

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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Church Staff

Rev. Mark Rambo, Senior Pastor
Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor
Jonathan Spatola-Knoll, Organist
Darrell Born, Choir Director
Lela DePaolo, Secretary
Gary Rogers, Caretaker

Non-Profit
Organization
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Olympia WA
Permit No. 198

Return Service Requested

March 2021 Preaching Schedule First Baptist Church

March 7th:

Rev. Mark Rambo
March 7th-3rd Sunday of Lent
A Perfect 10!
Exodus 20:1-17

March 14th:

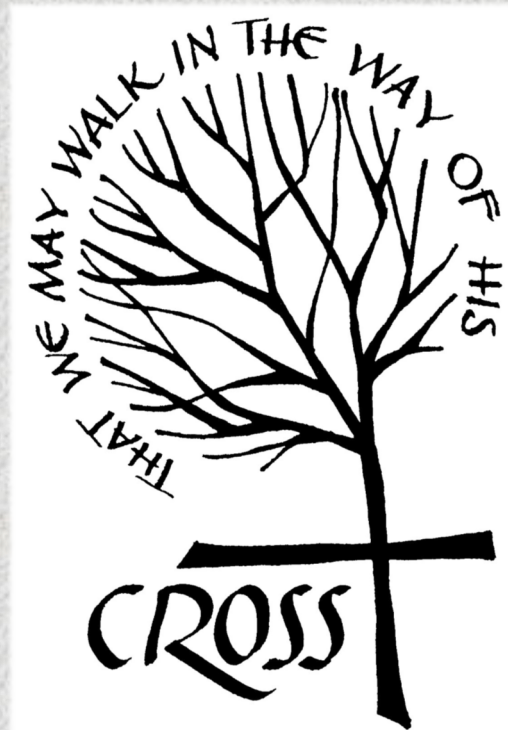
Rev. Mark Rambo
March 14th-4th Sunday of Lent
Prescription Meds
John 3:14-21

March 21st:

Rev. Mark Rambo
March 21st-5th Sunday of Lent
It's Not Going to be Pretty
John 12:20-33

March 28th:

Rev. Mark Rambo
March 28th - 6th Sunday
of Lent (Palm Sunday)
Church Day Parade



MARCH 2021

WINDOWS

First Baptist Church Olympia

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YOUTH MINISTRY

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BOARD
WENDY WILSON

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MODERATOR
REPORT
JEAN HEIDAL

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION
SANDY GREBBS



The Thin Place Where the Sacred & Ordinary Collide!

By the time you receive this issue of the Windows, we will have been two-weeks into the season of Lent. We started our Lenten journey with worship on Ash Wednesday. We have encouraged people to dedicate themselves to hearing Jesus' call to Repent – Turn Around, and receive the Good News! We are defining good news as – You are made in God's image; You are Enough; You are Loved! In our repentance, our turning around, we have talked

about being open to turning toward God in some manner and/or turning away from those things that take our focus off of our relationship with God. In March, we will also be incorporating the Reality Check Prayer into our worship services as part of our Lenten observations and prayer life.

We need a Reality Check...show us the way, God!

Help us to listen to you and others!

Where do you want us to go?

What do you want us to do?

Whose stories do we need to listen to?

Who do you want us to engage and become allies with?

Create in us a clean heart!

Lord, have mercy!

Hear our prayer!

The month of March marks the One-Year Anniversary of our being separated from in-person worship due to Covid-19. A whole year of virtual trial and error that has tested our capabilities and understandings of what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ. It has been challenging but you all have made it work. Church leadership committed themselves to being open to doing things differently as we held

Continued page 2...

our plans lightly. You, the congregation, stepped up and committed yourselves to check-in on one another, pray for one another, and find ways to stay connected and supportive. We have improved our technological capabilities that we will continue to use even after we are back to in-person gatherings again. We have discovered that being the church and how we do church can be innovative & flexible yet familiar, comforting, while still being true to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have targeted **Sunday, March 21st, as our Re-Opening of In-Person Worship**, on a limited basis. Following the recommended guidelines in place, we will be limited to 50-55 worshipers, not counting staff, who will be masked and socially-distanced within the sanctuary. Details about Re-opening Guidelines are also in this edition of the Windows.

If you have any questions, please call/contact/text/email, Pastor Mark.

I am proud to be your Pastor. I am humbled by your patience, care and encouragement this past year. Despite the challenges we have faced, we continue to strive to be a spiritual home where people can experience **Hope, Community, and Good News!** My favorite gospel story is **Mark 2:1–12**. In many ways it is my “life-story.” It reflects what I think we all want and need – hope – community (of friends) – good news – the healing touch of body, mind and spirit by the Holy One. So, if you still haven’t figured out what to do this season of Lent, read it. Read it once a day. Read it once a week. Or just read it, and see if God’s Spirit speaks to you.

Blessings and Joy!

Pastor Mark
(Rev)

The Chronological Bible in One Year:

We started a 1-year Chronological study of the Bible in January. Every week you are given reading assignments, maybe some interesting tidbits. But this is more than just reading by yourself. There is a Facebook page set up where you are able to not only find the reading assignments, but there are discussions and sharing insights you may have discovered. Look for more details in Thoughts and Things or the Church website and come join us in as we go on a chronological tour of the Bible.

An update...

Heart and Thoughts, the One-year Chronological Bible Study has been going on for 2 months but it’s never too late to jump in and join us on the Facebook Group page “Heart and Thoughts”. **Here is the list of readings for March:**



MARCH

- ☐ March 1
Numbers 6:1-27
Numbers 10:1-36
- ☐ March 2
Numbers 11:1-13:33
- ☐ March 3
Numbers 14:1-15:41
- ☐ March 4
Numbers 16:1-18:32
- ☐ March 5
Numbers 19:1-21:35
- ☐ March 6
Numbers 22:1-24:25
- ☐ March 7
Numbers 25:1-26:65
- ☐ March 8
Numbers 27:1-29:40
- ☐ March 9
Numbers 30:1-31:54
- ☐ March 10
Numbers 32:1-33:56

- ☐ March 11
Numbers 34:1-36:13
- ☐ March 12
Deuteronomy 1:1-3:20
- ☐ March 13
Deuteronomy 3:21-5:33
- ☐ March 14
Deuteronomy 6:1-9:29
- ☐ March 15
Deuteronomy 10:1-12:32
- ☐ March 16
Deuteronomy 13:1-16:17
- ☐ March 17
Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9
- ☐ March 18
Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19
- ☐ March 19
Deuteronomy 26:1-29:1
- ☐ March 20
Deuteronomy 29:2-31:29
- ☐ March 21
Deuteronomy 31:30-32:52
Psalm 90

- ☐ March 22
Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12
Joshua 1:1-2:24
- ☐ March 23
Joshua 3:1-6:27
- ☐ March 24
Joshua 7:1
1 Chronicles 2:7
Joshua 7:2-9:27
- ☐ March 25
Joshua 10:1-12:6
- ☐ March 26
Joshua 12:7-15:19
- ☐ March 27
Joshua 15:20-17:18
- ☐ March 28
Joshua 18:1-19:48
- ☐ March 29
Joshua 19:49-21:45
1 Chronicles 6:54-81
- ☐ March 30
Joshua 22:1-24:33
- ☐ March 31
Judges 1:1-3:30

Moderator Moments Jean Heidal

This is a short message this month, but it is full of, appreciation and love for the council and the way we have been able to come together in this new year!

The year is already full with lots of work to do: every committee and board is gearing up for their responsibilities. You may be called in to help in some way -- if that is not physically possible, please pray for those who will be doing the "heavy lifting" Trustees are looking at painting of the building exterior, inside maintenance, and rewriting the By-laws and staff job descriptions Christian Education has new ideas for spiritual growth opportunities during the year (working around the pandemic). The Deacons will continue to reach out to their "deacon groups" and offer help as needed The Mission board will continue to support our 4 main American Baptist offerings for the year and seek to provide mission opportunities the congregation can participate in. The committees also have their work cut out for them and will continue to meet doing the work of the church not always seen.

I would be amiss if I did not say "thank you" to the congregation for the financial support of the past year! We ended the year on such a positive note -- it was truly amazing. The missions and ministries go in so please continue your support as you are able.

Again, with gratitude and love, thank you for being part of the First Baptist family!



Lent is looking forward. In the midst of all of this, as we look forward to spring, Lent begins. It begins with the ashes of Ash Wednesday and ends with the joy and promise of Easter. Lent has been described as "a long table grace at the beginning of the agricultural year, a thanksgiving, not for what we

have in hand, but what is promised for the future.

Lent is a rehearsal! But Lent is not just a time of looking forward; it is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These are disciplines that are not just for Lent. These are practices that help make us who we are, disciples.

Lent is like a retreat. Lent is a time of reflection and self-examination. The rest of the year we are directed out to the world, but at Lent we are directed inward. During these forty days, we as the church and we as individuals, must face our own unhealthy ways. *Quarantine* is an old word for Lent - 40 days for imposed recuperation.

Lent Reminders



Look for sign-ups in Thoughts and Things as well as on the church website if you are interested in being part of a Book Club that will be reading and discussing

Bryan Stevenson's:

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption.

We will start the book clubs on the third or fourth weeks of March. Look for exact start dates in Pastor Mark's Thoughts and Things and/or the church website:

www.fbcolympia.org

We are also looking at the possibility of having a day prayer retreat at Camp Bethel, perhaps in April. We realize that Lent will be over on April 4th, but it might be a good exercise to spend some time, sharing different learnings and experiences we had during Lent. Conversation and prayer go hand-in-hand.

It is also not too late join others who are participating in the Lenten Photo-a-Day Challenge. A thumbnail picture of the words is here in the Windows as well as on the church website. Just find a picture that you think reflects the word of the day and then post it on the:

Oly First Baptist (Community) – Facebook Group Page

You don't need to explain your choice. A picture is worth a 1000 words!

Re-Opening Guidelines

Hallelujah! Olympia First Baptist Church will re-open the doors for Worship on **Sunday, March 21st**, at 10:00 a.m. For the time being, until and only when we are at Phase 4, as a County, there will be no Sunday School, no mingling in the Narthex and no coffee/fellowship time after the service. We look forward to resuming these other activities in the future. We will follow all guidelines set forth from the CDC and the Governor's office.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Matthew 25: 44-45

Here's what you can expect:

We will be limited, according the current guidelines to **50 worshippers**, plus support staff. You will need to call/email the church office by Thursday of the week you want to attend to **reserve a spot in the sanctuary for worship**. There will be a "weekly list" and a permanent list," so if you plan to attend every week, ask to be on the "permanent" list and you will not have to call each week. If you cannot attend after making a reservation, please let us know ASAP, so someone else can take your place. This is not ideal, but it is the best way for us, currently.

You will be limited to 2 Entry points when entering the church building:

Back Ramp Door, off of Washington St.

Downstairs, Alcove door, that leads to the Lift and back stairwell.

At each door there will be a designated greeter who will ask 3 questions and offer hand sanitizer and make sure you are wearing a mask. A mask will be provided for you if you don't have one.

If ANY of these questions, below, apply to you, please stay home for your protection and the protection of others:

Do you have or have you had any cold or flu-like symptoms in the last 14 days (to include fever, cough, sore throat, respiratory illness, difficulty breathing, loss of smell or taste)?

Have you recently traveled (within the last 14 days) from an area with community transmission of COVID-19?

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Have you had close contact with or cared for someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?

NO one will be allowed to enter the building who answers positive to ANY of these questions.

To ensure everyone's safety we have set the following guidelines and/or practices:

*As you enter the building, please maintain 6 ft. physical distancing by observing any of the tape markings on the floor(s).

*A protective face mask must be worn at all times. The Pastor and special music people will be allowed to remove face covering only while on the chancel/stage.

*You will move directly to the sanctuary to sit in the pews clearly marked. Family/household units may sit together without maintaining physical distance. All others will be required to maintain 6-foot physical distancing, as directed by the Ushers.

—NO hugging, shaking hands or other direct forms of physical contact.—

*Bathrooms will be open but no more than 2 people at a time. Individuals waiting to use the restroom must maintain at least 6 feet of distance between each person outside of the bathroom door.

*The Nursery will be closed. The Crib Room will be opened, but without an attendant. It is available for parent(s) who need to use the changing table, access the space to calm/rock their child and/or any other reason. Bleach wipes, hand sanitizer will be available with the expectation that those who use the room, will wipe down what they touched/used when they are done.

*Open, offering boxes will be located in the back of the church, near doorways. Offering plates will not be passed around during the service.

*After the completion of the service, the pews will be dismissed by rows and congregants will exit the building while maintaining physical distancing.

The Church will have been professionally sanitized, most items not nailed down will have been removed from the sanctuary, such as Bibles, hymnals, pencils and there will be no bulletins passed out. HOWEVER, you are encouraged to bring your own bible and a copy of the order of service, which you can print off beforehand.

This may not be the way we want to have Worship, but it is the only way we can have our Worship service right now.

For those who are not comfortable being here in person, we will continue broadcasting and streaming live on Facebook Live as well as posting services on the church website.

Welcome back!

Pastor Mark Rambo and the Executive Council