

February 2019



 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

## Love is Both

In the middle of this month of February, our culture will celebrate “love” on Valentine’s Day. Most of what will be celebrated is the romantic sort of love which is fine in the proper context. The problem is that our culture’s context is mostly messed up: our culture misses the boat on love (pun intended for people over 40).

Love is a noun, a thing, a feeling. Our culture often treats the feeling of love as the pinnacle of human existence. The pursuit of the feeling of love has motivated all kinds of actions, both good and bad. Certainly, the feeling of love can motivate heroic behavior, sacrificial actions and tender expressions. The feeling of love or the pursuit of it can be twisted into something powerfully horrible. Someone may have a feeling but lack appropriate loving actions to the point that the feeling is useless (“What’s love got to do, got to do with it?” - Tina Turner). Years ago the Beatles lied when they sang, “All you need is love.” The elevation of a feeling to the level of idolatry has done immense harm. Some people, in their pursuit of that feeling, have abandoned other people to whom they made vows or helped bring into the world to name just one horrible example.

Love is also an action, a verb. This is where hopefully “love, the feeling” and “love, the action” are merged into one. Jesus says the greatest commandment is, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38. At this point, if we follow our culture’s primary definition of love as a warm fuzzy feeling, we are in danger of missing Jesus’ point.

He is not primarily concerned with whether or not we *feel like* we love him. He wants us to *actually*

love him. On another occasion he makes it crystal clear to the 12 disciples what his “love language” is. “If you love me, keep my commands...Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me...Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.” (John 4:15,21,23). Very simply put, we love Jesus by learning his commands (having them) and doing them. Both aspects are a process. The process happens one step at a time. We learn one of Jesus’ commands. We learn how it applies to us. We do the command. That’s how we love him. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind. It’s one of the ways we Grow in Christ.

In maybe the most famous verse in the Bible, Jesus proclaims that God has a feeling of love that results in amazing action, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him might not perish but have everlasting life.” Love is both a feeling and an action. God is Love.

In His Strength,

Pastor Rodney



## FEBRUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

- 3 Luke 18:1-8  
“An Important Aspect of Prayer”
- 10 Luke 18:9-17 “The Necessary Attitude to Enter God’s Kingdom”
- 17 Luke 18:18-30 “An Excellent Question and a Really Hard Answer”
- 24 Luke 18:31-43  
“Blind Faith that Sees”



# YOUTH-MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about a song that seems to be on replay in my head. It's called "Do It Again" by Elevation Worship. The part that's stuck on repeat is "I've seen You move, come move the mountains. And I believe, I'll see You do it again. You made a way, where there was no way. And I believe, I'll see you do it again."

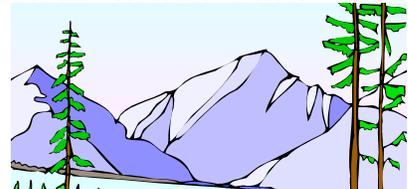
Back in December, Ground Zero and Spot 68 were challenged to find "wonder." To go out and look for something that gives you a glimpse of God and makes you feel amazed. I gave the example of a perfect snowflake or a beautiful sunset. Something that makes you stop and catch your breath and maybe say, thank you, God, for giving me that. The point was for them to recognize all that God does in our everyday life that can still give us that awe moment. And maybe a way to get them to feel and catch a glimpse of the wonder that the Shepherds may have experienced the night they were told about the birth of our Savior.

In January, at our annual Worship Together night at Forest Springs, the students were again challenged to find wonder. I was not in charge of the message so when something as simple as the word "wonder" is a challenge twice, you can bet I'm wondering about it. The message they heard on this night was titled, "Made for Wonder, Prone to Wander." The students were challenged to find the wonder in themselves. To believe that God created them with a unique gift that can be used for God's glory. It expanded to include using their gifts, their wonder, to find wonder in others.

So what does wonder and this song stuck in my head have in common? Well it was my "wonder" moment. I found it. It's not an accident that the words I needed to hear were stuck in my head. I just didn't realize it at first. I've asked for prayer for my oldest child before and right now, we could really use more. And while I shared with you last month that I have told God to do whatever He has to do to get my son's heart to turn back to God, it's still painful to live out. This song, these words "I've seen You move, come move the mountains, And I believe, I'll see You do it again" was replaying in my head for a week. There was this little hint that I should grab onto it, but I didn't. And then a friend prayed over me during a moment of heartache and tears and she said, "God we've seen you do miracles and I believe we will see it again." Instantly the song was back and maybe even a little louder. While I can't say it was God's audible voice, I will take it. It was what I needed to hear in that moment to get me through to the next moment. To get me to believe again in God's faithfulness.

There's another line in this song, it goes "Your promise still stands. Great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness. I'm still in Your hands. This is my confidence, You've never failed me yet." And it's true. Through all the trials and hard times, even in the weary and silent times, He hasn't failed me. And while the thoughts in my head are of ways to "fix" it, to make it better, the words in my heart remind me that God has moved mountains before, I've seen it, and I believe I will see it again. And that feels like wonder to me.

...until next time,  
Rebecca Anderson



*"Walking around these walls. I thought by now they'd fall, but You have never failed me yet. Waiting for change to come. Knowing the battles won, for You have never failed me yet. I know the night won't last, Your Word will come to pass. My heart will sing Your praise again. Jesus, You're still enough. Keep me within Your love. My heart will sing Your praise again. Your promise still stands. Great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness. I'm still in Your hands. This is my confidence, You've never failed me yet. I've seen You move, come move the mountains. And I believe, I'll see You do it again. You made a way, where there was no way. And I believe, I'll see You do it again." – Do It Again, by Elevation Worship.*



GRAD Night will be Sunday, May 5. Mark your calendars!

## Moms' Night Out!

Sunday, February 24, 7:00-9:00 p.m.



FREE Project: String Art

Parenting Discussion:  
Balancing Discipline & Grace



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

All moms with kids at home welcome!

Contact Laura Blomberg with questions: 715-767-5400

## Forest Springs Family Fun Night

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to enjoy family night. There will be no programs at OBC this evening.

Activities include skiing, snowboarding, tubing, game room, and snack shop.

Contact Forest Springs with questions/costs, 715-427-5241.



## Missionary Update from Emilie Blomberg

During the month of February, Emilie's team of 7 will be working with Kingdom Life Ministries in Cuenca, Ecuador. They will be living at the training center and working in a basic language school as well as helping with youth ministry (movie nights, worship nights, possibly VBS), with the goal to bring more people into the training center in order to share Jesus with them.

## FREE Sportsmen's Wild Game Feed/Expo

Saturday, Feb. 23  
at Ogema Baptist Convention Hall



|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2:00-5:00 p.m. | Vendor Hall Open                       |
| 3:30 p.m.      | Speaker Bill Molls                     |
|                | "Campfire Stories of an Alaskan Guide" |
| 5:00 p.m.      | Free Meal                              |
| 6:00 p.m.      | Speaker Bill Molls                     |
| 7:00 p.m.      | Prize Giveaways                        |

Guest speaker is Bill Molls, "Modern Day Mountain Man"

Mark your calendar and invite your sportsmen friends to join you for this excellent outreach event!

Contact Tony Smugala with questions: 715-820-2214

## Men's NO REGRETS Conference

at Victory Christian Center in Phillips

Saturday, February 2, 8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Worship, Live-Streamed Teaching, Lunch, Snacks

Cost is just \$20 at the door.

Consider inviting a friend to come with you!

Contact Matt Swan with questions: 715-820-0448

## February Birthdays

- 1 Ethan Blomberg, Dean Blomberg
- 2 Brent Winter
- 3 Alicia Donahoe
- 4 Bill Gustafson, Julie Pemper, Allyson Ulrich, Allora Monroe
- 5 Kurt Hallstrand, Abi Gustafson
- 6 Eric Stolhammer
- 7 Collin Monroe, Jared Nelson, Kassie Adams
- 9 Paul Pearson
- 10 Anja Lind, Ryan Gustafson
- 11 Brayden Swanson, Danica Page
- 12 Jim Bruner, Ana Gustafson, Lucy Ulrich
- 13 Angel Weinzatl
- 14 Kip Nussberger
- 15 Joseph Jast, Helen Palmquist
- 17 Marie Erickson
- 18 Nick Nussberger, Ethan Cook
- 19 Owen Swan
- 20 Rashawn Pearson, Josie Scheithauer
- 21 John Robert DeCleene, Lindsay Coppens, Matthew Rhody, Bria Pearson
- 22 Evan Lord
- 23 Bill Saari, Mark Mann, Mark Schubring, Annika Hites, Alexia Ulrich
- 24 Devon Byrd, LaVonne Mattson
- 25 Keyton Ulrich
- 26 Elizabeth Gustafson, Rick Anderson
- 27 Cindy Ulrich, John Jast
- 28 Bea Brieske, Charlie Wherritt



## Happy Birthday!

## Timeless, Boundless Love

Untethered by time, God sees us all. And He loves what He sees. Overcome by pride, the Star-maker turns to us, one by one, and says, "I love you dearly."

And to prove it, He did something extraordinary. Stepping from the throne, He removed His robe of light and wrapped Himself in human skin. "Can anything make Me stop loving you?" God asks. "Watch me speak your language, sleep on your earth, and feel your hurts."

"You wonder how long My love will last? Find your answer on a splintered cross, on a craggy hill. That's Me you see up there, your maker, your God, nail-stabbed and bleeding. Covered in spit and sin-soaked. That's your sin I'm feeling. That's your death I'm dying. That's how much I love you."

By Max Lucado, an excerpt from "In the Grip of Grace"

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)

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

"I am convinced that neither death nor life,  
neither angels nor demons, neither the present  
nor the future, nor any powers, neither height  
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the  
LOVE OF GOD that is in  
Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

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



## Missionary Spotlight

### Tim and Renee Zook

*SonSet Solutions*



After serving many years in Ecuador with Reach Beyond, Tim and Renee are now serving SonSet Solutions (formerly HCJB Global Technology Center) in Elkhart, Indiana. SonSet Solutions is an independent ministry to help spread the gospel through technology, whose workers are mostly engineers and technicians.

Tim is a technician in the broadcast services division. He is the repairman for transmitters, antennas, generators, and studios. He also builds new transmitters and helps with manufacturing in the mechanical shop. Renee works in hospitality for SonSet Solutions.

SonSet Solutions is launching SonSet Radios, an initiative to raise funds for 10,000 solar-powered SonSet radios to deliver God's Word among these partners and others:

- Radio Usalama FM in Adjumani, Uganda, has 1 million refugees, who have escaped tribal warfare in South Sudan, living within their coverage area. With these radios, refugees can listen to the station when electricity is scarce and won't need batteries that are expensive.
- Radio Logos is broadcasting the gospel in 14 languages to oral learners living in primitive, isolated communities in the Peruvian jungle. Spiritual revival is taking place among the Achuar and Shipibo peoples.
- Radio Evangile Développement (R.E.D.) has eight radio stations scattered throughout the predominately Muslim West African country of Burkina Faso. These solar-powered radios are essential since only 19% of the population has access to electricity.
- Wantok Radio Light in Papua New Guinea covers the nation with gospel broadcasts from 31 radio stations. These radios allow people in isolated communities to hear the message.

To learn more, visit [sonsetsolutions.org](http://sonsetsolutions.org).