

JULY 2021



 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

## Community; Inside and Out

When you hear the word “community” you likely think of the people near where you live. That is the most common use of the word. It can also be used to denote a smaller group within a larger group. We could say, “Our school community” or “our church community.” Both uses are valid and both will be used in the fall here at OBC.

Beginning in September we are planning to do a 40 Days of Community emphasis. It will include Sunday Worship, Sunday School and individual daily opportunities. The focus will begin with considering our community inside the church.

Jesus pointed out the importance, dare I say the priority, of loving those inside the church. Just hours before he went to the cross Jesus told his eleven disciples (Judas had just left), “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34) Jesus had just washed their feet, an act so humble that Peter didn’t want him to do it. Then Jesus pivoted to the larger community and said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

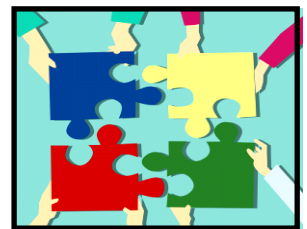
As author Greg Sidders writes in *The Invitation: the Not-So-Simple Truth about Following Jesus*, “As counterintuitive as this sounds, Jesus said that if we really want to impact outsiders, we must love insiders—not exclusively, but especially...The apostle Paul echoed Christ’s strategy when he wrote, “Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:10)

Authentic biblical Christian community is important and also hard. First, we are fallen people with bad habits to replace, as well as sinful desires that wage war against us. (Romans 7:21-23) Second, we face all kinds of societal pressures that work against authentic biblical Christian community. The fragmentation of our lives along with all of the possible distractions are just a couple of the pressures against us. Third, current events that are unique provide additional pressure against developing community. Covid, politics and social media posts are a few that come immediately to mind. I’m sure you can think of additional pressures as well.

It’s a tough challenge but we are called by Jesus to do it. Many more details will be given as the time approaches. I hope you will give it a shot for 40 days.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney



## JULY SERMON SCHEDULE

- 04 “Independence Is Sometimes a Good Idea”
- 11 Daniel 9:1-27
- 18 Daniel 10:1-11:1
- 25 Daniel 11:2-35

## YOUTH MINISTRY

So I was thinking...

about unity of the gospel. In June, I had the privilege of traveling with my husband and 11 amazing young people to Memphis, Tennessee. This trip was a little different than normal as I was not in charge. I did not arrange anything other than our transportation down and back. I did not have to create a daily devotional as one was given to us by Praying Pelican Missions. I did not have to figure out where to stay, where to serve or even what to eat! It was a little strange for me, but it was also nice because I was able to spend more time listening. In fact, that was my favorite part of this trip. Listening to the stories of the people we met and listening to the teens I traveled with. I enjoyed the work we did too, but mostly I enjoyed the people (including the ones traveling with me)!

I have heard in the past that there are churches on every corner in the South. You hear that and you think, "Ok, there are a lot of churches." But then you get there, and you realize there actually are churches on every corner. I was able to ask Christina (one of the four full-time staffers at Heights CDC, one of the non-profit organizations we served with) why. She explained that even after segregation was ended there were still church organizations and conferences that prohibited African Americans from attending a specific church building. To be "legal" the conference or denominational organization would allow them to start their own church. So, there would be a White Methodist church on one corner and a Black Methodist church on the other. Eventually Hispanics and other races moved into the area so they would start the Spanish Methodist church down the street. And this appears to have happened in EVERY denomination. Christina also mentioned that, even today, unless a church deliberately sets out to be diverse, they tend to stay segregated. This is such a disservice to the gospel and to each other as together we create something more beautiful and whole than divided.

I guess that's why I was thinking about the unity of the gospel again. While every church seemed to be segregated, the organizations we served didn't. Every organization we worked with had the goal of spreading the gospel. And yes, I get that's what a mission trip is about, spreading the gospel, but it's not always the obvious focus or theme that comes out of the trip. For "Memphis 2021" Jesus was the focus and it showed up clearly everywhere we went. Even our devotions provided by PPM were focused on the gospel. While unity in the gospel, especially between races, doesn't seem to show up in the church buildings in Memphis, it does show up in some of the non-profits. We had the privilege of working alongside white and black people from Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist churches, and our message was the same: Jesus is the way. Each non-profit organization we served did it their way, with a specific focus unique to their mission, but the end goal was always the same: Jesus changes everything. They didn't care what church we belonged too or the color of our skin. They welcomed us with prayers, thanksgiving and smiles!

Together we experienced unity of the gospel!

...until next time.

Rebecca Anderson

**Philippians 1:27 NIV** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.

**Revelation 5:9-10** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

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## VISITATION PASTOR

After the recent storms with high winds I took a ride in our woodlot to check on the extent of the damage. I was happy to find only one tree with the top broken off – this was one that was bug infested and the woodpeckers had been drilling in the same area for a few years before the wind finally toppled it. I noticed that my neighbor's trees did not fare as well – quite a few on the hillside had been uprooted or broken off. The only difference was that his property had been heavily logged recently and the trees were sparse in contrast to mine. I called to mind a recent discussion we had at men's group on the parable of the sower and noted the parallels. The seed, which is the Word of God, which fell on bad soil or amongst weeds did not fare well and wasn't able to endure the seasons of drought or storms. The "parable of the woodlot", if you will, shows how trees protect one another in the storms and when that protection is removed by overharvesting the few remaining cannot easily withstand the force of the wind. I have been noticing how the in recent years we have become increasingly separate in our lifestyles and don't enjoy the closeness of "community" that was characteristic of the early church.

**Acts 2:42, 46-47** "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." Added to that we have all seen increasingly divided opinions the last few years and many have taken offense as a result of comments made on both sides. We must remember that the church is a bunch of people in different phases of growth which still can say and do things that are at times offensive to others. Even as such, God has designed His Church to be a body of people which help each other withstand the storms life brings against us if we refuse to separate. **Eph. 4: 1-3** "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." My plea is that you would accept your place in the body and fulfill God's calling in spite of offenses you may have against others. **1 Peter 4:8** "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

## JULY MINISTRIES & MEETINGS

### WORSHIP TEAM

4 Eric & Karrin  
11 Youth  
18 Steve & Krista  
25 Harmoni

### ORGANIST

Karen  
Dolly  
Ellen  
Dolly

Arranging Special Music for July—Emily  
AUDIO TECH - Nick VISUAL TECH - Sam B/Jane S

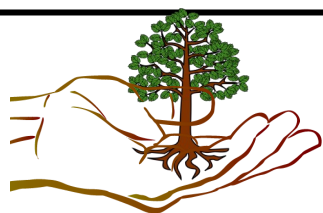
### MEETINGS

Missions Comm.	Thu.	3rd	7:00 p.m.
Trustee Brd.	Mon.	14th	7:00 p.m.
C.E.. Board	Thu.	15th	7:00 p.m.
Deacon Brd.	Mon.	28th	7:00 p.m.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS



- Dave Blomberg, Norma Swan
- Jon Carlson, Cole Mann, Pastor Rodney Price, Teagan Mariette
- Jason Davis, Gene Grapa, Denae Walcisak
- Toni Bruner, Susan Freiboth
- Hugh Hueckman
- Samantha Polzin, Jeremy Lukes, Gage Anderson
- Dave Elleman, Reese Isaacson, Pamela Thomas
- Jean Conrad, Audrey Hueckman
- Nick Schubring, Hunter Gedde
- Jacob Donahoe, Katherine Bauer, Megan Winter
- Nick Adams, Arely Espinoza
- Bill Leick, Jerry Shoup
- Levi Haskins, Sarah Karlik
- August Donahoe, Dave Mattson, Jim Bauer
- Levi Rhody, Jennifer Sarkkinen, Kristina Erdman, Jordanna Storvik
- Karen Blomberg, Nathan VanCamp, Sabrina Gustafson
- Kay Marschke
- Logan Sarkkinen, Mitch Retzlaff
- Dale Haskins, Bradley Johnson, Ryder Jones, Cole Retzlaff
- Lonnie Carlson
- Dan Swan
- James Carlson, Angela Kislewski, Rick Strombom, Aarik Lind
- Lena Berg
- Breanna Swan
- Jimmy Oleson, Molly Adams
- Karis Wear, Fletcher Walcisak, Sidney Reynolds



JOIN US AND GROW IN GOD'S  
WORD

**Sunday School**  
A PLACE FOR LEARNING  
There's a class for everyone!

COME JOIN THE ADVENTURE AT

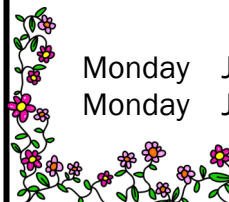
## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 27—Friday, July 29  
9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon  
Registration: 8:45-9:15



## TITUS 2

Women of all ages, **please join us** for evenings of encouragement and testimony this summer. We will meet twice each month, on the 2nd and 4th **Mondays** at 6:30 p.m. at Janet Blomberg's home.



Monday	July 5	Norma Swan
Monday	July 19	Rebecca Anderson

### **Please contact us if:**

- You or someone in your family (on our mailing list) 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) Thank You!



# GEMA 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



*But respect Christ  
as the holy Lord in your hearts.  
Always be ready to answer  
everyone who asks you to explain  
about the hope you have.  
Answer in a gentle way  
and with respect.*

1 Peter 3:15-16a

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service - 10:15 a.m.  
or online at [www.ogemabaptistchurch.org](http://www.ogemabaptistchurch.org)

Wednesday Evening:  
7:00-8:00 p.m. Adult Prayer Meeting