WINDOWS

APRIL 2021

First Baptist Church Olympia

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The Thin Place
Where the Sacred & Ordinary Collide!

We start Holy Week with a good old-fashion parade that celebrates the good news and hope that Jesus, the Messiah, brings into this world. This is the high-water mark of a long-anticipated journey that is near completion. The gospel writers are asking each of us to tap into our own experiences of joy and celebration...things like the birth of a child, exchanging vows, experiencing a "wonder-of-the-world" nature encounter, etc.

Yet, our lives are not just about boundless happiness; it includes pain, suffering and grief. Our story of triumph quickly pivots to shock, bewilderment, anger, suffering and loss.

This is what we encounter within God's story this first week of April, Holy Week! It would be easy to skip over the tough stuff and get to the celebration of an empty tomb. But that would be creating a false narrative; a story that does not reflect the reality of our lives and the challenges we face each and every day. Remember, you and I believe in an ***authentic*** God! A living, personal Being who asks us to be real and authentic as well. And isn't that what the world around us is looking for as well? Actions that match the words used and spoken? Empathy, compassion and mercy instead of bias, judgment, and hate?

Holy Monday begins with these words from the Psalmist:

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
Your faithfulness to the clouds...

By the time we get to Holy Saturday, there are no words. There is just silence.

For what can we say, Jesus of Nazareth is dead!

May you meet God, in the silence...always!
Know that you are not alone!
That you are made in God's Image.
That you are enough!
That you are loved!
Let each of us believe in the silence...
Good News is coming...
Joining you in the silence!
Pastor Mark
(Rev)

In-Person Worship Update

A quick reminder that we are back offering In-Person Worship services. We will continue to livestream worship through Facebook but as more and more people are vaccinated and we follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the State, we will be able to accommodate, for now, 55 people, not counting staff, tech team, and Lay Readers.

You will need to, however, make a reservation to reserve a space. We have two lists, one for folks who want to secure a permanent seat and those who are more comfortable going week by week. Regardless, you will need to check-in with Lela in the Church Office,

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. –1:00 p.m.

Let us know if you have any questions and/or concerns!

Mini-Day Retreat – Camp Bethel

Saturday, April 24th, 2021
9:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

We are excited to announce that we have a green light to have a Day Retreat out at Camp Bethel, on Saturday, April 24th! The purpose is to have some reflection, conversation and prayer over our learnings, insights, discoveries, reflections, etc., during this just completed season of Lent. It is also a good excuse to get out of the house as more and more of us receive the Covid -19 vaccines and restrictions are being revised and relaxed! Additionally, the youth and their families will be joining us, for part of the time and then have a time of their own to explore future plans, check in with one another and explore faith questions.

Cost for the Day is $20, which will cover the cost of lunch and dinner.

We do need to have you make a reservation so we have an accurate head count for meals.
You may register by emailing Pastor Mark Rambo at:

markrambo44@gmail.com

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Mark right away.
Registration deadline is 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 19th!

Stewardship Update

Though we do not have the final numbers in, quite yet, for the first quarter of 2021, we are running about a -10% between income (tithes and offerings) and our expenses. That leaves us with a deficit around $2200. Not great, but not horrible, either. We are still in the midst of a pandemic. Some people's employment is tenuous. Wisdom says to be cautious when it comes to finances and savings. We get that and feel blessed that everyone from Trustees, church leadership and church staff are aware and are monitoring our spending and giving.

This is a gentle reminder that giving isn't about how much. It is a reflection, an acknowledgment of God's presence and blessings in your life. The importance is in giving consistently, joyfully and from a spirit of abundance instead of scarcity because of God's goodness and faithfulness!

Blessings!... Next month's Windows will have a more detail breakdown of what our First Quarter looked like and ended.

Pastor Mark

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, calls & cards.
Very appreciated, Wayne Hallmeyer

Mission Board — Wendy Wilson, Chair

Hello! Happy Spring and Blessings to you all. I just wanted to let you all know how grateful I am for each one of YOU! I am pleased to announce that so far, the America for Christ Offering total for just our Lil Ol FBC of Olympia is at **$1,050.00.** And there are still 2 weeks to go! It warms my heart to knowing that these contributions will be providing needed support to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico. Your contributions share God's love by:

- Cultivating Leaders — Strong leaders advance the mission of faith communities.
- Equipping Disciples — Broadening the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Healing Communities — We believe the power of Christian love can—and will—change the world.
From my Heart to Yours! Thank You for your continued support of Missions and Ministries, we could-n't do it without YOU!

God Bless!
~Wendy

Board of Deacons — Pat De Neui, Chair

Happy Spring!!!...

Hop, skip and jump into every day of your life as you are loved, appreciated and blessed!
We have begun opening our Sunday Worship Services in person and when you're ready we look forward to seeing you!
Meanwhile, the Deacons are continuing their interactions with one another and enjoying those special moments!

FYI... Yoga
Our own Wendy Wilson certified group fitness instructor/ Mission Board Chair, is offering a free session at church! If you're at all interested or just curious, please join us on Thursday night, April 8th at 6:00 pm. Meet in the Fireside room. Space is limited so don't miss out on this freebie. Sign up by calling or texting me. I have been taking her class these last two months and it is awesome!!!
I feel so good afterwards...

Blessings and Shalom,
Pat De Neui, Deacon Chair
(360) 701-9448

Re-Opening Guidelines

Hallelujah! Olympia First Baptist Church has re-opened the doors for Worship since **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?

Continued on page 7

Discipleship Options

Below are your options and choices for this month and into May for opportunities to grow in your faith:

Chronological Bible Reading – Join others who are reading the Bible, every day, chronologically. You can find those daily readings here in this edition of the Windows.

Youth Ministry Event – Our next youth gathering for young people in Middle School/Jr. High and High School will be Saturday, April 24th at Camp Bethel, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Look for an email/text with more details. Questions, contact:

Pastor Mark, Jodi Honeysett, and/or Gary Baits

Thursday Morning Bible Study – Is on a three-week hiatus and will return on Thursday, April 22nd, at 10 a.m. on Facebook Live, via the Oly First Baptist (Community) – Facebook Group Page

[As well as on Zoom.]

We will continue the story of the Hebrews' desert wanderings with the book of Deuteronomy

Sunday morning study on Galatians – Taught by Dan Bezanson on Zoom – Contact Dan for a link invitation

Book Club II – Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson –

Groups start the week of April 6th.

Emmaus House meets on Saturdays, at 6:00 p.m. Contact the Rev. Mylinda Baits to be put on the Zoom invite link. We will also be meeting in person in April as well, masked and socially distanced, April 10th and 17th.

Holy Week Organ Presentation: Virtual Concert Video

A Note from Will Stuivenga:

The Olympia Chapter of the AGO (American Guild of Organists) usually offers daily lunchtime organ recitals during Holy Week, (the week leading up to Easter). This year, due to the pandemic, we decided to condense our efforts into one virtual concert video. We hope to resume in-person recitals next year, but this year we'd like to present the following video, with a rare chance to see a number of local Olympia area (and beyond) organs, and a number of local organists. Please enjoy! and do pass on the following link to anyone who may be interested: https://youtu.be/WiuKG6suACw.

The artists include three previous organists at Olympia First

Baptist Church, including Nick Carlson, Jordan Nylander, and Will Stuivenga!

Thank you for your consideration,
Regards,
Will Stuivenga on behalf of the Olympia Chapter, AGO

Moderator Report **Jean Heidal**

We're Celebrating... FBC's 150th Anniversary!

As many of you know, this is the 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church. We are going to celebrate late in the year when hopefully, we can have full church participation.

I have asked several people to serve on the planning committee and plans will be forthcoming. If you have ideas for the celebration that you would like to share please contact me. We will have met by the time you receive Windows, but we are open to ideas and suggestions.

One of the ideas I had was to have members/friends of the church share some their experiences or history with the church, whether they are short time members or have been here for decades.

That got me to thinking about my childhood at First Baptist. My mother, brother and I started attending when I was 5 years old. That's 69 years ago, if you're counting. The Sunday school room was in the basement of Emmaus House, except it was the "Fellowship House" at that time and sat at the corner of 9th and Washington Streets. The upper floors were used for junior and senior high classes. Over the years, my Sunday school classes were in a variety of rooms. The old fellowship hall, with large black board dividers; in what is now the historical room, and the area that is now the Nancy Room all served as classrooms. It was crowded with lots of kids as we were.a huge class, along with those classes on each side of us.

In 1960 the church planned an addition, what is now the education building. To do this it meant that the kids lost the grassy lawn area behind Fellowship House and the parsonage (which sat about where the Fireside Room is now). As we saw the plans, the youth really wanted the new Fellowship Hall to be a gymnasium. Before youth group on Sundays, we would play a form of basketball in the hall, dodging stacks of lumber and sawdust on the floor.

I have tons of memories of Sunday school teachers who worked week after week with our sometimes rowdy classes. As I reflect on those years and my classmates I know that for many the Sunday lessons were learned, and although my classmates may not be at FBC, many of them are serving in congregations in their local communities. That's our heritage, the seeds were planted here, but another church is reaping the harvest.

God bless those faithful teachers!

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

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — Chair, Sandy Grebbs

The Chronological Bible in One Year:

***Heart and Thoughts**, join us for the One-year Chronological Bible Study on the Facebook Group page "Heart and Thoughts".*
Here is the list of readings for April:

2nd Peter 3:18 ESV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

APRIL

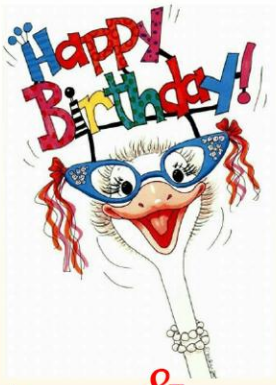
- ☐ **April 1**
  Judges 3:31–6:40
- ☐ **April 2**
  Judges 7:1–9:21
- ☐ **April 3**
  Judges 9:22–11:28
- ☐ **April 4**
  Judges 11:29–15:20
- ☐ **April 5**
  Judges 16:1–18:31
- ☐ **April 6**
  Judges 19:1–21:25
- ☐ **April 7**
  Ruth 1:1–4:12
- ☐ **April 8**
  Ruth 4:13-22
  1 Chronicles 2:9-55
  1 Chronicles 4:1-23
  1 Samuel 1:1-8
- ☐ **April 9**
  1 Samuel 1:9–4:11
- ☐ **April 10**
  1 Samuel 4:12–8:22
- ☐ **April 11**
  1 Samuel 9:1–12:25
- ☐ **April 12**
  1 Chronicles 9:35-39
  1 Samuel 13:1-5, 19-23, 6-18
  1 Samuel 14:1-52
- ☐ **April 13**
  1 Samuel 15:1–17:31
- ☐ **April 14**
  1 Samuel 17:32–19:17
  Psalm 59
  1 Samuel 19:18-24
- ☐ **April 15**
  1 Samuel 20:1–21:15
  Psalm 34
- ☐ **April 16**
  1 Samuel 22:1-2
  Psalm 57
  Psalm 142
  1 Chronicles 12:8-18
  1 Samuel 22:3-23
  Psalm 52
  1 Samuel 23:1-12
- ☐ **April 17**
  1 Samuel 23:13-29
  Psalm 54
  1 Samuel 24:1–25:44
- ☐ **April 18**
  1 Samuel 26:1–27:7
  1 Chronicles 12:1-7
  1 Samuel 27:8–29:11
  1 Chronicles 12:19
  Psalm 56
- ☐ **April 19**
  1 Samuel 30:1-31
  1 Chronicles 12:20-22
  1 Samuel 31:1-13
  1 Chronicles 10:1-14
  1 Chronicles 9:40-44
  2 Samuel 4:4
  2 Samuel 1:1-27
- ☐ **April 20**
  2 Samuel 2:1–3:5
  1 Chronicles 3:1-4a
  2 Samuel 23:8-17
  1 Chronicles 11:10-19
  2 Samuel 23:18-39
  1 Chronicles 11:20-47
- ☐ **April 21**
  2 Samuel 3:6–4:12
- ☐ **April 22**
  2 Samuel 5:1-3
  1 Chronicles 11:1-3
  1 Chronicles 12:23-40
  2 Samuel 5:17-25
  1 Chronicles 14:8-17
  2 Samuel 5:6-10
  1 Chronicles 11:4-9
  1 Chronicles 3:4b
  2 Samuel 5:13, 4-5, 11-12
  1 Chronicles 14:1-2
  1 Chronicles 13:1-5
  2 Samuel 6:1-11
  1 Chronicles 13:6-14
- ☐ **April 23**
  2 Samuel 6:12a
  1 Chronicles 15:1-28
  2 Samuel 6:12b-16
  1 Chronicles 15:29
  2 Samuel 6:17-19a
  1 Chronicles 16:1-43
  2 Samuel 6:19b-23
- ☐ **April 24**
  2 Samuel 7:1-17
  1 Chronicles 17:1-15
  2 Samuel 7:18-29
  1 Chronicles 17:16-27
  2 Samuel 8:1-14
  1 Chronicles 18:1-13
  Psalm 60
- ☐ **April 25**
  2 Samuel 8:15-18
  1 Chronicles 18:14-17
  1 Chronicles 6:16-30, 50-53, 31-48
  2 Samuel 9:1–10:19
  1 Chronicles 19:1-19
- ☐ **April 26**
  1 Chronicles 20:1
  2 Samuel 11:1–12:14
  Psalm 51
  2 Samuel 12:15-25
  2 Samuel 5:14-16
  1 Chronicles 14:3-7
  1 Chronicles 3:5-9
- ☐ **April 27**
  2 Samuel 12:26-31
  1 Chronicles 20:2-3
  2 Samuel 13:1–14:33
- ☐ **April 28**
  2 Samuel 15:1–17:14
- ☐ **April 29**
  2 Samuel 17:15-29
  Psalm 3
  Psalm 63
  2 Samuel 18:1–19:30
- ☐ **April 30**
  2 Samuel 19:31–20:26
  Psalm 7
  2 Samuel 21:1-22
  1 Chronicles 20:4-8

SOFTBALL IS COMING! — Gary Baits

After not being able to play at all last year, there is hope that church softball will happen this summer (June-August), and we will once again be the scrappiest, most lovable team in the league. Contact Gary Baits if you're interested. (360) 775 -5810. If you want to restructure your contract, you may need to consider a trade. Practices should start in May. No information yet on night of play.

Go Ragamuffins!

FBC of Olympia News & Events



April Birthdays

Julie Comstock	11
Kathleen Rambo	14
Lane Clausen	15
Judy Hildebrandt	23
Ricky Bowman	26
Patrick Chavez	26

Rex & Julie Comstock celebrated their **69th** Anniversary on March 28th .

A special thank you to the church family. We are using our gift certificate to celebrate our 69th wedding anniversary .

Roy & Freda Spaulding will celebrate their **56th** Anniversary on April 11th .

LET GOD PREVAIL

RDP 2020

No true advice could be more seminal
Than letting God prevail in all my ways,
With practice use this saving principle,
Direct my path with wisdom
He purveys.
I grope but know my bedimmed sight
Corrects and clarifies if God prevails
And I succumb to the greater light
To see where my miopic vision fails.
Let God become a partner in my soul
That I can find that unity with Him,
To be much more with His divine control
And fill my yearning heart with joy to brim.
Grant me the patience to learn to be still;
Let God become the master of my will.

Roger D. Prengel, Olympia High School Teacher
of Kay von Gohren

international ministries

February 26, 2021

Pastor Mark Rambo
First Baptist Church
PO Box 533
Olympia, WA 98507-0533

Dear Pastor Mark Rambo,

Your Congregation is a leader in generous support for overseas mission! It is my pleasure to recognize you for your generosity in 2020, which qualifies you for inclusion in the Luther Rice Society (LRS). You are among the top ten percent of congregations, foundations, and organizations giving to International Ministries for the year.

Luther Rice is celebrated as a dedicated colleague and humble servant who raised financial support for Ann and Adoniram Judson and other missionaries to serve overseas and to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Inspired by Rice's passion, Baptists in America formed their first unified missionary sending effort in the U.S., the "Triennial Convention" in Philadelphia on May 21, 1814 — the date IM celebrates as our founding anniversary.

The Luther Rice Society is composed of a small circle of our strongest supporters and individual donors who give at a level of $5,000 or more in a year, exhibiting a passion for mission which we believe reflects the dedication of Luther Rice.

Enclosed you will find a certificate of appreciation in recognition of this exceptional generosity. We hope you will display it and inspire others to do the same.

Thank you from our global servants and international partners for making global mission possible. And thank you for sharing the gospel and for serving the needs around the world in practical ways. Your selfless and sacrificial giving this past year is tremendously encouraging to us all.

Welcome to the Luther Rice Society and your continuing support at the Luther Rice Society level!

Gratefully,

Sharon Koh

Sharon Koh
Executive Director / CEO

2020 LUTHER RICE
SOCIETY

Certificate
OF APPRECIATION

PRESENTED TO

Olympia First Baptist Church

With deepest gratitude for your faithful generosity, we recognize your leadership in support of global mission. You have equipped IM to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to respond to those in need with God's love. This work would not be possible without your partnership.

Sharon Koh

Sharon Koh, Executive Director / CEO

international ministries

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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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, Organist
Darrell Born, Choir Director
Lela DePaolo, Secretary
Gary Rogers, Caretaker

April 2021 Preaching Schedule First Baptist Church

April 1st – Maundy Thursday
Rev. Mark Rambo
April Fools
John 13:1—17, 31b—35

April 4th – Easter
Rev. Mark Rambo
Cantata – Darrell Born
Homily – Road Trip?
Mark 16:1—8

April 11th – Easter 2
Rev. Mark Rambo
Getting Your Hands Dirty
John 20:19—31

April 18th – Easter 3
Rev. Mark Rambo
Jesus and the Walking Dead
Luke 24:36b—48

April 25th – Easter 4
Rev. Mark Rambo
A Second-Hand Emotion?
I John 3:16—24