

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
John Fesenbek, Campus Maintenance

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APRIL

WINDOWS

2024

*Olympia
First
Baptist
Church*

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The Thin Place:
Where the Sacred and the Ordinary Collide

*"But go, tell his disciples, and Peter that he is going ahead of you
to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."*

Mark 16:7
New Revised Standard Version

Resurrection: what does it mean for us,
individually and as a community?

On Easter morning, we lifted our voices in unity and proclaimed:

He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

Now what? What do we do with this new life, this resurrection? The verse above, is said to the women who had gone to the tomb where Jesus' broken body was laid to rest, in order to prepare it, care for it, according to the customs of the day. Instead, they find an empty tomb and a lone individual (messenger?) who has a message: Go and tell the others that Jesus has gone ahead to Galilee, where it all started from.

Resurrection living, clue #1, is that the Resurrected One goes out ahead of us. The Universal Christ is not holed up in some room or building, off-the-grid.

Jesus Christ has not taken up residence within the Sanctuary. No, the Christ is out and about in our world; in familiar places and spaces as well as in surprising and unexpectant areas. We will discover that the Risen One can be found amongst people who are "true believers," as well as among those who have no idea what resurrection means for them, personally. Jesus Christ goes out ahead of us, wherever we go, whatever our plan is, whatever direction we feel and/or have discerned. Christ is out and about, in plain sight and in the most unlikely of venues. That means, for each of us, individually, where do we see Christ in the rhythms and practices of our daily living? At work? Within our families? In our relationships with neighbors, friends, shared interest groups? Where do you see, meet, interact, with the Risen One?

Resurrection is not just about you. It is not private. It's not something that you can keep on a shelf or hide (under a bushel, NO!). Resurrection is for everyone, for us; for all of creation. Anything, everything, that dies, can experience resurrection. You can't have resurrection without death.

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April 2024 • Sermons and Scriptures • Olympia First Baptist Church

April 7th – Rev. Mark Rambo
"Seeing is Believing?"
John 20:19–31

REJOICE
in hope

April 14th – Guest, Rev. Joan Friesen

BE PATIENT
in tribulation

April 21st – Rev. Mark Rambo
"It's Still About Love"
I John 3:16–24

BE CONSTANT
in prayer.

April 28th – Rev. Mark Rambo
"No, Really – Love is the Bottom Line"
I John 4:7–21

Thin Place continued...

For something new to emerge, something has to die. It's that circle of life thing. So, you and I, the community of "we" are also asked to go join Christ wherever we can.

We have been talking, pondering, dreaming about the how, why and what when it comes to "community engagement." The good news is that while we are in a time of discernment and conversation, opportunities to interact with the wider community and neighborhood are ever present. Below are just a few examples of our community engagement so far.

***Stations of the Cross Banners** – An idea that originated with John Paget and then executed by Rev. Mylinda Baits, the Window banners along the Fellowship Hall and the Fireside Room, tell the story of Jesus' last experiences toward the cross. Neighbors, strangers, and the different people who walk past our church each and every day, had the opportunity to interact with these posters as a way of seeing themselves within those type of experiences they share with Christ.

***Table Grace** – This ministry has been around for 30 plus years now. We continue to feed, in both body and spirit, to those on the margins. Those who are house-less; those struggling with addiction and/or mental illness; those who just need a little something to help stretch their monthly budget a bit. Every Sunday, we feed, we connect, we make Christ known through our hospitality, our care and love.

***World Relief** – our partnership with this ministry that focuses on Refugee Resettlement is almost a year old. We have hosted four families, and one individual since August of 2023. We have been blessed by the ongoing relationship we have with the Lopez family and their participation within the life of our congregation.

***Ministry, Cross-Denominational Cooperation** – This is a group of mostly Mainline Protestant congregations within the Olympia city limits, who are exploring ways they can share in ministries, cooperatively. Pastor Mark has been invited to be a part of the conversation and in fact, Olympia First will host their next gathering on April 11th.

***Evergreen Church Cohorts** – Change/Grow/Create and Community Engagement

As a church community, we are a part of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches. One of the things that came out of its annual Leadership Retreat this past February was the formation of Leadership Cohorts. These cohorts will meet for six months, fostering deeper conversation and empowering ministries.

The first meetings are happening in April.

Continued...

APRIL 2024		SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 8:30 am Sunday School, 10am Worship, Child Care & Nursery, 3:30pm Table										
Window's Deadline April 18th	1	5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	2	11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm Deacons Meeting Library 7-9:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	3		4	Bible Study 9:30 am Room 102	5	9:30-11:00 am TOPS Room 102	6	
7 8:30 am Sunday School Rm. 102 10:00 am Communion Sunday	8	5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	9	11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 5:30-8:30 pm Woodturners Fellowship Hall	10	12:00 Noon ABW Meeting Fireside Room 7:00pm Choir Practice	11	Bible Study 9:30 am Room 102	12	9:30-11:00 am TOPS Room 102	13	
14 8:30 am Sunday School Rm. 102 10:00 am Worship Service	15	2:00 pm Mission Board Fireside Room 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	16	11:00 am - 1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg Rm. 102 7-9:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	17	7:00pm Choir Practice Choir Room	18	Bible Study 9:30 am Room 102	19	9:30-11:00 am TOPS Room 102 ABW SALE 5:30-7:30pm Church Family Presale	20	Baptist Bazaar! 9:00 - 3:00 am ABW SALE Fellowship Hall
21 8:30 am Sunday School Rm. 102 10:00 am Worship Service	22	5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	23	11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall 7-9:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	24	7:00pm Choir Practice Choir Room 6:30 pm Executive Council Rm. 102	25	Bible Study 9:30 am Room 102	26	9:30-11:00 am TOPS Room 102	27	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Fireside Room 11:00 am Widow's Group Fireside Room
28 8:30 am Sunday School Rm. 102 10:00 am Worship Service	29	5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	30	5:30 pm Deacon Meeting Library								

Thank you for your generous giving in March to **America For Christ.**

The total giving was **\$1,580.00!**

There is so much need and we are giving to be a part of the solution.

Blessings to everyone during this special time of Easter and remembering what it means. Enjoy your family time and let's remember each other. We are a unique church family. Praise God for every one of you! Happy Easter!



All are welcome!

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The ladies are gathering together for lunch every

3rd Friday of the month

at River's Edge in Tumwater.

You are invited to come and enjoy this time of:

Great conversation, fun fellowship, & yummy food!

The get-together starts at 1:00 o'clock!

April Birthdays



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

Olympia First is participating in 2 of the 5 cohorts:

"Community Engagement"

Creating people-led (not just pastor led) programs to help churches partner and collaborate with the services and programs in the physical communities around them.

"Change/Grow/Create"

A safe space to explore growing and/or transforming our churches. We want to address concerns regarding less engagement from church goers, adjust expectation for more transitional membership, avoid volunteer burnout, and more.

I hope you can see that God is on the move. That resurrection is not confined to a set pattern of beliefs, actions, etc. Resurrection is about new life. Taking something that needs to be changed, repurposed, made new, etc., over and over and over again. It's about finding and meeting Jesus Christ out in our world. It's about loving people because they are made in the image of God and that gives them inherit value and worth. That means you too!

Blessings and Joy!

Pastor Mark (Rev)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:10 ESV

I am happy and proud to be back on the Deacon Board. It is encouraging to be part of such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of people. We are all here to support you in your personal life as well as your concerns as a Christian.

I would like to entice you to join me in the idea that "The Bible is chock-full of metaphors", according to Rev. Sam. Three ideas that stand out in my mind are 1) "I am the bread of life", John 6:35; 2) "I am the light of the world", John 8:12; and "I am the gate for the sheep", John 10:7.

I have always known that many of the stories in the Bible are metaphors, but I rarely allowed that fact to sink deeply in my brain. Metaphors require imagination to understand. Sam has encouraged his church school class to use our imagination! The idea has gotten my brain going full throttle to read the Bible with a lot more imagination!

As I look around me and see the wonderful imagination God has given us, His creation shows us what imagination is all about.

Have you ever seen something in nature that is outstanding, beautiful and unique. I know I have seen these things every day, but if you are like me, you are thankful for the experience but have not allowed your experience to play with it. Now, as I read the Bible, I am finding that I am more and more eager to be open to my imagination playfully deepening my experience of God.

If you would like to participate in this sort of experience, feel free to join us in Pastor Sam's class Sunday mornings at 8:30 in Room 102.

Bad News... Good News

A few weeks ago I was contacted by Janice Holcomb who said one of the hot water tanks in the retreat center at Camp Bethel was broken. It is a large tank and expensive to replace. The Camp was short on funds and Janice asked if the Oly women could help out to cover the cost. Jan Downen and I called the women who are regular attenders at our meetings and got an overwhelming "yes, let's help." Within a day a check for \$1300 was personally delivered to the camp. So, bad news the water tank broke, good news we could help! The donation is roughly half the cost of the new tank. Our fundraisers make it possible for us to do ministry -- sometimes in the name of hot water!:

On April 10 Art Mize will be back with us again for another session on grief. This time looking at the brain's reaction to loss of a loved one. Please come and gain new insights into how our brain functions with loss.



Saturday, June 22 -- 10 am

Joan Friesen will lead us in our time of meditation. Kathleen Rambo is our cook for the meal. Mark your calendar now -- more details to come.

All women are invited!

Offer a ride to someone who may need transportation!

You will find the flyer about our upcoming "Baptist Bazaar" on April 19 and 20. Friday night is just for our congregation, and Saturday will be open to the public. Share this news with your friends, family. We need lots of shoppers.

A good time was had by all at the recent Ladies' Day Out. Thank you to all who helped with the prep and serving and to the wonderful entertainers! It's not every group that can boast having "Elvis" at their event!