

# January 2018



## Gema 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

## Aligning on Purpose

At the most recent Deacon Board meeting we had the enjoyable task of reviewing and approving the group applications for the upcoming program catalog. It was very encouraging to see both the good number of people wanting to lead a group as well as the quality of what they will be doing. I really was excited (as the other Deacons who were present can verify!) to see good progress in aligning our ministries with our purpose and process.

Our purpose is simply to make disciples, literally followers, of Jesus. Our process is to challenge and enable people to Trust Christ, then Grow in Christ, and also Serve Christ. Much more can be said about the details of what those steps in the process mean and how we are currently attempting to accomplish them but it is important to remind ourselves of the basic steps; Trust Christ, Grow in Christ, Serve Christ.

It is also important to align what we do so that we are all working in the same direction. We don't all do the same ministry but we all need to know how our individual ministries fit in the process of helping to make disciples. It was clear to me from the applications that those who will be leading groups in the next several months understand the process and how their groups will help people move ahead in their process of becoming mature followers of Jesus.

One of the opportunities for growth is not a small group; it is the Sunday Morning Worship service. In the coming weeks, we will continue to go through one of the biographies of Jesus in the Bible, the book of Luke. Luke states his purpose for writing his account; "...so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." If you have been in church for a while, you have been taught some things about Jesus; some of which are hard to believe. The book of Luke helps us to know and have more confidence that what we've been taught is reality. More confidence in God's Word is always a good thing.

In His Joy,  
Pastor Rodney



## JANUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

**7 Luke 2:41-52**

**"Who Does Jesus Think He Is?"**

**14 Luke 3:1-38**

**"The Ultimate Witness"**



**21 Luke 4:1-13**

**"How to Beat Temptation"**

**28 Luke 4:14-30**

**"There's No Place Like Home"**



# YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about a little glass church with soft gold light. Actually I was looking at it wondering what to write. As I sat in the quiet house with my Christmas lights glowing around me, I stared at the little church and thought of my grandma. It was hers. When she passed away 12 years ago, shortly before we moved to Wisconsin, we broke up her very large tea kettle and Christmas village sets among all the relatives who wanted a memento. I didn't want to start a collection of either, but I did want something of hers. I picked out two tea kettles. One was a pretty, white heart shaped kettle with pink roses. My grandma was a petite woman who loved pink and I think of her when I see it. The other teapot is shaped as a desk with papers and a typewriter on it. She was the town treasurer for years. I chose it because at the time I was going to be a typing and accounting teacher. It was something we shared. I have them in a glass cabinet in my dining room. They make me happy.

When it came to the Christmas village I don't actually remember choosing anything but somehow I ended up with a Charles Dickens community hall, a church, and a little shack with a windmill. For years the village pieces have sat in my Christmas boxes and every year when we decorate I look at them and remember my grandma but I don't take them out. I have nowhere to put them and they don't go together. I don't want to add to them but I also can't part with them. This year I decided to put them on display. Not together, and only the church is lit. As I looked at that church, if I did pick it out that day we divvied them up, I thought to myself, "God knew." He knew one day I would smile as it sat with its soft glow in my living room and that I would think "a church, who knew." At one point in my life I didn't have an image, a verse, a stitch of anything in my house that would have hinted I was a Christian. You would have had to look really hard to find a bible because it was probably in a drawer somewhere. The old me would have passed on any building that would remind me of religion, of my father being a pastor, of the failure I knew I was. I probably would have picked the bar, if my grandma's village had one. Not that I was big into drinking, but it was the complete opposite of a church. That's what I would have done.

My life is not the one I had planned. It's not even the one I set out to find and yet I am so happy to have it. I work with teenagers, some of who are stuck in rough spots. They can't see past their misery or mistakes. Who wallow in lost hope and see their lives as pointless. I get it. I really do. But I also get that with time, and with God, your life changes. And little things like tea kettles and village pieces you don't remember picking out make you smile and thankful for life. I have no real message in this article, at least none that I can see. Just a reminder to encourage someone. To help someone younger than yourself see that their life is worthwhile and that God has a plan. While we get ready to start a new year with all its possibilities, don't forget that life is precious. Live each day to the fullest, make memories, make plans, do something, LOVE! Because some day your granddaughter might be looking at the church from your Christmas village and feel very blessed to have been loved by you.

...until next time.

Rebecca Anderson

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."



## Where Our Song Comes From

by Louie Giglio in "Waiting Here for You"

"I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. . . . Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders You have done. The things You planned for us no one can recount to You; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare." Psalm 40:1-5

"The Gospel is the stunning story of Christ coming into the world to lift us from the mess, to set us on solid ground with Him. And when He raised us up, He gave us something to sing about. He replaced the old songs of despair with new songs of praise—songs for the One who makes us new.

The Gospel and worship are inseparably linked. We don't worship Jesus because we *ought to*; we give Him praise because He has brought us back to life! And best of all—we don't have to wait for the band to start playing. We have God's mercy, and that's all the music we will ever need! So if you're alive today, sing redemption's song. If you have been set free, sing the name of the One who freed you. His salvation is where our song comes from."

## Upper Room Worship - a new small group at OBC

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

We meet the first and third Saturdays of each month  
beginning January 20th  
at Sam and Aimee's house.



## "The Bible in 90 Days"

You are invited to be part of an exciting venture!

**January 14—April 22**

Band together to read through God's Word in 90 days!

Meet every Sunday, 4:45-5:45 pm, at the church  
to ask questions, share insights,  
and hear a lesson drawn from our reading.

If you have questions, contact John or Julie Jast.



## Ladies' Winter Bible Studies

**Monday mornings, beginning Jan. 15, 9:30-11:30 am**

Learn and study applications from "The Bible in 90 Days."

You are welcome to come and hear these application lessons,  
whether or not you are able to take part in the "90 Days" reading.

Contact Julie Jast or Karen Blomberg if you have questions.

**Monday evenings, beginning Jan. 8, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Study 1 & 2 Thessalonians with Beth Moore's  
"Children of the Day"

Contact Genevieve Stolhammer or Kay Marschke with questions.

**Wednesday evenings, beginning Jan. 3, 6:30-8:00 pm**

Learn & Grow as you go through the DVD study  
"Twelve Women of the Bible" by Lysa TerKerust.

Contact Melinda Price if you have any questions about this study.

The following is an excerpt from a letter  
OBC received from  
The Gideons International

"It was a blessing to be able to present what God is doing through the distribution of His Word.

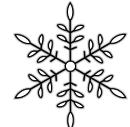
Your congregation's love for the Word is obvious. The free will offering of \$193 is evidence of what we consider to be a partnership between the church and The Gideons International in providing God's Word to the lost in over 200 countries around the world. This offering will allow us to place about 155 Testaments somewhere in the world.

Please know that these funds will be used in their entirety to get the Word of God in the hands of the lost. We pray for searching hearts to be touched - and for souls to be saved - as they read the Word of God.

Sincerely Yours in Christ, Gene Grapa, Gideon"

## January Birthdays

- 1 Cory Sorenson
- 3 Rick Davis
- 4 Maia Reissner, Maxwell Monroe
- 5 Nancy Bruner
- 6 Aimee Blomberg
- 7 Josh Isaacson, Heather Rustick, Sarah Rhody
- 8 Bobbie Adams, Lisa Rhody
- 10 Bill Ulrich
- 11 Marvene Bruner, Tonisha Hora
- 12 Jedediah Hallstrand, Adam Smugala, Emma Bauer
- 13 Joel Blomberg, Leah Lord
- 14 Kaitlyn Erickson, Zoe Price
- 16 Robin Scott, Cindy Mattson, Pastor Paul VanCamp
- 17 Alise Swan, Tony Smugala
- 18 Rachel Bauer
- 19 Pat Huber, Luke Stolhammer
- 20 Rich Blomberg, Eric Smugala
- 21 Delbert Gustafson, Lane Meier
- 22 Jerry Esterholm, Mandy Blomberg
- 24 Indya Mann
- 25 Adam Dielschneider, Amaesia Wherritt, Paul VanCamp, Harry Gladwin
- 26 Bill Conrad, Martha Darosci
- 27 Vienna Jesunas
- 28 Barrick Jones
- 31 Stacy Smith



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)

# OGEAMA BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 556, OGEMA, WI 54459

715-767-5157

[www.ogemabaptistchurch.org](http://www.ogemabaptistchurch.org)

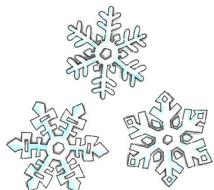
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Whatever your age or stage in life,  
YOU are WELCOME here!

*"Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me."*

*Psalm 51:7b & 10*



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 Ravi & Anu Kumar Raipur, Chhattisgarh, INDIA



Ravi & Anu Kumar are church planters in India, along with their sons Daniel and Vinny. This is an update on their work from a recent letter to our church. "What a blessing you have been to us and to the believers in Raipur, India. It seems like every week we are amazed at the ways God is working here. We are so thankful for the motorcycle we were able to purchase this year with a special gift we received from you. What a difference it has made for our family and the ministry. I am now able to visit villages and people who are calling for prayer. God has blessed so greatly our ministry of prayer and many Hindu families are calling for prayer. Often they come to believe in Jesus because of an answered prayer. We are so thankful. We are still praying and waiting for God to open the door for a House of Prayer to rent. Our house gets quite full as we meet on Sunday morning and during the week. ... We are thankful for the extra chairs, rugs, and movie screen we were also able to buy. Thank you. Your generosity overwhelms us. We pray for so many of you by name as Jayne and Dean (Gilge) share the needs with us. We pray for the Ogema Church that God will bless you."

Pray specifically for those who recently heard the Gospel at the Kumars' Christmas celebration. "Please pray with us that God would open their eyes and heart to the Good News of Jesus our Savior. Thank you so much for your prayers and support. We appreciate it more than you can know."

**Please keep the Kumars, their family, their ministry, and the believers in India in your prayers!**

"India is changing so much, the government is getting tougher on Christians and we ask for your prayers for safety and wisdom as we try to share the Good News of Jesus in this dark place."