

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

PO BOX 533
OLYMPIA, WA 98507

Contact Information

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

Church Staff

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

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JANUARY

WINDOWS

2022

First Baptist Church Olympia

Inside this issue:

Front Page:	
PASTOR MARK:	
CHURCH HAPPENINGS & REMINDERS	2
MODERATOR REPORT	3
ANTI-RACISM ; HEROS OF THE FAITH	4
MLK DAY COMMUNITY WORSHIP,	5
SARAH MATOS' CHRISTMAS CARD	6
THE SPOKEN WORD SERMONS FOR JAN. & YUTS YOUTH RETREAT AT CAMP	7
WOMEN'S MINISTRY JEAN HEIDAL	8
DEACONS BOARD, PAT DE NEUI	9
SARAH'S GIFT & HONORING MLK JR. DAY 2-17-22	10
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS. GIVING ENVELOPES	11

The Thin Place: Where the Ordinary and Sacred Collide

2022- Let that sit with you for just a bit!

We find ourselves, ready or not, at the beginning of another year. The last 2 years have been an unprecedented time for us as the Covid virus has dominated our world and our lives. For us as the church on the corner of 9th and Washington, we continue to be a light for those around us. That light might not be as bright due to the pandemic and the challenges it provides for all of us, but the light of Christ is never truly extinguished. We continue to worship, in-person and through the efforts of our Technology Ministry Team. We continue to stay connected with each other through the efforts of our Deacons and the pastoral staff. We continue to provide opportunities for study and spiritual growth. We continue to serve folks in our neighborhood who are houseless and/or on the margins. We continue to support not one, not two, but three sets of missionaries. We continue to support ministries at home, like Camp Bethel and the ministries of our Evergreen American Baptist Region. We continue to look for ways to be a light to others in our midst.

One of the blessings we have experienced the last 3 or four months, is the presence of new folks. Each of them has a story. Each of them gives witness to a God who is personal and interested in them and others. They are looking for connection – spiritually and relationally. They are looking for ways to serve God. They keep coming back, week after week. They are a reminder that the light of Christ is shining. A reminder that even during times of uncertainty, God is still present and working, and moving, and speaking into people's lives.

I also know, that our life as a church community feels like we are stuck treading water. Though the health and safety of others is most important, it is hard to plan and move forward into a future we believe God is preparing for us, when the reality of Covid is still so present. However, it is still vital for us to look toward the future. With that in mind, I am asking all members of the various Boards and Committees to join me in the Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, January 22nd, at 9:00 a.m.**

I would like to have a time of conversation, prayer, discernment and clarification about the coming year. I would like to share some of my ideas, dreams and vision for us, going forward.

Jesus says on the Sermon on the Mount: You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Matthew 5:14-15, NRSV: We are the light of Christ. We will keep on being light for others. Let's pray that 2022 will be a year where we get to shine just a bit brighter for others.

Blessings and Joy!
Pastor Mark (Rev)

On behalf of myself and the entire church staff, we want to thank you for all the cards, treats, gifts and extras you showered upon us this Christmas Season. Your attention, generosity and appreciation for us was humbling, honoring, and touching. Thank you! There really are not adequate words to express our appreciation!
Thank you!

January 2022 Preaching Schedule First Baptist Church

Sunday, January 2nd
Rev. Mark Rambo
Ephesians 1:1–14
“It's a God Thing”

Sunday, January 23rd
Rev. Mark Rambo
Ephesians 2:11–22
“Insiders/Outsiders”

Sunday, January 9th
Rev. Mark Rambo
Ephesians 1:15–23
“And Then There's Jesus”

Sunday, January 30th
Pastor Mark Rambo
Ephesians 3:1–13

Sunday, January 16th
Rev. Mark Rambo
Ephesians 2:1–10
“Tear Down That Wall”

2022 - Lord, in this New Year, make us new!

He who was seated on the throne said,

“Behold, I am making all things new.”



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Church Happenings and Reminders

Sunday School Returns January 9th, 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Worship – Sundays @ 10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary and Streaming On-line

Choir Practice – Every Wednesday, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
 (Weather/roadways permitting)

Chair Yoga – Every Thursday, 6:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall
 (Weather/roadways apply as well)

Women’s Ministries – 2nd Wednesday, January 12th, Noon, Fireside Room

Thursday Morning Bible Study Returns – January 13th, 9:30 a.m.,
 Fireside Room (In-Person, Facebook Live & Zoom)

Men’s Breakfast – 3rd Saturday – January 15th, 8:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Trustees Board Meeting – Zoom – 3rd Tuesday – January 18th, 6:30 p.m.

Executive Council Meeting – 4th Wednesday – January 26th, 6:30 p.m.,
 Fireside Room

Deacon Board – Tuesday before Communion Sunday – February 1st – 6:00 p.m.,
 Fireside Room

Emmaus House restarts Saturdays, 6:00 p.m. – January 8th – Location TBD

Table Grace – Sundays – Prep Work, Noon, Fellowship Hall.
Handing out meals – 4:00 p.m.

YUTS and other Boards/Committees/Ministries meet as needs, projects,
 schedules, dictate.

If you have questions, contact the Church Office

Birthdays • News & Thank you's



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
Taylor (Simpson) Wolden	15	Everett Fraissinet	23
Marlynne Fulton	15	Carolyn von Gohren	29
Eva Davis	16	Troyce Warner	30
Mike Cooper	16	Pastor Bob Sievers	30

*"When the song of
 the angels is stilled;
 When the star
 in the sky is gone;
 When the kings
 and priests 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 peoples...
 To make music in the heart!"*

Howard Thurman



A note from Maxine Hallmeyer:

***The giving boxes are
 available for 2022.***

*They are on the table next
 to the office door...*

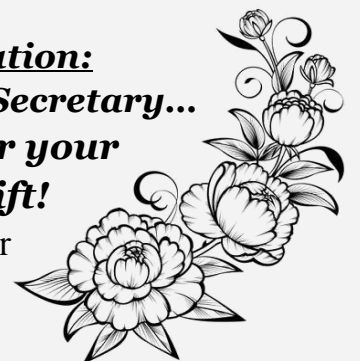
***Please be sure to come by
 and pick yours up.***

Thank you!

***To All the Congregation:
 from Your Church Secretary...
 A Note of thanks for your
 generous bonus gift!***

I am so thankful for your
 gift and for everyone’s
 friendship, all the
 kindness and support you always show me!

I am so blessed to be here with you at
 OFBC! Our thanks to the Deacon Board also -
 your gift was a surprise and such a blessing!
 Lela & Michael





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A GIFT TO THE CONGREGATION
FROM SARAH MATOS:

Please enjoy seeing
this beautiful
(and colorful)
wall hanging from Sarah to
the congregation.
For now it is displayed
on the bulletin
near the church office.

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Honoring the Legacy...

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday,
January 17, 2022

The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all people human and, therefore, brothers and sisters.

Sunday, January 16th: MLK Day of Service is intended to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community." "Whether you plan on cleaning up a public space, mentoring a young person, or assisting those who are food insecure, what you do makes a world of difference."

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From the Moderator... Jean Heidal
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Happy New Year! This greeting comes with the hope of better days ahead. We continue to be plagued with Covid and its variants. With the vaccine booster and pills available we may be able to resume more normal activities. Pray that this is so!

Although our Anniversary Celebration was postponed in November, the committee has selected a new date. Mark your calendar and save May 20-21-22 for our weekend to celebrate! Details will be coming in future newsletters and postcard announcements.

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is the first hymn my husband and I sang together after we were married. We were at First Baptist Church in Aberdeen on our way home from a weekend at Ocean Shores. God was faithful to us as a couple, and continues to sustain and hold me close as I navigate life without Dale. As a congregation, we have been so blessed with the church staff and board/committee leadership and I am grateful. The next time you are at church, or if you have a hymnal at home, read over the words of this great hymn. It is the story of our church, 150 years of faithful servants working, praying, witnessing and giving to continue the missions and ministries. God is indeed "faithful."

In February and March wedding pictures of those married at First Baptist will be displayed in the Anniversary glass case in the fellowship area. If you would like to share your wedding photo (framed please) contact Wendy Wilson, Marlynne Fulton or Becky Nash. Include your wedding date with the photo.

Lastly, our long time caretaker, Gary Rogers, passed away suddenly in December. He was meticulous in his work, he came everyday, and did his best to help with set up and clean up for the many church activities. I miss Gary and his willingness to always help. He was another "servant" in a long line of church staff persons who worked behind the scenes of our church life. God bless Gary!

Anti-Racism – Heroes of the Faith

Many of you know that Archbishop Desmond Tutu graduated into God's loving arms on Sunday, December 26th. He was known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist, having received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. One of my Christmas presents this year was a book he co-wrote with the Dalai Lama, entitled:

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World

On the back cover of the book is this quote from Tutu:

We grow in kindness when our kindness is tested

If ever there was a time where that statement is accurate and relevant, it is now.

We live in a world where kindness is tested on a daily basis. Faith driven teachings such as reconciliation seem to be tested regularly. Add to that, racial reconciliation, and it seems that much harder. I don't know if that is reality or not, but it sure seems that way, at least in my world. Yet, God doesn't want me, want us to just throw up our hands and give up. I don't know about you, but I need a hero, from time to time, to inspire me, confront me, and/or challenge me. Which brings me back to Desmond Tutu, a faith hero, for me.

January 21st, 1986 is the day that I heard Desmond Tutu speak for the first time, at the University of California Santa Barbara. That lecture at UCSB was part of a 2-week speaking tour Bishop Tutu was on to raise more awareness of the system of Apartheid in South Africa as well as raise monies for the South African Council of Churches. Bishop Tutu was articulate, funny, engaging, passionate, faith-filled and most of all, humble. He was part of the process, I believe, that God used to push me, guide me, toward the possibility of ministry. It would be two more years before that call would become a reality, but hearing Bishop Tutu that day, also got me more involved in the campus ministry that was happening at UCSB and the connection it had with the local church. More importantly, he became a catalyst to remind me that God is concerned with much more than my little piece of the world. That God was present and active in big picture things like bringing down systems of oppression and injustice. That racial reconciliation was important, not only in South Africa, but in the United States as well. Bishop Tutu was a connection with my past faith heroes like Amos Dudley.

I know that for most of us, talking about racism is uncomfortable. But there is much in God's Kin-dom that is uncomfortable. God confronts us and challenges us, not so we feel guilty and less-than, but in order to change us, transform us, redeem us and love us.

Bishop Tutu, for me, was a light that shone into my own dark places and showed me that the light of Christ is more powerful than apartheid and that reconciliation was and is, possible.

Who are your Heroes of the faith, especially when it comes to people of color?

May we continue to be open to conversations that reveal God's possibilities and Kin-dom living!

Deacon Board, Pat De Neui, Chair

Happy New Year!

Happiness to you with all the joy, peace and love the Lord has blessed you with as you begin this 2022 year... One day at a time!

This is the time to once again make a fresh start while holding tight to our Lord's hand. Remember that every moment of your life is a gift from God. Ask him—the God of hope—to fill you with joy and peace. Thus, with the help of his Spirit, you can overflow with hope into the lives of other people.



This is the time because today is a precious gift. Look for signs of his loving presence as you travel along the path of life. As you persevere along the path he has prepared for you, depend on his strength to sustain you, and you will see miracles! Those who live by faith will see them clearly.

Your appreciation and thankfulness will keep you close to him and help you to find joy in your journey.

Take time... take time with the Lord! Seek his face continually throughout these days. Remember Psalm 119:105, "My word is a lamp to guide your feet and a light for your path." So trust God and follow him wherever he leads. Take it one day at a time!!

Shalom,

Pat

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

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Women's Ministries by Jean Heidal

Our Christmas gathering was a great way to come together, hear some wonderful Christmas music and have a whole new perspective on the gifts which the Wise Men brought to the manger. Of course, there were cookies, too! Lots and lots of cookies! Thank you to all who participated.

Moving forward to the new year, I have scheduled Ladies' Night Out for Friday, January 28th, beginning at 6:00 pm. The ukelele trio and a hula dancer will be back by popular demand to provide our entertainment. A hula lesson will be given. Grass skirts and leis provided! Bring an appetizer or dessert and Women's Ministries will provide the pizza and beverages. This is a really fun evening, so I hope there will be a lot of participation. Invite a friend to come with you!

I will miss Gary Rogers, our caretaker, who was so good to take care of setup for our special events. He was always helpful and usually added, "nothing is too good for our ladies," when asked for some special set up. His help with wedding receptions and memorial luncheons was always the best. He made life a lot easier for our serving. Rest in peace, dear Gary, we miss you already.

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In Remembrance...



Gary Rogers served us faithfully and will be greatly missed. We are so sad for the conversations we will not have again, and for his laughter that we won't hear. His work was impeccable and he made the church look wonderful.

We are thankful the Lord gave us the time with Gary that we had.

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Martin Luther King Day Community Worship Service

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches & New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, is sponsoring the 2022 MLK Day Community Worship Service to be held on **Monday, January 17th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, Renton, WA.

Keynote Speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Callahan, Ph D., Pastor, St. Paul's Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

At New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, proof of full vaccination and masks are required for in-person entry. The service will also be streamed. More details coming.

If you are interested in attending In-Person, please let Pastor Mark know ASAP, at:

markrambo44@gmail.com
 or
 olyfbc@aol.com

If there is enough interest, we will explore carpooling options and/or rent a comfy van.

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Men's Retreat – Camp Bethel
February 4th, 5th, and 6th

Attention! Men of Olympia First Baptist Church!

We are having a Men's Retreat at Camp Bethel the first weekend of February. Don't worry, the Super Bowl is the following weekend! This is an opportunity to get away, relax, and spend time sharing stories, experiences, what God is doing, along with an opportunity to do some small work projects around the camp for those who need to stay busy and/or give back to the camp. Mostly, this is about building relationships with one another and with God.

We are still in the planning stages for the weekend, but if you are interested in going, please email Pastor Mark at:

markrambo44@gmail.com
 or at:
 olyfbc@aol.com

We need to know if you'll need a ride to the camp? If you can come for the entire time, Friday night through Sunday morning or just Saturday and Sunday? Cost for the entire weekend is \$85 but there is scholarship money for anyone. Do Not Let Money be the reason you cannot attend!

We will be having a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 15th, at 8:00 a.m.

We will be talking in more detail then about the retreat, so make sure you come to that.

In the meantime, let Pastor Mark know of your interest!

Sarah Matos Global Servant - International Ministries

A Christmas card to the Congregation:

As we wait for the coming child Emmanuel together, my prayer is that God’s hope, peace, joy, and love fill your hearts. I see your name come across my donor database and when I do I’m filled with gratitude for your sacrificial giving. I thank God for your support; without your giving and your prayers my ministry in Bolivia and launching the Talita Cumi Girls Club Program (TCGC) in the coming year would not be possible. I had the joy of presenting the program to the board of directors of the Baptist Association in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The pastors are excited to have their churches gain this tool for ministry. There will be five Baptist churches in Santa Cruz that will provide space and mentors for this pilot program. The girls will gain skills that they will carry with them into adulthood. TCGC teaches the virtues of faith, hope, love, courage, moderation, justice, activities, and service opportunities. It aims to help young girls tell their stories through the redemptive light of the gospel and develop strengths to overcome the challenges they face daily. TCGC will be launched in Bolivia and in seven countries (Mexico, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and the U.S./Mexico Border). I will be one of the trainers who will train our program directors from the eight countries on Zoom in January. Please join me in prayer for the women program coordinators, women mentors, and for the estimated 500 girls who will enroll to be participants of the clubs beginning the third week of January 2022. ¡Feliz Navidad y Feliz Año Nuevo! Blessings, Sarah Matos



The Spoken Word – Sermons for January

As we head into 2022, I’ve been praying and pondering on what to focus on in worship. Given that we continue to live under the umbrella of a global pandemic, it feels like we all could use a good dose of Hope. Instead of following the Revised Common Lectionary, I’m going off-road and will do a 2-month series on Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. Though Paul writes his letters because of a specific problem or two (or three), he also writes words of encouragement and hope-full-ness. With that in mind, the letter to the Ephesians is one of my favorites.

Below is an overview of the 5 Sundays in January.

January 2 nd –	Ephesians 1:1–14	“It’s a God Thing”
January 9 th –	Ephesians 1:15–23	“And Then There’s Jesus”
January 16 th –	Ephesians 2:1–10	“Tear Down That Wall”
January 23 rd –	Ephesians 2:11–22	“Insiders/Outsiders”
January 30 th –	Ephesians 3:1–13	“I’ve Got a Secret...”

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YUTS – Save the Date

Winter Youth Retreat @ Camp Bethel

February 18th, 19th, & 20th!

Cost: \$85/person – Scholarships Available

More Details Coming!

Join other friends from the summer, for a time of fun, food, and Jesus!

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