

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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JULY

WINDOWS

2024

Olympia First Baptist Church

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The Thin Place:

Where the Sacred and the Ordinary Collide

My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well-constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it!

And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7

The Message

We have come to the halfway point of 2024. We continue to make steady progress forward in our relationships with God, one another, and others we encounter. We are seeing God open doors and bring in people who are expanding our understandings of how God is moving and working in their lives and how that movement of God's Spirit might have something to say to us. We continue to work our way through the transitions we bump into that are part of life's normal circumstances as well as those unforeseen. Either way, the church as a whole, the leadership of the Executive Council, and the faithfulness of those who continue to say yes to God's call and service, we are making our way and there is a feeling of optimism and hopefulness for our future.

The two verses above are one of my favorites in all of the New Testament. It is a reminder for me, that I have a strong foundation under me and more importantly, Olympia First has a strong foundation that we continue to build upon. My foundation starts with my parents and the faith they modeled for me. I'm sure there are others who had a similar blessing. Some of us were blessed by mentors, who took us under their wings and showed us what faith looked like and the demands it could ask of us and how to navigate through those challenges. Some of us learned the hard way, trial and error; by failing, but being resilient enough to pick ourselves up and try again. In other words, we each have a story; a path of faith if you will. As we continue this transition of constructing a sustainable future here at Oly First, we want to start making more space to hear those stories of learning as well as how we are living out what we have learned. We want to hear how you, how we, have been surprised by God's Spirit.

Paul says at the end of the passage above, that he wants the churches in Colossae, to have their lives in Christ spill over into expressions of thanksgiving. Amen to that. We hope that our times of worship is one such avenue to express/worship in that spirit of thankfulness that Paul alludes to. On July 21st, the worship service will be designed for folks to share their stories/testimonies of what God is doing and/or has done. We expect that "thankfulness" will indeed, spill out on that day. If you are interested in sharing on the 21st, please let Pastor Mark know, so he can give you a few preparation helps.

We are rooted in Christ Jesus. We know what that looks like, I hope.

Let's live it out loud!

Blessings and Joy!

Pastor Mark

July 2024 • Sermons and Scriptures • Olympia First Baptist Church

July 7th – 7th Sunday after Pentecost – Ordinary Time
Independence Day Recognition and Communion Sunday
Scripture – Mark 6:1-13
Sermon – "Travel Tip – Pack Light"
Scripture Reading 1: Ezekiel 2:1-5
Scripture Reading 2: Psalm 123

July 14th – 8th Sunday after Pentecost – Ordinary Time
Scripture – Ephesians 1:3-14
Sermon – Formal Adoption
Scripture Reading 1: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Scripture Reading 2: Psalm 85:8-13

July 21st – 9th Sunday after Pentecost – Ordinary Time
Scripture – Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
No Sermon – Stories & Testimonies

July 28th – 10th Sunday after Pentecost – Ordinary Time
Scripture – John 6:1-21
Sermon – Block Party
Scripture Reading 1: Psalm 145:10-18
Scripture Reading 2: Ephesians 3:14-21



'The LORD bless you, and keep you.
The LORD make his face to shine on you,
And be gracious to you.
The LORD lift up his face toward you,
And give you peace.'

Numbers 6:24-26 (NHEB)

DEACON'S BOARD Michael Bradburn

James 1:5 "But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously and with reproach, and he will receive it." I start with this scripture first because it sums up my school year. It was one in which, at some point, I must have prayed for wisdom, and God delivered a year's worth. Especially with this year's homeroom I was assigned. First, let me clarify that I don't possess any wisdom; instead, I have lived experiences that God has utilized in my life. Second, it is fitting that this year, my school has been discussing walking in the light, using the simplified version of the three letters of John, for both the staff and the students, while Reverend Mark has been discussing the same topic in various ways. Thirdly, as a Christian school teacher, I must admit that this year has put my faith to the test. All 10 boys expected my homeroom to be they're most challenging. During their sixth-grade years, these boys found themselves in detention almost every Monday and Friday, a time when my eighth-grade students were expected to be ushering. This school year, I took on the responsibility of teaching world history to these troublesome boys, as well as serving as their homeroom advisor and sounding board. Remember that I only have four girls in class, and one is the SAS secretary. Fourth, this is a Pentecostal school, so if you're touched by the spirit, preach. In fact, my faith led to my hiring five years ago.

Initially, I harbored my own biases, questioning the rationale behind my assignment to these troublesome boys. However, they and I selected four preachers during the first two weeks of the school year, with me delivering the main sermon. This was the moment when I witnessed God's influence in action. One of my boys, who served as my class "president" and assisted me in planning chapels, chose to preach. He decided to focus his sermon on the importance of walking with faith, and he challenged his classmates, the other seventh graders, and the 6th graders to walk with obedient faith. Though I forgot the scriptures, this was a glimpse of God, as what he said you could tell was spirit-filled. He, too, challenged himself without realizing it.

Throughout the year, he morphed from "president" to the right hand of Mr. Bradburn, who helped make classroom rules and pointed out the gifts of students, including one of the girls who is gifted in leadership. The only behavioral issue this student encountered was when he got into trouble with a substitute in English, despite the substitute being very conscientious. Because of his leadership, his class attempted to change into a new leaf, as they would come to me and ask how to avoid trouble in some classes (except literature). As the school year came to a close, we teachers had to pick out a student of the year. He has demonstrated unwavering discipline and diligent work. I am proud to say I chose him. I have seen God working through me and my mistakes in this student's life. I had the chance to tell his parents, who hadn't received much praise for their son until 7th grade, that their son had won my student of the year award. Did I mention he was a month-first student? While most of these students still struggle to keep their behavior in check, they will still act out.

MISSION BOARD Ruby Mitchell

Hey everyone! It's been some year and already half gone. We are coming upon the World Mission Offering soon. We have such a devoted congregation and really appreciate all your support. You make such a great difference to those in need.

Our feeding ministry is really picking up and 400 lunches a week is our normal now. It's been a challenge at times to keep everything going but God has blessed our ministry with wonderful volunteers. Please feel free to come down and check out what we do after church service. Volunteers are always welcomed!

It's so wonderful to see how Emmaus House is helping our refugees coming in to our country.

We are serving such a vital need and thank you to everyone that helps.

Have a blessed summer and remember God is always with us.

I would also like to say thank you to those that helped add some beauty to our church.

It's such a welcoming sight as you approach from the street to see flowers in bloom.

We add some beauty to our community around us. Way to go!

Let's continue to pray for peace and understanding!

God is with us always.

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The Music Committee

About a year ago Pastor Mark introduced to the choir a new hymnal for us to use asking for our opinions. Up to this time the hymns you've been singing on the bulletins are mostly from the new hymnal. There has been some members who would like to sing straight from the hymnal. So the Music Committee has taken action to set out to purchase about 100 plus 2 spiral hymnals for the organist/accompanist at \$45.00 each.

The Choir likes the print of the hymns compared to the older hymnal. Feel the new words are more inclusive of all. It has a good variety.

The hymnal has several of the old standard hymns, some are standard hymn tunes but with updated words. Some very new hymns.

The Music Committee approached the Board of Trustees and Executive Council. Both approved.

The Music Committee is asking the congregation for assistance in purchasing the hymnals.

Here are ways you can help us reach our goal of 100 hymnals:

Each costs \$17.95. If you would like to make a contribution (which is over and above your tithing) towards the purchase, please indicate in special gifts the amount. If you want your name put inside the hymnal or say "In Memory of" with your/their name see this information:

If you make a donation for the new hymnals online or you have already done so, please send a note to the church office if you are donating toward the new hymnals in someone's name/memory. The online format does not provide a way to share that important piece of information.

If you have any questions, you can ask the Music Committee members:

Karen Wilson, Robin Paget, Jean Heidal

Inviting Kabrina and Manny McGinnis, new directors at Camp Bethel, to our June meeting reminded me of my camping days there over 60 years ago. The camp looked very different then. Behind the John Friend Lodge, kitchen and dining room was old growth forest. Huge trees, reaching to the sky with a thick blanket of fir needles on the ground. There was very little undergrowth

So you could see all the way down the trail to the back side of the lake.

Cabins lined the trail, although "shacks" might better describe them. Only 2x4s, some rough pieces of wood and a roof made up the small buildings. they may/may not have a window, but the kids never complained

We had a big group of kids going from this church. Camp cost \$15 for a full week and \$10 for a partial week. The church gave us some money, but we needed more so everyone who wanted to go could. One of our big fundraisers was to distribute Pittsburg Paint flyers for the local store. We earned \$20 per 1000 of flyers. We would distribute 5000 flyers in a weekend Adults would pick us up after school on a Friday and we would distribute flyers till dark. Then we started early on Saturday morning to finish by the afternoon. It seems like I spent a lot of time in Tanglewilde passing out flyers.

If you wanted to work at a camp then you would sign up in the Region Office in Seattle. A person didn't necessarily get sent to the camp closest to where they lived. This was actually more fun because I met kids from all over the state, including: Tacoma, Seattle, Everett, Wenatchee, Spokane, Yakima and the Tri-Cities.

I signed up to work at Bethel for all 4 camps. I had a different job each week. Sometimes I was kitchen help, activities helper, music, counselor or camper. A lot of the staff stayed for more than one week so we got to be good friends.

One of the local churches had a bus we could use so each week the kids either went to Lake Quinault to go swimming or spent the afternoon at the beach

A member of the Camp Bethel board from Aberdeen would come out one afternoon each week and bring ice cream bars for all the campers and staff. Mr. Martin was a really nice person and spent time with the kids on his visits. He'd play games with them or just sit and talk.

The younger campers liked to create a "home in the woods" for their Bible study time. Not having the kids meet as one group meant that there were a lot more adults involved with the kids.

My most lasting memory is Senior High Camp Of you were ever in the living room of John Friend Lodge you know it was not a huge room. There were wall-to- wall. overstuffed chairs and old sofas. Imagine 60+ senior highs crowded and filling up the seating and the floor for Bible study..

Our Bible study leader the first year was Rev. Henry Koslow. He was born in Russia and made his way to the United States in the 40s. He would start out with short references to WWII and then wrap it into the study for the day. I can't tell you one thing he said, but I can tell you that his faith and Christian commitment were evident. We invited him to come back for each year our group was in senior high camp.

It was at Bethel that I felt a call to a church related vocation. I thought it would be in Christian Education or Youth Ministry. Instead it was in a church office where I found myself for 31 years. I did my best in those years to love and care for the congregation as if they were my family.

Camp is important to our children and youth. It widens their vision of commitment by adults who claim Jesus and devote a week of their time to be with them. It also lets them meet and get to know kids from other areas and situations forming friendships and a bond.

Our women understand the treasure we have in Camp Bethel and that it is worthy of our support. Please pray for our camp and campers this year.

Continued Mike Bradburn...

I have witnessed God at work in the lives of these students. This is because we begin our day by reading the Bible and praying.

I'll end it this way: God sometimes does not use the wisest or gentlest as his messenger, sometimes he uses a blunt instrument that boils everything down to fact or not fact. During the year, God transformed a student in my class from someone who loved himself first, then his parents, and finally his sibling. As I enforced my three rules upon these students, they took them seriously and challenged themselves accordingly. Now, I am praying that he and the rest spend the summer getting closer in their relationship with our glorious father. As it says in First Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I will be praying for him and his classmates all summer long, because the changes that God did in his life, while using me a blunt instrument to help them, he used them to remind me of the importance of prayer.

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We celebrate YOU!

2024 GRADUATES!

From Jan McCormick: My great granddaughter, Rachel Dunning, who is now an RN, graduates from Nursing School from Everett Community College. Her mother Katy is an RN now.

From Pat De Neui: My great niece, Gracie Bailey, is graduating from Bonney Lake High School. My crew friend's daughter, Trott Crump is graduating from Olympia High School.

From Carolyn Adams: My youngest granddaughter Lindsey Blankenship graduated from Evergreen State University with her bachelor's degree in psychology this last weekend. She anticipates continuing on with her education in Psychology.

From Larry Bartholomew: My oldest grandson Parker Termini (son of April and Clinton graduated from Black Hills High School.

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Camp Bethel Summer Camps

Senior High Camp – July 14-20

9th grade to Summer after Graduation

Theme: Peace

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

I do as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

\$325/person (Pre-Registrations) – \$350/person (for walk ins)

Scholarships Available

Junior High Camp – July 21-27

6th Grade to 8th Grade

Theme: Peace

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

\$325/person (Pre-Registrations) – \$350/person (for walk ins) Scholarships Available

Elementary Camp – July 28- August 1

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Theme: Peace

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

\$250/person (Pre-Registrations) – \$275/person (Walk-ins) Scholarships Available

Senior Adult Camp – September 9th through 12th

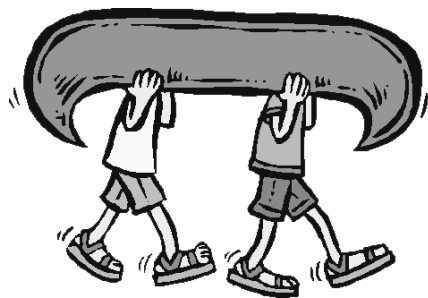
Seniors and Seniors at Heart

Theme: Peace

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

\$165/person (For all Registrations before July) (\$25 deposit) Scholarships Available



July 2024 SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 8:30 am Sunday School, 10am Worship, Child Care & Nursery, 3:30pm Table Grace

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Newsletter Deadline July 21st	2 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm Deacon Meeting Library	3 Choir On Summer Break	4 Bible Study on Summer Break OFFICE CLOSED Happy 4th of July	5 9:30-11:00 am TOPS Room 102	6	
7 Sunday School on Summer Break 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 ABW On Summer Break	11	12 9:30-11:00 am TOPS Room 102	13
14 10:00 am Worship Service Senior High Camp July 14-20	15 2:00 pm Mission Board Fireside Room 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	16 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg Rm. 102	17	18	19 9:30-11:00 am TOPS Room 102	20
21 10:00 am Worship Service Junior High Camp July 21-27 **WINDOWS DEADLINE	22 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	23 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall	24 6:30 pm Executive Council Rm. 102	25	26 9:30-11:00 am TOPS Room 102	27 Men's Breakfast and Widows Group On Summer break
28 10:00 am Worship Service Elementary Camp July 28- August 1	29 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fellowship Hall	30 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm Deacon Meeting Library	31	Senior High Camp – July 14-20 Junior High Camp – July 21-27 Elementary Camp – July 28- August 1 Senior Adult Camp – September 9th through 12th		