

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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First Baptist Church June 2019 Tentative Preaching Schedule

June 2nd

John 17:20-26
Becoming One
Pastor Dave Roberts

June 9th Pentecost

Romans 8:14-17
Living in the Spirit
Dave Roberts

June 16th

Romans 5:1-5
Now What?
Pastor Mark Rambo

June 23rd

Galatians 3:23-29
Identity, DNA and the Spirit
Pastor Mark Rambo

June 30th

Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Freedom
Pastor Dave Roberts



“That they all may be one, Father, just as you are
in me and I am in You.”

June
2019

WINDOWS

I will open up the windows of heaven
and pour out a blessing upon you.

First Baptist Church

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GRADUATE
RECOGNITION
BREAKFAST**

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MISSION
BOARD: MORE
THAN WE CAN
IMAGINE - ONE
GREAT HOUR
OF SHARING

Teacher Appreciation and Graduate Recognition Breakfast Sunday, June 9th, Pentecost Sunday, at 8:30 a.m.!

We hope you will join us for a time of food, fellowship
& celebration as we say thank you to those who give leadership
in the Teaching Ministry of the church!
Sign-up on the long table in the coffee-fellowship space
outside the sanctuary!

Camp Bethel - Summer Youth/Children's Camps

It's that time of year again to register your children and/or grandchildren,
nieces/nephews, etc., for the camping ministry opportunities at Camp Bethel.
The best way to register is by going online:

www.campbethel.net

If you need any help with the registration process, have any questions or need
information about scholarship help, contact Pastor Mark Rambo, asap!

Here's a breakdown of each of the camps being offered this year,
with the information we have so far:

Senior High Camp - July 14th - July 20th!

Cost: \$300. For high school age youth, grades 9 - 12!

Directors: Tim Clemenson & Heather Taylor

Speaker - Rev. Mark Rambo

Junior High Camp - July 21st - July 27th!

Cost: \$300. For Junior High age youth entering grades 6-8!

Directors: Emily Singleton & Katie Daroff

Speaker - TBD

Elementary Camp - July 28th - August 1st!

Cost: \$225. For children going into grades 3rd - 5th!

Director(s): Kristina Wetterauer

Campfire Storyteller - Rev. Mark Rambo

I have made it safely to Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia! I have felt your prayers as I walked through these first few weeks of transitioning to life here!

May 24th marks one month of living here in the big city! Can you believe it? It has gone by fast for me! J.D., Rhonda, and my housemates have helped me get oriented to the city. They have taught me where markets and grocery stores are and what buses to take. I feel like I'm getting more familiar with my area!

Some observations that I have made in regards to life here:

- It takes longer to do everything. One errand could take all day. It takes longer to prepare food, and to do your laundry.
- It's normally very hot and humid unless we get a "Sur" cold front from Antarctica!
- The traffic here looks like a chaotic dance. The nice painted lines for lanes are just suggestions. In traffic, buses, taxis, cars, and motorcycles make their own lanes. I've noticed this in other places I've lived and traveled, but I feel like here in the city of 3.2 million it seems to be a bit extreme.
- Buses don't have specific bus stops. If you see a bus and you want on, then you just wave them down. Pay the driver 2 Bolivianos (\$0.28) and try to find a seat or stand. Then, when you want the driver to stop you yell "Pare por favor"(Stop please). I really like this method because I don't have to remember locations of bus stops. I just have to remember what bus number goes where, which honestly, I only know about 2 or 3 out of 126.

So, what have I been doing this month? I've been setting down roots. I met with my immigration lawyer to begin the process my Residency Visa. I started building relationships with my three housemates and other missionaries. And I attended a couple meetings with pastors to introduce myself. Everyone has been wonderful so far!

I had the opportunity to go to Cochabamba in my first month for a House of Hope leader meeting. It was a great time of worship, I shared my story, and J.D. led a workshop on leadership development. I enjoyed my time with Carmen, the HOH director, her husband Richard, and their three girls. I participated in the monthly ministry Mobile Medical Clinic in one of our partner churches.

I attended a Bolivian Baptist Church. I have plans to get plugged in there and join a small group of young women. This will be great because it will keep me growing in my faith as well as practicing my Spanish and allow me to get to know some Bolivian women my age.

Some advice given to me before moving here was "Be a sponge!". I will continue to be a sponge by taking in all the cultural norms, ministry visions, language, etc. Thank you for constantly praying for me and giving generously so I can be salt and light in Bolivia and empower Bolivians to do likewise. I appreciate your ongoing prayers and support. Thank you for those who have reached out and emailed me. I love to stay connected with you all. My email is nashsj@gmail.com.

MISSIONS UPDATE FROM SARAH JEAN



Sarah Jean in front the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Cathedral.

what has been presented to us. Also, it would be helpful to the new pastor to know to which region we belong. It would be one less thing on his/her plate to deal with coming into a new congregation.

I am pleased that the sessions have been well received and for the most part questions are being answered regarding what the two regions have to offer. This is not an easy decision, but I hope that we can all continue to pray about what will be the best for First Baptist Church. Many have told me they are praying daily for the church and the decision to be made. How about if we all commit to pray every day for the Lord's leading? And make Jeremiah 29:11 your daily focus verse:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

New International Version (NIV)

This is my "life verse" and I hope it will be a comfort and inspiration to you as well.

THEME INTERPRETATION: More Than We Can Imagine Ephesians 3:20

Imagination.

It may seem a weak word when compared with all the need that we see daily in the world. We hear the word "imagination" and we may think to ourselves "fantasy" ("Imagine you are on a beach somewhere") – an escape from the reality of the world as it is. We hear the word "imagination" and we wonder if it is truly helpful in a world where some would say that clear-eyed "realism" about the challenges we face is what is needed.

Imagination.

Yet far from being a light or weak thing, far from being a superfluous or escapist thing, far from being an un-real thing, imagination is actually one of the most powerful engines for change that human beings have! Long ago, the philosopher Aristotle said that "Thinking itself begins in wonder, begins in imagination," and he was right – imagination, particularly when it is fueled by a vision of God's hopes for all humankind, can keep us energized, keep us seeking to do the good that is possible, seeking to better the lives of those who have been battered by circumstance.

Imagination.

The theme for the 2019 One Great Hour of Sharing offering is "More than we can imagine." That theme, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all God's children, for it is God's imagination that fuels and empowers ours! You see, God imagines a world where:

- No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone – neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger – for we are the church together!
- Even if things will never quite be the same after a disaster, God can work through all events to bring new life, new hope, and even more resilience;

**"Thinking itself begins in wonder, begins in imagination."
ARISTOTLE**

MISSIONS BOARD GARY BAITS

- Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person;
- Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect;
- Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives;
- Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence.

For you see, our imagination of what might be is founded and grounded in what God envisions and hopes for. And we can help – through our gifts of treasure and talent, prayer, and presence, we can make this world ever more like the way God would wish it, ever more the way that God would imagine it!

Give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, so that your imagination might indeed be ever more joined with God's!

Women's Ministries by Jean Heidal

Women's Conference in Yakima was a wonderful experience this year. Katrina Williams was our missionary speaker and spoke about the Williams' time in The Democratic Republic of Congo and their new assignment, beginning in August, in Thailand. The special conference offering was designation to build a classroom at the school where the Williams' children will attend. The rooms are simple cinderblock and cost approximately \$3000 per room. The school is hoping to add 18 classrooms to the facility. Much of the original school was demolished because of a road project. Our region women collected over \$4600 toward this project. Overall giving to conference through other offerings was over \$6000. Attendance was just under 100 women, mostly from this side of the state, but Janice Holcomb, Julie Comstock, Merletta Roberts and I enjoyed renewing friendship with women from our sister churches and meeting new friends.

June 12 – 11:30 am Our last meeting for the program year will be Wednesday, June 12, meeting at the church at **11:30 am** to carpool to Carolyn Adams' home on Boston Harbor for our annual salad potluck. Bring a salad to share - we will carpool from the church. You will have time after lunch to walk on the beach or just sit and visit. There will be a brief business meeting.

Looking Ahead - We have received a number of boxes of items for our annual Christmas Treasure Room in December. However, we have TOO MANY ITEMS at this point for the 160 women who come to the Brunch/Treasure Room to buy so... We are going to have a sale on Saturday, September 21st in the Fellowship Hall. Friday night (Sept. 20), from 6 – 8 pm members of the church may come and have "first pick" of all the treasures! Saturday the sale will be open to the public. You may remember that we had a similar sale a few years ago that was very successful. So, if you are cleaning out closets and cabinets this summer, please let me know. We would love to have your new or gently used items for our sale!

With Deep Appreciation – For several years Terry Whitehouse and I have been coordinating the luncheons after memorial services, wedding receptions and wedding/baby showers. Terry has been the "in the kitchen" person for these events making sure that the food/beverages kept coming from the kitchen and coordinating the clean up. She has also been the first to arrive and start coffee, etc. Terry is a wonderful and faithful helper, always willing to "jump in" and do whatever needed to be done. However Terry is no longer able to be my "sidekick." I will miss her terribly as will our women's group. She has provided her homemade apple pies for our meetings in the fall for several years. For one of our meetings Terry brought a loom and showed us how she creates the beautiful woven scarves, hand cloths, etc. Beyond that, she has been a friend, inviting me for coffee/lunch during the dark days after Dale passed away and still continues to reach out to me. She has been a friend to others in the congregation as well. I speak for all the women in our group in saying a big "thank you" to Terry for her service and faithfulness.

Moderator Report - Jean Heidal

I have been encouraged by the number of persons who have taken advantage of our listening sessions regarding region affiliation. By my count, the 3 sessions have included approximately 150 people. Now, I know that some of you have attended more than one session and that is good. Let's keep talking as we continue in this time of discernment.

For those who have chosen not to attend a session, or may not have been able to do so because of work or other time constraints, please let me know if you have questions or concerns about this process. I would be glad to meet with you personally, and include the pastoral staff or council members if you would like. I know, and we have heard from several people, that it seems like a lot to take on at the same time we are looking for a new pastor. However, this idea of a possible change has been presented to the Council several times in recent years and has also come as a request from members of the congregation. The Council is trying to be responsive to

Pastor Dave's Ponderings

The pastor's Thoughts Along THE WAY ...

I'm wrestling with a column for the newsletter, this one, and with the sermon for Sunday. Sometimes it does feel like a wrestling match, when thoughts don't flow easily and I try this move or that lead in, all to take down the gates of the dam holding things back, to mix my images.

That being said, if you're in worship on July 2nd and read this column you may hear some parallel thoughts. The scripture passage I will use for the 2nd is John 17:20–26.

Jesus and his disciples are gathered in the upper room on the night when Jesus was betrayed, arrested, tried, whipped and led out of Jerusalem carrying a cross. All of chapter 17 is a prayer Jesus offers, often called the High Priestly Prayer. We're going to look at the last section of that prayer.

As you read the passage, the word "one" jumps out. It is repeated several times. "... that they may be one" (vs 20) "... so that they may be one, as we are one" (vs 22). "I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, ..." (vs 23). And when the word "one" is not used the descriptions point to it. "As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us" (vs 21).

Would that it were so!

Isn't it great to hear that this is Jesus' wish for the church, for all followers-of-the-way. That we would know unity, a oneness, would be great.

Yet we know that oneness does not come easily. In fact 1st and 2nd Corinthians and 1st and 2nd John were written because there were factional fighting within congregations. People were caught up in their own stuff enough that they lost sight of the big picture, the desires of God.

When we feel threatened, either physically, mentally, emotionally or in our beliefs, how we see the world, the natural tendency is fight or flight. We fight for what we want and believe or we withdraw to protect ourselves and what's "ours", possessions, thoughts, beliefs.

We may not even be aware of what we do to hold on to or get what we think is right, or rightfully ours. The rich people in Corinth came together for a potluck meal during which they would share communion. When they sat down to eat they may not have thought about the slaves or other poor people who didn't have the freedom to get there at the rich people's time, nor would they be able to bring any food. (1 Cor. 11:17–22)

Paul calls them out directly for their divisions within the church in 1 Cor. 1:10–17.

It is all the more important, then, to understand this unity for which Jesus prays. We know that it's not based on our mutually congenial personalities, politics, preferences, styles, or even theologies. God has created each of us distinctly.

The secret of our oneness is not that we're alike, but that we are loved alike. We are one because the love of God surrounds, permeates, and connects us. As each of us consents to be gathered to that love and live into it, we are inevitably gathered to one another.

The only things that makes this different from wishful thinking are the choices we make: to serve each other, listen to each other, pray for and with each other, give ourselves to each other, bear witness with each other, and above all, seek union with Christ alongside each other.

Our focus is not on our straining to make it work with each other. Rather we focus on the love of God that Christ lived and died to demonstrate for us. From this, everything else will flow, and, I believe, the Spirit will show us how.

See you in the meeting place where we strengthen the bond of love for one another.

Children's & Family Ministry

Children's Church Updated Schedule:

NO Children's Church in June

Children's Church *will resume in July, on the 14th,*

Amanda Mackison providing Leadership!

Pre-School/Nursery Update:

We are in the process of updating our check-in procedures for parents/grandparents and their children. This will include updates on allergies, contact information, etc.

Patti Lehman is our point person in this endeavor!

Crib Room

There are times when we will have infants with us during the Worship service! In order to give parent(s) some options, we would like to *compile a "Call List,"* of individuals who would be willing to hold, rock, interact with that child, if needed, on any given Sunday. If the need arises, we will have a list of potential "grandparents" that can be approached before the worship service, to see if they would be willing to sit with the child during worship.

Important Note: All persons who sign-up for this important ministry must go through a Washington State Background check, provided by Pastor Mark and the Board of Christian Education. *Look for a Sign-up sheet during the month of June!*

Parent Support Gathering

Calling all parental units and/or grandparents who play a significant role in the lives of children!

We would love to find a time in June where we could have a time of food, fellowship and talk a bit about our various parenting styles and challenges:

What works, what doesn't, when it comes to discipline.

What different learning styles our kids have.

How the church can be helpful in the spiritual development of your children?

How can we support one another in these child-rearing years?

How can we learn from one another?

We are looking at possibly getting together on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, the weekends of June 22—23 or June 29—30th!

If you are interested, have questions or can give us feedback on what day works best for you, talk to Pastor Mark Rambo!

P.S.:We will also be looking to have an "activities director" for your children at this gathering, so we can talk with little interruption.

In last month's Windows, I "meandered" about how we live in the "aftermath of the Easter Event!?" In other words, is Easter a one-time remembrance/annual observation or is it much, much more than that? Can we live within the resurrection experience each and every day of our faith journey? Again, is there a livable, practical side to resurrection? Or much more succinctly:

Now What?

It was suggested that "Perhaps the month of May and the first part of June can be your time of discernment," around those questions above. The following paragraph, in quotes and italics, was provided as a guide for you to pray and ponder on:

"If resurrection is about "new life," what in my life needs something new? It can be something as simple as what Pastor Bob use to call "an outlook and/or attitude!" Resurrection is also about a process. A process that involves death before resurrection can happen. Maybe then, what you need to discern is what in your life needs to die in order for new life to happen. Is there something toxic in your workplace, or a relationship, or again, something internal, like negative self-talk, that needs to die in order to truly hear and believe that God loves you and wants the best for you? You get the idea!"

Have you taken time to discern any of those questions? If we were to talk about how we are living out the Resurrection event, how would we, you and I, respond?

The Church calendar is about to change. We've been within the season of Easter for seven weeks. On June 9th, we will celebrate Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of Christ's Church and enter a new season that will takes us all the way into November. This season after Pentecost, or "ordinary time," is important to us as Christ's church. It can be an intentional time to struggle, discern, be challenged, explore and cast new visions of what God and God's Spirit is doing within us, out ahead of us and hopefully, through us, with Christ as our shepherd, guide and teacher! Resurrection and how we live it out can be part of that season as well, so it doesn't have to end when Easter is just a brief memory. It can occupy an important place in our conversations of faith and practice and life together!

Remember:

Resurrection is a daily, ongoing challenge of letting go, receiving, nurturing, living out new life and the second and third and fourth chances, etc., we are given by the endless grace of God through the Resurrected One, Jesus Christ! May you be challenged to be a Resurrection people! Let's figure out, together, this summer, what that looks like!

Summer Blessings and Joy!

Pastor Mark