

October 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

Party

I love a good party; not the kind our sick culture reveres where people are getting drunk and/or high, not the kind where people are doing things they will later regret and not the kind where people have ulterior motives. No, I like a good party where the food is tasty and plentiful, the people who attend are genuine and do not have fun at someone else's expense. I like a good party where the occasion is joyful and we have a good reason to celebrate. I like a good party where everyone wishes we could be together longer and we leave with both a sense of joy at the good time we just had and a little sadness that it has come to at least a temporary end. As I write this I am remembering great parties that I have attended in the last few years as well as some from decades ago.

It may surprise you to know that a good party is just a shadow of what awaits the followers of Jesus in the next life. Heavenly parties will be all positive, without any sin to mess things up or get people hurt. Heavenly parties will not include the sadness of the party being over because with eternity always in front of us, we will always have opportunities for more.

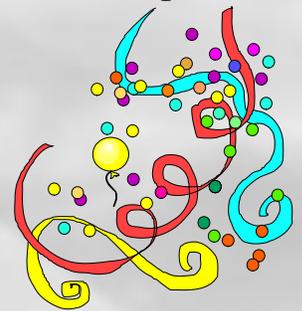
Just yesterday I was in conversation with someone who was lamenting the lack of time

to get to know all the people he wanted to get to know better. Good news! In Heaven you will have that time. There will be no hurry or demanding urgency caused by a lack of time. There will be no sadness that time spent with one person means you have less to spend with another. You will have eternity!!! Let that sink in.

Jesus tells us about a party you do not want to miss in the passages I will be preaching in October. It is intentional that Jesus tells us about this future awesome (literally) party. He wants us to be there. I hope and pray that you will be.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney



OCTOBER SERMON SCHEDULE

- 7** Luke 13:22-35
“A Party You Don't Want to Miss”
- 14** Guest Speaker
- 21** Luke 14:1-24
“Not Your Average Dinner Party Conversation”
- 28** Guest Speaker



YOUTH-MINISTRY



So I was thinking...how many of you are in a spot right now, where you can say "I'm done!"

I can stay in this spot the rest of my life. I don't need to change anything, I'm good enough. I'm guessing no one. That desire to move to the next stage of life or to change who we are is in us because God gave it to us.

In order to live a life worth living, going from stage to stage, you have to learn to be you!! Not your friend, not the popular kid in school you always envied, not your smarter brother or your beautiful sister or a combination of them both. It doesn't matter what their job is or the amount they have in their bank account, you can't become them. You have to figure out you. And it's a work in progress...for your entire life.

It is a fact that you can't be anybody else, even though I'm guessing at some point you have tried. This is, of course, when problems come. Because, you see, God made you on purpose with a purpose. You are the only one alive like you. But sometimes we don't like ourselves. We aren't happy with where we are, we just want to get to the next stage or maybe give up. We know we are struggling, failing, hurting, down right messing up and we want out. We know we are NOT meant to be this failing self that we seem to be stuck with.

The fact that you are meant to be you is the good news, but there's better news. You are meant to be a BETTER you! You are meant to grow and change in the ways you want. In fact that's why you long to do it. The very fact that we long for change in who we are is a sign from God. It's this dissatisfaction with our weaknesses and struggles that point us to the reality that we are not meant to live in them. But we are meant to learn FROM them and to change. Moving forward, even in the difficult, hard parts, is what life is about. It brings us to the next new better version of ourselves, but it doesn't happen in our own strength. We often think we need more discipline to get stronger or better. We think of life like a sport. Or maybe we just need to be older to get it. You tell yourself, "When I'm 20 I'll start looking at this whole 'Christian Life' thing. When I'm 40 I won't have to work so hard to be better at life. When I'm 80 I'll finally arrive!" Bad news...we will never have enough discipline on our own and age means nothing. We will always need to improve. So then, maybe, you start to think, "If I just have strong enough will power to make it happen it will work," but that fails too. The only thing that will help us move from who we are to a better version of who we are meant to be is with the love of God. And it starts with the heart.

This thing we call "Life" is the journey of becoming the real you. And at the center of it all is our heart. Now don't get me wrong, our brain is important too, after all you can't love what you don't know. But the Bible spends a lot of time talking about our hearts. For some of us it's the center of a lot of pain and hurt. You've loved someone and they've let you down. It could have been a parent, a friend, a significant other and this causes us to want to close off our heart, put it on a shelf and never allow the pain to enter it again. You might even be tempted to kill it. But you cannot live without your heart! In fact it's pretty much the most important thing and it is the most important to God as well.

But our hearts are more than just the center of all our feelings and emotions. It's also the place of faith. Jesus didn't come to create perfect people, with all the right manners and all the right actions. He came for our hearts so that we would love him with all our hearts and live our lives from it. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." We don't think much about guarding our hearts. We worry more about how we look or how many followers we have on Instagram. But God knows our hearts. Author John Eldredge writes in his book *Waking the Dead* that "God knows our heart is core to who we are. It is the source of all creativity, courage, and conviction. It is the fountainhead of our faith, our hope, and of course, our love...You can't become who you are meant to be without it." In Ezekiel 36:26, it says "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." A new heart because of our faith in Jesus.

You see, it is a work in progress...a process. But it can't start until you give your heart to God. Left on our own, the voice of shame that too many of us live with says, "I hate me, I need to get rid of me." Which leads to the voice of discipline, who says, "I've got to fix me because I'm not good enough." But the voice we should be listening to, the voice of God, says, "I love you, let me restore you and show you who you are in me, the truth that you are chosen, loved and a one-of-a-kind you!"*



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17.

...until next time, Rebecca Anderson

*from Staci Eldredge's book, *Free to Be Me*



Wednesday Evening Programs

Bring your whole family for fun & growth!

6:30—8:00 p.m.

Kingdom Quest 4K-5th grades

Spot 68 6th-8th grades

Ground Zero 9th-12th grades

Ladies' Learn & Grow—studying "12 More Women of the Bible"

7:00—8:00 p.m. Adult Prayer Meeting

(Nursery is also provided)



Family Fun Night Kickball at Pioneer Park in Ogema

Friday, October 5, 6:00 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, meet at the church for activities in the gym.

Questions? Call Josh & Stef Jones, 715-966-5249



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

We would LOVE to have you join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 for a special hour of learning from God's Word and applying it to our lives!

There are classes for children of all ages (nursery - high school), as well as these adult classes:

the Bridge (young adults) led by Arnie Blomberg,
a study of Revelation with Stan Carlson,

and the Art of Parenting class (Sept. 30—Nov. 18) with John & Julie Jast.

**"JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY AND TODAY
AND FOREVER."**

HEBREWS 13:8



"Many, O LORD my God,
are the wonders You have done.
The things You planned for us
no one can recount to You;
were I to speak and tell of them,
they would be too many to declare."
Psalm 40:5



"Whenever we feel ourselves dead, and especially in prayer,
get close to the Word, for the Word of God is alive.

When you have nothing to say to your God, let Him say something to you.
Turn from death to the Word which still lives." - Charles Spurgeon

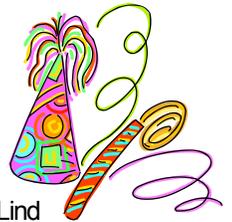
"Follow the Bible in all things, both great and small." - John Wesley

"The Bible is God's chart to you to steer by, to keep you from the bottom of the sea, and to show you where the harbor is, and how to reach it." - Henry Beecher

"The Word of God is living and active." Hebrews 4:12a

October Birthdays

- 3 Aidan Anderson, Lawson Carlson, Gabe Lind
- 4 Cody Blomberg
- 5 Layne Blomberg, Amy Espinoza
- 6 Joelle Scheithauer, Julia Pearson, Pat Ulrich
- 7 Pat Grom, Elisabeth Karlik
- 8 Sally Fawley, Hunter Swan, Missy Altschwager
- 10 James Byrd, Karl Lind
- 11 Bruce Johnson, Leila Heikkinen
- 14 Madelyn Blomberg, Samuel Blomberg
- 15 Darrell Freiboth, Shirley Hueckman, Rachel Donahoe
- 16 Marcia VanCamp
- 18 LuAnn Winter
- 19 Micah Blomberg
- 20 Jake Anderson, Steve Blomberg
- 21 Amie Blomberg, Nicole Schaer, Nick Erickson Jr.,
Ryan Reissner
- 22 Seth Hueckman
- 23 Victor Blomberg
- 24 Jodi McIlhany
- 26 Mollie Anderson
- 27 Mami Belan, Kaelyn Isaacson
- 28 Shirley Root, Hazel Nelson, Tyler Lind
- 29 Emily Daniels
- 30 Jeff Jast, Coralie Recob
- 31 Marlene Blomberg, Brian Kraegenbrink, Betty Selander



Happy Birthday!

Fall Rally - "Find a Way"

Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.

Ogema Baptist Church

**Brad Hurtig/Motivational Speaker
Beacon Light/Rap Artist**



Brad and Beacon will be in the Rib Lake and Prentice middle and high schools during the day, with a full concert at OBC in the evening.



Everyone is invited to attend the evening concert!
(There are no other programs at church this evening.)

Spot 68 Service Retreat and Fun Day

Saturday, October 13

Feed My Starving Children, Eagan, MN
Action City Trampoline Park, Eau Claire, WI

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 Student & Ladies' Ministries - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



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

*"The moon marks off the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.
How many are Your works, O Lord:
in wisdom You made them all;
the earth is full of Your creatures."*

Psalm 104:18 & 24

Missionary Spotlight Gary & Marie Harrison Pinnacle Ministries, Mosinee, WI



*"Healthy Pastors,
Healthy Leaders.
Leading Healthy &
Effective Churches."*

Gary & Marie Harrison work with Pinnacle Ministries, based out of central WI, where Gary is the President, as well as one of the Retool Kit authors/trainers/coaches. In that capacity he has worked with pastors and churches throughout the country, as well as in the Philippines and Japan.

"The mission of Pinnacle Ministries is to be a catalyst in the expansion of God's kingdom by helping churches take the next strategic steps to fulfill Christ's mission. Since its inception, Pinnacle is about helping ensure that the 'system' of the church works. We're committed to our passion of, 'Healthy Pastors, Healthy Leaders, Leading Healthy Churches' and desire to see a movement of community-focused churches that obediently reproduce disciples, leaders and congregations."

"We believe that 'church growth' is not enough; you can do the right thing the wrong way and damage people in the process. We desire to see effective pastoral families leading churches with true community impact. We believe that as a result, God will prosper His church. We're especially committed to providing affordable help for the smaller and mid-sized church (the attendance mean is still about 75, and 96% of all churches are 499 or less in attendance)."

"Pinnacle isn't simply engaged in pastoral and church support locally. One of the most challenging fields of service is Japan, where less than 2% of the population are followers of Christ."

To learn more about the ministry of Pinnacle, both in the U.S. and around the world, visit them online at www.pinmin.org.