

February 2020



 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

Knowing God's Will for Our Lives

Russ Johnston in his little booklet, *How to Know the Will of God*, makes the following observation, “I’ve spoken at many conferences where part of the afternoons are set aside for workshops on various topics. If you make one of the workshops ‘Knowing the Will of God,’ half the people sign up for it even if there are 20 other choices...People want to know the will of God, and they’re confused about it.”

Paul E. Little agrees in his booklet, *Affirming the Will of God*. “...we have a problem because we are confused about what the will of God is in the first place. And unless we are clear about that, we really cannot make much progress.”

Since I want you to make progress in following Christ, the next sermon series will be about knowing God’s will for your life. The first message, *The Revealed Will of God for Us*, will survey many of the statements in the Bible that tell us what God’s will is. Most of these are not the specific answers we are looking for regarding decisions we face, however, these statements are absolutely critical as a foundation in order to get the specific answers we seek.

It may surprise you that God has some conditions that we must meet before He gives us the guidance we ask for. The second message, *Prerequisites for Knowing God’s Will*, lets you know what they are so that your

Heavenly Father will be pleased to reveal his will for you.

Since some of God’s will for you is not written in the Bible, you may need some help discerning it. The third message in the series, *Helpful Questions to Ask Yourself*, gives you some questions based on biblical principles to apply to your situation and the choices you face. These questions are tools designed to help you get on track and stay on track with what God wants you to be doing.

A couple of additional messages will follow in March that will give additional practical help on this subject. My hope and prayer is that you will experience what the Bible says in Romans 12:2b, “Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney



FEBRUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

- 2 Guest speaker Ryan from *Attaboy*
- 9 “The Revealed Will of God for Us”
- 16 “Prerequisites for Knowing God’s Will”
- 23 “Helpful Questions to Ask Yourself”



YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

February contains the holiday of St. Valentine's Day. I know there are people out there who despise this "holiday" and then there are others who love it. No matter where you fall on the love/hate spectrum of Valentine's Day, there is something to the idea of celebrating love.

As a wife, a mother, and a follower of Jesus, I have learned so much about love. What it is. What it isn't. What it looks like. What it doesn't look like. But for me, one of the things I've learned about love is that it comes with and even deepens with the act of learning. In order to love effectively (my husband, my children, my Lord) I have to keep learning about them!! I've learned I need to learn!

When I was 16 years old, which is the year I started dating my husband, learning was the absolute last thing I thought I needed. Yes, I wanted to learn about my boyfriend, but I had no idea that marriage would require never ending learning! At that point, all I knew was that I was done with school and being told what to learn. I figured I knew enough. Time to live my life. And I did.

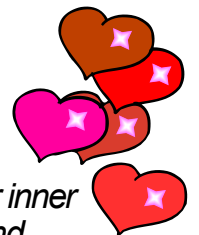
I realize now that I was learning things along the way, like how to be a wife, how to be a mother, how to be an employee at whatever job I had. I had to learn how to manage money and pay the bills and how to get from point A to point B when the car breaks down and all the other mundane things that come with being an adult. At that point, however, I did not engage in this learning. I just did it and I repeatedly found myself in periods of discontentment. Of wanting more but having no understanding of what I was searching for, of not even knowing what "more" was. This eventually led me back to school, to Prentice, and to my current job as youth director. And of all the things I've learned along the way, one of the most shocking for me was the realization that in order to love deeper I need to learn more!

In order to stay connected with my husband, I have to actively learn about him. What is he thinking? (Which makes me laugh because men have a nothing box and can actually not think.) What does he want for the future? How did his day go? What is he learning? In order to stay connected with my sons, I have to actively seek them out. Make phone calls and text the two that don't live with me anymore and spend time with the one who does. As I actively learn about the men in my life, I get to learn how to love them better. I now get to do this with my daughter-in-law and my new grandson and this may sound weird, but I believe it works the same with God. I have to actively pursue Him. And the more I learn, the more I love Him and the more I want to know! It's kind of amazing!

I believe the Bible is written the way it is so that we are forced to learn! This knowledge has completely changed the way I view the Bible. It's also made it more interesting to me. I believe it has taught other Christians for thousands of years and that it will still be relevant for Christians thousands of years from now. In His infinite wisdom, God created a way for us learn something from the Bible every time we read it. And I believe the more we do, the more we learn and the more we love! So read your Bible and have a Happy Valentine's Day!

...until next time,

Rebecca Anderson, Youth Director



I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

-Ephesians 3:16-20 (NIV)

Men's *No Regrets* Conference

Saturday, February 1, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

At Victory Christian Center in Phillips

Cost, including lunch: \$15 if preregistered or \$20 at the door

Get a group of your friends together to attend this event and build your faith.

Contact Matt Swan if you have any questions about this event.

"We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:37-39



FREE

SPORTSMEN'S WILD GAME FEED/EXPO

Saturday, February 29, 2:00-7:15 p.m.

2-5 p.m. Vendor Hall Open, knife sharpening \$1/inch

5 p.m. MEAL

6 p.m. Guest Speaker DAVID BLANTON from
Realtree TV & Monster Bucks Videos

7 p.m. Prize Giveaways: Canadian Fishing Trip, Savage 7mm-08, Muzzleloader, 12 gauge, Youth .22, Scenic Painting, Game Camera, and much more!

Sponsored by **Northern Outdoorsmen for Christ (NOC)**

For More Information:

northernoutdoorsmenforchrist.com
or talk to Tony Smugala 715-820-2214



"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

1 John 4:7-8



February Birthdays

- 1 Ethan Blomberg, Dean Blomberg
- 2 Brent Winter
- 3 Alicia Donahoe
- 4 Bill Gustafson, Julie Pemper, Allyson Ulrich, Allora Monroe
- 5 Kurt Hallstrand, Abi Gustafson
- 6 Eric Stolhammer
- 7 Collin Monroe, Jared Nelson, Kassie Adams
- 9 Paul Pearson
- 10 Anja Lind, Ryan Gustafson
- 11 Bradyn Swanson, Danica Page
- 12 Jim Bruner, Ana Gustafson, Lucy Ulrich
- 13 Angel Weinzatl
- 14 Kip Nussberger
- 15 Joseph Jast, Helen Palmquist
- 17 Marie Erickson
- 18 Nick Nussberger, Ethan Cook
- 19 Owen Swan
- 20 Rashawn Pearson, Josie Scheithauer
- 21 John Robert DeCleene, Lindsay Coppens, Matthew Rhody, Bria Pearson
- 22 Evan Lord
- 23 Bill Saari, Mark Mann, Mark Schubring, Annika Hites, Alexia Ulrich
- 24 Devon Byrd, LaVonne Mattson
- 25 Keyton Ulrich
- 26 Elizabeth Gustafson, Rick Anderson
- 27 Cindy Ulrich, John Jast
- 28 Bea Brieske



Happy Birthday!

Ogema Baptist Church Choir Rehearsals Resume

The Ogema Baptist Choir will have the privilege of singing to open church worship services most Sundays from February through mid-May, 2020. We always welcome more singers. **If you like to sing and to praise God, feel free to join us.**

We will rehearse 10 times, and sing for 12 services. A special mini-concert is being planned for Resurrection Sunday, April 12. Oh, and rehearsals include jokes!!

Rehearsals are held from 6:00 to 7:00 Sunday evenings:

February 9, 16, and 23; March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; April 5, and 19 or 26

We will sing for the following services:

February 16 and 23; March 8, 15, 22, and 29; April 10 (Good Friday Service), 12 (Resurrection Day mini-concert), 19 and 26; May 10 and 17

If you have questions, talk to Dolly Hadden, or any choir member.

Community/Family Fun Night at Forest Springs Wednesday, February 19, 5:30-9:00 p.m.



Everyone is invited to attend a fun evening of outdoor and indoor activities at Forest Springs.

There will be no programs at church this evening.

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



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

"A new commandment I give to you,
that you **love one another**:
just as I have loved you,
you also are to love one another.
By this all people will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

Missionary Spotlight

David & Rebekkah Hopkins
Forest Springs, Westboro, WI



David and Rebekkah Hopkins are part of the missionary staff at Forest Springs Camp and Conference Center in Westboro, WI. The Hopkins have been serving at Forest Springs for 17 years, and have been a part of camp ministry for 24 years. These are excerpts from their most recent newsletter to OBC.

"Thank you again for your faithful and consistent support of our family in ministry."

"After 12 years of working with our guest operations, this past year I realized I missed working directly with the groups that come to camp. As much as I have enjoyed coordinating the guest operations it was time for someone new to take those responsibilities and for me to refocus my energies and passions back to our guest groups. So now my daily energies involve a lot of phone calls and emails, coordinating retreat details so group leaders can know their goals will be met during their stay at camp. Observing our LTD interns get excited about hosting groups brings a lot of joy and fulfillment."

"Please pray with us as God is doing some exciting things with the ministry of Forest Springs. As we look to the future, one of the things that we appreciate so much about this ministry is its visionary planning, seeking God's direction on where He would have us be in 20 years. As God shows our leadership team here at camp, Rebekkah and I also continue to ask God to provide discernment and direction as to how He wants to use us for His Glory!"

Learn more about Forest Springs at www.forestsprings.us or email Dave Hopkins, dhopkins@forestsprings.us.