

2018 Sermon Calendar*

***Subject to change**

Beyond Me - January.

A “giving” series focusing on all our resources, not just our money. The intent is to capture the ‘resolution’ mindset for people to orient their resources around God’s priorities. We naturally think “I don’t have enough” in all of these areas, but with careful intentionality, we can be generous with what we have and make a huge impact together.

Minority Report (Exilic Books) - Feb/March

(OT Narrative and Topical)

We live in a majority world inside a super power and we don’t realize how our context deeply affects the way we see scripture. We don’t tend to see what is actually there, we tend to place on the text what we want to see and then read that back out of the text. Yet Scripture was written from a minority, marginalized people. A series that focuses on texts written from the margins during the Exile, showing Divine power in contrast to cultural and empire power.

Easter - Late March

Romans 3-8. The Brilliant News - April - Mid May

A series focusing on the essence of the Gospel, going a chapter per week through the first 2/3 of Romans. Romans is part brilliant law court case, part brilliant understanding of human nature, part brilliant description of how grace actually works.

May 17/20 State of the Church Update.

The Dust of the Rabbi - Matthew - Late May - August.

(NT Exegetical)

We will begin with an overview of key OT themes and how Jesus is the fulfillment of them. Genesis 1 is a creation account of God making everything and God being author of life. Paul says in Col 1 that Jesus is present at Creation. Miracle stories in gospels are a “re creation” as is the empty tomb.

Easter Sunday is first day of “new creation.” This is an example of one theme. Each theme would explore the OT context and move to Jesus as the embodiment of it.

Also, Deuteronomy shows the greatness of Moses and Mo says, “someone greater than I will come” and then at the end of Deuteronomy, the author writes, “There has never been any greater than Moses” hinting at someone coming one day. Christ then comes and teaches The Sermon on the Mount. He is the ‘greater than Moses’ fulfillment of OT Law.

Then we will follow Jesus through the eyes of Matthew who wrote a “Torah” version of Jesus’ biography. Particular emphasis will be on Matthew noticing how Jesus upended religious expectations and removed boundaries so all could access God’s love.

The Contentment Project - Sept/Oct

(One single NT verse. Experiential.)

6 week series focused on Paul’s “secret.” Phil 4:12,13, “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

This series is a small group shared experience on living contently in a culture that always wants more. Each week, we will be challenged to “live without” or “live on less” in one aspect of our life that we count on. For example, transport, food, running water etc. Each week we will journal our experience of reduction and the end goal is to see that we can live on less and be more generous to those who have less. People will be encouraged to free up resources (time and money) to organizations that help marginalized people.

Randy Larson is the chief architect of the series.

Reviving Old Scratch - Nov

(NT, Topical)

based on Richard Beck’s wonderful book. The series is a look into the things we want to look away from: satan, spiritual warfare, hell.

Unto Us

A ‘gospel’ focused Christmas on why someone should become a follower of Jesus or how the gospel through a Christmas lens impacts a believer.

Christmas Eve Services: Sun 23rd, Mon 24th. Midnight Eucharist on Monday 1130pm.

Dec 27/30: NO CHURCH.

JANUARY 2019

Divided Country, United Kingdom Jan/Feb

A book study through Colossians on the nature of Kingdom power which unites and includes under the supremacy of Christ, versus political power which divides and excludes for personal gain.

Unfinished: Building Something Eternal - March-Mid April

(OT Narrative)

Abraham's Journey. We will tie financial generosity to Abraham's faith journey into a new, unknown territory. We'll also focus on the multi generational work of Abraham - that he didn't see the fruit of his faithfulness completed in his lifetime, but he "invested" faithfulness for generations to come.

All church campaign focusing on investing on those coming ahead of us. It will culminate in a 2 year pledge commitment.

Easter - Mid April

FAQ - Late April

Collect questions on Easter Sunday and address the most frequently voted for questions from the week prior.

May 9/12: State of the Church

Gathered and Scattered - May - Oct

A journey through the Book of Acts. 28 chapters in 28 Weeks. Everyday people plus God's Holy Spirit equals world shakers.

The church is gathered and scattered. We gather together to worship, build relationship, care for each other, center around Jesus. We scatter during the week to take the love of Jesus, in the power of the Spirit to our environments. The primary ministers in the church are all the people. We are all everyday people like the people in Acts. God has given each of us a 'mission field' of people - we each see ourselves as a pastor/shepherd to those people. Perhaps neighbors on our street, teenagers on our team, local marginalized population, global neighbors. God has set each of us apart to do his work among a population.

The goal of this year: At least 50% of everyone who calls Discovery home would identify a population or group of people that they see God has called them to serve in his name and that they would feel equipped by Discovery to serve them.