

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

PO BOX 533  
OLYMPIA, WA 98507

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

Return Service Requested

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## Church Staff

Rev. Mark Rambo, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor  
Jonathan Spatola-Knoll, Choir Director  
Lela DePaolo, Secretary

## August 2022 • Sermons and Scriptures • Olympia First Baptist Church

### Sunday, August 7th

Rev. Mark Rambo  
Scripture: Genesis 15:1—6  
Title: Faith for the Journey

### Sunday, August 28th

Rev. Mark Rambo  
Scripture: Jonah 3:1—5, 10  
Title: Escape Room Missions

### Sunday, August 14th

Rev. Mark Rambo  
Scripture: Psalm 80:1—2, 8—19  
Title: It's Not Always a Smooth Road

### Sunday, August 21st

Rev. Mark Rambo  
Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4—10  
& Isaiah 58:9b—14  
Title: If, When, and No Buts...



AUGUST

# WINDOWS

2022

## First Baptist Church Olympia

### Inside this issue:

Front Page:  
Pastor Mark:  
THE THIN PLACE

Thin Place cont... 2

REV. SAM KIM,  
EVERGREEN'S  
NEW EXECUTIVE  
ASSOCIATE  
MINISTER 3

EVERGREEN'S  
SUMMER  
FOOD FLING 4

INSERT:  
AUGUST  
BIRTHDAYS,  
RAC SOFTBALL  
SCHEDULE 5

SAVE THE DATES!  
IMPORTANT  
EVENTS IN AUGUST 6

EVERGREEN 2022  
ANNUAL MEETING 7

WOMEN'S  
MINISTRY  
& MODERATOR  
REPORT  
Jean Heidal 8

STEWARDSHIP 9

## The Thin Place: Where the Ordinary and Sacred Collide

It's been five days. Five days that started out with flu-like symptoms and then...BOOM!

Did someone get the license plate of the bus that just hit me?

I know everyone's experience with the Covid-19 virus is different. It's based on pre-existing conditions, vaccinations, boosters, anti-bodies, plain, dumb luck, etc. I was foolish enough to think I was, perhaps, immune from this evolving, tricky, virus. Then came that Monday morning and, did I already say: BOOM?

Yeah, that's what I thought.

### Awareness of the divine begins with wonder

Abraham Heschel

There was this series of moments when I was in the midst of this virus that made me aware that God could still surprise me, even at what seemed like my lowest, physically.

The first was a text, with pictures, from Yim Locke. It was a simple prayer for healing but along with it was an update on Park AND a smiling, laughing, adorable, roly-poly pic of Bodhi Locke. Bodhi is Jian and Heather's newborn son, and the first grandson, for Park and Yim!

### Wonder!

There was also a picture of Jian holding Bodhi in the finished downstairs bathroom that Jian and brother-in-law Peter had done, which is the last piece that needed completed so Park can come home the end of July.

### Wonder!

The next day, Kathleen sent me an article (we are isolated from each other), with pictures about the James Webb Space Telescope that NASA just re-leased:

"Today, we present humanity with a groundbreaking new view of the cosmos from the James Webb Space Telescope – a view the world has never seen before...

Bill Nelson, NASA Administrator

Cont. pg 2...

I can't describe what these pictures look like. All I can say is:

**Wonder!**

If you haven't seen the pictures yet, do so, as soon as possible!

They reflect Heschel's thoughts:

**Awareness of the divine begins with wonder!**

As the calendar turns another page and we find ourselves in the beginning stages of the month of August, where do you experience that sense of wonder? How has God surprised you lately?

I know that we can always focus on what ails us, frightens us, angers us, but if Heschel is right and our awareness of God begins with wonder, what does that mean and look like for you?

You have a whole month to look for the ways wonder...awe...surprise, shows themselves in your life and the people around you. It can be simple and beautiful. It can be surprising and complex. It can be \_\_\_\_\_?

***When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them,***

***mortals that you care for them?***

Psalm 8:3-4, New Revised Standard Version

We live in one of the most beautiful places on the planet. There are signs of God's presence and activity all around us. Maybe we take those things for granted? Maybe not? But if Heschel is right, our awareness of God can get lost, if "we" lose our ability to be awed, once in a while, by something as simple and beautiful as a baby's smile, and/or complex and mysterious as a nebula of stardust, collecting, forming and birthing a new array of stars.

Go and be surprised by God!

In that surprise, you just might reacquaint yourself with the Holy One!

Blessings and Joy!

Pastor Mark (Rev)

**Stewardship**

Well, as we hit the halfway point of our financial year (to-date), I stand amazed at your faithfulness, commitment and generosity. I realize that our expenses are down because of the impact of the pandemic, but through it all, you continue to believe that God is not done with us as a congregation and continue to give to the mission and ministry we are attempting to live out here on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Washington.

The raw numbers look like this:

Year-to-Date Income (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022) – **\$149,701.33**

Year-to-Date Expenses (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022) – \$122,540.04

Year-to-Date Income **over** Expenses (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022) – **\$27,161.29**

Additionally, above and beyond your tithe and offerings to the church, you have also given:

**America For Christ Offering – \$2022.00**

**AFC** is for ministries within American Baptist Churches USA, for Home Missions

**One Great Hour of Sharing – \$3347.00**

**OGHS** is a multi-denominational offering that goes toward Disaster Relief Efforts, globally.

This year, we have earmarked our OGHS giving to Ukraine Relief Efforts.

Again, I stand amazed at how God works in and through us...How it feels as if God is preparing us for something sustainable, amazing and significant in the near future.

August also signifies that our Budget/Spending Plan process begins. Our Treasurer, Carolyn Adams is providing the various boards and committees information on what they have spent so far this year and what their end-of-the-year projections look like. Those groups will start to discuss, pray, envision a spending plan for 2023. It's a delicate dance, but one with a lot of rhythm and occasional spice! By the end of September, the Executive Council will vote on the recommendation of the 2023 Spending Plan that the Board of Trustees submits. We will have a Budget Hearing in October for questions and/or input from you, the congregation. We make whatever adjustments might be needed and we vote on the finalized 2023 Spending Plan at the Annual Meeting in November.

Prayers for this process is appreciated and needed!

It is also a time for you to think about your own tithing process. Does your giving stay the same? Can you increase your giving a few percentages per month? For the year?

What do you feel God is calling you to do if you've never tithed before?

We are all in this process together. If you have questions, ask. If you want to know more about tithing and how to go about it, talk with Pastor Mark and/or a trusted friend within the congregation. Our giving is one way we acknowledge God's activity and blessing in our lives.

Blessings and Joy!

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**Women's Ministries**  
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**Jean Heidal**  
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We are taking a couple of months off for the summer time, but I have been working on plans for the fall meetings and Christmas. \*Our Christmas Brunch is scheduled for **Saturday, December 3, at 10:30 am.**

The program is in place:. The group that Karen Wilson and several of our women are members of will provide some joyful Christmas music. Rev. Carol Sutton, a retired American Baptist Women's Ministries executive, will bring the devotional thoughts.

Start looking in your cupboards, drawers and closets for those items you will donate to the Treasure Room. Jan Downen has agreed to be the coordinator. We have room at the church to store your items, so start lightening your load now. Remember puzzles, housewares, books, decorator items and small appliances are welcomed.

Did you know that some children do their family Christmas shopping in the Treasure Room? Keep that in mind when you make your donations.

Ohhhh, the Cookie Room -- ever popular for yummy Christmas treats will be coordinated by Dixie Mize. Plan to bring treats for the sale and take some home for yourself.

In addition, we have two quilts, donated by Merletta Roberts, to raffle. Details on ticket sales and other information will be available in the fall. If you would like to "host" a table just let me know. Active recruitment will start in September. I know it's early but start thinking of our joyous Christmas time together.

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**Moderator Moments**  
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**Jean Heidal**  
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Glorious summer in the Northwest -. Picnics, camping, bbqs, fishing, baseball games, trips to the ocean or mountains, swimming, family reunions, lazy afternoons sitting in the yard studying cloud formations, all a part of life here.

But at 9th and Washington ministry and mission go on year round. All of the boards and committees continue to work and meet during the summer months, but I want to focus on just one committee -- the Nominating Committee will be moving into high gear during the summer months. They will begin looking at the number of positions that need to be filled and start the recruiting process.

It's time for those who are able and willing to serve to start thinking about what role they might fill. In the last few years the size of the boards and committees has decreased, but every year there are still positions to fill. In what capacity could you serve? What is your ministry passion? Take some time to think about your gifts/talents and how you could be an asset in church life.

When positions on any board or committee are all filled it's less for each person to do. You might even make a new friend and discover things you have in common. Beyond the "work" of the board is the fellowship of being together

and sharing your interests and maybe even your life story. When the Nominating Committee calls be ready to say "yes" to helping make our mission and ministry stronger.



**Evergreen Welcomes Their New Associate Executive Minister!**



Rev. Sam Kim (he/him/his) is a Korean-Canadian who has lived in many different cities before calling Seattle home. He graduated from Regent College in Vancouver, BC with a Master in Christian Studies (Arts and Christianity) and from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC with a Master of Divinity. Throughout the past two decades, he has been blessed to have served in Korean, Japanese, British, and Chinese churches. His personal experiences have cultivated in him a sincere love for inter-generational

and multi-cultural ministry. He has a passion for connecting theology and discipleship with contemporary culture.

He is excited to come on board to serve as the ***Executive Associate Minister of Innovation & Design for the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches to help the churches of the region in the work of innovation and renewal.*** He also loves to explore the connections between spirituality and art in its various forms. He has also served on a number of advisory boards and has taught as an adjunct professor of Christian foundations. In his life outside of ministry, he records and produces music in various genres. You can find out more about his music at [samueljosephkim.com](http://samueljosephkim.com). Sam is married to Rhea who acts as the Director of Legal Services for the Youth Homelessness Program at the Legal Counsel of Youth and Children. Together with their daughter Eden they enjoy exploring the foods, arts, and music of Seattle.





# Evergreen Summer Food Fling



**August 6th, 2022, Noon to 2:30pm  
at Panther Lake Community Church**

**10630 SE 204th St., Kent, WA 98031**

**Corner of SE 204th & 108th Ave SE (Benson Highway)**

***Food as diverse as Evergreen*—dishes from all our Caucuses all in one place!**

Suggested donation of \$20 per person, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds

You can register in advance on the Evergreen website, but tickets will also be available at the door.

Scan the QR Code below to get to the website for registration and payment:

<https://www.ea-abc.org/evergreen-summer-food-fling.html>



Email [paul@ea-abc.org](mailto:paul@ea-abc.org) with any questions



**EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION**  
—OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA—  
TRANSLATING OUR UNITY TO THE WORLD

## Navigating Changing Times: Responding Together

Malachi 3:6 “For I, THE LORD, do not change...”

### **Evergreen 2022 Annual Meeting October 13th—October 15th Denver, CO**

Join us for our Annual Meeting hosted by the First Baptist Church of Denver, Colorado.  
It will be a time of fellowship, learning, and worship.

If you cannot join us in person, you can join us online as we will be using Zoom or Livestreaming the Business Meetings, Worship Services and some Workshops

#### Thursday, October 13th

Arrivals

6:30pm—Minister’s Council Meeting

#### Friday, October 14th

11am—Registration

11:45am-12:45pm—Light Lunch

1pm—Welcome Plenary

1:45pm—5pm Workshops

5pm—Dinner

7pm—Worship—Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri,  
Associate General Secretary for  
Mission Resource, ABC-USA



#### Saturday, October 15th

8:30am—Continental Breakfast

9:15am—Business Session Review

9:45am—Caucus Meetings

11am—Plenary/Business Meeting

12:15pm—Lunch

1:30pm-5pm—Workshops

5pm—Dinner

7pm—Worship—Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall, President  
United Theological Seminary of  
the Twin Cities.



#### Sunday, October 16th

Worship at local Evergreen congregations First Baptist  
Denver and Calvary Baptist OR, participate in our Cross-  
Caucus Pulpit exchanges, virtually or in person!  
Departures.

#### Workshops

##### Friday, October 14th

**Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton**—Evergreen Association History and the  
Consensus Model

**Rev. Carolyn Matthews & Rev. Wim Mauldin**—Reparations

##### Saturday, October 15th

**Rev. Anne Scalfaro & Rev. Dr. Eugene Downing**—Responding  
Together Across Races—A workshop in 2 parts

**Rev. Travis Norvell**—Church on the Move: Community Ministry

Most workshops will be given twice so you can attend both workshops!

We’ll be staying at the **Warwick Hotel Denver**, which is a four star hotel just a few blocks from FBC Denver where the events of our convention are occurring.

**The rate is only \$154/night**, and please register for rooms through Annual Meeting Registration page, below, to ensure you get this optimal rate!

**Address:** 1776 Grant Street, 80203 Denver, CO

**Phone:** (303) 861-2000

## **Register Now**

and get more info @

<https://www.ea-abc.org/annual-meeting-2022.html>

Feel free to contact Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen Office with any questions or concerns, 253-859-8226, [paul@ea-abc.org](mailto:paul@ea-abc.org)