

SEPTEMBER 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

40 Days of Community

Begins September 12

Community, relationship is at the center of reality. God exists as a unity of three, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Human beings, created in the image of God, have a desire for community that reflects the relational nature of our Creator.

In the first chapter of the Bible we read these breathtaking words, “Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Notice the plural personal pronouns: “Let us make...in our image, in our likeness.” *The trinity, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, are implied here in the first chapter of the Bible. Part of what it means to be made in God’s image is that we are made for community. In fact, in the second chapter of the Bible, God says, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” We were not made to be Lone Rangers.*

During the 40 Days of Community you will have the opportunity to participate in a small group during the Sunday School hour. People from high school age up to 104 years old are encouraged to give it a try for six Sunday mornings. The sessions will include a video teaching that tracks with the study guide you will receive. Then after the video your group will interact using the study guide to focus your time. When our staff previewed and discussed each session, we became even more convinced that this will be beneficial for all who will participate.

It can be scary. Relationships are powerful, both nega-

tively and positively. This is true for God as well. In the sixth chapter of the Bible it says, “The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.” What came next was the flood in which only Noah and his family was saved.

Now for the positive. In Ephesians 1:18, the Bible talks of God’s “glorious inheritance in the saints,” meaning that God looks at us who have become saints through faith in Jesus as cherished, glorious and valued. Why does God have that attitude toward us? Relationship. Ephesians 2:19 says, “...you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household...” WOW! We are part of God’s family? That’s what the Bible says of those who are “in Christ.”

I hope you will take the opportunity to get to know some of your forever family members a little better in the 40 Days of Community.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney

SEPTEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE

- 05 Growing in Christ - Together
- 12 Why We Need to Be Together
- 19 Reaching Out Together
- 26 What Destroys and What Builds
Togetherness

YOUTH DIRECTOR

So I was thinking...

about unity. This has been the year of weddings for me. I have been to six with two more to go! Of course, the one that sticks out to me was in August when our middle son married his best friend. It was probably one of the sweetest weddings I've ever seen. I know I'm biased, but feedback from many in attendance verbalized the exact same thing. They were so excited to get married! To be united! As someone who has been married for 25 years, I know they have a lot to learn, but I pray that they remain united. One with each other and one with God.

Marriage is said to be the closest example we can experience of the unity of the trinity. (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.) The trinity is the ultimate expression of unity and love, which is why marriage is so special and should be celebrated. But I also believe there is another form of unity that we can experience outside of marriage: the church. Communing with our Christian brothers and sisters.

Just like in a marriage, we as the church can forget the importance of unity. Like in marriage, if we don't work at it, if we don't continue to learn, if we forget to put the other person first, we revert to our selfish ways and take the other person for granted. Anything that is worth doing well is difficult. It takes work, patience, forgiveness, selflessness, and lots and lots of love.

At most weddings you will hear 1 Corinthians 13 read. Most of the time they start in verse 4, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." And it ends in verse 13 with, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." (I don't have enough room to type it all out, so please go read it so you will know what Jesus says about love.)

If Jesus said, the greatest is love, then we should probably figure it out how to do it. This chapter includes wisdom about what it means to love. This wisdom could be applied to a marriage, but it could also be applied to the church. What if we read these verses and instead of thinking about marriage, we think about our brothers and sisters in Christ? Is our love for each other patient and kind? Are we showing fellow believers the type of love, patience, understanding, and forgiveness these verses describe? What words do we say out loud and what do we put out on social media that show that love? Do other believers know us by our love? Do non-believers see love when they look at us? Are we working on growing in love?

One of my Deeper students sent me a message that said, "So siblings and family members look and act like each other and other people can see that and be like, 'Oh yeah, they're related.' It should be that way with God's family too. We should look and act like Jesus and others should recognize that we're all connected, in it together and like Jesus. That's my "ah ha" this morning." She gets it!! Yes, we should share qualities that other people recognize. But to do that, we need to grow. Becoming a mature Christian takes work. To become more like Jesus takes work and time. Time with Jesus and time with each other. That's why family mem-

bers share more than looks. They live, work, fight, forgive, and play together. I've watched adopted children acquire characteristics of their adopted family to the extent that if you didn't know they were adopted you'd think they were biological children. Now, I'm not suggesting we all move in together...that's too much!! But we can figure out how to grow together! As Christians, we are commanded to go out and make disciples. But we can miss that it also says, "and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

So, what is "everything I have commanded you" mean? You won't know the answers to that if you don't plug into a community of believers who are learning. You can learn alone but there's a very good chance you will miss something if you don't have someone providing feedback. A person or group to push you, to hold you accountable, to remind you to keep going when the learning gets hard or boring. As "the church" we need unity because we need each other, and we need each other because we need to go out and make disciples! Here at OBC, we want to increase opportunities to GROW. We invite you to participate in the 40 Days of Community campaign starting September 12. Come check out what it means to be "the church" and how we can learn to be united, because WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

...until next time.

Rebecca Anderson

VISITATION PASTOR

Although English was my least favorite class in school it has since become an important element in my life, both because of the role it plays in accurate communication but also helping to understand what's being communicated. For these reasons word definitions are particularly interesting to me. Lately I have been pondering a couple of words that have been particularly relevant to me; muse and meditate. The word muse means "to become absorbed in thought, to think about something carefully and thoroughly." The word meditate means "to focus one's thoughts on, reflect on or ponder over." They are both used in [Psalm 143:5](#), "I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands." The discipline of focusing one's thoughts plays a crucial role in our spiritual growth and health because, if you haven't noticed, our minds are always at work grinding out thoughts. Nights are spent lying awake along with many daytime hours worrying about things we have no control over and about events that may never even happen! Reflecting on things that God has done in our lives brings us back to reality.

In studying words I've noticed that their meanings can change over the years and seem to reflect changing cultural views. For instance, the word **muse** hasn't really changed in meaning but it pretty much disappeared from use. I then looked at the word **amuse** expecting it to have the oppositemeaning of **muse** when adding the prefix a (similar to **theist** and **atheist**) but the current use of **amuse**

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is “to entertain or occupy in a light, playful or pleasant manner.” If we look back in time it was defined then as “to divert the attention of so as to deceive, occupy the attention of, distract, bewilder.” What a difference a few generations of time make! Now I’m not bashing leisure time amusements but when we give our time over to habitually amusing ourselves and not devoting an appropriate amount to meditating on God’s Word we will find ourselves poorly prepared for trials that will come in our lives (John 16:33, 1 Peter 4:12). We need to strike a balance between activities that allow our minds to relax and the spiritual discipline found in Jude 20-21, “*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*” God’s way is for us to **muse** (think carefully and thoroughly) in contrast to our current **amusement** (no thinking required). Let’s not forget how God has led us to this point in our lives.

—Mike Gasser

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 2 Connor Anderson
- 4 Jesse Rhody, Matti Heikkinen
- 5 Jordan Gilge, Pat Hamlet, Slade Erdman
- 6 Erica Adams, Kaye Erickson, Nikki Sarkkinen
- 7 Jess Wear, Jason Ulrich
- 9 Nick Blomberg, Nathaniel Swan
- 10 Danny Darosci, Joyce Haskins, Betty Swan
- 11 Matt Blomberg, Steve Saari
- 12 Luke Swan, Nikole Foster, Ari & Colton Blomberg
- 13 Kim Trouten, Amanda Page
- 15 Kaelyn Blomberg
- 17 Terry Foster, Russell Sarkkinen, Pride Stanford
- 19 Treyvon Byrd, Brian Karlik, Jackie Parlin
- 20 Kajsa Lind, Christine Blomberg
- 21 Keven Blomberg, Pam Barton, Sawyer Page
- 22 Hallie Hueckman
- 23 Bette Saari, Josh Daniels, Joshua Jast
- 25 Tristan Shoup
- 26 Pete Ulrich, Daniel Berg
- 27 Tom Monroe, Janette Thinakaran, Nancy Gladwin
- 28 Marianne Parask, Alivia Nelson
- 29 Linnea Kruit



CHURCH WORK DAY

Saturday September 11
8:00-12:00 noon

All ages are encouraged to come out to help with projects that need to be taken care of in our church. Working together is taking part in the “COMMUNITY” of our church family!



KICKOFF

Wednesday, September 1, 6:30-8:00

9-Square, Gaga Ball, Pizza
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!



SEPTEMBER MINISTRIES & MEETINGS

WORSHIP TEAM

- 5 Steve & Krista
- 12 Harmoni
- 19 Sam & Aimee
- 26 Lisa, Emily, Jennifer, Tamra

ORGANIST

- Jody
- Dolly
- Karen
- Ellen

Arranging Special Music for Sept.—Danielle
Audio Tech - Jon **Visual Tech** - Sam B/Jane S

MEETINGS

C. E. Board	Tue. 7th	7:00 p.m.
Missions Comm.	Thu. 9	6:30 p.m.
Trustee Brd.	Mon. 13th	7:00 p.m.
Deacon Brd.	Mon. 27th	7:00 p.m.

KINGDOM QUEST & SPOT 68 KICKOFF

Wednesday, September 8, 5:00-8:00

Picnic & Bouncy Houses!
BRING YOUR FRIENDS!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

fall quarter start date is Sunday, Sept. 12th.

Students 4K-8th grade should meet in the fellowship hall on that Sunday for a quick kickoff event at 9:00. At that time the students will hear about our missionary project for the year and then be dismissed by grade to go with their teacher to their new classroom. Please plan to join in as we take an exciting chronological journey through the Bible using the Answers in Genesis curriculum. It is designed to equip students to defend their faith, becoming conformed to the image of Christ, as they learn to apply God's Word in their everyday lives.



FOREST SPRINGS GOLDEN AGER RALLY

Thursday, September 16,
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$27 Speaker: Doug Anderson
Flyers are on the table in the foyer.



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 Thank You!

OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

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*The body is not supported by one person,
but by all of us.*

*We are one, we are strongest
working together in unity.*

*Teamwork is the key
to living life in harmony,
so that we can do God's will.*

1 Corinthians 12:14

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service - 10:15 a.m.
or online at www.ogemabaptistchurch.org

Wednesday Evening:
6:30 p.m. Kingdom Quest & Spot 68
7:00-8:00 p.m. Ground Zero
Adult Prayer Meeting

Missionary Spotlight

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