

July 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

A Really Good Week in So Many Ways

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! If you had anything to do with Vacation Bible School, thank you! It was a really good week in so many ways. Here are some of the ways, in mostly chronological order.

First, Brenda Isaacson and Kati Isaacson, who have headed up the VBS effort in the last decade or so, did a great job lining up the details in advance. This was not easy because as they looked at the schedules of our church kids and potential helpers, they realized that the best time to have VBS was the same time they personally would be chaperones for a school trip to Washington DC. That meant they would have to organize even more ahead of time since they would not be here to do anything during the week of VBS. They did a fantastic job! It ran very smoothly.

Second, the people who volunteered to actually run VBS were required to do more than in previous years with the absence of Brenda and Kati. They did a fantastic job! It ran very smoothly and the kids had a positive experience.

Third, we had some new volunteers this year who were outstanding. They ranged in age from just a year ago being a kid in VBS all the way up to some retired people who do not want their ages published. One of the encouragements this year was the number of people helping who had been students in VBS in the last ten years. They are examples of the process of becoming a mature disciple of Jesus. More on that in a bit.

Fourth, we had many who were a tremendous help in “behind the scenes” ways. These people invited kids, transported kids, prayed for the whole effort,

helped set up, helped clean up and helped in many more ways. All of these helps are necessary. Thank you to all who helped in these ways.

Fifth, we had **four kids make professions of faith in Jesus**, over 70 kids had opportunities to grow in their relationship with Jesus and many more are hearing those songs on the CD’s sent home with the kids.

The VBS week had all the components of our disciple making strategy. At least four responded to the invitation to Trust Christ. Many took advantage of the challenge to Grow in Christ. The focus this year was “God Is Good.” That truth is vital to learn and hang on to and our kids heard it loud and clear. As I mentioned earlier, many people chose to Serve Christ through VBS.

Part of the reason I was so encouraged with this VBS is that I could see all the steps of our disciple making process in place and functioning well.

These are things we can only do together and with God’s help.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney Price



JULY SERMON SCHEDULE

- | | |
|----|---|
| 7 | James 4:1-17 “Why Doesn’t God Say ‘Yes’ to All Your Prayers?” |
| 14 | James 5:1-6 “The Truth about Stolen Wealth” |
| 21 | James 5:7-12 “When God Will Make It Right” |
| 28 | James 5:13-20 “Appropriate Responses” |



YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about what it means to go home. Not the home you've built with your family, but your childhood home, the place you grew up. Some of you reading this won't understand it yet, you are still growing up, but I hope some can relate. Returning to Bergland, Michigan, with students from Ground Zero and my family was full of emotion for me. It was so very familiar and yet foreign at the same time. The buildings and landmarks were the same and some of the faces were familiar, but I felt like a visitor, an outsider and at the same time I felt at home in the familiar and comfortable surroundings.

It was a lot of fun to introduce the students to places that felt familiar and comfortable. We took them to our favorite places: Bond Falls, Agate Falls, Lake of the Clouds and a beach in Silver City on Lake Superior. We also took them for a pontoon boat ride on Lake Gogebic (which was an annual tradition for my birthday growing up). I also got to show them the house I grew up in, my grandparents' houses and even introduce them to my high school best friend's mom and one of my cousins.

The best thing about this trip for me, however, was being able to be the person my dad knew I could be and for him to see it. To honor him by being fully present at one of the best sermons I can remember him preaching and to be fully engaged. You see, as a dumb kid, I wasn't a fan of church. Mostly because I didn't want to hear I was wrong, so tuning out my dad became what I did. I would "go" somewhere in my mind and block out the message. When I was no longer a dumb kid and wanted to actually listen, I found it was really hard to turn it back on. It was as though something kept me from listening. I don't get to be with my dad on too many Sundays, and I don't know how many more Sundays I will get, so I am thankful for this experience. I also love to watch our students lead worship and sing for special music. There's just something special about watching the reactions of the church we are visiting when they do that.

The other thing that struck me about bringing the kids to my hometown was the enthusiasm and joy my dad experienced. My dad has always been great with high school kids. When I was growing up, the high school boys used to knock on my door to see if he could come out and play. So it was fun for me to watch him with our students. We were a huge encouragement to him and to the few members of the church. Del, Mike and John are the three other men that attend Calvary Baptist Church. Del is 96 and his wife fell and broke her arm the Saturday we were there, so the kids didn't get to meet her. (She was my parents' 4th grade teacher.) On Sunday, Del played his harmonica for us and played my dad's favorite hymn, "In the Garden." He shared a little of his heart and told the kids he decided a long time ago to wake up every morning and do something good every day to prove his life was worth living. Mike is in his late 60's and has a bad ankle, so he attended the baptism, church and stopped by to check on progress but was unable to help. John, who is in his late 70's, was there as often as he could and doing things he shouldn't, just like my dad.

The projects we did included removing the old front cement staircase and replacing it with a handicap accessible sidewalk. This included using a jack hammer, wheel barrows, and a lot of work by Nathan to get it ready to be poured and smoothed out. We scraped and painted all the outside window frames and doors, took down old curtains and hung new ones, rods and all, painted the basement floor, painted the worn out garage (which was the original church building, minus the roof), buried electric wiring from the church to the garage and installed outlets and lights, installed ceiling tile, and hauled dirt and rocks in wheel barrow after wheel barrow.

And were we noticed! People drove by constantly and it was like we were an accident scene the way they turned their heads. Every time we ran into someone at the restaurant or gas station, they knew we were the ones at the church doing work. My dad said everyone in town was talking about all the work GIRLS were doing at the church. Nathan even had two people stop and ask him to give bids for other jobs in town!

The church's neighbor, Ned, is from Serbia and previously lived in Chicago. (He actually lives in the house I grew up in, the old parsonage). He gave the church some soil for fill that he had in his yard. While my dad and I were talking with him, he told me how amazing it was to see girls working so hard. He said he has never seen that before and he asked me where I found them!! I was able to tell him about our church and youth group and how they were there to serve. The notion of service seemed very foreign to him and to everyone else we spoke to in town. Ned even came over and helped. My dad has been interacting with him for a while now and this was the first time he ever helped out with something going on at the church. He usually stays in the house and is more reserved. He also spoke with Autumn in Macedonian, which made them both happy.

****Please continue to the Missionary Spotlight to hear the rest of the story.****

...until next time, Rebecca Anderson, Youth Director

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Psalm 19:14

"Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips."

Psalm 141:3



"An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up."

Proverbs 12:25

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Proverbs 15:1



"A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."

Proverbs 25:11

"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgement for every careless word they have spoken."

~Jesus, in Matthew 12:34b & 36

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Ephesians 4:29

Titus 2

Women of all ages, please join us this summer for evenings of fellowship, encouragement, and testimony.

We meet at **6:30 p.m.** at **Janet Blomberg's home** on the following Mondays in **July**,

to hear these testimonies:

1st—Julia Pearson

15th—Jayne Gilge

29th—special guest



Please join us and invite a friend or neighbor to come with you!

Mark your calendar for these Titus 2 dates next month: August 5 & 19

Spot 68 Summer Activities

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

July 26 at Lion's Park in Prentice - Water Balloon Volleyball

August 16 at Centennial Park in Ogema - Kickball

Follow Rebecca Anderson on Instagram (@andereb.01) or Facebook for updates.

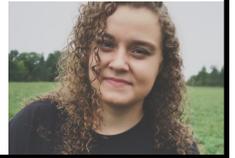
Missionary Update from Emilie Blomberg

Emilie will be at LightForce International Mission in Lira, Uganda for the month of July.

"LightForce exists to take the good news of Jesus to the poor, while also providing practical help to people in need. Our project is at the heart of a rural community providing education, health care, and social support. We have a daycare and primary school, HIV widow groups in the community, and a community worker visits homes of the sponsored children. We have 25 children living on site with us, some are school boarders and others live with us continually because they are from vulnerable backgrounds. In addition we have our 140 acre farm with crops, vegetables, almost 100 goats and over 100 pigs."

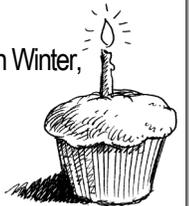
Please pray as Emilie and her team begin their ministry in Uganda. They anticipate being inspired and stretched as they work hard for God's Kingdom.

You can follow her missionary journey through her blog, emilieblomberg.theworldrace.org, to hear stories of what God is doing.



July Birthdays

- 1 John & Lori DeCleene, Dave Blomberg, Norma Swan
- 2 Jon Carlson, Cole Mann, Pastor Rodney Price, Teagan Mariette
- 3 Jason Davis, Gene Grapa, Denae Walcisak
- 4 Toni Bruner, Susan Freiboth
- 5 Hugh Hueckman
- 6 Samantha Polzin, Jeremy Lukes, Gage Anderson
- 7 Dave Elleman, Reese Isaacson, Pamela Thomas
- 8 Jean Conrad, Audrey Hueckman
- 9 Nick Schubring, Hunter Gedde
- 10 Jacob Donahoe, Katherine Bauer, Megan Winter, Duane Scott
- 11 Nick Adams, Arely Espinoza
- 13 Bill Leick, Jerry Shoup
- 14 Levi Haskins, Sarah Karlik
- 15 August Donahoe, Dave Mattson, Jim Bauer
- 16 Levi Rhody, Jennifer Sarkkinen, Kristina Gedde, Jordanna Storvik
- 19 Karen Blomberg, Nathan VanCamp, Sabrina Gustafson
- 20 Kay Marschke
- 21 Logan Sarkkinen, Mitch Retzlaff
- 22 Dale Haskins, Bradley Johnson, Ryder Jones, Cole Retzlaff
- 23 Lonnie Carlson
- 25 Dan Swan
- 26 James Carlson, Angela Kislewski, Rick Stromborn, Aarik Lind
- 27 Lena Berg
- 29 Breanna Swan
- 30 Jimmy Oleson, Molly Adams
- 31 Karis Wear, Fletcher Walcisak



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

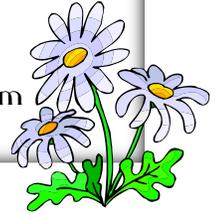
OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



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

“The wisdom that comes from heaven
is first of all pure;
then peace-loving, considerate, submissive,
full of mercy and good fruit,
impartial and sincere.

Peacemakers who sow in peace
raise a harvest of righteousness.”

James 3:17-18

Missionary Spotlight

Ogema Baptist Church Ground Zero
(High School Youth Group)

Missions Retreat to Bergland, MI June 14-19



For the complete story, please start with the Youth Director's article on page 2.

“In the evenings we sat in a screen tent, which kept out the majority of the mosquitos, but not the no-see-ums, and had great discussions. The theme for our trip was ‘Love by Example’ and we used 1 John 4:19 as our theme verse. (Side note...while wearing our shirts to Bond Falls we had people ask us who we were and why we were there. At the store the cashier gave me back change which was \$3.16 and said, ‘That’s another good verse.’ So again, we were noticed!) Our discussions were centered on how to love God with all our heart, strength, mind and soul and how to love our neighbors, especially those who do not know the Lord. Each student took away something from these discussions and I pray that they were challenged to live boldly and differently and to love others by our ultimate example...Jesus. We concluded our trip with a baptismal service. Connor wanted to be baptized in Lake Superior but after feeling the temperature of the water on Sunday, opted for Lake Gogebic. It was a blessing to watch my son be baptized by my dad. The other really neat part about Connor’s baptism was that my dad’s two brothers, who are not Christians, came to the service. My dad called them the morning of and invited them to it. He wasn’t really sure they’d come, but they did. He thanked Connor for sharing his testimony with his brothers. I had other plans for this trip from the start. My dad and I both did. All of the projects, plus some, were completed and there was very little time for anything else. Rain was in the forecast for every day leading up to this trip. But God ‘is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us’ and some of those plans never happened. But what did happen was way better...and the rain never interfered. God is good! Please keep my dad and the little church in Bergland, Michigan, in your prayers. Thank you for all your prayers and support of Youth Missions at Ogema Baptist Church.” by Ogema Baptist Church Youth Director, Rebecca Anderson