

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Olympia WA
Permit No. 198

Return Service Requested

JUNE

WINDOWS

2022

First
Baptist
Church
Olympia

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The Thin Place:
Where the Ordinary and Sacred Collide

What a wonderful Anniversary Celebration we had, May 20th, 21st, & 22nd! From the Open House – where former members shared stories of growing up in the church and reconnected with current members – to the laughter and stories that echoed through the Fellowship Hall during Saturday night's dinner, God's faithfulness and presence was in full display.

The Worship Service, Saturday afternoon, was joy-filled, inspiring and rooted in God's love for people, 150-years-worth! Pastor Sam had the congregation hanging on his every word and reminded everyone his gift of preaching! It was an honor to bestow upon him the title of:

Pastor Emeritus!

Overall, the weekend was success and a testimony to
God's faithfulness.

Before we put the celebration behind us, we need to acknowledge those who made the weekend a joy-filled happening as well as keeping our eyes on an event that was postponed, twice, because of the Covid pandemic:

Committee Members –

Jean Heidal, Helen Pothier, Marlynnne Fulton, Rex & Julie Comstock,
Karen Wilson,

Wendy Wilson, Vern Blair, and Becky Nash.

Carolyn Adams was the organizing point person for Friday's Open House. Bob Holcomb moved and arranged tables and chairs, while Karen Wilson set tables alongside Janice and Bob Holcomb. Jean Heidal's daughter, Sarah Nance, was responsible for the postcard mailings as well as the worship bulletin and the upcoming Memory book. As always, there were others who jumped in and helped along the way. It takes a village! Finally, a big thank you to Ricky and Carrie Bowman, our Chef & Sous Chef for Saturday night's celebratory dinner! It was delicious. Sheryl Bowman, Ruby Mitchell, Freda & Roy Spaulding helped tremendously with the clean-up!

Continued pg 2...

June 2022 • Sermons and Scriptures • Olympia First Baptist Church

Sunday, June 5th

Rev. Mark Rambo
Pentecost – Acts 2:1–21
Spirit Driven, Spirit Tested,
Spirit Approved

Sunday, June 26th

Rev. Mark Rambo
Luke 9:51–62
Did Someone Say the Struggle is Real?

Sunday, June 12th

Rev. Mark Rambo
Romans 5:1–5
The Struggle is Real

Sunday, June 19th

Rev. Mark Rambo
Galatians 3:23–29
With a Little Bit of Faith...



OUR RESURRECTED Lord
brings RESURRECTION
life to places of pain.

150 years is a wonderful thing to celebrate. It comes with quite a legacy of attempting to be faithful and obedient to the mission and ministry that God has called us to.

Our theme was:

Standing in the Crossroad

As we stand in this metaphorical crossroad, we turn our attention to this question:

Where do we go from here?

It's time. It's time to firmly and squarely, look at the future. We have had two-plus years of a global pandemic that continues to linger, agitate, and cause unrest. Covid has forced us to rethink what it means to be the church; how we go about being the church as well as exploring new ideas or pathways that can lead us into the unknown future God is preparing for us. Whatever we discern from God; whatever road we decide to take; we want to be sure that it is sustainable, but also that we can be flexible and adaptable as we work to build upon what God is calling us to be and work toward.

To help us get started, I am going to have a series of **Saturday morning, Fireside Chats**, starting **Saturday, June 18th and concluding on Saturday, July 23rd**. If you are interested in having some conversation, answer a few questions and have a time of prayer, I'll be at the church, in the Fireside Room, at 10:30 a.m., for those 5 Saturday mornings.

To get you ready, here is a question we have asked before as part of a sermon series we did awhile back:

What do you want people to experience when they come to Olympia First Baptist?
Think of three (3) things and be ready to share them.

I hope you will participate in one of these Saturday morning Fireside Chats. We will talk about our future as God's people. What values do we want to embrace? What do we want to be known for as a church community? What is our intention in bringing others here to be a part of our church community? These and other questions will be discussed, prayed over, and recorded, so we have some "data" to work with. I'll also be working with the Executive Council for their input and prayers as well as resourcing from our Region, the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches.

I'm excited, scared, uncertain, and confident that together, we can hear a new word from God that can bring us together and lead us into a reachable and sustainable future.

Let's start praying about it, now!
Blessings and Joy!

Pastor Mark (Rev)



Softball '22 – The Return of the Ragamuffins

That's right boys and girls; it's that time again – as the weather gets warmer, the days get longer, and the ping of the aluminum smacks against a slow-moving ball, it's Softball season.

Enclosed is the schedule for your beloved Ragamuffins, who will be playing on Friday nights, out at the RAC (Regional Athletic Complex). You will find the schedule enclosed within this issue of the Windows. If you have any questions and/or are interested in playing, contact Gary Baits!

COED C									
FRIDAY RAC Fields 2-4									
Date	Time	Field	Home	Away	Date	Time	Field	Home	Away
6/10/22	6:10PM	2	A	B	7/22/22	6:10PM	4	B	A
	7:20PM	2	C	D		7:20PM	4	E	B
	8:30PM	2	A	E		8:30PM	4	E	C
6/17/22	6:10PM	2	C	A	7/29/22	6:10PM	4	E	D
	7:20PM	2	E	B		7:20PM	4	C	B
	8:30PM	2	B	D		8:30PM	4	A	C
6/24/22	6:10PM	2	D	C	8/5/22	6:10PM	4	C	A
	7:20PM	2	A	C		7:20PM	4	D	E
	8:30PM	2	B	E		8:30PM	4	B	D
7/8/22	6:10PM	2	D	E	8/12/22	6:10PM	4	D	A
	7:20PM	2	B	C		7:20PM	4		
	8:30PM	2	A	D		8:30PM	4		
7/15/22	6:10PM	2	E	A	8/19/22	6:10PM	4		
	7:20PM	2	C	E		7:20PM	4		
	8:30PM	2	D	B		8:30PM	4		
	CHURCH		COACH		PHONE #		E-MAIL		
A	Fellowship		Josh Salo		360-280-1746		admiralsalo@yahoo.com		
B	Faith Lutheran		Justin Bevers		360-292-0353		jbever02@gmail.com		
C	New Bridge Community		Erick Anderson		360-791-9220		erick18@rocketmail.com		
D	Calvary Chapel North Thurston		Patric Conerty		352-216-7741		pconerty@gmail.com		
E	Emmans House		Gary Baits		360-775-5810		garybaits@gmail.com		

Christian Education/Spiritual Formation – New & Notes

- **Baptism** – If you have never been baptized and/or have wondered if you could be re-baptized, join us on **Saturday, June 4th, at 10:30 a.m.**, in the Fireside Room.

Come have a conversation with Pastor Mark about baptism, its significance and what it means to us as American Baptists and as followers of Jesus Christ.

We often come from different faith perspectives and experiences, so this could also be a learning opportunity besides a discipleship moment.

- **Sunday Morning Classes** – Pastor Sam's class as well as the Koinonia Class led by Pastor Mark are now on hiatus for the summer.

Dan Bezanson's class will continue through the first two Sundays of June and then it too will be on hiatus.

- **Thursday Morning Bible Study** Our last Bible Study before our summer hiatus will be Thursday, June 9th.
- **Parent's Meeting** – Join the Board of Christian Education and Pastor Mark for a time of food, conversation, and vision sharing, around ministry to young people and their families.
Time and Date to Be Determined very soon. It's in the works!
Stay tuned and look for an email and phone call on the details.
- **Summer Opportunities at Camp Bethel** – If you have any questions about any of the summer camps for children and youth, talk to Pastor Mark. Additionally, you might want to add these 2 dates to your calendar, even though they will not take place until Labor Day and early September. It's never too early to make plans!
 - **Alumni Days – Labor Day Weekend, September 2nd – 5th**
An all ages experience; Cost: \$85/person
 - **Senior Adult Camp – September 12th – 16th**
Seniors & Seniors at Heart; Cost: \$245/person



June Birthdays

Mary Chavez	4
Eliza Mackison	9
Clara Mackison	13
Henry Mackison	13
Pat Luhr	28
Cheryl Sievers	29



Congratulations to
George & Marilyn Gauntlett,
who will celebrate their
50th Wedding Anniversary
on June 17th.

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

For those of you who may not be fully up-to-speed on some of the changes that have happened over the last 2 1/2 years, due to Covid and the transition to Pastor Mark as Senior Pastor – We are also a new church congregational member to the Evergreen Association of American Baptists Churches, with Rev. Doug Avilesbernal, as our Executive Minister.

We had the privilege of having Rev. Paul Schneider join us during our 150th Anniversary. Paul is the new Office Administrator for Evergreen as well as the Pastor of one of our sister churches, Burien Community Church. The last member of the Evergreen leadership team also includes Shavon Walker, who is the Evergreen Ministry Associate for Social Media.

Shavon lives in Berkeley, CA.

Evergreen provides educational opportunities, training seminars for churches, retreats for clergy and lay leaders, encouraging and equipping the next generation of leaders and financially assisting missionaries. The Region, especially Rev. Avilesbernal, has been a valued resource for our congregation over the last couple of years.

On behalf of the Evergreen Region, you are invited to prayerfully consider a financial gift as an investment in that future. Such a gift would be above and beyond your regular tithe to the mission and ministry here at Olympia First Baptist. If you do feel led to give something, you are invited to visit the Evergreen Association website at www.ea-abc.org just click on the donate button or send a check made payable to EAABC, P.O. Box 1044, Kent, WA 98035-1044.

Your gift, no matter how large or small, will have a lasting impact on our churches.

Save the Date –Saturday, August 6th, 2022
Evergreen Summer Food Fling

At Panther Lake Community Church, Kent, WA.

This will be an all caucus event, where people from every caucus will bring food to share.

This will also be a fundraiser, and there will be tickets available for purchase soon.

Save the date and come for a fun and tasty time!

Our "Aloha To Spring" was a big hit! The food was delicious, the entertainment lots of fun and Kathleen Rambo's message was a real inspiration. I am very grateful to all the women who helped with the event .

In case you have not heard, \$656 was raised in the Treasure Room. \$107 was donated for Ukraine. The items were made by Janice Holcomb, Jan Downen and Sarah Nance . Special thanks to Jan Downen and her crew for their efforts in the set up, selling, and packing up the leftovers of the Treasure Room.

On June 8th at noon we will meet for our last meeting of the program year. Instead of bringing your own lunch, we will we provide croissant sandwiches, fresh fruit and chips. Jan Downen has some ideas to share about making life easier in the kitchen and around the house for those in the upper years. If you have some ideas you would like to share let me know.

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Moderator Moments

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Jean Heidal

This week I have reflected on the 150th Anniversary Celebration recently held. I hope that most of you were able to attend at least one of the events in person or online.

The Friday night open house was great fun. There was enough food to feed a small army, thank you to Carolyn Adams for taking charge of the event.

Saturday's Anniversary Service was a mix of our past, our present and our future. Thank you to Pastor Sam for his inspirational message. The music added much to the service and I am grateful for those who participated. The Covid uptick made rehearsals difficult, but we persevered and God was honored by our efforts. Did you know that Pastor Sam was honored by receiving Pastor Emeritus status. Pastor for 10 years, long time Sunday school teacher, worker with Table Grace and mentor to many. For all of these things and so much more Pastor Sam is well deserving of this honor.

Dinner Saturday was delicious! Thank you to Ricky and Carrie Bowman. What a labor of love! Singing old Sunday school songs was fun and being able to visit with friends and family just capped off the evening.

Sunday's service was a meaningful time to take another look at our 150 years of ministry and mission to our community.

I want to thank the Anniversary Committee for their dedication to planning this weekend. Helen Pothier, Karen Wilson, Vern Blair, Rex and Julie Comstock, Becky Nash, Wendy Wilson and Marlynne Fulton were great to work with and you just experienced their hard work.

Many came along to help the committee: Tia Pennell updated the church history from 1989 to the present. Bob Holcomb moved tables and chairs twice for the weekend events. Carolyn Adams and her amazing Friday night event. Meggin Turk and Karen Wilson adding their gifts of music. Carol Ann Weber adding to our Saturday worship with her piano talent. My daughter, Sarah Nance, did all the publicity, the worship bulletin and other print items needed. There were many others who helped along the way. Special thanks to Pastor Mark for his guidance and for bringing all the worship elements together in such a beautiful way.



Welcome, Chad Clayton!

The Board of Trustees are happy to introduce to you, our new Janitor/Caretaker, Chad Clayton.



Chad and his wife live in Union. They are both committed followers of Christ! Chad has even pastored a church. His skill set includes maintenance, commercial cleaning as well as being mechanically adept! Chad has been a Maintenance Supervisor for an Apartment Complex as well as a Commercial Cleaning Supervisor that included several businesses and a courthouse. He is not only qualified, but very personable and flexible.

A gentle reminder. If you want Chad to address a certain problem area in the church or to help in the setup of a particular event, please go through the proper, chain-of-command, which is Lela (who will consult with Pastor Mark, if necessary), who will then communicate the need to Chad, so that it can be addressed and taken care of. Interruptions to schedules and routines happen, but we don't want Chad to be pulled into multiple directions.

For the time being, as he settles into the job, Chad will work 8:00 a.m. to Noon, Monday through Friday. Of course, he will also be available for special occasions, Memorials, etc.

We hope that you will welcome him warmly!

 A special thank you to the Board of Trustees, especially:

Sue Shannon, Sandi Swarthout, Rex Comstock, Bob Holcomb and Russ Harpel, Chair. Sue, Sandi, Rex and Bob worked tirelessly on job descriptions, looking at resumes, doing the interviews, negotiating terms, etc., with Russ making sure the process kept moving forward!

We also need to acknowledge the good work of Lela DePaolo, our Church Secretary/Administrator, who worked with the personnel team and was part of the interviewing process as well!
 Good Job, Team!

A note from Merletta Roberts:

The 150th anniversary service was very special for me, celebrating a congregation of people who live out their faith. I have experienced this in so many ways. As I have journeyed through all the medical issues of the past few years I have felt your prayers, your care, and your love. I've received cards and notes regularly in addition to lovely flowers. You have taught me what it means to walk humbly, love completely and live differently.

— Merletta Roberts



Camp Bethel – Youth and Children’s Summer Camps

Katie Daroff – Executive Director
347 Kirkpatrick Rd.
Hoquiam, WA 98550
Mail: contact@campbethel.net
Tel: 360-289-3444

Senior High Camp – July 10 through 16 – 9th grade to Summer after Graduation

Tim Clemensen, Director
This summer we will be learning what Faith in Action looks like and how we can put our own faith to work. Can't wait to spend some time with you!
\$300/person

Junior High Camp – July 17 through 23 – 6th Grade to 8th Grade
Zach Orchard, Director

This summer we will be learning what Faith in Action looks like and how we can put our own faith to work. Can't wait to spend some time with you!
\$300/person

Elementary Camp – July 24th through 28th – Entering 4th and 5th Grade
Heather Taylor, Director

This summer we will be learning what Faith in Action looks like and how we can put our own faith to work. Can't wait to spend some time with you!
\$245/person

You can register by going online to:

www.campbethel.net

Camp Scholarships are available! Contact Pastor Mark if you have a need for one.

When registering online, in the “**Additional information/Comments**” box, indicate that Olympia First Baptist will be providing the scholarship payment.

Use that same box to share dietary needs and/or any other information about your camper that will be helpful for the camp to know, so they can be accommodating to your child/youth.

VIEW FROM THE DEACONS’ BENCH

By Vernon Blair

Deacons came into being in the early Church to allow the Apostles freedom from the day to day care of the congregation so that apostles could focus on preaching the gospels and taking care of the spiritual needs of the congregations. However, the role of deacons was expanded beyond serving the tables and caring for physical needs of the people. Philip became involved in spreading the Word; we have the story of his witness to the Ethiopian eunuch, an unclean person under the Jewish Law; yet he was immediately baptized on his profession of faith.

Stephen was the other deacon named in Acts. It is hard to imagine that he was stoned for providing meals to less fortunate. His voice must have been powerful to rile the authorities so much.

Here at Oly First it has been the deacons’ job to provide case and service to the congregation. We have worked to ensure that no one falls between the cracks. If you don’t know who your deacon is, please contact Pat DeNeui or one of the other deacons because we want to be on call for you. It is a privilege to provide meals when you are ill or in need of this service. It is also a pleasure to transport you to medical appointments.

With Pastor Mark’s leadership we have survived COVID and soon the Church will be looking to the future to see how our legacy stretches forward. The present moment is the point in time where the future becomes the past. It is an opportunity to take this moment to bend the direction we are going to recognize the strengths of the past for the Church and use that legacy to shape our future.

I would like to close with a personal note:
last month we celebrated my mom’s life – 102 years...

There was a lot to celebrate, and I felt much loved by the people of Oly First. Thank you so much for sharing. The women of the church came through as usual, Mark managed the service adeptly. Jonathan provided some lovely music. Joanna, Sandi, and Emily provided more beautiful music. Roy and Mike did the sound and video, which allowed family members to watch the service as well as much of our congregation. Emily and I are so blessed to have found a home here at Oly First.

Mission Board: A note from the Chair, Wendy Wilson

We were able to put 60 care packages together for Unity Commons. Ruby Mitchell and I plan to deliver them this weekend (hopefully) and a giant Thank You to all who were able to contribute!

We will be setting a new goal for the winter care packages soon.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Europe is facing its largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. The United Nations estimates up to 18 million people, both internally displaced and refugees, will eventually be impacted.

According to reports from Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, Ukrainians are facing reduced or disrupted services in water, heating, electricity, transportation and telecommunications. Health services have deteriorated rapidly due to shortages of medical supplies and personnel.

Refugees, mostly women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, had to leave their homes and spend days traveling to neighboring countries for safety, with almost nothing with them.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing allow for an immediate response from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) when emergencies first occur, often responding to crises that never make it into the news.

In this volatile situation, PDA was able to provide urgent funding to trusted, established partners with the expertise to carry out humanitarian aid. Reformed and Orthodox church partners, like the Community of St. Egidio and Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, are working closely with local churches and organizations to provide food, water, clothing, shelter, psychosocial support and other basic items for survival. They are the “boots on the ground,” listening and responding to the needs of those impacted.

To stay informed about the work Presbyterians are doing in and around Ukraine, visit pcusa.org/pda/ukraine. To learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing and the vital ministries it supports, visit pcusa.org/oghs.

May we continue to pray for our siblings in Ukraine. Pray for peace. And pray that all of us will remember that we are the Church, **together**.

WAYS TO GIVE —

Through your congregation • Online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
Text OGHS to 91999



Music Ministry News

and Notes

The music committee met May 18 2022. Members Karen Wilson (chairperson), Jan Downen, and Joanna Miller were in attendance. Also present were Jonathan Spatola-Knoll, choir director and organist and Pastor Mark Rambo.

Due to the uptick in Covid cases it was decided that choir would begin their summer hiatus now and not wait for June, the usual month that choir starts its summer break. Special music will take the place of the choir. If anyone would like to volunteer for special music please talk to Karen Wilson.

We, as a committee, are pleased with Jonathan as both choir director and organist. It is a tall order to do both and has required flexibility and a new learning curve for both Jonathan and the choir. We feel this has been a successful endeavor and look forward to a continuing partnership in ministry with Jonathan. We would love to increase our numbers within the choir and ask that you would consider joining us in the fall when we resume choir rehearsals.

One of our joint projects with Jonathan, is to go through the music library this summer and see what we have: what to keep, what to pack away, and what we can add to our music library. Organizationally, I think of it as a discovery, searching for hidden treasure of musical notes that need to be untangled to create beautiful arrangements that honor and praises God.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact one of the
Music Committee members.

Joanna Miller