

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

PO BOX 533  
OLYMPIA, WA 98507

## Contact Information

360-357-3881  
Email: olyfbc@aol.com  
Web: fbcolymia.org

## Church Staff

Rev. Mark Rambo, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor  
Jonathan Spatola-Knoll, Choir Director  
Lela DePaolo, Secretary  
John Fesenbek, Campus Maintenance

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Olympia WA  
Permit No. 198

Return Service Requested

MAY

# WINDOWS

2024

## Olympia First Baptist Church

### Inside this issue:

<b>Front Page: Pastor Mark THE THIN PLACE</b>	
<i>Continued...</i>	2
<b>MORE FROM PASTOR MARK'S DESK</b>	2, 3 & 4
<b>DEACON'S Article, Pat De Neui</b>	4
<b>INSERT: MAY BIRTHDAYS, THE LUNCH BUNCH &amp; WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST</b>	
<b>A CELEBRATION OF LIFE, WOMEN'S MINISTRIES Jean Heidal,</b>	5
<b>MISSION BOARD, Ruby Mitchell &amp; HUNGER WALK</b>	6
<b>MAY 2024 CALENDAR</b>	7

### The Thin Place: Where the Sacred and the Ordinary Collide

As we move into the month of May, we find the church of Jesus Christ here on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Washington, in the midst of the season of Easter-tide – the 50 days between the Resurrection of Christ and the Ascension of the Risen One into God's eternal, loving Presence. And soon we will make another spiritual transition into the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, when we gather together in worship on May 19<sup>th</sup>. One reason to follow the historical church calendar, is to remind ourselves that we are not only followers of Christ, but we are active participants within God's grand story. Our lives, after all, have their own rhythms, movements and practices. It is easy to lose ourselves within the grind of everyday life and the challenges and/or joy that we encounter along the way. Recognizing the seasons within God's ongoing story, gives us opportunity to find ourselves within those stories and give us the opportunity to be changed, transformed, and/or made new.

When we gather on May 19<sup>th</sup>, we will find ourselves in the midst of a wind storm, the like of which no one has really ever been exposed to. The story tells us that it will be disarming, confusing, and spirit-altering. With the Risen Christ no longer visible, God gifts the world, the entire creation, with a helper, encourager, equipper we call the Holy Spirit. This multi-purposed, third person of God enters our reality, sometimes in startling and overwhelming ways, and as scripture reminds us, as that "still small voice." This Spirit has its own creative side too, as we recognize that day of Pentecost as the one that the church is birthed out of. The unleashing of the Holy Spirit created the need for community and echoes Jesus' teaching to let one's light shine! Hide it under a bushel? No! And since the light from many sources can provide a stronger sense of belonging, purpose, support, help, etc., the light of a community is born, in order for the wider world to know that something more is possible than their current set of circumstances. Life has purpose, meaning and it is meant to be shared with others.

I would encourage you to ponder how the Resurrection changes you? In what ways have you discovered that Christ's loving sacrifice has altered the way you look at yourself, the people around you, etc.? And if you can

*Continued on page 2...*

## May 2024 • Sermons and Scriptures • Olympia First Baptist Church

### May 5<sup>th</sup> – Communion Sunday

Scripture – John 15:9–17  
"From Strangers to Friends"  
Rev. Mark Rambo

### May 12<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day

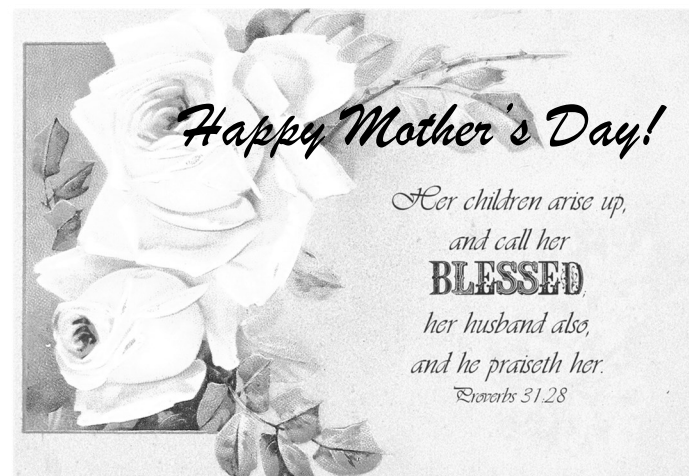
Guest Preacher

### May 19<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Sunday

Guest Preacher  
(Pastor Mark present, but not in the pulpit)

### May 26<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Weekend

Scripture: Romans 8:12–17  
"Life in the Spirit"



identify even one way, how can that “one thing” encourage you, help you, move you into exploring more of what Christ has in store for you?

But we’re not done, quite yet. Pentecost will be here too, sooner than we are prepared for it to be. More pondering for you as we get ready to be swept up in the unleashing of the Spirit: In what way(s) would you like for the Holy Spirit to encourage you? Build you up?

What do you desire for God’s Spirit to whisper in your ear?

Who in your life do you hope could be swept up in God’s love for them?

From Eastertide to Pentecost. From Pentecost to Ordinary Time to Advent, Epiphany, Lent to Easter morning; we find ourselves within God’s story, but a story that has not come to completion. These seasons, chapters if you will, are always open and alive. They are alive because they hold you, your story, your encounters, frustrations, rebellion and falling away with God as well as those moments of grace, forgiveness, mercy, love and transformation. It is within these seasons, these life chapters as followers of Christ and as the church of Jesus Christ that we say to one another and to others we come to know and encounter...

You are made in God image  
 You are enough in God’s eyes  
 You are deeply, deeply loved...

So, as we move from the joy and revelation of Resurrection to the language altering, what just happened whirlwind of Pentecost, let us, together:

Walk Humbly, Love Completely, Live Differently!

Blessings and Joy!  
 Humble over Hype!  
 Pastor Mark (Rev)

**More from the Pastor’s Desk**

Last month, I shared in Windows about some of the collaboration groups that we are a part of, both here in Olympia as well as within our Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches family. I just wanted to give you a reminder and snippet of what those groups look like and/or are up to:

The first is the local gathering of Clergy and Church leaders from the Mainline Protestant Churches here in Olympia. Olympia First Baptist hosted the last gathering in April. The May gathering will have taken place at St. John’s Episcopal by the time you read this. This group is still exploring the things we have in common and how we can collaborate and work together for the common good of the wider Olympia community. Building trust, listening to

May 2024 SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 8:30 am Sunday School, 10am Worship, Child Care & Nursery, 3:30pm Table Grace						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June Window's Deadline May 19th	<i>Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS. I will say it again</i> <b>Rejoice</b>	1	7:00pm Choir Practice	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Sunday School Rm. 102 10:00 am Communion Sunday		8	12:00 Noon ABW Meeting Fireside Room 7:00pm Choir Practice	9	10	11
12 8:30 am Sunday School Rm. 102 10:00 am Worship Service	6 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	7 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall 7-9:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	15	16	17	18
19 8:30 am Sunday School Rm. 102 10:00 am Worship Service	13 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	14 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 5:30-8:30 pm Woodturners Fellowship Hall 7-9 pm OMT Sanct.	22	23	24	25
26 8:30 am Sunday School Rm. 102 10:00 am Worship Service	20 2:00 pm Mission Board Fireside Room 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	21 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg Rm. 102	29	30	31	18 8:00 am Men's Breakfast @ Park Locke's 2:00 pm Memorial Service for Joan Kiely Lemaster Reception to follow 25 11:00 am Widow's Group Fireside Room CAMP BETHEL WORK WEEKEND 25th - 27th
	27	28				
	Memorial Day	11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm Deacon Meeting Library	7:00pm Choir Practice	9:30 am Bible Study Room 102	9:30-11:00 am TOPS Room 102	

Hey everyone this time seems to be going by so fast.

We are vast approaching the **Hunger Walk on May 5th at Huntamer Park in Lacey**. I hope you have taken time to read the information on the Mission Board. I have put some donation forms on the board so you can always collect donations and turn them into Meggin Turk. We also have a web page for the walk you can donate to. You can always make a personal donation or get a team together to walk. We have been having some gorgeous weather lately so grab a friend and walk for a great cause. What a great way to support our community. Thank you to everyone who is able to help!

Table Grace has really saw a rise in lunches lately. It's so rewarding to know we are doing our part to help feed our guests when meals aren't available on Sunday's. They really appreciate what we are able to do for them. We are so blessed to have such wonderful volunteers to help us. We have HS kids that love helping. Every Sunday after service we are downstairs preparing so come check us out. We can always use help.

Have a blessed month!

**Thurston's HUNGER WALK**

**WALK • SHARE • SUPPORT**

Put some spring in your step by walking in solidarity to end hunger in Thurston County!

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 @ 3 PM**

- Huntamer Park in Lacey
- Benefits The Community Kitchen & Thurston County Food Bank
- Live music! Outdoors!

Learn More & Donate Today!  
[www.thurstonhungerwalk.com](http://www.thurstonhungerwalk.com)

**GIVE what you can. WALK if you want.**

each of our communities story, context for ministry and the challenges that each of us face, takes time. Yet, this group also senses God's Spirit at work as we work toward some commonality of mission and ministry.

The other two groups are part of the Evergreen Baptist family, our regional affiliation within American Baptist life. The first cohort is "Community Engagement" that is laying a foundation for creating people-led (not just pastor led) programs to help churches partner and collaborate with the services and programs in the physical communities around them. This includes developing and/or sharing already established resources for community assessment of their ministry neighborhoods. It means looking and wrestling with questions about what a church's goal(s) might be in serving and engaging their surrounding community. We were privileged to have Jim Cooper, City Council, with us on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, to share from his experience what some of the challenges and positives that downtown Olympia faces and/or has as well as what we can be pondering, doing, keep doing, discerning ways we can be a positive change for our neighborhood. John Paget is taking point with this cohort.

The second Evergreen church cohort is the "Change/Grow/Create" group. Pastor Mark is working with this group of Evergreen Pastors and leaders. This cohort intends to be a safe space to explore growing and/or transforming our churches in the midst of the cultural transitions and shifts the church is experiencing. We want to address concerns regarding less engagement from church goers, adjust expectation for more transitional membership, avoid volunteer burnout, and much, much more. Again, this is a process of discovery, discernment, listening to one another to find commonality, wisdom and God's direction.

All three of the groups above meet once a month. Insight and sharing of what happened within each of these groups will be part of the discussion that the Executive Council will have at their monthly meetings, with the hope that we will begin to be able to frame some of what each of these groups are coming up with that can be useful in building our bridge of mission and ministry that leads to a sustainable future.

Pastor Mark is taking a week to go down to Arizona and spend Mother's Day weekend with his Mom, Lorene. He leaves Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and returns May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, Pastor Mark will be in Seattle on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> seeing his new Neurologist at U.W. Medical Center. No worries, this is part of his Annual evaluation as well as a new patient orientation for his hydrocephalus.

Continued on page 4...

-----  
Men's Breakfast News:

Before we take the summer off, the Men's Breakfast will take their bacon and egg dishes on the road as we gather at the home of Park Locke (and Yim), on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>! Park hasn't been able to be a part of the breakfast since his stroke but he's always been there with us in spirit. As we close out this season of the Men's Breakfast, we wanted to bring breakfast to Park! A big thank you to Yim, who has said yes to having us invade their house and routines.

Again, Men's Breakfast will be May 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. at the Locke's:  
2919 Briar Lea Loop SE, Olympia, 98501

**DEACON'S BOARD Pat De Neui**

What a blessing it is this time of year... **SPRING!**  
Every day is a new awareness as our senses come alive. One can feel the freshness of a cool breeze and see the colorful blooms of blossoming flowers and trees. It is their beauty and fragrance which is so uplifting, that it feels like heaven on earth... what a joy!



We have so much to be thankful for in our everyday lives and this inner peace comes from our Lord.  
Sarah Young from "Jesus Calling" shares... I have promised to meet all your needs according to my glorious riches. Your deepest, most constant need is for my peace. I have planted peace in the garden of your heart, where I live; but there are weeds growing there too: pride, worry, selfishness, unbelief. I am the gardener, and I am working to rid your heart of those weeds. I do my work in various ways. When you sit quietly with me, I shine the light of my presence directly into your heart. In this heavenly light, peace grows abundantly and weeds shrivel up. I also send trials into your life. When you trust me in the midst of trouble, peace flourishes and weeds die away. Thank me for the troublesome situations; the peace they can produce far outweighs the trials you endure. Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 4:17

Blessings and Love,  
Pat

*A Celebration of Life*

You are invited to join the Holcombs  
in celebrating the life of Janice's sister

*Joan Kiely Lemaster*

on May 18th at 2:00 pm  
in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES Jean Heidal, Chair**

**The Bazaar ...**

Many people worked all week to set up for the Bazaar. It was a lot of work, and I am grateful for all who worked so hard. Although we did not make as much money as we had hoped I discovered afterward that there were a number of organizations having sales that day.

What we were able to do, beyond the bottom line, was to help several groups with donations. City Gates Ministry came Saturday afternoon and was able to take items to use for housing the homeless. Mylinda Baits found a number of art supplies for her global healing through art ministry. A quilting group at Jubilee received fabric. They make quilts for veterans. Camp Bethel was given a number of items including a large metal rack for kitchen storage. They also received materials for their quilting groups that have Retreats at camp. And Value Village received the bulk of our leftovers for their store. **Thank you to Russ, John and Bob for making the delivery!**

**A huge, big, enormous thank you to Jan Downen and Janice Holcomb** for a whole week of work on the Bazaar!

On **May 8th** we will gather for our monthly meeting. The program will be assembling the hygiene kits for Church World Service and getting them packed for mailing.

On **June 12** we will gather for our last meeting of the program year. We're having a salad potluck, so bring your favorite salad to share. Our guests will be the new Camp Bethel directors, Manny and Kabrina McGinnis. Bring your questions and let's share some memories of camp as well.

**Women's Prayer Breakfast** -- save **June 22nd, 10 am** for a prayer breakfast. Kathleen Rambo will be the chef for the day and Joan Friesen will lead the devotional time. This event will be held at the home of Pat De Neui.

As always, offer a ride to one of your sisters who may no longer drive.