

January 2024



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



WASH ME,
AND I SHALL BE
WHITER THAN SNOW
PSALM 51:7

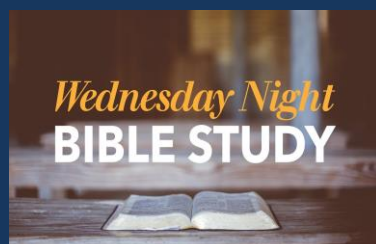


Happy New Year!

January 1

**Wednesday Night
Bible Study**

Weekly at 6:30pm



**Annual Business
Meeting**

January 21



A Note from Pastor Seth

We all see the signs as we drive by, “love is love”, “Kindness is everything.” These signs on the side of the road are the state religion of America. You see it when you go to a big box store, walk on a university campus, watch an NFL game, or when you watch the news. The values of our society are placed before our eyes wherever we turn. At first this focus on love sounds great. Scripture teaches that love is the greatest virtue and that one important aspect of love is kindness (1 Corinthians 13:4). In the list of the fruits of the Spirit love and kindness are listed (Galatians 5:22). But why is so much talk about love and kindness a serious problem?

In the same chapter where love is stated as the greatest virtue the apostle Paul writes a very important statement, “love rejoices with the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:6). The “love is love”, “kindness is everything” mantra is fundamental to the leftist state religion, but it is not biblical Christianity. The Bible never values love at the expense of truth. Love and truth go together. To show kindness while neglecting truth in the process is to in fact be unloving. Now it is true that tone is important. Scripture teaches that we are to, “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). Bible teacher Warren Wiersbe once said, “Truth without love is brutality. Love without truth is immorality.” Most of the time our words should be kind as we speak the truth. Jesus was often kind (Mark 10:16) but he was not afraid to give strong rebukes when he needed to (Matthew 23). But what so often happens is that truth is pushed aside for the sake of “love.”

Now the sad reality is that elevating kindness above truth is not only a problem in secular society and among liberal denominations of Christianity, but it is also prevalent in mainstream American evangelicalism. If a person were to pick a random evangelical church on a Sunday odds are one will stumble upon a church that has been influenced by the culture to over prioritize love. Recently I heard a pastor say that he and his congregation are fed up with their denomination. He is leading his church out of this movement. They are fed up with the liberal drift. What he said caught my attention. He said, “We are tired with this theology of niceness.” He is tired that there is so much focus on kindness while careful attention to the truth is greatly lacking.

In this unhealthy climate false teaching easily creeps in. This theology of niceness made the ground fertile for hostile teaching sneaking into the church. The desire becomes not to offend rather than carefully guarding the truth of God’s Word. This has been seen recently with the advancement of the Woke movement within American evangelicalism. Embracing Social Justice in many circles was seen as kind. To reject it outright was seen as unloving. Within the Social Justice framework, those who are considered oppressed hold perspectives that are valued. As one who is considered among the oppressed class listens to the oppressed perspective he is not allowed to correct. To do so is unloving. But once again, we need to be reminded, “love rejoices with the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:6). It is good for a Christian to listen to someone’s perspective, but the discerning Christian will always test what is being said with Scripture (1 Thessalonians 5:21), and the discerning Christian will examine to see if what is being said lines up with reality. But with the Social Justice movement to question a narrative is not allowed. Kindness is elevated above the truth.

It is not just Social Justice where the theology of niceness makes room for false teaching. It is really any errant teaching that has a Christian veneer to it. To strongly oppose that God used evolutionary processes over millions of years to create life is frowned upon within many evangelical circles. But a Christian who values truth like one should understand that death cannot precede the fall. At the beginning of creation God created everything good (Genesis 1:31). This leaves no room for millions of years of death. Pastors who protect the church from heresies also understand that how Rome, Greek Orthodoxy, and the New Perspective on Paul understand justification is heretical. These teachings truly are another gospel (Galatians 1:6). Every pastor is called to not only proclaim the truth of God’s Word but also to defend it (Titus 1:9). But when a pastor defends the Bible against dangerous teachings much of American evangelicalism views this pastor as divisive. Using this theology of niceness to judge teachers would place all of the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles in the divisive and combative category. It is not only

Eureka Baptist Church
2393 210th Avenue
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
715-483-9464
www.eurekabapchurch.com
Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am
*Kid's Church during Service
Sunday School: 9:00am
Wed Night Bible Study: 6:30pm
Women's Friday Group: 9:30am

these shepherds who are viewed as divisive but also discerning laymen. But faithful shepherds don’t elevate love above the truth; rather, they desire to, “speak the truth in love.”

The theology of niceness also rears its ugly head when it comes to evangelism. To make stands on hot button issues is seen as a killer in making contacts with the unbelieving world. To be strong against secular causes is seen as making oneself appear too radical and this burns bridges. So, a common view among Christians is to avoid controversy. Let’s take a softer approach to homosexuality and transgenderism. Let’s not talk about abortion. Let’s not challenge the immorality of our public schools. Let’s not talk about the reality of hell. The thinking of these Christians is that if they see that we are not too extreme, but somewhat like them, maybe the unbeliever will be won to Christ. But when does the Bible ever tell us to compromise when trying to lead people to saving faith in Christ? Once again, the biblical mandate is to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). This means telling people that homosexuality and transgenderism really are an abomination to God (Leviticus 18:22). Abortion really is murder (Exodus 20:13). The public schools really have been overtaken by Satan’s agenda and hell is a great place of suffering where anyone who rejects Christ goes (Matthew 13:42). What Scripture teaches is that many will not see the message of the gospel as attractive, but some will (2 Corinthians 2:15-16). The responsibility of the Christian is to faithfully communicate the gospel (Colossians 4:3-4), leaving the results to God, understanding that the Lord uses you as a messenger of life and judgment.

The theology of niceness that permeates so much of American evangelicalism is at odds with biblical Christianity. It is a friend to Satan’s agenda within the church. Christians need to train themselves away from this thinking for the overall health of the body of Christ. It must be the aim of every disciple of Jesus to be kind, yes, but always holding firm to the full truth of God’s word. There should be a tough and tenderness character that reflects the Lord Jesus. The one who always loved and never compromised the truth.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth

Mission Missions reach

Miron Family: Ireland

I'm still struggling to believe 2023 is almost over, but its been sweet to reflect again this Christmas on the best news in the universe: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto YOU is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

And now we come bringing you news of significantly less importance, but its news unto you nonetheless :). But seriously, thank you for taking the time to read these! It is a huge deal to have you all in our corner praying for us!

On October 22nd, Oranmore Community Church (Or just OCC when you don't have the energy for 8 syllables) had its very first Sunday morning service, and good news, we still exist! Much like a two-month-old baby, its still tiny, very needy and we are mostly just happy we've kept it alive so far.

Really week by week it is starting to feel more and more like a local church. We have been super encouraged by one family that has come every Sunday and very much feels like a part of the community now. And we have had a handful of others that have gathered with us several times as well.

Its also just been growing and strengthening for us as church planting team. When you are a church plant of just a few families, everybody needs to play a part and humbly offer up our two loaves for God to feed His people with.

The one other elder and I have been preaching through Ephesians, Sarah has been leading the children's church, and the other women have been leading the worship times with the help of YouTube backing tracks (you can go ahead and keep praying for a musician to join our ranks :)). God has been faithful to meet with us and we are expectantly praying what He has in store in 2024!

This fall marked the end of our initial 3 year visa approval. As you can remember, getting the first one was quite the answer to prayer and we have been the guinea pigs of this new Minister of Religion visa system as we don't know anyone that has gone through it before us.

After 3 months of waiting for a reply we finally heard back a couple of weeks ago and our visa application was approved! We still need to check in annually for approval to stay but this visa is essentially good for another 3 years. After our 5 year mark, just a little over a year from now, we can begin applying for citizenship! For us, this visa was the biggest question mark to our long-term stay here outside of citizenship, so its a big praise. Thank you so much for all of your prayers for this!



Praises

Praise God for the launch of OCC and all the ways He has blessed it so far!

Praise God for the new family consistently coming to church with us and for the others that have joined!

Praise God for all the generous giving for the church fund!

Praise God for our visa renewal!

Praise God for continued growth in relationships. This Sunday we are invited to a Christmas Eve dinner at our friend's house from the village with several of their family members. Thats a big deal here.

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray that God would draw in people to our Sunday gatherings, especially seekers.

Please continue to pray for a building for us to call home as a church, preferably more central in the village.

Please pray that God would raise up men that can be trained and serve as elders. In the meantime, pray that God would sustain me and the lay elder serving with me.

Please pray for our efforts to get a seeker Bible study going in one of the pubs.



Events



Women's Group
Saturday, January 6
8:00am



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, January 13
8:00am



Weekly
4:30pm-6:00pm
Every Sunday



Bible Study
Wednesdays 6:30pm



Christmas
 BEGINS WITH
Christ



Events



Sunday School
 Sunday Mornings
 9:00am



Morning Service
 Sunday Mornings
 10:00am



Fridays
 Matson Building
 9:30am



Kids Church
 Sunday mornings during
 Morning Service

2023 Board Members

Deacons

Shaun Anderson
Jason Taylor

Elders

Mark Brooks
Keith Johnson

Associate/Youth Pastor

Doug Schmidt

Trustees

Eric McKinley
Shaun Anderson

Deaconess

Barbara Trombley
Lori Brooks
Hansi Fox
Abby Swanson

Secretary

Amber Lindo

Treasurers

Hansi Fox
Abby Swanson

Church Announcements

- Thank you to Abby Swanson for managing the **Nativity Program** with the children!
 - **Youth Group** will continue to meet every Sunday in January.
 - The **Annual Business Meeting** will be on Sunday, January 21 after morning service. We will also have a potluck lunch on this date.
 - Mark Brooks will start teaching **Sunday School** on Sunday, January 7th at 9:00am.
 - Pastor Seth is now a regular contributor on **truthscript.com** – Be sure to visit often to read all the great articles!
 - We have a new and improved **weekly email update system**. If you do not receive weekly updates and would like to, please let Amber know. jeffamberlindo@gmail.com
 - **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** is meeting weekly at 6:30pm.
 - The **2024 Proposed Budget** can be viewed in the church foyer. All changes must be done prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
 - **2023 Giving Forms** will be at church on January 7th. If you do not see your form at church, it was mailed to you.
 - Thank you to those that have signed up for **shoveling snow**. Thank you to Bob Swanson and Kyle Swanson for plowing the snow.
 - A reminder **not to park** near the town fuel tank or in front of the salt shed.
 - **Mama Bear Apologetics** study will continue to meet on Sundays at 4:30pm.
 - Registration has started for the **TruthScript Conference** in May.
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Terry Lee 1/4, Eli Anderson 1/5, Tammi Braund 1/13, David Anderson 1/19, Jeremy Hall 1/23, Mike Braund 1/5, Gregg Peterson 1/30



CONGRATS TO ISAAC & EMILY QUIMBY!





CHURCH LIBRARY News

Featured Book
The New Answers Book 1
By: Ken Ham

Evolution...intelligent design...creation...or a little of all three? What do you really believe - and why does it matter to your life, your family, and your faith today?

Christians live in a culture with more questions than ever - questions that affect one's acceptance of the Bible as authoritative and trustworthy. Now, discover easy-to-understand answers that reach core truths of the Christian faith and apply the biblical worldview to these subjects:

- Genesis
- the Days of Creation
- millions of years
- evolution
- dinosaurs
- carbon dating
- UFOs
- death & suffering
- Noah's Ark and Flood
- fossils
- starlight and time
- ...and much more.

Explore these and other topics, answered biblically and logically in this book from the world's largest apologetics ministry, Answers in Genesis.

Children's Book:

One of my favorite books in the children's library is the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. If you understand the life and crucifixion of Jesus, you will know what it is about. I don't want to spoil it, so I will say no more.

By: Adeline Snider

Julie Johnson
Eureka Baptist Church Librarian



THANK YOU TO THE MEN THAT CLEANED UP AFTER THE EVENT!

Walk for LIFE!



SAVE THE DATE

• **21 January 2024**

Walk for LIFE
St. Joseph's Church, Osceola
3:00 PM
Chili, Cider & Desserts following

Eureka Baptist Church
2393 210th Avenue
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024



