

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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Pastor Dave Roberts, Interim Pastor
Mark Rambo, Associate Pastor
Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor
Nick Carlson, Organist
Darrell Born, Choir Director
Lela DePaolo, Secretary
Gary Rogers, Caretaker

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

Return Service Requested

First Baptist Church Jan. 2020 Tentative Preaching Schedule

January 5th

Foundational Work

John 1:10–18

Pastor Dave Roberts

January 12th

License and Registration, Please!

Matthew 3:13–17

Pastor Mark Rambo

January 19th

A Calling

John 1:29–42

Pastor Dave Roberts

January 26th

Call of the Wild

Matthew 4:12–25

Pastor Mark Rambo



January
2020

WINDOWS

Ring in the
New Year with joy!

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

First Baptist Church Olympia

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DATES**

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In 2020

Count
YOUR
blessings

January Happenings For Your Attention

There's something for everyone in January as we start a new decade in 2020. First, the return of **Thursday Morning Bible Study** on Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room beginning **January 9th**. We will continue our study of the book of James. If you have made a new year resolution to beef up your spiritual life, this bible study can be one way to meet that challenge.

For **youth, grades 6–12**, Camp Bethel is having a **Winter Youth Retreat January 17th to January 20th**. **Cost is \$91**, and scholarships are available. Let Pastor Mark know if you are interested. It's been awhile since we've been able to have a winter retreat, but with the new lodge means new opportunities to grow in our faith while also having fun, adventure and good food. You can register at www.campbethel.net Contact Pastor Mark with questions!

Finally, save the date of **January 20th for a Worship Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** The service will be **at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship**, a sister American Baptist church in Renton. **Start time is 7:00 p.m.** but get there early, seats fill up fast. If you like to sing, you are invited to be part of the mass choir. They will be rehearsing the following Saturdays, from Noon to 2:00 p.m. at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship: January 4th, 11th, and the 18th.

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Mark Rambo

SAVE JANUARY 24TH! Ladies' Night Out is the 24th, starting at 6:00 pm. Karen Wilson and Meggin Turk and their group will be coming to provide entertainment. ABW will provide pizza and beverages, you bring a salad, dessert or appetizer to share and a table game or cards to play! It's a fun evening, all women are invited! Bring a friend.

Mark's Meanderings

2020! It's hard to believe we are entering the 20th year of the 21st Century. There has been so much change over the last 30 years. When watching a movie from the late 1980's to mid 1990's, I always end up shaking my head and laughing at the size of personal computers and cell phones. Technology has grown so much in leaps and bounds from those days it is quite amazing. With all the change we have experienced as a nation, as individuals, I think it is also one of the reasons why change is so hard for those in churches. Church has become our safe place. It's the place that we anchor into to stabilize ourselves when the winds of change all around us feels like it will consume us and destroy what we value most.

2020 will bring changes. Changes in our political landscape. Changes within the economy, the culture. Changes to our favorite sports-ball teams. And yes, changes to us as a church community as well. Change is inevitable. How we prepare for it. How we position ourselves to meet the challenges that change will bring. How we pivot in the midst of change. All of those factors, variables, surprises and intentional plans, will determine how sustainable we will be as a congregation going forward.

You can start this new year, 2020, by being intentional about your prayer life. Pray to open your hearts, minds, attitudes, outlooks, etc., to the changes that God has in store for us. Pray that God will give each of us, from your Pastors to the youngest/oldest member, a teachable spirit. Pray that God will help you to listen to one another, to be slow to anger and steadfast in love. Pray as we discern the ways that God has for us to move into. Pray.

Change is in the air. Can you sense it? Can you feel it? It is something to be embraced, not feared. Let's prepare our hearts, our spirits, to meet God in the midst of whatever it may be and look like. The future is bright...God is there!

Pastor Mark

P.S. Both Kathleen and I would like to say thank you for all the prayers, cards, treats and gifts this Advent/Christmas season. Your kindness, love and generosity are a blessing and the best gift anyone could ask for. Thank you for being our community of faith and support.

Blessings and Joy,

Pastor Mark and Kathleen Rambo

Women's Ministries by Jean Heidal

BRUNCH! 140 women gathered in Fellowship Hall for the annual Christmas Brunch on December 14th. We were entertained and inspired by the music program of Sandi Swarthout and challenged and reminded of our "Joy" in loving others by Rev. Carol Sutton.

We also took a few moments to honor "3 Wise Women" in the personage of Madge Ellis, Julie Comstock and Helen Pothier for their long years of dedication to the work of the Lord through Women's Ministries and First Baptist Church. Madge is remembered as the "Mom" image, for her hospitality and caring. Julie is the "Mentor", training and leading by example. Helen is the "note taker and treasurer" always keeping me in line. All of these women have had a positive impact on my life and the lives of countless other women in our church. They each received a small plaque with the "3 Wise Women" writing on it:

*Three Wise Women
Would have asked for directions
Arrived on time
Helped deliver the baby
Brought practical gifts
Cleaned up the stable
Made a casserole
...and there would be
Peace on Earth.*

As our major fundraiser for the year we also did well: \$488.25 in gift bags on the tables; \$671.00 cookie Room sales; \$700.00 brunch proceeds after expenses. Overall, the income was: \$1815.25

Thank you to all who participated, decorated, served and made it an especially meaningful day. I want to say a special "thank you" to Dixie Mize and her granddaughter, Pressley, for all their work in the Cookie Room! It was a real labor of love and much appreciated.

SAVE JANUARY 24TH! Our annual Ladies' Night Out is the 24th, starting at 6:00 pm. Karen Wilson and Meggin Turk and their group will be coming to provide entertainment. ABW will provide pizza and beverages, you bring a salad, dessert or appetizer to share and a table game or cards to play! It's a fun evening, all women are invited! Bring a friend.

There's a foundation for transformation that allows us to move into the future of God's calling. It allows us, as individuals and as a congregation to hear the Spirit moving in our midst for the birthing of something new.

A part of the foundation is knowing who we are and whose we are. How did we get to be where we are? What significant events and persons influenced us? Were there decisions made along the way that changed us, as individuals or as a congregation? I'd like to hear any memories or reflections you have.

Do we take God seriously as the guide and stay of our lives? Do we know, like Peter learned, that we can mess up and still be loved and used by God?

I started out talking about "new" and have made it to reflecting on "old". They are intertwined and we will need to be aware of both as we move forward towards God's calling in the new year.

See you in the meeting place where we lay a firm foundation for the transitions ahead of us.

Moderator's Report by Jean Heidal

What a year 2019 was! With struggles, blessings, challenges, and God's help we have come to the end of a year -- with all of the above before us in 2020. Although we don't know what the year holds for us, we know, as the old saying goes, Who holds the year.

We have sadly said "good-bye" to some long time friends and are at the same time welcoming new ones. The church is an ever moving, constantly changing vessel of love, hope and mission.

I am especially grateful to the Council for their good work this year. Long hours and extra meetings took place, but they continued to show up and do the hard work of not only leading their board/committee but being committed to the Council as well.

You are probably familiar with the poem, "The Work of Christmas" (by Howard Thurman), but just in case you're not, here it is for your reflection:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people
to make music in the heart.

May it be so at the corner of 9th and Washington Streets and everywhere our witness is spread.

Pastor Dave's Ponderings

The interim pastor's Thoughts Along The WAY ...

I've been thinking about the word "new". I suppose this is the season for it, given the New Year and all. But my thoughts, while including the new year, begin with the Christmas story.

Even though the retailers are getting close, they still haven't reached back into the year far enough for a nine month pregnancy. And while we focus on a four week Advent season in preparation for Christmas, Mary and Joseph had far more time to get their minds around the coming birth.

I assume you've learned something of the societal norms that were in play for Mary and Joseph. Pregnant outside of marriage often led to stoning the woman to death. The gospel of Matthew says that Joseph planned to break off the relationship, perhaps hoping for a lesser penalty for Mary.

What was the foundation for transformation, to use Doug Avilesbernal's words, that allowed these two people to wrap their minds around something so "new"? I assume this pregnancy was not part of their plans.

Angels? Dreams? Visions? And probably not something they were anxious to consult about with the local rabbi.

Something new was afoot, and they were willing to be a part of it. I hardly think they could see the end from the beginning. They didn't know how it was all going to turn out.

And then Jesus is born. If the parents had any glimmer of Jesus' eventual high calling, giving birth in a barn probably didn't fit neatly into their imaginative construction of how things would be. But then, would they have imagined shepherds suddenly appearing talking about having seen and heard angels?

They may have been further blown away by the words of Simeon and Anna when they went to present Jesus at the temple per the law of Moses. (Luke 2:22-38)

All of these things crowding in on Mary and Joseph, confronted with something new every day it would seem. What was their foundation for transformation? I'm guessing it was something more than a New Year's resolution or two.

All new things have strings going back to something old. Sometimes we don't recognize the strings. One of our granddaughters loves books and loves going to the library. Merletta found a mug to give to her for Christmas the outside of which is printed with a library checkout card form.

We think it's a great gift even though our daughter reminded us that Leah has never seen an actual library checkout card. In her experience checking a book out is done with computers, bar codes, scanners and printers. But the string of history goes back to something written down connecting you to that

our foundation for transformation allows us to move into something new

book. Likewise, our foundation for transformation that allows us to move into something new is built on

previous experience, our understanding of how things "are", and the way we think about the future.

I put the word "are" in quotation marks because I think the way things "are" is only what's caught in a snapshot of time. My grandfather bought a livery stable in Prosser, WA just about the time the first Model T chugged into town. Oops!

When we were happy to get a private telephone line after having 4 and 2 party lines, who would have thought we could talk on a phone without any lines at all? The way things "are" is constantly changing.

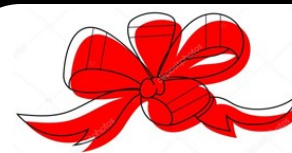


Thank you to
Pastor Dave
Roberts...
for the
beautiful artwork
given to OFBC
& gracing our
coffee fellowship
area near the
Sanctuary -
*designed and
cut out by
Pastor Dave.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Rex Comstock	4	Pastor Dave Roberts	16
Caroline Lehman	4	Patti Lehman	17
Sandy Lehman	5	Leonardo Chavez-Rutledge	18
Josh Lehman	5	William Martin	19
Ila Rose Johnson	15	Everett Fraissinet	23
Taylor (Simpson) Wolden	15	Jim Johnson	28
Marlynne Fulton	16	Carolyn von Gohren	29
Eva Davis	16	Troyce Warner	30
Mike Cooper	16	Pastor Bob Sievers	30



(Hats on)
&
Hats off...

*to everyone who made the Ladies' Brunch
such a great success!*

