

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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Rev. Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor
Jonathan Spatola-Knoll, Organist
Darrell Born, Choir Director
Lela DePaolo, Secretary
Gary Rogers, Caretaker

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SEPTEMBER

WINDOWS

2021

First Baptist Church Olympia

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The Thin Place

Where the Sacred & Ordinary Collide!

Summer here in the Pacific Northwest is precious. One never really knows how long it will last. All we know for certain, is that we should take advantage of it for however long we have it. That means getting out and about. Walks, vacations, gardening, gatherings, boating and the like, are just some of the ways we enjoy these summer days. It's also hard to believe that the calendar is turning over again and we now stand squarely in that in-between time (in September) between the summer and fall seasons. Fall means the beginning of the school year. Football season is gearing up, whether it be youth leagues (Go, Wylie!), high school, college or the NFL (Sea – Hawks). [And yes, I know there are Packer, Patriot, Colt, 49er fans out there in our midst!]

If there is a lesson for us as the church in this change of seasons, I think it has to do with how we adapt to the various transitions we continually face.

We find ourselves, as a nation, in the midst of a new surge and spread of the Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus. This variant is highly contagious and is creating, yet again, a heavy strain upon our hospitals, their medical personnel and other responders/care givers. The risk is especially high for those who have not been vaccinated as well as those who are already at risk due to underlying health issues and/or autoimmune challenges. I know that we were just getting use to meeting in-person again and were excited about the return to some of our beloved practices and rhythms as a congregation. As of right now, “we hold our plans lightly.”

We are asking people to be masked when they enter the church building, even if vaccinated. We are asking folks to continue to be flexible as we go through this “surge.” It may mean we take a step back and limit the number of people in the building. Outside groups have been given notice and are complying. The Evergreen Baptist Association Annual Meeting we were to host, is now going to be an “On-Line” Event. We are in the midst of figuring the details of this switch as we go forward.

The only thing we are mandating here at Olympia First Baptist, is that we...

Walk Humbly – We will do our best to communicate decisions and our thought processes

Love Completely – Love, God's Agape Love, is what makes us unique. Love that is – Patient, kind, gentle, slow to anger, compassionate, etc.

Live Differently – For me, that means being open to change(s) as we navigate this virus and its impact on others as well as on us. Get use to the words:

Flexible and Adaptable!

We are not on our own. We are grounded and rooted, in Christ. As long as we embrace that fact and remember that we bear the image of God, each of us, then we can face whatever challenges that present themselves to us as the Body of Christ and followers of the Risen One.

Blessings and Joy!

Pastor Mark

(Rev)

September 2021 Preaching Schedule First Baptist Church

September 5th

Guest Preacher – Theo Yu
(Pastor Mark @ Camp Bethel)
No Communion

September 26th

Rev. Mark Rambo
Okay – Acceptable – Perfect!
Psalm 19:7–14

September 12th

Rev. Mark Rambo
Communion Sunday
Who Are You?
Mark 8:27–38

September 19th

Guest Preacher – Rev. Curtis Price
Church Picnic Day – Casual Dress



Formation and Discipleship

Coming this Fall

[Due to the surge of the Delta Variant of the Covid virus, we are
“holding our plans lightly.”]

Sunday School – Sunday, September 19th, 8:30 a.m.

Adult Classes

“Alive in The Spirit of God”, Fellowship Hall, Pastor Sam

**This class focuses on responding to the nudges of God’s Spirit
in our lives.**

More information will follow!

Church Library – Dan Bezanson Teaching

Dan Bezanson will be teaching this Adult class using the Book of Acts as a timeline.
They will continue this Fall starting with 1st and 2nd Thessalonians.

Sunday school – Starting September 26th, 11:30 a.m.

Koinonia, An Intergenerational Class for children, youth & adults!

Pastor Mark Rambo, Lead Teacher – Room 208

YUTS (Young Unique Traveling Servant Leaders)

Middle School and High Schoolers

**This group of hooligan scholars have already been meeting
every other Saturday.**

Next gathering – Sunday, September 12th

Worship-Lunch-Table Grace, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**All Church Picnic – September 19th, Tumwater Historical Park
11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

**Emmaus House & YUTS, Saturday, September 25th, @ 5:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

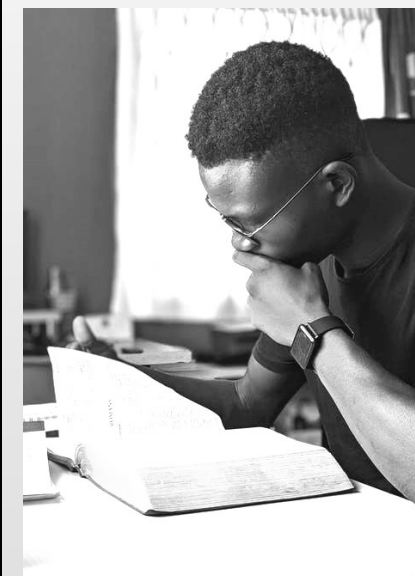
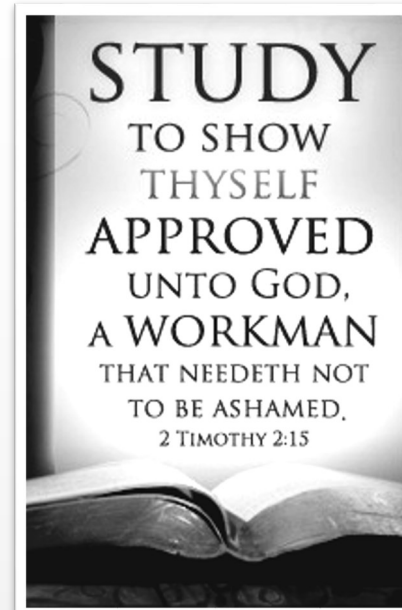
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Chair, Sandy

*Join us on the Facebook Group page:
“Heart and Thoughts”
for the
One-year Chronological Bible Study.*

Here is a list of the readings for September:

SEPTEMBER

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|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> September 1
Ezekiel 32:17-33:20
Jeremiah 52:28-30
Psalm 137
1 Chronicles 4:24-5:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 2
1 Chronicles 5:18-26
1 Chronicles 6:3b, 49, 4-15
1 Chronicles 7:1-8:28 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 3
1 Chronicles 8:29-9:1a
Daniel 4:1-37
Ezekiel 40:1-37 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 4
Ezekiel 40:38-43:27 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 5
Ezekiel 44:1-46:24 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 6
Ezekiel 47:1-48:35
Ezekiel 29:17-30:19
2 Kings 25:27-30
Jeremiah 52:31-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 7
Daniel 7:1-8:27
Daniel 5:1-31 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 8
Daniel 6:1-28
Daniel 9:1-27
2 Chronicles 36:22-23
Ezra 1:1-11
1 Chronicles 3:17-19a | <input type="checkbox"/> September 9
Ezra 2:1-4:5
1 Chronicles 3:19b-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 10
Daniel 10:1-12:13
Ezra 4:24-5:1
Haggai 1:1-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 11
Haggai 2:1-9
Zechariah 1:1-6
Haggai 2:10-19
Ezra 5:2
Haggai 2:20-23
Zechariah 1:7-5:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 12
Zechariah 6:1-15
Ezra 5:3-6:14a
Zechariah 7:1-8:23 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 13
Zechariah 9:1-14:21 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 14
Ezra 6:14b-22
Ezra 4:6
Esther 1:1-4:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 15
Esther 5:1-10:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 16
Ezra 4:7-23
Ezra 7:1-8:36 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 17
Ezra 9:1-10:44
Nehemiah 1:1-2:20 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 18
Nehemiah 3:1-7:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 19
Nehemiah 7:4-8:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 20
Nehemiah 8:13-10:39 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 21
Nehemiah 11:1-12:26
1 Chronicles 9:1b-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 22
Nehemiah 12:27-13:6
Nehemiah 5:14-19
Nehemiah 13:7-31
Malachi 1:1-2:9 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 23
Malachi 2:10-4:6
Joel 1:1-3:21 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 24
Mark 1:1a
Luke 1:1-4
John 1:1-18
Matthew 1:1-17
Luke 3:23b-38
Luke 1:5-38 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 25
Luke 1:39-80
Matthew 1:18-25
Luke 2:1-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 26
Matthew 2:1-23
Luke 2:41-52
Mark 1:1b-8
Matthew 3:1-12
Luke 3:1-18
Mark 1:9-11
Matthew 3:13-17
Luke 3:21-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 27
Mark 1:12-13
Matthew 4:1-11
Luke 4:1-15
John 1:19-2:25 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 28
John 3:1-4:45
Luke 3:19-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 29
Mark 1:14-15
Matthew 4:12-17
Luke 3:23a
John 4:46-54
Luke 4:16-30
Mark 1:16-20
Matthew 4:18-22
Mark 1:21-28
Luke 4:31-37
Mark 1:29-34
Matthew 8:14-17
Luke 4:38-41
Mark 1:35-39
Luke 4:42-44
Matthew 4:23-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 30
Luke 5:1-11
Mark 1:40-45
Matthew 8:1-4
Luke 5:12-16
Mark 2:1-12
Matthew 9:1-8
Luke 5:17-26
Mark 2:13-17
Matthew 9:9-13
Luke 5:27-32
Mark 2:18-22
Matthew 9:14-17
Luke 5:33-39 |
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On Wednesday, September 8, at 12 noon join other women from the church in the Fireside Room for our regular monthly meeting. Bring a sack lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided.

After Janice Holcomb made the 10 baby nightgowns I discovered that "baby kits" were needed this year. Other items needed include a baby cap (thank you Sarah Waterhouse and God's Little Blessings), a receiving blanket (made by Jan Downen), and a piece of vinyl, for a changing pad (cut to size by Helen Pothier and Janice Holcomb. Janice also finished the edges.). We will put the kits together at our meeting and send them on their way (thank you Jeri Stone.)

We will also have a time of remembrance for those women we have lost during the pandemic. They include: Carol Mead, Barbara Gill and Maralee Ice. Pastor Mark will bring the homily. If I have missed someone, please let me know.

I'm looking forward to getting back on our regular schedule of meetings and mission projects. We also have the Christmas Brunch to look forward to! Start collecting your "treasures" to donate to the Treasure Room sale! We have storage available at the church. If you have questions or ideas, please contact me.

continued ...

***Thursday Morning Bible Study – Begins again on September 23rd**

This will be a Hybrid study between In-Person & Facebook Live

We are holding our plans lightly with this study due to the virus!

Area of study – Colossians and/or The Gospel According to _____!

Emmaus House – Saturdays, 6:00 p.m.

This is our House Church community that normally meets in the old church parsonage on the back of the church property. With our present virus predicament, we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall of the church where there is more space and better ventilation.

Emmaus' gatherings are more discussion/dialogue based worship experiences that attempts to use all of one's senses as part of the worship/learning atmosphere.

We are also working through our options of restarting Book Clubs this fall as well.

So much right now depends on the virus and how we navigate this latest surge.

One of the books we are considering is:

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

Remember, we are called to become more Christlike, what the Apostle Paul referred to as "maturing in the faith." That means we are constantly being formed, changing, growing in our faith. So, yes, that means spending time reading, praying, asking questions, discussing, sharing, studying, hearing stories – familiar and different voices, being still, taking a walk and looking for God in the beauty and mystery of nature. The list, the ways, the methods are numerous.

The intention is the same – to open ourselves to God, in order to grow, be changed, transformed, into a new creation that allows the Christ to abide in us.

SERIES ON ANTIRACISM

Jodi Honeysett and I are members of the Evergreen Baptist Euro Caucus Antiracism Network. We meet with other members of the network twice per month to discuss the effects of racism and how to raise awareness in our churches of racism and how to combat it. It also has been a time of introspection and dealing with my own demons.

In the next few months we will be submitting articles to examine the role of our faith in dealing with questions of race and how it impacts our lives as followers of the Christ. There will be no shaming or calling out, but a realistic view of how we as Christians find our faith leading us in dealing with our calling as Christians in respect to racial issues.

THE CONFESSIONS OF A RACIST

By Vernon Blair

Would that we were in a world which did not see color, but that is not into which the world I was born. I look back at my grandparents and do not see hateful racism, but it was there in the societal structure. My parents were raised in Okfuskee County, Oklahoma. The mixing of the races was not encouraged; in fact, there were white towns and black towns. Boley, Oklahoma was a Negro (proper word at the time) mecca. It had banks, stores, cotton gins and other businesses. There were several other all Negro towns scattered throughout the county. In Okemah, where my mother lived, Jim Crow ruled the day. Negroes were allowed in town but could stay after sundown only if they lived in servant quarters. One time while visiting Okemah as an adult, my mom pointed out a man, who had a scar running from his eyebrow across his cheek to his chin, to me. She told me that as a teenager he and a group of friends were being sexually aggressive to a young black woman, who pulled a razor out of her bosom and cut him. The affect was that there were no more servant quarters in Okemah.

As a child I did not like dark people, not necessarily of different races. My first grade teach wore dark clothes and had black hair. Looking back I think she resembled a Disney villain or witch. I remember being at a baseball game in San Francisco, which was the first time I had actually been around black people. Seated in the stands in front of me was a Black man, and his hair was slicked down, which amazed me. My mom told me not to touch it.

continued ...

use, is this combination of setting realistic financial goals, that also integrates financial faith challenges. This stewardship process helps us move forward as a church to be both a spiritual oasis as well as a launching pad for God's missional and ministry activity in the world, locally and globally.

Our stewardship, as a church, is figuring out how best to utilize our time, gifts and financial resources to further advance God's Kin-dom; to reflect the Beloved Community that Jesus Christ has established. Likewise, you and I as individual/family units, pray, ponder and examine how we are going to use our own time, talents and money, for God's purposes here at Olympia First Baptist. We know that there are many needs out in our world. That there are many worthy causes and organizations that need help, primarily, financial help. However, the church is unique because as a "body"/congregation, we are to be light on a hill for others. We embody what it means to follow Christ. That's a worthy cause. That is life-giving; an opportunity to leave a piece of Jesus behind that can grow, flourish and be life-changing.

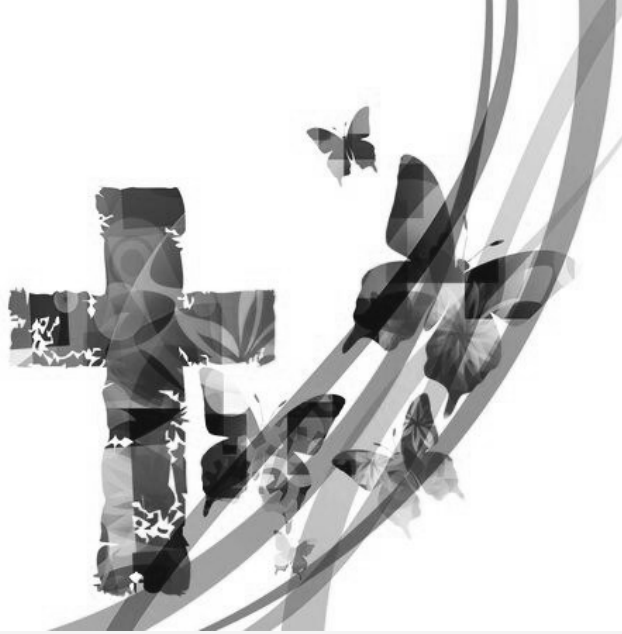
We hope as we go through this budget process as a congregation, you will go through your own prayerful, discernment process as you consider your tithing plan for 2022. We are in this together. We do so, not out of a sense of guilt, shame or habit. We give because God, through Jesus Christ has given so much to us. That in Christ, we have found acceptance, love, grace. Those things are life-giving and life-changing.

Prayers as you/we, work through this important process.

Blessings and Joy!

Pastor Mark

Stewardship, Budgets & Tithing



As most of you know by now, we are in the midst of the budget process here at Olympia First Baptist Church, for 2022. The Boards and Committees have submitted their requests to the Board of Trustees. The Trustees will spend an evening talking to a representative of each ministry team to hear and discuss the thought process behind their individual/team budget requests. In turn, that helps the Trustees to discern how best to create a workable budget for 2022. That workable budget “draft,” is then

presented to the Executive Council to discuss, discern and hopefully, come to agreement on. Once that draft is approved, copies of the proposed budget will be made available to the congregation. Then, once folks have had time to look it over and digest it some, there will be a “hearing,” sometime in October where questions, and more discussion can take place. After that hearing, the proposed budget will go through any agreed upon adjustments, where it awaits the final approval of the Executive Council. You, the congregation, then will have a two-week window to see the final proposed budget that we will then vote on, at the Annual Meeting in November.

This process actually started the end of July. It is more than just crunching numbers.

It involves prayer, discernment, wisdom and an eye toward the future. It requires a spirit of cooperation and patience. It asks us to recognize hard realities, yet also to be open to growth and change. It is a process that requires faith. Faith in our Trustee Board. Faith in church leadership that is reflected in the Executive Council. Faith in the mission and ministry of this church we call Olympia First Baptist. But mostly, and especially, faith in God. Faith that God is not done with us yet as a congregation.

Faith that God is, has been and will continue to be at work in us, through us and even, at times, despite us. The Budget, Spending Plan, whatever term you want to

Confessions of a Racist cont...

In my youth I had probably the same prejudices as others who were in the cocoon of white society. We moved from Wyoming, to the Bay Area, to Massachusetts, to Southern California, during which time I never knew a Black person, never attended school with a black child. I was wrapped in a white society. I remember our pastor in Riverton, Wyoming, occasionally would tell racist jokes from the pulpit. They weren't hateful but were based on stereotypes and were very patronizing. Clearly, Blacks were regarded as inferior.

Things didn't really change for me until I went to college and had the opportunity to meet and know some Black people. Most of the integration at Oklahoma Baptist University involved basketball players. I remember when a friend commented during a game that it was the first time the coach played three Black players at the same time.

In seminary I encountered Clarence Jordan, translator of the Cotton Patch New Testament and the first antiracist I ever met. He worked to eradicate racism and poverty in Southern Georgia. I got the message that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek – which I take to mean that in Christ all are the same. I worked with racially diverse groups; my friends were also from various races.

Ibram X. Kendi, Author of How To Be An Antiracist, states that actions are either racist or antiracist. ***It is the action and not the person who bares the characteristics of racist or antiracist.*** Essentially all of us are racist when we go along with systemic racism. We are antiracist when we reach across the racial divide and combat the systemic racism. All of us are a mixture of racist and antiracist, just like we are all saints and sinners.

I align with antiracism but that does not mean that my inherent racism never rears its head. When it does, I hope and pray that I can recognize it for what it is, dismiss and laugh at it. To act in an antiracist manner requires intentionality. Old habits are hard to break.

So how do we refer to people of African descent? It's difficult because the preferred terms keep changing: Negro, Black, African-American, People of Color. In Christ are not these racial terms irrelevant. It is better to call one Brother, Sister, Beloved Child of God.

I hope that as a church we can have dialogue about how to address racism in our society. I am open for dialogue on this issue.

• LAST CALL For MEMORY BOOK • LAST CALL For INVITATION LIST

With our 150th Church Anniversary coming in November it's deadline time for the memory book and names and addresses to be added to the invitation list. Memories can be sent to Tia Pennell or to me. Invitees should be sent to Karen Wilson. The deadline is **September 15th!**

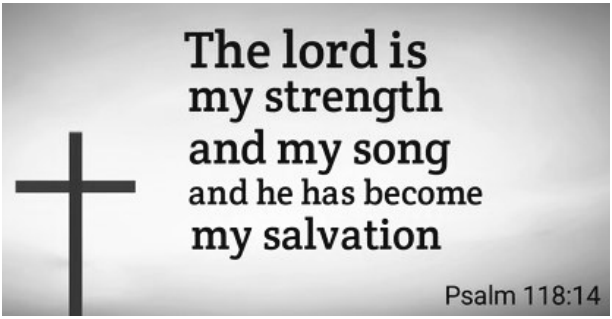
Think of people who have attended FBC in the past who might enjoy coming back for a visit. We have already received a number of interesting stories which will add greatly to our heritage of those saints who have gone before us. I can't wait to read all that has been written! By now you should have received an invitation to Pastor Mark's installation service on Saturday, September 18, at 2:00 pm. It's been a long time coming and I hope all will be able to attend.

We just learned that the Evergreen Association will have a virtual annual meeting this year. Covid strikes again! We will not be hosting the meeting as we had hoped. However, you will still have opportunities to attend workshops and worship services. As details become available please take advantage of the opportunities available.

So, your "challenge" for this week is to:

- Write your remembrances of your time at FBC
- Submit names for invitation list

Thank you!



*Happiness and Love to each
& everyone!!!*

Your Deacons have been meeting every other month on Zoom or most recently in-person.

We share our praises and concerns with one another as well as updates for those who are in need of prayer.

Rev. Mark requested smaller group gatherings to share his ideas and direction for the future of First Baptist... during the months of August and September.

Your Deacons responded and set up their dates:

Pat De Neu	8/8/21	At her house
Vern Blair	8/22/21	After Church service
Emily Blair	8/28/21	Saturday Brunch gathering at 11:30 am
Meggin Turk	8/29/21	After Church service
Dixie Mize	9/12/21	After Church service
Kat Stoker		Join any date of After Church service

We hope you will be able to attend but if that date & time does not work for you, then join any group for the latest sharing and caring of our church.

Blessings and Shalom,

Pat De Neu