

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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OLYMPIA, WA 98507

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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

July 2022 • Sermons and Scriptures • Olympia First Baptist Church

Sunday, July 3rd

Rev. Mark Rambo
Psalm 30/Psalm 66:1—9
Honesty + Faith = Praise?

Sunday, July 10th

Rev. Mark Rambo
Luke 10:25—37
The Good, the Bad, and the
Ugly

Sunday, July 17th

Rev. Mark Rambo
Genesis 18:1—10a
Hospitality is the Word
(Heart, Mind, Spirit)

Sunday, July 24th

Rev. Doug Avilesbernal, Guest preaching

Sunday, July 31st

Rev. Mylinda Baits, Guest preaching

A Prayer for
Independence Day

Lord God, Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them—You remain faithful forever. On this day when we celebrate our freedoms, we remember those in different circumstances. We ask You, as Your Word says, to uphold the cause of the oppressed and give food to the hungry. Set prisoners free, give sight to the blind, lift up those who are bowed down, wherever they are, whatever language they speak, whatever nationality they claim, that they too may soon possess the kinds of benefits we enjoy today.



JULY

WINDOWS

2022

First Baptist Church Olympia

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The Thin Place: Where the Ordinary and Sacred Collide

Baptist Distinctives – A Refresher Course

I was spending some time last month with a friend, who reflected back to me something I had said to him once before. In talking about what we as a church “believe,” I had responded with:

EVERYTHING

I’m sure I was being a tad ornery and flip, but I was also serious at the same time. I think that our congregation, like many faith communities, have a wide spectrum of ideas, beliefs, values and the like, within whatever faith tradition they represent. Pick a social issue or cultural hot button and I can guarantee that you will find a variety of opinions and beliefs on the subject within the congregation. Theological issues like women in ministry, leadership roles, biblical inerrancy, or something easier, like the nature of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, will also find a wide swath of “beliefs,” opinions and so-on. Some of those supported by the Bible, both for and/or against, others by personal experiences, and for those who struggle articulating what they truly believe, “because that’s how I feel.” When I am asked if we are an evangelical congregation, my answer is, yes, in some ways. Are we progressive in our theology? Yep, again, in some ways. We have folks who feel strongly about a wide-variety of topics, issues, and/or theological beliefs and systems. We are Baptists, after all; American Baptists to be precise.

What does that mean, exactly? For me, the image that I like to use is equating God’s Kindom to a circus tent. This means that God’s Kindom is pretty big, pretty deep, and pretty wide, with Christ as our centering pole. Christ is what holds us up and binds us together. That means you will find churches across the spectrum of belief and practice. From immovable fundamentalists to woke liberals or whatever you consider to be the two extremes, and everything in-between. All of these churches, despite these differences, also subscribe to this:

***Love God and Love others. Also known as the
Great Commandment.***

***Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind &
strength & love your neighbor as yourself.***

Since a number of folks in our current congregation did not grow up in an American Baptist church, our diversity of thought & theology as well as how we balance the unity and freedom we all have in Christ, might seem strange, peculiar, or down right crazy.

Here are 4 Distinctives that make Baptists, well, Baptists:

Autonomy of the Local Church - The local church is an independent body accountable to Jesus Christ, the head of the church. All human authority for governing the local church resides within the local church itself. *Cont. pg 2...*

Thus, the church is autonomous, or self-governing. No religious hierarchy outside the local church may dictate a church's beliefs or practices. Autonomy does not mean isolation. A Baptist church may fellowship with other churches around mutual interests and in an associational framework. For instance, we are in a Regional/Association relationship with the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches. We are in "association," with Evergreen because we share similar values around missions and ministry. Evergreen does not dictate how we do ministry or what areas of missions we choose to engage in. They do provide us with resources, support and relational encouragement, but they do not tell us what to do or how to think. We are autonomous!

Individual Soul Liberty/Freedom - Every individual, whether a believer or an unbeliever, has the liberty/freedom to choose what they believe is right in the religious/spiritual aspect of their life. Individuals have a God-given competency to know God and God's will. God, who is sovereign over all creation, has provided this freedom. This competency or ability, is a gift from God and not a human creation. You and I, therefore, are free to make choices; we are not puppets. God does not force or coerce compliance; neither faith nor love can be forced. With this liberty and freedom comes responsibility and accountability. Choices have consequences. In exercising soul freedom, a person should seek insight from members of the faith community, both present and past that they have chosen to be a part of. The individual is still responsible for their choices, but the community plays a role in discerning those choices.

It is also important to remember that soul liberty means that governments and religious organizations ought not force persons to belong to any particular church, confess any specific creed or conform to any form of worship.

Priesthood of All Believers - "Priest" is defined as one authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion, especially as the designated intercessor between humans and God. Every believer today is a priest of God (part of the priesthood) and may enter into God's presence in prayer directly through our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ. No other mediator is needed between God and people. As priests, we can study God's Word, pray for others, and offer spiritual worship to God. We all have equal access to God-whether we are a preacher or not, ordained or not, etc.

Separation of Church and State - God established both the church and the civil government, and gave each its own distinct sphere of operation. Having grown up in an American Baptist church I was taught that the government's purposes are outlined in Romans 13:1-7 and the church's in Matthew 28:19- 20. Neither should control the other, nor should there be an alliance between the two. Christians in a free society can properly influence government towards righteousness (right relationships) & justice, which is not the same as a denomination or group of churches controlling the government. We worship the Living God, not a particular form of government and/or the nation we live in.

In addition to these four distinctives, as American Baptists, we observe and practice two **ordinances** or for those of you who grew up Catholic, **sacraments**:

The Lord's Supper/Communion and Believers Baptism (By Immersion).

The Lord's Supper symbolizes and reminds us of the sacrifice of Christ. The bread and cup represent the broken body and the shedding of blood offered, freely by Christ, that reflects God's great love for us.

Believer's Baptism means that we offer baptism to those who show the maturity to understand its profound significance – resurrection to new life in Christ.

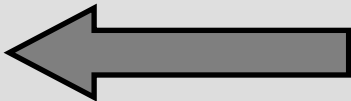


Softball '22 – The Return of the Ragamuffins

Here is the schedule for your beloved Ragamuffins, who are playing on Friday nights, out at the RAC (Regional Athletic Complex). 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
7/8/22	6:10PM	2	D	E	7/29/22	6:10PM	4	E	D
	7:20PM	2	B	C		7:20PM	4	C	B
	8:30PM	2	A	D		8:30PM	4	A	C
7/15/22	6:10PM	2	E	A	8/5/22	6:10PM	4	C	A
	7:20PM	2	C	E		7:20PM	4	D	E
	8:30PM	2	D	B		8:30PM	4	B	D
Date	Time	Field	Home	Away	8/12/22	6:10PM	4	D	A
7/22/22	6:10PM	4	B	A		7:20PM	4		
	7:20PM	4	E	B		8:30PM	4		
	8:30PM	4	E	C	8/19/22	6:10PM	4		
						7:20PM	4		
						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					

An important note to everyone!...



Pastor Mark and Kathleen will be away on vacation in New Mexico, from **July 24th through August 3rd**.

If you have a need, and/or emergency, during that time, Pastor Caroline will be available. Your Deacon will also be a good resource, and/or point of contact.



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.

Full immersion is a beautiful symbol & moment that Christ went through as well.

Last, but certainly not least, we as American Baptist believe that **Holy Scripture, the Bible**, is the most authoritative guide to knowing and serving the triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer). As the divinely-inspired word of God, the Bible reveals our faith and its instructive practices.

As we move forward into navigating and planning for a sustainable future as Olympia First Baptist, we bring with us, not only 150 years of faithful service to the cause of Christ, but we also embody who we are as an American Baptist congregation. Knowing, understanding, grappling with these Baptist Distinctives, is also a part of our on-going process of discerning God’s direction and will for us, going forward.

I hope that this crash course in Baptist Distinctives can help clarify how we attempt to live and embody the life of faith, together, as a community. Despite the differences we may have in thought, practice, and the like, we are still One Body that is to reflect the freedom and unity that Christ has given to us all. Remember – You are made in God’s image! You are enough!

You are Loved!

Blessings and joy! Pastor Mark (Rev)

Fireside Chats

We have had the first of our Fireside Chats on June 25th. If you missed that first gathering, we hope you will come to one of the next two, which will be:

Saturday, July 9th, at 10:30 a.m. & Saturday, July 16th, at 10:30 a.m.

We realize that some folks are hesitant to share, especially on the spot.

So as a way of full disclosure, below is what you can expect:

We are asking and then sharing our responses to the following questions:

What faith tradition, if any, were you raised in?

What brought you to Oly First?

What about the church’s future are you excited about?

*What do you want people to experience when they come here? (3 things)

*What is your intention when you bring someone to church?

If you’re a parent/grandparent, your children?

*What do you think we do well here, as a congregation? (3 things)

As we have shared before, this is a way for us to collect some data and insight from the congregation. And more importantly, to give you an opportunity to listen to one another and to let your own voice be heard. All, within an open, safe and welcoming space.

This is a first step. We will be planning and expanding on this feedback using other resources, including some leadership from our Evergreen Region.

If you weren’t able to attend the first gathering, you have two more opportunities. We hope you will come and join us and share your voice!

Questions? Talk with Pastor Mark



A Report on FBC Oly's 150th Celebration

By Rev. Paul Schneider

The gathering at First Baptist Olympia on May 21st to celebrate 150 years and more of faithful ministry was a joyous one. In addition to a wonderful service, with beautiful music both recorded from the past and skillfully performed in the present by Dr. Spatula-Knoll and others, there was an excellent sermon by Rev. Sam Hochstetter, which spoke about the past, the place, the people, and the power which infused and infuses God's church as it is incarnated in the particular beloved community of FBC Olympia.

Rev. Sam Hochstetter was recognized as Pastor Emeritus, with Rev. Mark Rambo, who's known Sam all his life giving both touching and humorous remarks.

Then to top it off, a phenomenal meal, from Chefs Ricky and Carrie Bowman who grew up at FBC Oly. All in all, a delightful celebration of faithful ministry!



July Birthdays

Dameon Griffin	6	Jordan Nylander	17
Wylie Nash	6	Bob Holcomb	18
Amanda Williams	8	Kat Stoker	21
Merribeth Born	12	Sandy Grebbs	22
Marilyn Stormans	13	Janice Holcomb	23
Robert Cuna	15	Rob Johnson	24
Naomi Dawes	15	Freda Spaulding	31

VIEW FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

By Debe Andersen

Over the last two and a half years I have thought a lot about the word grace.

What is grace? As a child I was taught the acronym for grace:

In looking up a definition for grace I found the following: the spontaneous, unmerited gift of the divine favour in the salvation of sinners, and the divine influence operating in individuals for their regeneration and sanctification.

Today when I think of grace I think of everything that Christ did for me so that I might have eternal life.

One of my favorite verses is Ephesians 2:8 and 9 - ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

G: God's

R: Righeouness

A: At

C: Christ's

E: Expense

As we are coming out of the pandemic I am so thankful that Christ has been with us and that we have a community that has been supportive even when we have been apart.

Please reach out to your deacon if you are in need of anything and if you aren't sure who your deacon is contact Pat De'Neui or one of the deacons.

Women's Ministries

Jean Heidal

We will take a break for July and August and begin meeting again in September.

Even with the pandemic the group has continued to do mission work locally and overseas. ***What a great group of women!***

Thank you for your support this year.

One Great Hour of Sharing...

*Thank you for your generous contributions to the One Great Hour of Sharing for the month of June. The giving total is **\$1614.86**.*

"Together, we provide immediate relief and long-term recovery support after disasters; equip churches and leaders in disaster preparedness measures; offer assistance to displaced people; and support global development projects that empower communities around the world to thrive. Our partners have persisted in this life-saving work despite the challenges of the pandemic and in the face of other disasters and humanitarian crises that continue to escalate in frequency and severity."