

June 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 Small Book that Packs a Pretty Big Punch

On Sunday mornings we are embarking on a trip through a small book of the Bible. It is a book that is sometimes avoided, I think mainly for two reasons. The first is that this book seems to be somewhat at odds with other teachings in the Bible, especially the writings of Paul. He says in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...not by works." In the book we will be going through, the author says, "...a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone." We will address this seeming contradiction on June 16.

The second reason I have observed that this book is avoided is that it is uncomfortably direct. It deals with issues that we all face on a regular basis and calls us to action. It deals with subjects we would often rather not face; trials, controlling what we say, envy, selfish ambition, submitting to God, humbling ourselves. That is just a sample of the subjects!

So why then would you want to show up for this? I can think of a couple of very good reasons. First of all, this book is uncomfortably direct. That's not a misprint. One of the reasons this book is avoided is a great reason to read it: no fluff, no frills, just direct truth we all need to hear sometimes.

Another reason is that the subjects in this book are the most vital we can address. One question it addresses is "What is saving faith?" What could be more important than knowing that you

have saving faith and that your eternity is secure?

Still another reason is that the subjects in this book are extremely practical. The author takes the awesome eternal truths of the good news of Jesus and applies them to our everyday lives. You could literally read this book every day of your life and get additional practical applications each time you read it.

I chuckled at the last Deacon meeting when one of them shared a comment that had been given to him. The person asked him to pass along to me that they wanted more practical applications in the sermons. I thought to myself, "Well there's the confirmation that my next sermon series is the one I'm supposed to do." So show up, buckle up, and maybe wear some steel toed shoes to church because we're going through the book of James.

In His Joy,  
Pastor Rodney



### JUNE SERMON SCHEDULE

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 2  | James 1:19-23 "Religion that God Accepts"                     |
| 9  | James 2:1-13 "The Triumph of Mercy"                           |
| 16 | James 2:14-26 "Real Faith Works"                              |
| 23 | James 3:1-18 "How to Discern a Genuinely Wise Teacher"        |
| 30 | James 4:1-17 "Why Doesn't God Say 'Yes' to All Your Prayers?" |



# YOUTH MINISTRY



*So I was thinking...*

about summer. I remember as a kid summer vacation seemed longer than the school year. Little did I know then that summer vacations would get shorter every year. As we enter this summer, take time out to simply enjoy it. Enjoy being with your first-year college student, your newly graduated high school senior, your junior that somehow needs senior pictures taken soon, or that 8th grader who is suddenly a high school freshman. Take time to soak it all up, because summer vacation is short and before we know it our just graduated seniors will become our first-year college freshmen and will pack up and move out. Are they ready? Are you ready? It's a bittersweet time but hopefully it's exciting too.

There are statistics floating around out there that 70% of incoming college students will walk away from their faith. As a parent and a youth director that is concerning. While I don't have the answer as to how to keep that from happening, (and believe me, I have asked) here are some practical tips to make sure you can say you've done everything in your power to help your student do the opposite.

1. Ask them what they feel unprepared for or anxious about. Then be willing to accept their answers. Don't judge, don't get upset. Hear them out and then together work through it. You might be surprised by what they say.
2. Ask them how they rank Christian community in importance. They are about to leave a youth group they've known for years. It's comfortable, they know everyone. It's not going to look the same in college but the same type of community exists. They just have to find it. At a recent conference I was told that the first 72 hours of an incoming freshman's year determines whether or not they will succeed at maintaining and growing their faith. This means that they MUST search out Christian community. There are organizations at every campus including CRU, InterVarsity and Navigators. Do a search with your student and find out what organizations are on campus and create a plan for finding them. (Usually campus clubs advertise during the first week.) Encourage and follow up with them about their plans for finding on-campus community. This is a great way for them to meet Christian friends right from the start. (And of all the first year freshman students that I know that have done this, none of them have regretted it and all of them have found friends.)
3. Ask them if they want help finding a church in their new community. Go online and research what's available, the locations, and what they offer college students. Then take a Sunday and go visit the church with your student. Help take away the fear of the unknown in every way possible.
4. Ask them what they believe and why they believe it. Don't assume you know. Part of becoming an adult is stepping into your own faith and this time of life is usually when it happens. So what do they believe? Do they know how to stand up for their beliefs? Do they believe God's word? Again be prepared for answers you weren't expecting. There is so much going on in their world right now, things we don't understand. Learn about their world so they can come to you when they need help navigating it. Make sure to have a talk about technology. Do they know how to unplug and why they should? What and how do they filter information? Social media and the Internet are great tools, but they are also a cesspool of drivel.
5. Ask them if they know how to schedule their time. When I was a teacher I used to show them what a college schedule would look like and I was always amazed at how surprised they were with the amount of "free" time. Remember their frame of reference is an 8-3 style school day with 7 or 8 different classes all back to back. Make sure they know what to do with their "free" time. Cover things like finding time to eat, studying, and work schedules. Help them plan down time and find out their idea for prioritizing time with God.

Watching your child's faith become his own is fascinating. It also comes with moments of mild panic. (Or extreme panic depending on your child.) But it also comes with a new relationship status of friend, one I would not change for anything. Hang in there, get help if you or they need it, and remember two things no matter what: pray for your child and make sure your child knows he or she is LOVED!!

*...until next time, Rebecca Anderson*



Prayer Request for Ground Zero Retreat: On June 14th, Ground Zero students will be traveling to Bergland, Michigan, to serve at Calvary Baptist Church. Please pray for safety, for God to move in the community, for Pastor Bill Abrams to be encouraged by the presence of our students, and for the hearts of all of us to be opened to God's voice. We will be returning on June 19th. Thank you.



## Vacation Bible School

**June 10-13, 12:30-3:30 p.m.**  
**Children 4 years old—5th grade**

### ROAR! Life is Wild, God is Good!!

Get ready for an African adventure.

Learn that life can be good, sad, unfair, changing, or scary, but **God is always good.**

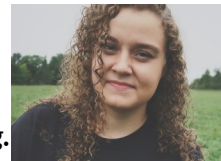
Please pray for this amazing week of ministry and invite/bring children you know.

### Missionary Update from Emilie Blomberg

During the month of May, Emilie served with The Agape Mission International in Kathmandu, Nepal, which serves at risk women and children. She taught English classes, tutored, helped at a rec center, and prayer walked.

For the month of June, Emilie will be in Rwanda, Africa at Awakening Healing Ministries in Kigali. Ministry will include teaching English, house visits, and church services.

You can follow her missionary journey through her blog, [emilieblomberg.theworldrace.org](http://emilieblomberg.theworldrace.org), to hear stories of what God is doing.



### Spot 68 Summer Activities

Save the Date for Spot 68 - 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.

**\*\*Ground Zero Dates TBD\*\***

*"Let us throw off everything that hinders  
 and the sin that so easily entangles,  
 and let us run with perseverance  
 the race marked out for us.  
 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,  
 the author and perfecter of our faith."*

*Hebrews 12:1b-2a*



### June Birthdays

- 1 Joseph Pearson, Jill Smith
- 2 Adam Blomberg
- 3 Dan Blomberg, Heidi Michaelis, Tonya VanCamp,  
 Ezekiel Stolhammer, Renee Zook
- 4 Jerry Blomberg
- 5 Jessica Andreae, Tammie Blomberg
- 6 Tina Hensley
- 7 Jordan Nelson, Ameris Grapa, Danielle Blomberg
- 8 Jeremy VanCamp
- 9 Laura Lord, Malcolm Monroe, Lucas Cook
- 11 June Larson, Tirah Meier
- 12 Bo Jones
- 13 Emilie Blomberg, Pam Wildberg, Kendrick Wear
- 15 Nate Erickson, Diane Bulgrin
- 17 Kyle Belan, Macy Wildberg
- 18 Nick Erickson, Gene Haskins, Nancy Espinoza
- 19 Doug Erickson, Tom Schubring, Gabriel Ulrich
- 20 Josh Jones, Preston Nelson, James Gustafson
- 21 Cody Gasser, Sarah Leick, Kailee Mann, Aelita Price
- 22 Joel Esterholm, Tyler Olson
- 23 Garrett Blomberg, Marcia Carlson, Steve Swan
- 24 Andy Swan
- 25 Janet Blomberg, Rebecca Anderson,  
 Ciara Scheithauer
- 26 Brandon Hallstrand, June Johnson
- 27 Vivian Rhody, Brooke Nelson
- 28 Anna Dielschneider
- 29 Kay Sue Belan, Nathan Karlik, Carol Heikkinen,  
 Renita Ulrich, Manny Espinoza Jr.
- 30 Heidi Esterholm, Donna Nelson, Ron Mattson



### 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:



**June 17**

**July 1, 15, 29**

**August 5, 19**



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

### Summer Sunday School

Our Sunday School program continues  
 throughout the summer.

There are classes for children of all ages—  
 nursery through jr. high,  
 a combined high school and young adult class,  
 and Patrick Daniels will teach  
 "Applying the Word Personally" for adults.

Please consider joining us on  
 Sunday mornings at 9:00!



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 Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



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

"Grow in the grace and knowledge  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory  
both now and forever.

Amen."

2 Peter 3:18

## Missionary Spotlight Hunter Swan

*Cru with International Justice Mission, Ghana, Africa*

Hunter Swan just finished his sophomore year of college, and will be spending 5 weeks (May 28-July 4) as part of a summer mission with Cru to Ghana, Africa.



"I will be going with a group of 17 other college students, from all around the country. While in Ghana, my team will be working alongside an anti-trafficking organization called International Justice Mission ... and an organization that provides aftercare for clients rescued from slavery. Our time in Ghana will have two emphases. The first is working in an aftercare center with young boys rescued from forced labor in the fishing industry on Lake Volta. The work will include education, sports and play, and some social work for those who have a background in that field. We will also be helping to launch and strengthen campus movements in and around the city of Accra.

If God places it on your heart to do so, I would ask that you pray for me. I ask that you pray for this trip to be abundant in spiritual growth, not only for myself but for all those we interact with." \*

If you are able to give a donation to support Hunter's work with Cru in Ghana this summer, you can give online at [give.cru.org/1038833](http://give.cru.org/1038833). Let's keep Hunter in our prayers, for his safety, growth, and powerful ministry to the glory of God in Ghana.

\*Taken from Hunter's ministry letter to his Ogema Baptist Church family