

**Olympia  
First  
Baptist  
Church**

**Inside this issue:**

**Front Page:  
Pastor Mark  
THE THIN PLACE**

**THE THIN PLACE 2**  
*Continued,*  
**WOMEN'S  
MINISTRIES,**  
Jean Heidal

**THE MATOS FAMILY 3**  
IN OAXACA

**INSERT: APRIL  
BIRTHDAYS &  
CONGRATULATIONS  
TO RUBY MITCHELL**

**SPRING 4**  
**MEN'S RETREAT,**  
CAMP BETHEL

**PHOTO-A-DAY 5**  
LENT 2025

**DEACONS BOARD, 6**  
Dixie Mize

**APRIL CALENDAR 7**

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

We are now three weeks, approximately, from Easter. Jerusalem is within our sight, and the cross looms larger and larger, the closer we get. We have traveled these last few weeks of Lent, attempting to make time to examine the condition of our heart. Our saying yes to God through the Holy One, Jesus Christ, is not just an affirmation of our mind, or our spirit, but it also has to do with our heart. When those three elements of who we are: mind, body, and spirit, interconnect, God's Spirit releases us and unleashes us out into the world as these wonderful, often misguided, living works-in-progress. Our faith journeys are more than giving God our intellectual okey-doke. It also involves pushing aside the walls we build up around our hearts for self-protection and allowing ourselves to be vulnerable, open, and free to let God heal us, challenge us, free us, and transform us, from those things that would enslave us, and/or keep us chained and twisted up in.

One of my favorite songs from the many summers I have spent with young people at Camp Bethel is, "All Things New." The lyrics, I think, reflect some of the things we discover, when we take an inventory of our heart conditions. It doesn't mean that our heart is either in this condition or that. Our lives, our conditions, are never one or the other. They are this complex mix of good, beautiful and lovely as well as complicated, broken, ugly and yuck! Yet, as we get closer and closer to holy week, and the shadow of the cross grows larger and larger, the words of this song, speaks louder and louder for me, and maybe, just maybe, for you as well:

*Come broken and weary; come battered and bruised, my Jesus makes all things new.*

*Come lost and abandoned, come blown by the wind; he'll bring you back home again.*

*Rise up, O you sleeper, awake. The light of the dawn is upon you  
Rise up, O you sleeper, awake. He makes all things new. All things new.*

*Come burning with shame; come frozen with guilt, my Jesus, he loves you still,  
loves you still.*

*Rise up, O you sleeper, awake. The light of the dawn is upon you.*

*Rise up, O you sleeper awake. He makes all things new; He makes all things new.  
The world was good, the world is fallen, the world will be redeemed.*

*The world was good, the world is fallen, the world will be redeemed*

*So hold on to the promise; the stories are true, that Jesus makes all things new  
(The dawn is upon you)*

*Rise up, O you sleeper, awake. The light of the dawn is upon you*

*Rise up, O you sleeper, awake. He makes all things new. He makes all things new.  
He makes all things new, all things new!*

*Continued pg 2 ...*

*Thin Place cont...*

We are on the verge of something new, beautiful and redeemed. You and I, no matter the conditions of our hearts, those conditions are redeemable. You and I are valued, and found worthy of God's grace, love and redemption. The how and why is tied up in the mystery of sacrifice, suffering, and love that the cross of Christ represents. Instead of a symbol of shame, guilt and unworthiness, it becomes this beacon of faith, hope and love, for all and forever. That is what we are heading toward. That is where our Lenten journey will take us. It still will be painful. It still demands sacrifice. It still hurts. But...but...that glorious Sunday, it's-a-coming.

And when it comes...when it arrives, Blessings and Joy!

Humble over Hype!

Pastor Mark (Rev)

.....

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

Our March meeting was highlighted with Gail Aita as our speaker. Gail related info regarding the dresses sent to Myanmar in December, and she had pictures! Those pictures are now posted on our bulletin board in the lower entry. Lots of girls are wearing dresses made by our women.

We're continuing the project and have another 105 dresses ready to be shipped off. At this point, we are going to hold off till June before dividing the dresses to send to Uganda, Thailand and Myanmar.

Plans for the April meeting are in progress, and we are going to be treated by Meggin Turk to some of her delicious homemade soup! So no sack lunch needed in April, we will also provide dessert, coffee and tea. More program details will be coming soon! Plan to come on the **9th, 12 noon** in the Fireside Room!

It's spring time and that means it's time to clean house. As you are going about this task remember the **Treasure Room in December!** We take all kinds of new and gently used items, including: Housewares, puzzles, games, decorating items, etc. We have storage at the church so just let Jan Downen know when you need access.

## Creating a home and making friends in Oaxaca



**Sunday School**



**Language School**



**The Matos Family**



**Women's Ministry**

### **Yays and Prayers**

**Yays:** For our home and car; Luis enjoys his walks to school; dinner with IM colleagues, Keith and Deb Myers; Nora adapting well to her new surroundings; Nora loves playing at the park; Sarah finishing a hard semester at Palmer and being finally at her project phase (she will graduate in May); for our ministry partners who have been so helpful in getting us settled.

**Prayer requests:** For us to build good friendships and trust; to give ourselves grace during our language and culture learning; for our safety and health; for our ministry partners; for the girls and mentors of Talita Cumi; opportunities for Sarah to get to know the mentors better to offer spiritual and emotional support.

# Rooted. Tended. Flourishing.

Spring Men's Retreat  
Camp Bethel-April 25-27



- \*Get away from the grind and reconnect with Jesus.
- \*Gather with other men for worship and encouragement.
- \*Goof off, play, and enjoy the beauty of nature.
- \*Guest speaker: Rev. Mark Rambo.
- \*We begin Friday at 8 p.m. Please eat dinner on the way.

***Camp Bethel: 347 Kirkpatrick Rd. Hoquiam, WA 98550***

Cost: \$150 for the Retreat Center and New Lodge. \$90 for the bunk rooms in the new lodge and the Cabins.

Contact Bob Holcomb (360)870-2833 or [r-holcomb@comcast.net](mailto:r-holcomb@comcast.net) by 5PM, April 13 to register and to share any dietary requirements.

(Hosted by Olympia First Baptist Men's Group)



# Olympia First Baptist Church

## PHOTO-A-DAY LENT 2025

MAR 5- APR 20

SHARE YOUR PHOTO EACH DAY AND  
TAG WITH #LENTPHOTOADAY



### MARCH

- 5 - FULL
- 6 - TEMPTED
- 7 - ALONE
- 8 - PROTECT
- 9 - CELEBRATE
- 10 - PRAY
- 11 - DAZZLING
- 12 - GLORY
- 13 - AWAKE
- 14 - GOOD
- 15 - CHOSEN
- 16 - CELEBRATE
- 17 - PRESENT
- 18 - SACRIFICE
- 19 - REPENT

- 20 - LIVING
- 21 - PLANTED
- 22 - LOOKING
- 23 - CELEBRATE
- 24 - WITH
- 25 - SHARE
- 26 - NEED
- 27 - FILLED
- 28 - ENOUGH
- 29 - COMPASSION
- 30- CELEBRATE
- 31 - RAISED

### APRIL

- 1 - SERVED
- 2 - ANOINTED
- 3 - CARED

- 4 - KEEP
- 5 - ALWAYS
- 6 - CELEBRATE
- 7 - SENT
- 8 - BRING
- 9 - NEEDS
- 10 - BLESSED
- 11 - PEACE
- 12 - SILENT
- 13 - CELEBRATE
- 14 - PREPARED
- 15 - FOUND
- 16 - HERE
- 17 - AMONG
- 18 - REMEMBER
- 19 - BELIEVE

*Easter* AMAZED

Hello friends. I found this devotional message to be particularly meaning to me, and I'm sharing it with you in the hope you will find it uplifting also.



### PASCHAL MYSTERY

Christ, our Passover Lamb,.... [transform me.]

I Corinthians 5:7 NLT

The passing of Jesus from human to divine subjectivity is called in Christian tradition the Paschal Mystery. Our participation in this Mystery is the passing over of the transformed self into the loss of self as a fixed point of reference; of *who* God is into *all that* God is. The dismantling of the false self and the inward journey to the true self is the first phase of this transition or passing over. The loss of the true self as a fixed point of reference is the second phase. The first phase results in the consciousness of personal union with the Trinity. The second phase consists in being emptied of this union and identifying with the absolute nothingness from which all things emerge, to which all things return, and which manifests Itself as *That-Which-Is*. (MC,62). *The Daily Reader for Contemplative Living*, Excerpts from the Works of Father Thomas Keating.

*Philippians 2: 5-7 RSV*

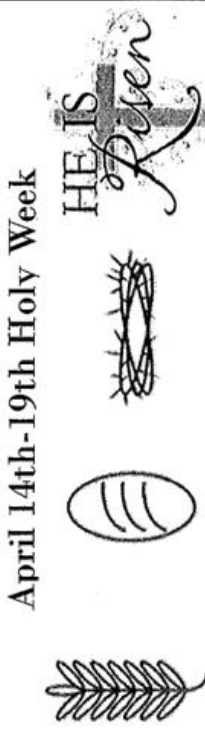
Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

May the Lord bless and keep you,

Dixie

April 2025

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 8:30 am Sunday School, 10am Worship, Child Care & Nursery, 3:30pm Table Grace

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Easter Blessings!</i>						
6 8:30 am Sunday School-Room 102 10:00 am Worship Service	7 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	8 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall 5:30-8:30 pm Woodturners Fellowship Hall	9 11:15 Staff Meeting 12 Noon ABW Meeting Fireside Room	10 9:30 am Bible Study Rm. 102 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	11 9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102	12 11:00 am Widows Group Fireside Room
13 8:30 am Sunday School-Room 102 10:00 am Palin Sunday Worship Service *****WINDOWS DEADLINE FOR MAY WINDOWS	14 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	15 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg Rm. 102	16 11:15 Staff Meeting	17 No Bible Study Bible Study 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service Choir Rehearsal After service	18 9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102  No Ladies Luncheon At Rivers Edge	19
20 8:30 am Sunday School Room 102 10:00 am Easter Sunday Worship Service	21 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	22 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room	23 11:15 Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Executive Council Rm. 102	24 9:30 am Bible Study Rm. 102 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102  Begins at 8:00pm Men's Retreat Camp Bethel .....->	26 8:00 am Men's Breakfast Fireside Room
27 8:30 am Sunday School -Room 102 10:00 am Worship Service Men's Retreat Camp Bethel .....->	28 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	29 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 4:00 pm Deacon's Meeting Fireside Room	30 11:15 Staff Meeting	 <p>April 14th-19th Holy Week</p> <p>April 13th      April 17th      April 18th      April 20th</p>		

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

PO BOX 533  
OLYMPIA, WA 98507

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

Return Service Requested

## Contact Information

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

## Church Staff

Rev. Mark Rambo, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor  
Stephen Price, Director of Music Ministries  
Lela DePaolo, Secretary  
John Fesenbek, Campus Maintenance

## April 2025 • Sermons and Scriptures • Olympia First Baptist Church

### April 6<sup>th</sup>, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sermon Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21  
Sermon: Something New  
Written Word: John 12:1-8  
Written Word: Psalm 126

### April 13<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday

Sermon Scripture: Luke 19:28-40  
Sermon: Prep Work  
Written Word: Philippians 2:5-11  
Written Word: Psalm 31:9-16

### April 20<sup>th</sup>, Resurrection Sunday!

Homily Story: Luke 24:1-12  
Homily: Ta-Da!  
Written Word: Psalm 46  
Written Word: Isaiah 12:2-6; Ezekiel 36:24-28

### April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Guest Preacher: Rev. Joan Friesen  
Pastor Mark at Men's Retreat

