

**Olympia  
First  
Baptist  
Church**

**The Thin Place:**

**Where the Sacred and the Ordinary Collide**

By the time you get around to reading this, Resurrection will have already happened. The empty tomb and its significance for us is mysterious, joyful and grounded in hope. Our Hope that new life is available to all. That the One who walked this earth, continues to travel with us; guiding, teaching, revealing the Way, is indeed, Alive! As the old hymn says:

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!

**Inside this issue:**

<b>Front Page:</b> <b>THE THIN PLACE</b>	
<b>THE THIN PLACE CONTINUED, JEAN HEIDAL A CELEBRATION OF LIFE- APRIL 18TH</b>	2
<b>INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY GATHERING</b>	3
<b>A NEW LOGO - A WARMER WELCOME</b>	4
<b>Insert: APRIL BIRTHDAYS, LADIES LUNCHEON</b>	
<b>DEACON'S CORNER, ABW 2.0 Meggin Turk</b>	5
<b>SEASON OF LENT DATES MEN'S RETREAT, APRIL 10th-12th</b>	6
<b>APRIL CALENDAR 2026</b>	7

Now that resurrection has been released throughout the Cosmos, what do we focus on now? We've had this build-up, that led us to participate in a parade of celebration as Jesus finally arrived to Jerusalem amongst the shouts of Hosanna! From there, the world and our lives implode, as rejoicing leads to betrayal, arrest, torture, a death sentence and then public execution, in a most humiliating way. When all is lost; when souls are crushed and in a state of disrepair and disorientation, God's story says there is still faithfulness. Faithfulness that comes in the form of women. Ordinary, common, women. In the early hours of the day, in the darkness of the coming dawn, they do what needs to be done. They come to properly, prepare the body of the one who they love. They have known him, followed him, admired him, served him, embraced his teachings, his heart, his identity. Despite their own broken hearts and spirits, their grief, they come to do what needs to be done. Faithfulness, in this case, means showing up and doing what needs to be done, what comes next. Quietly, but boldly, they take a risk of exposure, being ostracized and/or physical harm, to remain faithful to their beloved Jesus, even in death. Faithfulness.

What's next? Faithfulness. We live in a world that is overflowing with uncertainty, chaos, cruelty, and, yes, evil. We also live in a world that holds beauty, order, kindness, and pushes back on evil and injustice. Both of those opposites are true. We cannot embrace one and ignore the other. We hold both. They are both part of our reality. Our faithfulness, our faith, grounded in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, calls us to show up. It asks us to acknowledge our weakness, our broken bits; to deny ourselves when those things try to convince us that what we want, is best. But it also means that we pick up our crosses, the things that weigh us down, that prevent us from being who God created us to be and then, simply, follow. That's faithful living. Deny...pick up our cross...follow. Follow Jesus into the world. Loving God. Loving neighbor/others. Helping. Serving. Encouraging. Sacrificing. Doing. Resting. Laughing. Singing. Dancing. In the midst of good times;

*Continued pg 2...*

*Thin Place cont...*

grief; loneliness, depression, isolation. We follow. We show up. We do what we are called to do; what needs to be done.

Resurrection calls us to Faithfulness!

I almost forgot. Faithful living is never done in isolation. You need a community. You need ragamuffins, just like you, who are just as capable of being stiff-necked and broken, yet also have the will and way to do what needs to be done. And do it for the right reasons, with compassion, mercy, and grace. We need others to lean on. We need others to share those moments of grief and loss. We need others to encourage us, to see within us what we don't see. We need each other. If not, faithful living will be like the seed scattered along rocky ground. Without strong roots to anchor in and grow, it quickly dies out when scorched by the sun. We all need strong roots. Community helps us grow, to anchor into the ways of Christ in order for us to be flawed but faithful followers of the Resurrected One!

The road with Christ is hard. We will want to go off on our own from time to time. Pay attention. Pay attention to where God maybe at work. Pay attention to those around you, at home, neighborhood, work, etc. Stay tethered...to God and to one another. Be open to being surprised. You never know when you will be called to do what needs to be done, humbly, sometimes quietly, and definitely, faithfully.

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

.....



# *A Celebration of Life*



For Jean Heidal  
Saturday, April 18th  
in the Sanctuary  
At Olympia First Baptist  
with a Reception to follow

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Intergenerational Community Gathering (ICG)

We hope you will join us for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergenerational Community Gathering,  
on **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00-ish p.m.**

We will gather in the Fireside Room for a Cinco de Mayo inspired Taco Bar meal, prepared by Chef Ricky Bowman. Since that Saturday is also Kentucky Derby weekend, rumor has it there might be Derby Pie for dessert. Stay tuned.

We had 30 people at our first outing, from ages 5 to 92. There will be songs, shenanigans, laughter as well as sharing around tables as we get to know each other better by the stories we tell to one another. We are still kicking around some other options, but our aim is to help us all build stronger relationships within our faith community while learning how to nurture one another spiritually.

Put it on your calendar and make plans to join us!

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**Save-the-Date:**

Olympia Commons Kids Day Camp

Host – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Monday–Friday, **July 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Olympia Commons is an Ecumenical group of Mainline Protestant Churches in Olympia. That group is sponsoring and putting on a week-long VBS-style Day Camp,

***“Operation Restoration”***

Since Oly First is a part of Olympia Commons, we are hoping to put together a team or two of volunteers to put together snacks and/or some other necessary part of the Camp experience. Pastor Mark will be doing some storytelling from the Bible as well as music with some silly as well as worship songs.

If you have children, grandchildren, niece, nephews, neighbor’s children you think would benefit and enjoy this type of experience, save the date and look for more details as we get closer. Registration information is coming soon.

The Kids Day camp is for children, ages 3 (if potty-trained) to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

## A New Logo, A Warmer Welcome

In the coming months, Oly First will be developing and designing a logo for the church.

Think of a good logo as part of our hospitality. It's a way of being helpful and reassuring to people who might be looking for us – whether they are searching online, reading something in print, or passing by 9th and Washington.

A logo clearly and quickly says “here we are” or “you found us” or “you’re in the right place, welcome.”

We encourage everyone to participate in this creative journey by visiting our logo inspiration board at the church and “starring” the logos you like.

The inspiration board displays a wide variety of other church logos.

As you look through these logos, pay attention not just to what catches your eye first, but to **why**. Notice which ones feel warm, welcoming, trustworthy, joyful, rooted, reverent, or alive—and which ones feel cold, generic, confusing, dated, cluttered, or overly corporate.

Look at the **typeface**: does it feel traditional, modern, elegant, friendly, rigid, or playful?

Notice the **symbolism**: does the image feel meaningful and clear, or cliché and obvious?

Pay attention to **simplicity and memorability**: could you remember this logo later, and would it still make sense from across a room, on a sign, or on a phone screen?

Most of all, ask yourself: **Does this logo feel like a church—and does it feel like the kind of church we are, or hope to be?**

Put sticky stars next to the logos that seem not just attractive, but fitting, distinctive, and full of the right spirit.

Your votes will help us hone in on what style, typeface and mood feels right for Oly First.



**ABW 2.0**

We express our deepest gratitude for Jean Heidal and all she has done for our church. She has shepherded our missions, the many women and men of our community and Little Ones all over the world. We want to especially thank Jean for her leadership and guidance for the past many years.

The American Baptist Women (ABW) is open to all the women in the church and we look forward to the year ahead. That being said, we are looking for new members and new ideas for change.

Karen Wilson has graciously offered to be in charge of the Memorial Services here at First Baptist. When she calls for help, **PLEASE SAY, "YES!"**

The following ideas need to be discussed:

1. Should we meet on a different day and time to include other women.
2. What would quarterly meetings look like?
3. Meeting 3x a year and spilling over to the third Friday Women's luncheon which is going to start handwritten notes for those who could not come to meetings and/or services.
4. We still have lots of fabric on hand for britches and dresses to send out to missions. As well as hats are being made to give to our local guests. (Hats being made now will be put away to be distributed in the fall.)
5. It was suggested we may want to include Lotus Court in this distribution.
6. Should we still have one Big Fundraiser a year to raise monies for our projects?

Janice Holcomb will bring a Christmas Brunch breakdown to our next meeting, April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 12 Noon, as to how much monies we have raised in the last three years so we can study the impact.

We will then need **SOMEONE or a TEAM** to take the lead on the Christmas Brunch. Then ideas for menu changes, entertainment possibilities, and what we want to promote will be discussed.

**If at all possible, please plan to attend this ABW 2.0 Meeting on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 12Noon. Bring your lunch! Dessert and coffee will be served!**

**Season of Lent, 2026:**

Lent – Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Good Friday – April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Easter Sunday – April 5<sup>th</sup>

Holy Week – March 29<sup>th</sup> thru April 4<sup>th</sup>

Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, @ 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, TBA, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Easter – Resurrection Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, @ 10:00 a.m.



**MEN'S RETREAT**  
FAITH IS BIGGER THAN LIFE  
ACTS 20:24

All men are welcome to join us for a time of hearing from our Leader Jeff Scott, fellowship, seeing old friends and making new friends.

FRIDAY NIGHT APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> THRU  
NOON ON APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>

AT CAMP BETHEL

347 KIRPATRICK RD, HOQUIAM WA

Cost \$175 is sharing a room.


Cost \$195 for a single occupancy room.

Let Bob Holcomb @ (360)870-2833 or  
[r-holcomb@comcast.net](mailto:r-holcomb@comcast.net) by 5PM on April 7<sup>th</sup> if  
you are planning on attending as well as any  
dietary requirements as the Camp need to know  
how many are attending by April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Hosted by  
Olympia Frist Baptist Church men's group



# April 2026 SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 8:30 am Sunday School, 10am Worship, Child Care & Nursery, 3:30pm Table Grace

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				9:30 am Bible Study Rm. 102 6:30 pm Service Maundy Thursday After service: 7:15 pm Choir	9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102 Good Friday 	
No Sunday School 10:00 am Easter Service & Communion Sunday <i>He Is Risen!</i>	5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fireside Room 7:00-9:30 pm Voices of the Sound Fellowship Hall, Rm 102, Fireside Room	11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 5:30 pm Woodturners Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm OMT Sanctuary	11:15 Staff Meeting	9:30 am Bible Study Rm 102 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102 Men's Retreat Camp Bethel 10th-12th	11:00 am Widows Group Fireside Rm Men's Retreat Camp Bethel
No Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Men's Retreat Camp Bethel	5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fireside Room 7:00-9:30 pm Voices of the Sound Fellowship Hall, Rm 102, Fireside Room	11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 6:30pm Stewardship Team Rm 102 7:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	11:15 Staff Meeting 12 Noon ABW Luncheon	9:30 am Bible Study Rm 102 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102 1:00 pm Ladies Luncheon At Rivers Edge	11:00 am Celebration of Life For Jean Heidal Reception to follow
No Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fireside Room 7:00-9:30 pm Voices of the Sound Fellowship Hall, Rm 102, Fireside Room	11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 7:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	11:15 Staff Meeting	9:30 am Bible Study Rm. 102 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Fireside Room 10:30 am Executive Leadership Team Fireside Room
No Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fireside Room 7:00-9:30 pm Voices of the Sound Fellowship Hall, Rm 102, Fireside Room	11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 5:00 pm Congregational Care Team Fireside Room 7:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	11:15 Staff Meeting	9:30 am Bible Study Rm. 102 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102	

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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## Church Staff

Rev. Mark Rambo, Senior Pastor  
Jonathan Spatola-Knoll, Director of Music Ministries  
Lela DePaolo, Secretary  
Aaron Delaney, Interim Campus Maintenance

## April 2026 • Sermons and Scriptures • Olympia First Baptist Church

April 5<sup>th</sup>: Easter/Resurrection Sunday  
Homily Story: Matthew 28:1—10  
Homily: A Whole Lot of Shaking Going On  
Written Word: Jeremiah 31:1—6

April 12<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter/Communion Sunday  
Sermon Text: Matthew 28:16—20  
Sermon Title: Are You Ready?  
The Written Word: I Peter 1:3—9  
The Written Word: Psalm 16

April 19<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Sermon Text: Luke 24:13—35  
Sermon Title: The Road  
The Written Word: Zephaniah 3:14—20  
The Written Word: Psalm 98

April 26<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Sermon Text: Isaiah 65:17—25  
Sermon Title: That New Car Smell  
The Written Word: Acts 2:42—47  
The Written Word: Psalm 61

