

March 2018



 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 One Time Change for a Good Reason

This year we are making a one time change for the service before Resurrection Sunday. We normally have a Good Friday service which helps us to focus on and remember the crucifixion of Jesus. This year we will instead have a service on Thursday night, March 29th. Here is what we will do and why.

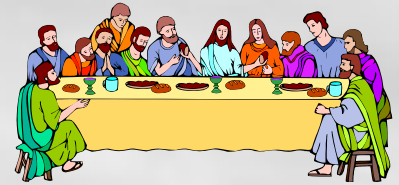
One of the two ordinances or rituals that Jesus gave us to observe is The Lord's Supper or Communion. It is a reenactment of part of the meal that Jesus had with his disciples on the night he was betrayed. Jesus used the bread and the cup to help us remember the significance of his death for us on the cross. It reminds us of Jesus' body which was given for us and the new covenant in Jesus' blood that paid for our sin.

The Lord's Supper also looks forward. Jesus said, "...I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Luke 22:18. When we observe The Lord's Supper we have an opportunity to think ahead to the coming kingdom and how awesome it will be for us then.

In addition, that meal was a Passover meal (Luke 22:15). Most of us Gentiles are missing out on the blessing of knowing the significance of that since we don't celebrate the Passover. To enrich our experience of the Lord's Supper, it is very helpful to know how the Passover points to Jesus. The context of the Lord's Supper within a Passover meal helps us to have a greater understanding and appreciation for Jesus.

To help us learn more about this, we are hosting a missionary from *Jews for Jesus* who will give us a presentation called "Christ in the Passover," a biblically based presentation that is dynamic, professional and Christ centered. This will be on Thursday, March 29th at 7 pm. The presentation is about 45 minutes so the whole service should be about an hour. I strongly encourage you to attend if at all possible. It will deepen your understanding and experience of the Lord's Supper.

In His Joy,  
Rodney Price



**Thursday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.**  
**"Christ in the Passover"**

### MARCH SERMON SCHEDULE

- 4 Luke 5:33-6:11**  
**"The Anti-Religious Side of Jesus"**
- 11 Luke 6:12-26**  
**"The Plain Teaching of Jesus, Blessings and Woes"**
- 18 Luke 6:27-38**  
**"The Plain Teaching of Jesus, More than the Golden Rule"**
- 25 Luke 6:39-49**  
**"The Plain Teaching of Jesus, More than Words"**



# YOUTH-MINISTRY



*So I was thinking...*

...how hard it is sometimes to find the right words. This time, believe it or not, I'm not talking about finding a topic to write about. I'm talking about the right words to describe my heart and goal for this summer's short-term mission trip. It's been hard to explain what I have been learning and what I feel God is leading me to do with my new friends in Haiti. For starters, when I first talked to Brad Brunsch, the missionary in Haiti that we are working with, he told me that he has trouble finding the right words to explain what Lemuel does and he's been going to Lemuel for seven years and has lived there fulltime for a year. It's actually why I ended up on a vision trip there because he said you just have to experience it. So I did. And since HE has a hard time describing it after multiple trips and living there, well I hope you can forgive me for not figuring it out either.

Since returning from the trip in November I have struggled with words to describe what they do, how they do it, and why I believe it fits with my vision of a mission trip. Now, I question that last statement as well, just so you know. I don't know if this trip is supposed to be my vision or if it's supposed to be someone else's, but I'm the trip leader: the Youth Director who believes it is part of her job to coordinate such a trip. With that in mind, please understand that I also believe that God said we are supposed to go out and make disciples and that we are to love one another. The "going out" is honestly something I thought I'd never do. The loving one another, well that's been something growing inside of me for years. I've only recently started to understand it. To me, loving others is forming a relationship with someone and coming along side of them. In a mission sense, this means more than visiting once every four years and doing more than just painting a few walls. It's an ongoing partnership, an investment. I spent last summer searching for a person or place to partner with, mostly in the U.S., but found the Brunsch's and Haiti (Much to my surprise).

I have been extremely frustrated with myself in my inability to put all of this into words. I seem to inadequately describe what Lemuel is doing, so I feel like I'm failing them. I want you, as a church, to know the heart of the organization and the people working there. I also want you to know that it would be easier for us to just send money than to go there. In fact, in some ways that makes the most sense. But the part that needs to be grasped is that our going there reinforces their value, the value of their life in Haiti and the value of their life with God. This is the hard part to explain. We, as a Christian community, know that each of us has value. We have value as people, and most importantly as Imago Dei (His image bearers). This is not true in Haiti. It would be easy for me to believe that they live in a place God has forgotten or abandoned, especially once I saw it. I can only imagine what they believe, especially after the derogatory words our President said about them. They live in a place, where it almost seems like missionaries are tripping over themselves trying to help, and yet nothing changes. I'm not kidding. There are churches and missionary schools everywhere. Buses and trucks have the name of Jesus painted on them. But something is not right there and this is what Lemuel is trying to do differently. They are trying to show them Jesus by investing in people. Not just in church on Sunday. But in their school, in their development center, in the way they treat people, and believe it or not, in trees!

Our going there shows them that they have value! That's relationship!! For them to see me come back and bring others with me, including my family, shows the people of Lemuel and the surrounding community on the Plateau that I see them as human beings, equal to myself and, hopefully, God created and loved. Someone worthy of my time and my effort to get there. The goal of this trip is not to go and build a better life FOR the people of Haiti. It's to go and learn WITH the people of Haiti. My goal is that we GO. LEARN. RETURN. SERVE. A simple saying for a much larger purpose. I want Lemuel and the people of the Plateau to meet our group from Wisconsin and no matter what we do or don't do, I pray they watch us leave and think, "Wow, those people loved on us!" That to me, is worth more money than we could ever raise or send. That's investing with a Kingdom mindset!

*...until next time, Rebecca Anderson*

*The next support opportunity is the Easter Breakfast on April 1st.*

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

-Jesus, in Matthew 19:14

"One of the few times Jesus rebuked His disciples was when they attempted to keep a group of small children from reaching Him (Matthew 19:13-15). It isn't hard to see why they might have thought this was a good idea. Surely the Lord had important things on His mind and shouldn't be bothered by a mob of clamoring kids on His lap. Children are frequently loud, unruly, and terribly demanding. And yet, in correcting His well-meaning followers, Jesus gave us valuable insight into exactly what bothers God and what doesn't.

According to Him, children, in all their child-like exuberance, are a model for us all.

*Go ahead, God says, climb on My lap and bother Me!*

*Ask Me for what you want and need.*

*Know that My love is so deep that I'll never turn you away.  
That's the way into the kingdom of heaven."*

-from the book "Everything the Bible Says About PRAYER" by Keith Wall

"Praise be to God,  
who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me!"  
Psalm 66:20

"The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.  
And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself  
testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."  
Romans 8:15-16

"In Him and through faith in Him  
we may approach God with freedom and confidence."  
Ephesians 3:12

"Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace  
to help us in our time of need."  
Hebrews 4:16

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

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

~ March 3rd ~

7:00 - 8:30 p.m., at Sam and Aimee's house

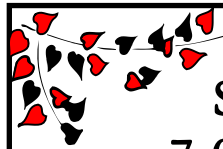
## REVIVE

### Night of Worship & Prayer March 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

All ages are invited to join us  
for contemporary worship and prayer as we seek  
to revive our hearts in the presence of the Lord.  
Preview songs at [bit.ly/obcrevive](http://bit.ly/obcrevive)

"Revive us, and we will call on Your name.  
Restore us, O LORD God Almighty."

Psalm 80:18b-19a



## Moms' Night Out Sunday, March 4 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Project: Cake Decorating  
Discussion: "Happily Ever After?"

Please join us & invite a friend!!

Fun! Fellowship! Friendship!  
FREE Event!

## Family Fun Night Friday, March 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

All families are welcome to join us  
for an evening of basketball, fun,  
fellowship, and snacks!



## March Birthdays

- 1 John Pearson
- 2 Elaine Ulrich, Kali Heikkinen, Zach Mattson
- 3 Genevieve Stolhammer
- 4 Jeremy Esterholm, Brianna Johnson
- 5 Dave Root, Joyce Summers, Victoria Hamm
- 6 Debby Blomberg, Claire DeCleene
- 7 Tim Blomberg
- 8 Grayson Swan, Jean Scott
- 9 Sunday Retzlaff
- 10 Randy Hueckman, David Swan
- 11 Jenny Mattson, James Cook
- 12 Deanny Ulrich
- 13 Lyle Blomberg, Olivia Blomberg,  
Don Kraegenbrink
- 17 Jerod Blomberg, Eric Mattson, Tim Swan
- 18 Deb Davis, Jeremy Marshke
- 19 Liz Carlson, Lillian Dickinson, Carter Scheithauer
- 20 Desi Haskins, Ahnalie Berg
- 21 Danny Gustafson, Jessica Borchardt
- 22 Amy Blomberg
- 23 Spencer Nelson
- 24 Darla Schubring, Joseph Selander, Pam Pearson
- 25 Meredith Hueckman
- 26 Cory Mattson
- 27 Rob Freiboth, Ann Mattson, Kaarin Lind
- 28 Ruby Wildberg
- 29 Crosby Adams, Abigail Adams
- 30 Bev Polzin
- 31 Dionne Sorenson



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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54459  
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Whatever your age or stage in life,  
YOU are WELCOME here!

*"The LORD is near to all who call on Him,  
to all who call on Him in truth.  
He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him;  
He hears their cry and saves them."*

*Psalm 145:18-19*

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 Dan & Sandy Varberg Faith Christian Academy, Manila, Philippines



It was our pleasure to have Dan and Sandy Varberg here at OBC on February 4, worshipping with us and sharing about their ministry in the Philippines. The Varbergs serve God at Faith Academy in Manila, and are currently home for a year (June 2017-June 2018) to visit their supporting churches, reconnect with family and friends in the States, and prepare for another term of ministry. OBC has had the privilege of supporting the Varbergs since 2002, when Dan and Sandy first became missionaries at Faith Academy.

There are 683 unreached people groups and 311 unengaged, unreached people groups in Southeast Asia. The Philippines is the 13th most-populated country in the world with 103 million people. Because of this, many missionaries serve in this part of the world. Dan and Sandy serve at Faith Academy, located in Manila, Philippines. It is an international Christian school primarily for the children of missionaries. Dan serves as the Transportation and Grounds Department supervisor, and Sandy is the head nurse in the Health Services Department. By serving the missionary community, the Varbergs help strengthen and support the missionaries that are spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Please partner with the Varbergs through your prayers. Here are some prayer requests that Dan and Sandy shared with us:

1. Pray for our adult children, living in the U.S. - for wisdom in life choices and that they continue to seek after God
2. Pray for Dan and Sandy
  - a. for safety in travels and time for rest and relaxation in between travels
  - b. for health - Dan suffered some changes in his vision last year - pray that he adjusts to this change and pray for Sandy's continued recovery and healing from recent foot surgery
3. Pray for our support levels. We are at 85%. Pray that God would supply the additional financial support that we need.
4. Pray for the continued work in Southeast Asia, and the Faith community in Manila.

Converge International Ministries

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