

May 2020



Ogema 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

Hope for the Future

As of this writing over 45,000 Americans have died from COVID 19 and over 26,000,000 Americans have filed for unemployment. You don't have to be a prophet to know those numbers will get worse. I don't know much else about what will happen in our immediate earthly future. But God has revealed to us some of what will happen in our eternal futures.

One of the most frequently misquoted passages in the Bible by people who know and love the Lord and believe the Bible is 1 Corinthians 2:9. “However, as it is written:

‘No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared for those
who love him”

Most preachers stop reading at that point and say something to the effect that this shows we can't know what God has in store for us so it is a waste of time to try. I wish they would continue reading; at least to finish the sentence. It reads, “...but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.” That is exactly opposite of the point usually made. We can know and should seek to know what God reveals to us!

The current series of messages is designed to help us know some of the details of the hope we have for the future. Why? As it says in Hebrews 6:19 “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul.” As John Eldredge wrote in All Things New about this hope, “How you envision your future impacts your current experience more

than anything else.” I find that to be true in my life. The more I learn and reflect on the hope for my ultimate future in Christ, the better my ability to cope in a positive way. The more I focus on the unpleasantness of the present or my earthly future, the worse I deal with life.

C.S. Lewis wrote in Mere Christianity, “If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”

Ouch! Sometimes the truth hurts. Let's get a more clear picture of the hope we have so that we are as effective as we can be in helping God build his kingdom that lasts forever. Please access this month's messages at www.ogemabaptistchurch.org.



In His Joy,
Pastor Rodney

MAY SERMON SCHEDULE

- 3 “The New Heaven and the New Earth”
- 10 “What Will Our Relationships Be Like in Heaven?”
- 17 “What Will We Do in Heaven?”
- 24 “The Reality of the Unseen”
- 31 “Living Now in the Hope of the Future”



YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about grief. There are so many examples of grief bombarding the world right now. In my small community there are friends and family grieving the loss of loved ones. We have seniors (and parents' of seniors) in high school grieving the loss of their senior year. The loss of their final sports season, prom, graduation, and those last few weeks when the senior class bonds over senior skip day and shared memories. We have teachers struggling to balance teaching their students without overwhelming their parents, while grieving the loss of their students. We have parents grieving jobs and schedules and routine. We have college students grieving the loss of their independence. These same students are now required to finish their semester online. Many of whom would never take an online class. Some of these college students are also losing internships, co-ops, clinical rotations, and other very important aspects of their learning that may lengthen the time they have to spend in college and increase their educational debt. We have parents who haven't been allowed to be at graduation ceremonies, if they even took place. We have some of our elderly population secluded in living situations where their care workers are their only visitors. We have families being separated as loved ones die alone in hospitals. We have grandchildren we can't hold and grandparents we can't hug! We don't even have sports to watch or attend and we can't go out to eat!! We fight on Facebook about what's right and what's wrong, while the people in charge can't seem to work together. We are concerned about losing our rights, our privacy, and our freedoms as we sit at home and "watch" church. We have Zoom meetings to feel connected with someone outside of our homes. I'm not even sure if grief is a strong enough word for what people are going through right now. The amount of emotional, economic, financial and spiritual turmoil that people have endured will only be sorted out later... TBD!

And I know people are dying. I am not trying to negate the importance of protecting the vulnerable and using common sense, but we also can't shame those who are grieving personal loss, whatever that loss may be and it is happening (mostly on social media) to our teens! We shouldn't make our teens feel shame for crying about prom or the loss of their senior year of track and field. You and I experienced those things. They are not going to get the chance. And right now they need our help, love, and support. They need a safe place to be angry, to be sad, and to move through the grief process, because that's what they are experiencing...grief.

So what do you need? What do they need? Has anyone asked you that? Well I am. I sent a short video to my Ground Zero graduates of the past four years to make sure they knew they weren't alone. I had them ask themselves three questions and rate what they were experiencing from 1 to 10 (One = great, 10 = very bad). The questions were simply, "Where is your level of anger, fear and anxiety?" I then asked them to contact me or someone if their level for any of the questions was at a 6 or higher. Have you done a self-check or have you checked on your teen? From those who responded to my questions, anger was the most common answer. Yes, fear was also mentioned, fear of the unknown and what's next, but it was mostly anger. Anger at having their lives flipped upside down and the loss of things they had finally gotten mastered, like going to the gym or balancing social lives with college expectations.

I'm sure I missed some examples of all the things people are experiencing right now, but I only know of one example that can get us through it and that is our hope in Jesus Christ. For those of us who believe that Christ died on the cross for our sins, we can breathe a little easier. We know that our God, the creator of you, me and the universe, is already in that future we can't see. He's already worked out everything for our good and His glory. But that doesn't mean it's easy. That doesn't mean your personal situation and your personal grief doesn't matter. Because it does. It matters because you matter! Working through grief is a process and unfortunately there is no exact road map to follow. We will all experience it differently. But the key is that we need to experience it. We need to work through it. We can't live in the fear or the anger or the anxiety. One of the ways I am working through my grief in the way Ground Zero ended this year is I'm going to celebrate my 2020 Ground Zero Grads. Part of this is for me, because I need closure, and part of this is for them. They need something to celebrate! As seniors they are leaving GZ and I need to say good bye! I have time to walk with the rest of them as we sort all of this out but not with them, they are moving on. For that reason I have chosen to use the first 12 days of May and dedicate one day to each senior via social media. So be on the lookout for these posts and let's spread them as far and wide as we can as we celebrate our 2020 Ground Zero Graduates!

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

Also, if you or someone you care about is struggling with anything please reach out. One resource I can recommend for high school and college teens is Defining Point Consulting operated by Cindy Mattson. She can customize a plan to help you and your child work through their doubts and insecurities. She can help them discover their strengths and what that means for their future. She can also provide a safe space for a group of friends to meet and plan for the future! Please contact me for more information or Cindy directly at cindy@definingpointconsulting.com.

A Good Old Smorgasbord

We can't have a buffet all together but I find that I need to give you a verbal smorgasbord (yes I spelled it correctly). Not every item will apply to you so to help you find the items of interest I am putting just one subject per paragraph, even if it is only one sentence.

Hang in there! This disruption may be stretching and frustrating and very challenging. You are not alone in this.

Phone and email are great ways to stay in touch in a more personal way though not as efficient as social media. Even old school snail mail can be a nice boost to receive. It doesn't have to cost a lot of money to let someone know you're thinking of them. I called my mom from the store when I saw the racks of seed packets. I remembered she had said that the stores in her area didn't have seeds so I asked her what seeds I could get for her. She was thrilled and it didn't take that much effort.

Social media can be helpful too, especially when you need some help. Our OBC fans Facebook page is very good for that and for prayer requests. If you need some help, please ask. It gives others an opportunity to use the gifts God has given them.

The novel part of the Novel Coronavirus19 is a challenge. No one knows what exactly we should do but most of us have strong feelings about it. This situation, because it is novel, means that we need to have a massive dose of humility because we don't know for sure the best thing to do, even personally. We also need to give grace to those who disagree with us on opinion related issues. Some have fears about a loved one who has a pre-existing condition that puts them at greater risk. Others have fears about the long term effects of tens of millions of our fellow Americans being unemployed. Extending grace and having a humble attitude can do a lot to help those around us. Now is a great time to "let your light shine" as Jesus said.

Thank you to all who have left encouraging messages for the participants that have a part in the video services. Several people are working behind the scenes to make that a reality and I am extremely thankful for them.

I am also thankful to all of you who continue to support the church. If you need information on how to do that, please go to our website, www.ogemabaptistchurch.org and click on the word "GIVE" at the upper right corner of the page. That will take you to the page with a "Donate" button which gives you the options of using PayPal, a credit card or a debit card. Of course you can mail a check to the church at: Ogema Baptist Church, PO Box 556, Ogema, WI 54459.

The church website is also a great place to access our video messages (and audio ones, too!). I encourage you to watch them. The response we've been getting has been way better than I expected. People who have never been to our church are watching and commenting positively. If you have been blessed by them, please consider recommending them to a friend. They are free! You may really help someone and it doesn't cost you or them anything.

I miss you! - Pastor Rodney

OBC Annual Meeting, May 17

Our Church annual business meeting will need to be conducted online because of the current restrictions and precautions. **All members that are willing to participate, please send your email address to info@ogemabaptistchurch.org.** You will be sent a group email with the agenda, minutes from the last meeting, financial secretary and treasurer reports, budget, and ballot. Then you will be able to vote by email as well.

Anyone who would like to pick up **paper copies** of these items may do so from the foyer table at the church. They will be available by Friday afternoon, May 15th, along with the **annual reports books**.

Please remember that we will need a quorum to conduct business. If you do not have email and would still like to participate, let us know by calling the church at 715-767-5157.

Thank you!

May Birthdays



- 1 Kylee Scott
- 2 Jean Belan, Ellie Korwin-Kuczynski, Nolan Sarkkinen
- 3 Lee DeCleene
- 4 Bryan Blomberg
- 5 Jackson Isaacson, Iris Blomberg, Sarah Blomberg
- 6 Ann VanCamp
- 7 Roger Blomberg, Jordan Mann, Levi Runsick
- 8 Terry Belan, Frank Ulrich
- 9 Deane Bruner
- 10 Elena Blomberg, Ryan Page
- 11 Rebekah Price
- 13 Kathy Blomberg, Krista Blomberg
- 14 Kelly Stanford
- 15 Andrew Whitmire, Courtney Cook
- 16 Nathaniel Rhody
- 17 Tom Schaer, Christine Ziegler, Zoe Reissner
- 18 Bob Marschke, McKenna Isaacson
- 19 Denice Gustafson
- 20 Ellen Daniels
- 21 Cal Kraegenbrink, Jane Stelzer, Brian Pearson
- 22 Barb Brahmer
- 24 Loren Erickson, Garrett Novotny, Kinlee Wear
- 25 Nick Anderson, Esther Buzan, Craig Smith, Zackary Swan
- 26 Heidi Mann, Jim Summers, Julie Swan, Kassie Erickson
- 27 Zach Isaacson, Dorothy Barr, Kristin Belan, Erica Sturm, Marti Leick, Lauren Mattson
- 28 Dean Gilge
- 29 Becca Jones, Hesston Meier
- 30 Lee Belan, Dustin Ulrich, Zoe Mariette
- 31 Joren Lind



"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."
Psalm 40:1-3a

OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Email:

info@ogemabaptistchurch.org

Missionary Spotlight

Tim and Renee Zook

SonSet Solutions



After serving many years in Ecuador with *Reach Beyond*, Tim and Renee Zook are now serving **SonSet Solutions** in Elkhart, Indiana.

"Tim is a technician in the broadcast services division. He is the repairman for transmitters, antennas, generators, and studios. He also builds new transmitters and helps with manufacturing in the mechanical shop. Renee works in hospitality for SonSet Solutions."

"The vision of SonSet Solutions is that the name of Jesus would be made known among the nations, and people everywhere would become His fruitful disciples. Our mission is to provide technology-based solutions to advance the Gospel worldwide."

Here is an example of a ministry solution that SonSet is providing around the world:

"According to the World Bank, 20% of the world's population lives in areas of the world where there is no access to electricity. That is approximately 1.2 billion people, most of who live in the developing world. Christian radio broadcasters see these same regions of the world as fertile ground for telling others about Jesus. Yet without electricity, this can prove to be a difficult task. SonSet Solutions has developed a technological solution to this dilemma. The SonSet® radio is a portable, solar-powered radio receiver. It is light enough to carry around your neck, using the lanyard which also serves as its antenna. The rugged, moisture resistant case protects the unit from the elements during the day while the solar panel charges an internal battery for listening even after the sun has set. A SonSet radio costs just \$40. Our goal is to fund 12,000 radios this year for ministries working with refugees in Africa, First Nations People in North America, those living in the African Sahel, isolated people in South America, and others like them. The radios will be fixed-tuned to the frequency of our local partner so their listeners can hear God's Word. Together we can expand the reach and deepen the impact of ministries around the world."

Please keep Tim and Renee Zook, along with everyone at SonSet Solutions, in your prayers as they seek to advance the Gospel worldwide.

Information found at sonsetsolutions.org. Go to their website to learn more, or email the Zooks <tzook@sonsetsolutions.org>