high school students at our Fall Retreat, which is where I learned the names of my strengths, but you don't have to. Just list the things that energize you and find someone to talk to about them and identify at least one strength. Then learn to use it to replace a negative thought and I think you'll like the outcome.

*...until next time, Rebecca Anderson*



## Moms' Night Out!

Sunday, December 2, 7:00-9:00 p.m.



FREE Project:  
Evergreen Wreaths & Centerpieces

Christmas Discussion & Snacks:  
Enjoying the Blessings, Reducing the Stress

Please invite the moms in your life that could use  
an evening of fun, friendship & encouragement!

All moms with kids at home welcome!

OBC Children's  
Christmas Program  
Part of the morning worship  
service on Sunday  
December 16 at 10:15 a.m.



### Ground Zero will begin selling pizzas this month!!

Cheese \$6, Pepperoni or Sausage \$8



Pizzas will be made January 12th  
and all proceeds will go to fund the  
2020 Haiti Summer Mission Trip

## Sr. Adult Christmas Party

Friday, December 7, 1:00 p.m.

"Joy To The World"

This special time of fellowship includes lunch,  
entertainment, and door prizes!

For everyone 60 years old and up.

If you wish, you may bring a gift of socks, mittens,  
gloves, or hat for Pacific Garden Mission.



There will be no regularly scheduled Wednesday  
evening programs on December 19 & 26.

Ground Zero & Spot 68 will have their  
Christmas Party at 6:30 p.m. on December 19.

## December Birthdays

- 1 Nathan Blomberg, Cale Ulrich
- 2 Julie Jast
- 4 Sara Donahoe, Dawn Komuek
- 5 Sarah Gasser, Gavin Jones
- 7 Dan Bruner, Mary Jo Ulrich
- 9 Annette Johnson
- 10 Don Rhody, Kelly Lind
- 11 Dave Polzin
- 12 Eric Gasser
- 13 Kati Isaacson, Autumn Gedde, Kortana Blomberg
- 15 Inez Strombom, Dawn Smalley
- 16 Brenda Isaacson
- 17 Mary Pearson
- 18 Elliott Rhody
- 21 Chris Hallstrand, Tarek Scott, Chase Swan
- 22 Ed Blomberg
- 23 Mike Gasser, Doug Mattson
- 25 Matthew Swan
- 26 Jayne Gilge, Bryce Swanson
- 27 Jane Smugala, Jim Swan, Lizzie Price
- 28 Jared Belan, Landon Page, Boaz Stolhammer
- 29 Jody Isaacson, Georgeanne Ulrich
- 31 Laura Blomberg, Dawn Carlson, Melinda Price,  
Ethan Winter



## "Angels Are Making Their Rounds"

Sunday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

Also featuring the Blessed Bell Ringers,  
The Nazareth Texters,  
and the OBC Children's Choir.

Fellowship Time with Snacks following the Concert



The OBC Choir Presents ...

## Julotta

December 25, 6:00 a.m.

Join us bright & early on  
Christmas Morning to worship  
Immanuel, God With Us!

Breakfast breads & snacks after the service.



## New Year's Eve Family Fun Night

Monday, December 31, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy fun, fellowship & food  
with your church family!



### Happy Birthday!

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](mailto:info@ogemabaptistchurch.org)

# OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 556, OGEMA, WI 54459 715-767-5157 [www.ogemabaptistchurch.org](http://www.ogemabaptistchurch.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
OGEMA, WI  
54459  
PERMIT NO. 5



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!

Immanuel  
"God with us"

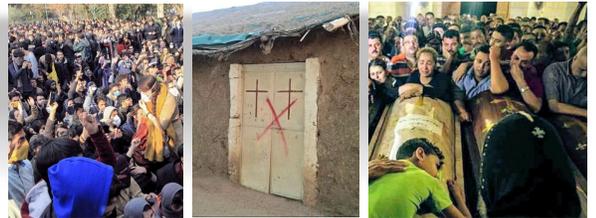
Matthew 1:23



## Missionary Spotlight

### Dr. Pat, News Service 2000

*Serving the Persecuted Church*



In our ministry to the Persecuted Church, we meet with many who have been imprisoned, tortured, and faced death simply for standing for their faith in Jesus Christ. They have so much to teach us about perseverance in the midst of suffering, hope for the eternal, and about boldness and joy in the face of persecution. God has filled them with joy, because they have dedicated themselves totally to God's service.

In all the years that I've traveled to visit and encourage the Persecuted Church, the first thing the Christians always ask for is prayer, and the second thing is Bibles. Not once have they asked us to pray that the persecution end! But they do ask that we pray that they will remain faithful.

You can learn from them even if you can't go to them. Their stories, their examples can come to you through our web pages, [www.newsservice2000.com](http://www.newsservice2000.com). I encourage you to get to know the Persecuted Church in a very personal way, by meeting those who are persecuted. They are standing in the gap for us, doing the work that we cannot do, reaching their fellow countrymen with the Good News about Jesus Christ.

Ogema Baptist Family, I want to thank you for your prayers and generosity for me and for the Persecuted Christians around the world. You are a blessing. I am so grateful for your partnership.

Today, approximately 74% of the world is without religious freedom. What can we do as the Body of Christ to help them? Let's give them what they ask for: prayer. We can all do that right from our homes and churches. Prayer for the Persecuted is our focus and our vision. But we can also help financially when their homes and businesses are attacked and destroyed. We can help them to get medical care when they have been beaten, burned with acid, and attacked. We can hire lawyers to help those imprisoned for their faith. And we can stand with them with the encouragement that they need.

You have been a part of all of this because of your prayers and support. Thank you. And may God bless you as you continue to serve Him.

"Remember those who are in prison as if you were in prison with them, and those who are suffering since you also are in the Body." Hebrews 13:3

In His glad service, Dr. Pat, President & Founder of News Service 2000

\*taken from a recent newsletter from Dr. Pat to Ogema Baptist Church, and from their website: [www.newsservice2000.com](http://www.newsservice2000.com)