



# CHURCH **PROFILE**



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1500 18th St SE, Owatonna, MN 55060



*Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church of Owatonna Minnesota*

## CHURCH HISTORY

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The idea of starting a new church began in November 1999 with three families. Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church of Owatonna was created and celebrated its 20th anniversary in June 2020. The fellowship began meeting in a Township Hall where they called their first pastor, Stan Johnson, in January, 2000. The church continued to grow, and the Lord led them to renting “the Warehouse”. God continued to grow the church and provided our new church building which we have occupied since October, 2005. Our present facility has 13,600 square feet which houses a sanctuary, education wing, prayer room, sound control room, library, youth room, kitchen, offices, large lobby, and storage space.

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A storage garage was built in 2013. In 2008, Pastor Brian Wright was installed as the new pastor at Cornerstone. He served for 12 years. In 2010, Ryan Folken was hired as a full-time Associate Pastor. Pastor Ryan resigned to assume a Senior Pastor position in 2016. Pastor David Shaw was hired to take his place. In 2015 the church approved giving 10% of the annual budget to missions. 2017 and 2018 continued a growing focus on missions, including trips to Haiti, Leech Lake, and New Orleans. Cornerstone currently supports 4 missionaries in foreign countries and one couple who are mission mobilizers here in Minnesota. Each year the missions team hosts a Share the Blessing fundraiser for our missionaries. The event was virtual this year, and it raised more money than any other year which went to blessing our missionaries with a Christmas gift. Cornerstone also participates in Operation Christmas child and has a benevolence fund for those in need.

Near the end of 2018 and through the present, attendance began to decline. The average attendance for 2019 was 168, down from 187 the previous year. An initiative to pay off the remaining church debt by the end of 2020 was launched. At this time the debt has been reduced to under \$50,000. In early 2020, the COVID 19 pandemic hit, which shut the church down for in-person worship for a couple of months. Live streaming the service was implemented and Zoom was utilized for various meetings. A great deal of discussion took place regarding reopening and the requirements to do so. Recommended COVID protocol was implemented. In the spring of 2020, Pastor Brian announced that he was resigning to assume the role of District Superintendent of the Northern Plains District of EFCA. He assumed that role on July 1. Our associate pastor, David, took the leadership role for two months as the church navigated ministry through the COVID pandemic until the interim pastor, Scott Sheets, was hired on September 1.

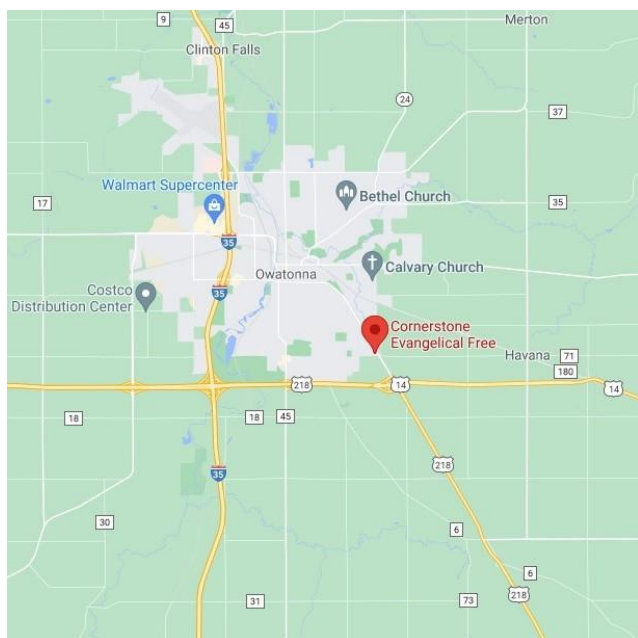
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## CHURCH TODAY

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Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church has a congregational form of government with Jesus Christ as the head. The congregation entrusts the general oversight of the ministry to the Elder Board. The Elders exercise this oversight in keeping with the Constitution, By Laws, and resolutions of the congregation. Additionally, Deacons and Deaconesses shall be entrusted with fulfilling responsibilities delegated to them by the Elders. Presently we have 5 Elders plus the Senior Pastor who is an Elder, 6 Deacons, and 4 Deaconesses. The Constitution adopted in 2014 lists Cornerstone's Statement of Faith, as well as articles and amendments.

Covid has changed some of our activities. We are now meeting for church service and Sunday School on Sunday morning. Music led by a worship team combines both hymns and contemporary music. We have Adventure Club and Student Ministries on Wednesday nights. We have community groups meeting, and VBS, which we are noted for the community in the summer, hopefully. Cornerstone is involved with Camp Shamineau in Motley, MN. Other events are quilting group, F.U.N. (Family Unity Network) team, chili supper, and an annual car show. We have a meals ministry and a benevolent fund for those in need. Detailed information is in the 2020 Annual Business Report.



## CHURCH SETTING

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Owatonna, pop. 25,704, is located 60 miles south of Minneapolis on I-35. A \$110 million high school will soon be built across the street from Cornerstone. More community resources can be found at [www.OwatonnaNow.com](http://www.OwatonnaNow.com)

Image from Google Maps 2021

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## CHURCH PASTOR SEARCH

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Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church (Cornerstone) is looking for a Senior Pastor who will serve as the principle preaching pastor. This man of God must be able to deliver a clear Gospel message as well as relevant scriptural teaching to growing-in-the-faith believers. He must deliver loving pastoral care to the attending congregation as well as visitors and shut-ins. He must also be active in the Owatonna and surrounding communities.

The specific giftings we are looking for are in the following areas: strong Bible focus, able to relate to others and encourage others to relate to one another, and able to unify a body of believers. In addition, we desire to have our Church become more active in the Community, turning our focus more outward versus inward on ourselves.

We are looking for a Pastor who has God's heart for unsaved people and who models personal evangelism. This man must listen to God and work with the Elders in developing the short-term and long-term vision for Cornerstone.

This leader of the Church must effectively supervise and mentor our full-time Associate Pastor, part-time Administrative Assistant and part-time custodian. In addition to this, he must maintain the administrative reporting and preparation needed to keep a Church functioning at a high level.

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**Mission Statement:****Building a Family in Christ to Reach Families for Christ**

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**VISION**

As we seek to fulfill the Great Commission by  
“Building a Family in Christ to Reach Families for Christ”  
through God’s power we will seek to:

Be more “Fruitful” in our evangelism by:  
Being more intentional in our disciple-making by:  
Exhibiting greater stewardship of our resources.

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## VALUES

From 2000-2012 our values were as follows: We believe that healthy Christians reproduce healthy Christians, and healthy churches reproduce healthy churches. We believe we honor God by being fruitful, and in the life of our church we are intentionally committed to seeing that happen by valuing-

- ❑ F Fellowship and unity of the body of Christ
- ❑ R Revealed written Word of God
- ❑ U Unconditional love and acceptance in relationships
- ❑ I Intimacy with God through personal and corporate worship
- ❑ T Transformation of lives into the likeness of Jesus through prayer, evangelism, and discipleship
- ❑ F Faithfulness to God's moral principles
- ❑ U Ultimate authority of Christ
- ❑ L Leading and empowerment of the Holy Spirit

In 2012, we changed our Vision Statement values to the following:

**Be more “fruitful” in our evangelism by:**

1. Empowering believers to effectively share the gospel
2. Sending out short-term missionaries each year to share the gospel
3. Expanding our support for long-term missions
4. Encourage our attenders to be involved in community service
5. Regular prayer for ministries, projects, and leaders

**Be more intentional in our disciple-making by: (list of teams/committees)**

1. Growing our church in attendance and membership
2. Attracting first time Sunday visitors to become regular members
3. Equipping every home to fulfill its God given role in discipleship
4. Having our adult attenders active in community groups
5. Developing and training new leaders for the Church

**Exhibit greater stewardship of our resources by:**

1. Discipling generosity through teaching, modeling, inviting, and celebrating
2. Expanding and supporting ministry

Our Annual Report outline reflects the above categories.

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## CORNERSTONE STATEMENT OF FAITH

*The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:*

**God 1.** We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

**The Bible 2.** We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

**The Human Condition 3.** We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

**Jesus Christ 4.** We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

**The Work of Christ 5.** We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

**The Holy Spirit 6.** We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

**The Church 7.** We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

**Christian Living 8.** We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

**Christ's Return 9.** We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

**Response and Eternal Destiny 10.** We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

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## 2021 LEADERSHIP

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### **Pastors**

Interim Pastor: Scott Sheets  
Associate Pastor: David Shaw

### **Elders**

Gary Mohr, Chairman  
Steve Mudd, Vice-Chair  
Dave Hammitt, Secretary  
David Ivance  
Josh Tolle

### **Deacons**

Dan Kenow  
James Mitchell  
Stan Prins  
Jerry Schmidt  
Pete McFarland

### **Deaconesses**

Sandee Hardy-Hagen  
Metalynn Mohr  
Linda Sprague  
Laurie Wolhart

### **Staff**

Administrative Asst: Tai Tolle  
Custodian: Jim & Sara Bain

### **Elected Positions**

Church Treasurer: Tammy Voss  
Financial Sec: Kathy Van Ommeren

### **Ministry Leaders**

Sunday School Superintendent &  
Children's Church: LaGene Akers  
Worship Director: Eydie Hauer  
Nursery Coordinator: Sara Bain  
FUN Team: Jason Fawley  
Missions Team: David Shaw  
Youth (Rooted): David Shaw  
Adventure Club: Kathi Mudd  
Prayer Chain: Bev Schmidt  
IT/Media Coordinator: Zach Engel  
Meals Ministry: Becky Franklin &  
Kathy VanOmmeren  
Card Ministry: Becky Quaintance

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