

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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

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October 2021 Preaching Schedule First Baptist Church

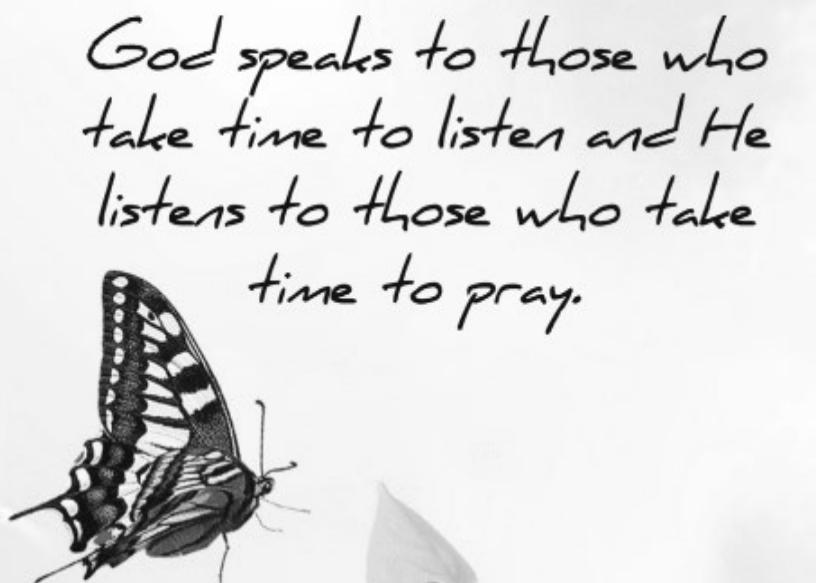
October 3rd
Rev. Mark Rambo
“Curse God, and Die!”
Job 1:1; 2:1–10

October 10th
Rev. Mark Rambo
“Hide and Seek”
Job 23:1–9, 16–17

October 17th
Rev. Mark Rambo
“Gird Up Your Loins!”
Job 38:1–7, (34–41)

October 24th
Guest Preacher
Pastor Mark in Arizona

October 31st
Rev. Mark Rambo
“Old and Full of Days”
Job 42:1–6, 10–17



OCTOBER

First Baptist Church Olympia

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WINDOWS

2021

The Thin Place
Where the Sacred & Ordinary Collide!

We are entering the last quarter of 2021. October brings to mind the things we associate with the Fall season – Football, the colors of the leaves changing and then falling to the ground, Harvest activities, apple cider making and of course, Halloween. All of these normal things, events, occurrences are signals of change, transitions, the rhythms of our lives. As a church community we are in the midst of change and transition as well. After 20 months, we were finally able to Install Pastor Mark as the Senior Pastor (Thanks Covid!). We have found ways to navigate the roadblocks and challenges that this pandemic has thrown at us and still be the church on the corner of 9th & Washington. We have discovered that we are more than a building, we are a community, a body. We have found ways to worship, teach, learn, pray, support, walk with, help, encourage, lift up, cry, sit still and serve...each other and others in our circles of family, friends, co-workers, strangers, others, etc.

Whatever the rest of 2021 has for us, we will face it together as we continue to hold our plans lightly, while flexing our muscles of flexibility and adaptability when needed.

I want to share with you some of my takeaways after meeting with all the different Deacon Groups the last 2 months. First of all, I hope you know who your Deacon is. They are a great resource, spiritually and relationally, for you to have. Your Deacon and Deacon group is another circle of support, prayer, and community, if you choose to build relationships and trust within that group. Often times, people will ask me to pray but are not comfortable having me sharing their request with the entire church. I would love to ask if I can share with their Deacon and/or Deacon group. This more intimate and smaller piece of our church community, might feel safer to share such a request with.

The other point of emphasis was listening to pieces of people's stories of how they came to be a part of the church community here at Olympia First.

We started with the question:

What brought you to Olympia First Baptist?

Responses were varied but certain themes emerged, including:

Generational Family Ties – Denominational Tie-in – Family/friends connection – Military moving around–Female Ordination – Denominational/organist–fits our theology –music, message, family-comfortability–feels like home. – invited by a

Cont. page 2...

friend; Feeding/Table Grace/Community; friendship; welcoming—people were so friendly and invested in the children; invested in the family, invested mentors; born into it—family; invitation; denomination familiarity. People like Ruby Nickerson, Tom McCormick, Pete Hildebrandt; music/worship traditions; relationships, relationship, relationships, relationships, and relationships!

The follow-up question was – **What keeps you at Olympia First Baptist?**

It's not too surprising, that what brought people here are still the reasons that they stay:

Feeling of family; supportive of women in positions of leadership; Table Grace; relationships, relationship, relationships, relationships and God working through it all!

As we build a sustainable bridge into God's future, we all should be reminded as we invite new people and/or welcome new people into our fellowship that we are mindful of what brought us here and what keeps us here. Why wouldn't we share those same things with folks who are new to us and the church?

Finally, I'm going to leave with you some additional questions that I shared with the Deacon Groups. I'd ask you to do some praying and pondering before you answer them yourself. These questions and how we answer them will go a long way in helping us clarify who we are and what we want to be about as a church community. We aren't limited by them but they do get to the heart of what next steps might look like as we continue to transition toward God's future plans for us as a congregation.

**Think of the time(s) you felt the most engaged/alive/motivated or excited, here at Olympia First Baptist, and/or any church you've been involved in?
Why was that?**

When does the church seem to be at its best?

What is my intention in bringing my children/grandchildren to church? Friends/neighbors?

What do you want people to experience when they come to Olympia First?

In general? – In Worship? – Ministry?

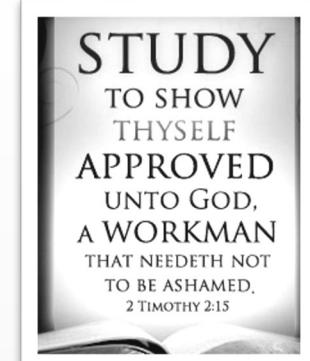
What values do you consider essential for the church today?

There is much for us to be in prayer about. We are in the midst of budget plans for 2022. The Annual Meeting for Evergreen has been shifted from in-person to online, but we are still providing space and leadership for it. The Church's 150 Anniversary is a month away and plans for celebration, thanksgiving and gratitude are well underway. And before you know it, it will be the season of Advent and then we turn the page into a whole new year. And all of it happens under the specter of a Global Pandemic. But pray we must and pray we will. The conversations we will have will be important. They will reflect the questions above and what was shared in the Deacon Group Gatherings. The good news is that God is alive and working in our midst. Let us be open and honest before the Holy One who has given us the Risen One and has released the Spirit to guide us, surprise us and lead us into loving worship and service for all people.

Blessings and Joy! Pastor Mark (Rev)

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Chair, Sandy Grebbs

*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 October:

2021 WORLD MISSION OFFERING

internationalministries.org

We've Been Surprised by God's Glory • John 1:16



During the World Mission Offering this October, our church has the opportunity to join the transformational work God is doing around the world through International Ministries' 120+ global servants and 250+ global partners. God can use your/our participation not only to change lives internationally, but also to deepen our own discipleship in Christ. You can take part in what the Holy Spirit is doing to bring God's

kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven," as you prayerfully consider what you can give above and beyond your regular tithe to Olympia First Baptist Church.

The Board of Missions will have a World Mission Offering Moment each Sunday of October, during the Sunday Worship Service. The Mission Board is happy to announce that Kyle Williams will join us during worship on Sunday, October 17th, through the wonders of technology, to share what he and Katrina are doing as our Global Servants in Northern Thailand. We are excited about Kyle being with us and hope you will be inspired by the good work he and Katrina are doing.

Whatever you decide as far as your giving to the World Mission Offering, remember that the WMO is about real people that you know: Kyle and Katrina, Sarah Matos, and Rev. Mylinda Baits, who are committed and passionate about connecting with other real people, in their native context, with the good news of Jesus Christ. Just make your check out to OFBC and put WMO in the Memo line. If you are giving electronically, make sure you are clear about your amount being designated for WMO.

International Ministries works cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life for all creation. We as a congregation are partners with IM in their mission and vision as an extension of American Baptist Churhces/USA.

SERIES ON ANTIRACISM

A Picture of Anti-Racism – Amos Dudley

By Pastor Mark Rambo

[The following is the next installment of our monthly series that examines the role of faith in dealing with questions of race and how it impacts our lives as followers of Christ.]

I think I've always been aware about "race," even though I'm sure that's not a word I understood as a child. One of my earliest recollections was as a pre-schooler in Hawaii. I was aware that I was a rarity, since most of my classmates were of mixed-race. Father's being Caucasian and Mom's being some combo of Polynesian, Japanese, Pacific Islander, and/or Filipino. All of which made sense, since the school I attended served mostly a military family system because of its proximity to Pearl Harbor and Wheeler Air Force Base.

When we moved from Hawaii to Phoenix, Arizona, my Dad was the Assistant Principal at South Mountain High School, which was predominantly African-American. This was the 60's as the march toward Civil Rights for all made its way into our living rooms and everyday lives. Again, my understanding of race at age 10 was limited, but I knew enough that a person of color was not necessarily welcomed north of Van Buren Street after dark. By the way, I was 10 in 1968, the same year Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated.

The move to the suburbs of North Tempe/South Scottsdale reinforced my whiteness. Race was limited to Native Americans and Mexican-Americans, but then, even that sort of interpersonal relationship was limited. I had friends who were people of color but they were the exception, not the rule. I consider my growing up years as unremarkable. I never felt as if my parents attempted to keep me away from people who were different from us. I was fortunate to have parents who saw the world larger and more inclusive than the way they were brought up and raised. I was fortunate to have Ms. Nakamura as my 7th Grade English teacher. It was she who taught me/us about Japanese Internment, since she lived in such a camp as a child. I was fortunate to have these moments of "exception," instead of the daily-ness of being white.

I could share with you other moments, encounters, experiences that jarred my rhythm of being, well, white, but that's not what is most important. What I want to share is my hero, Amos Dudley. Mr. Dudley, Rev. Dudley, wasn't my first hero. That was reserved for baseball players like Bob Gibson and Lou Brock. As baseball became my game, I read about Jackie Robinson, the Boys of Summer, and the great Willie Mays. I learned about the Negro Leagues and how segregation and Jim Crow limited and dehumanized others. But all of that was head knowledge. Important to have, but limited. That's what makes Mr. Dudley special to me. He was real. He was Cheryl's Dad, my father's friend, the Rev, who worked tirelessly at the Valley Christian Center in South Phoenix working with the marginalized, the poor, with people like me except they were a different race (there's that word again). Rev. Dudley, Amos, was a man with a big expansive heart. He laughed easily and worked tirelessly for others, especially for

others that were not part of my normal, everyday life. He represented something outside of my everyday world but, the way he carried himself, how relational he was, his smile made that "other part of town," more real, accessible, and important. He was expanding my eyesight, my heart, without me knowing it or even understanding it fully.

At the age of 52, Amos Dudley was diagnosed with Cancer. My father gave me a journal of Amos' reflections and poetry that he would write over the next 7 years as he battled the big C. These reflections are in my side drawer of the desk in my office at church. I carry them, always. They reflect a man who described himself as an activist and Christian mystic, who navigated what he called "a change of pace," when he was diagnosed. These reflections cemented Amos' hero status in my heart. They guide me to this day, not to take myself too seriously even though what I have been called to be and do is serious stuff. They remind me that there are others who are dealing with life and death decisions every day, when I am feeling sorry for myself. They speak to me, allow God to speak to me, to encourage me, to challenge me to be just as expansive with my heart toward God and others as Amos was. Finally, these reflections, remind me why it is important to strive, even when I fail, to be an anti-racist, to advocate and push us into looking at ourselves in the mirror and own our bouts of racism and vow, with God's help, to be better, to love better, to see others as God sees me. I'll close by sharing Amos' first reflection after his cancer diagnosis, dated October 22, 1981.

A Change of Pace

If you have been an activist all of your life – a Christian mystic and suddenly at age 52, going on 53, discover with a bang you had to change your pace, it brings to mind the lines from the popular song, "Send in the Clowns":

"Isn't it queer, losing my timing this late in my career?"

It certainly raises the ancient question of the prophet Jeremiah:

"Is there no balm in Gilead? Is no physician there?"

Somehow, some way or another if you are to go on, you must find some way to change the question mark into an exclamation point!

"There is a balm in Gilead!"

There is a physician there!"

The reality of the meaning:

"There ought to be clowns." Don't bother they're here."

Must come to the forefront.

Changing our pace, obtaining a second wind is part of the cycle of life.

continued ...

Moderator's Moments

Jean Heidal



The 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church is just around the corner. Save the dates -- **November 5-6-7** for the celebration. Invitations with all the details for the weekend will be in the mail in early October. Did you know the first church meeting was held on October 23, 1871?

So our celebration in November is right on target for the actual beginning of the church.

Thank you to all who contributed "stories" for the memory book. Your stories are funny, charming, touching, and reflect the depth of dedication to serving Christ through this congregation.

A big "thank you" to Sarah Waterhouse for coordinating the painting of the classrooms in the education building. She made sure that supplies were available for each project room and in several cases this involved some serious furniture moving. Thank you also to all who came and painted a room/s, helped with prep and the cleanup afterwards. The rooms look great!

As the year winds down, we still have lots ahead of us. Annual Reports from board and committee chairs and staff will be needed soon. There's the budget hearing for the 2022 Spending Plan (Saturday, October 16th - 10 am). The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held in November and the women's Ministries group is planning for the Christmas Brunch. Bible study has started again on Thursdays, Sunday school classes are in full swing and worship is inspiring week by week.

There's blessings all around as we move forward into the new year together!

Women's Ministries

Jean Heidal

The October women's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13th at 12 noon in the Fireside room. Bring a sack lunch, beverages and dessert provided. All women of the church are invited. Program plans are in progress at this point.

We will spend some time talking about the upcoming Anniversary events and Christmas Brunch. Have ideas? Want to help? We need you!

We are still in need of a person to change the flower arrangements in the sanctuary and fellowship area. Rotation is every 3 weeks -- several arrangements are available for use.

A bulletin board person is also needed. If you can help with either of these duties please let me know.

Rooted and Repurposed!
Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches
Annual Meeting 2021

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley
Executive Minister of Metro New York

Theme Verse: Colossians 2:6-7 (The Message)

"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."

Our Guest preacher is the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, who is a childhood friend of Pastor Mark's.

The Annual Meeting will take place on Zoom.

**If you did not register for the Annual Meeting, but are still interested,
please talk to Pastor Mark.**

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Family Ministry Outing – Rutledge Farm, Saturday, October 30th @ 2:45 p.m.

Attention Families, whatever configuration that may look like.

Our first Family Ministry Outing will be Saturday, October 30th!

We will meet up in the parking lot at Olympia First at 2:45 p.m. and then head to:

Rutledge Farm – 302 93rd Ave SE, Olympia 98501

Corn Maze Admission is \$13, ages 5 and Up (4 & under are Free)

This gives you corn maze admission, cow train ride, corn train ride, corn cannon (weather permitting), and pumpkin scavenger hunt.

It's best if you purchase your tickets individually/as family, in advance, since there is a limit to the number of tickets sold for each half-hour time slot.

We are interested in you getting tickets for the 3:30 p.m. time slot.

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Mark as soon as possible!

My hero, Rev. Amos Dudley, died on September 4th, 1988, at home. He taught me what an anti-racist was and embodied, even though I would and continue to fail at living it out. There is so much more that I could share about him but this will have to do for now.

Blessings and Joy!
Pastor Mark

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Christian Education & Spiritual Formation
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Our offerings for adults are in place for fall, as we continue to monitor the Covid virus and its impact on what we can and cannot offer folks. The good news, is that we are able to offer 2 Adult classes on Sunday morning, at 8:30 a.m. The first is led by Dan Bezanson, upstairs in the Church Library. Dan's class is using the Book of Acts as a guide and they are currently studying Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. The second class is Pastor Sam's, which meets downstairs in the Fireside Room. This class is focusing on the work of the Holy Spirit and more specifically, how one lives within the Spirit! Both classes utilize scripture to lead the discussion and give context to the participants/learners. Pastor Mark is offering an Adult Bible Study on Thursdays, at 9:30 a.m., on Paul's Letter to the church(es) in Colossae (Colossians). This study meets In-Person in the Fireside Room, on Zoom as well as on Facebook, www.facebook.com/fbcolympia

It might take a bit of time adjusting to using 3 different formats for this study, but we are trying to maximize the number of people who are interested in a bible study format. Additionally, we continue to provide for folks on the church website and the monthly newsletter, the readings for each day of reading the Bible Chronologically. Finally, for those who are looking for something different and off the beaten path, we have Emmaus House. This is our House Church community that meets on Saturdays, at 6:00 p.m. Currently, we are meeting at Olympia First Baptist due to Covid restrictions. Emmaus House on Saturdays, involves a time of worship, but instead of a sermon, there is more of an emphasis on discussion and dialogue about a particular topic/concern/issue and/or a bible story/passage. Leadership is shared on a rotational basis.

If you have questions about any of the formational offerings listed above, please feel free to talk with Pastor Mark or a member of the Christian Ed/Spiritual Formation Board.

For Children and Youth, our challenges still evolve around the pandemic but we also have quite an age gap within our church community. We have a nice core group of youth, from 6th Grade to early High School. Our ministry to this group, we call YUTS (Young. Unique. Traveling. Servant Leaders). They are meeting every other Saturday at 6:00 p.m., except for one Sunday a month. Gary Baits, Pat DeNeui and others are giving leadership to this youth ministry. The Yuts are also engaged in service/ministry to others, as they recently learned more about what is happening downtown as well as helping put together meals for Table Grace.

Our other core group of young people are ages 2–6, Pre-school to early Elementary. One of the things the CE Board is putting together are Family Outings, once a month, that will bring together the families of this age group with the families of the Yuts. We believe that through shared experiences, these divergent groups can learn and grow together in what it means to be the family of God. In the meantime, we do offer an Intergenerational class, Koinonia, which Pastor Mark is facilitating/teaching on Sundays, after the morning worship service, starting around 11:30 a.m., in Room 207. Bible stories, video, art, hands-on, sharing, learning rituals, etc., are just some of the ways this class discovers who God is through Jesus Christ. As we continue to look for ways to encourage Parents/grandparents/care givers to be proactive in the spiritual formation of their children, all of us can be prayerful on their behalf. Raising kids is a community effort. It requires prayer, attention, patience and lots of love. Whether providing resources, mentors/friendship, classes, meals, laughter, etc., all of what we do is part of the education and spiritual formation process of people, from the youngest of us to the oldest, discovering that they are made in God's image; that they are enough in God's eyes; and that they are loved, first by God and then by us, the people of God. I hope that is an approach we can all get behind!

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What's on Tap for the YUTS

Saturday, October 9th – Meet @ Church at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 17th – Worship @ 10 a.m.; Koinonia class @ 11:30 a.m.; Lunch

Saturday, October 30th – Family Outing to Rutledge Corn Maze

Meet at church 2:45 p.m.

Pastor Mark's Trip to AZ

Pastor Mark will be taking vacation time to travel to Arizona, October 18th–27th. It's been over 2 years since he's been able to see his Mother, due to Covid, so this is the first opportunity for them to see each other face-to-face. Additionally, Kathleen and Pastor Mark will be holding a family Memorial gathering to celebrate Kathleen's father's life, in Northern Arizona. Kathleen's father, Everett Griffin graduated into God's loving arms back in June. The service will be just the immediate family, on the Ranch that Everett cared for.

If you have a need and/or an emergency, you may contact Pastor Caroline Lehman, your Deacon, and/or Jean Heidal, Church Moderator.

Men's Breakfast, Saturday, October 16th, 8:00 a.m.

Guys! If you enjoy good food, good conversation, coffee and mountains of bacon, then do we have something for you. Men, you are invited to come and enjoy our monthly gathering, on Saturday, October 16th at 8:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. We will be masked to begin with and then free to eat unencumbered. There is always time to share what God is doing in your life and/or share prayer concerns, etc. This is a wonderful group if you are looking for support, acceptance and a safe space. Oh, did we mention, bacon? If you have any questions, contact Dan Bezanson and/or Pastor Mark.

Budget Hearing, Saturday, October 18th, @ 10 a.m.

In this edition of the Windows you will find an insert that details the 2022 Spending Plan, submitted by the Board of Trustees and accepted by the Executive Council. This Spending Plan is a DRAFT! If after looking it over, you have any questions and/or concerns, then please make sure that you come to this special hearing. This is the appropriate venue for you to raise questions and/or concerns. Your input is important and if anything requires an adjustment based upon congregational feedback, it will be because of this gathering. That makes it worth your time to come down on a Saturday morning. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the process and/or the budget itself, please contact James Mackison, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jean Heidal, Church Moderator, Hans Stoker, President of the Corporation, and/or Carolyn Adams, Church Treasurer. We are sure one of them can answer whatever questions you may have.