

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF OLYMPIA

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Rev. Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor
Jonathan Spatola-Knoll, Choir Director
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Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Olympia WA
Permit No. 198

Return Service Requested

November 2022 • Sermons and Scriptures • Olympia First Baptist Church

Sunday, November 6th
Not Really Dead – Luke 20:27–38
Rev. Mark Rambo

Sunday, November 13th
SATS – Judges 6
Rev. Mark Rambo

Sunday, November 20th
Give Thanks, with Grateful Action
Colossians 1:11–20
Rev. Mark Rambo

Sunday, November 27th
First Sunday of Advent
Christmas is Coming...
Romans 13:11–14



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER

WINDOWS

2022

First
Baptist
Church
Olympia

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The Thin Place:
Where the Ordinary and Sacred Collide

Change. According to Webster's, *change*, used as a verb, means to make something (or someone) different; to alter or modify. Used as a noun, change means the act or instance of making or becoming different. Given this rather generic definition, the gospel of Jesus Christ is about change, being changed, if you will. From the false self to one's True Self. From a life of separation and death to new life filled with hope, light, and grace. In Christ, we believe, change is not only possible, it is inevitable. Yet, we struggle with the ideas and actions that lead to change. What an interesting and challenging conundrum we face as followers of this change agent, Jesus Christ.

The Evergreen Baptist Association, our American Baptist Regional affiliation/partner, gathered in Denver, Colorado for its Annual Meeting, October 13th–15th. It was my pleasure to represent you and participate with our brothers and sisters from other congregations from Alaska, Washington, Utah, and California. Our theme was:

Navigating Changing Times:
Responding Together

For I the Lord do not change; therefore you,
O children of Jacob, have not perished.

Malachi 3:6

What a timely and relevant theme and a scripture that comforts and challenges us! I think we can all agree that we live in a time that is changing rapidly (or so it seems). Culturally, politically, spiritually, etc., things are not the way they were and/or the way we remember them being. We are still in the throes of a global pandemic, that is waning, but most likely, will never be completely gone. Politically, we are fractured, suspicious, and cynical. Culturally, we long for the good old days, while struggling to remember that the "good old days," were not so good for all people groups, and in fact, had its own set of problems, dysfunction and the like. Spiritually, the church of Jesus Christ has a lot of repair work to do. We have confused service with power. We have taken good news to be for some but not for

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others. We have wounded each other and those we claim that God loves, who are on the outside looking in and not finding it very appealing. Change, it seems, is needed. Change it seems, is necessary. Change it seems, is even, on some level, desired. Yet, change causes us anxiety,

discomfort and a bit of angst.

Change is hard.

The good news, from my perspective and time with our Evergreen family, is that I/we, are not alone. We have each other. We have this wonderful, diverse tapestry of perspectives, stories, experiences that have the power to carry us through the sea of change we find ourselves in the midst of as well as the change that must be taken to make us communities of hope, good news and light. We can respond to the challenges before us, in all of their complexity, messiness, and/or madness, together. Prayerfully. Faithfully. And even, Joyfully.

The X-factor is that we are loved, carried, sustained by a God whose character never changes. God is dynamic and alive. That means that God is not static and never changes. There are stories in scripture of God changing God's mind, but the core of who God, what scripture, in Hebrew, calls Hesed, is everlasting and immovable. One of my favorite definitions for Hesed is:

...wrapping up in itself all the positive attributes of God:

Love, covenant faithfulness, mercy, grace, kindness, loyalty...

In short, acts of devotion and loving-kindness that go beyond the requirements of duty.

Darrell L. Bock

If we are going to be a faith community of change, may we follow the lead of this God who embodies Hesed. May we cling to the Redeemer Child of this God, the Holy One, Jesus Christ, who models an extension of Hesed, that we call Agape Love. A love that is sacrificial, servant-oriented, and life changing.

As we enter the last two months of 2022, know that change is on the horizon. Not reckless change, that is random, without thought or prayer. But rather, change that is based upon the good news of Jesus Christ who models for us humility, agape love, and a life lived differently from the norm.

Blessings and Joy!

Pastor Mark (Rev)

Mission Board:

Chair, Wendy Wilson

Hello Everyone,

We are in World Mission Offering month and want to thank our church family for your generous giving. We are blessed to be able to support our Global Servants - Luis and Sarah Matos; Mylinda Baits; Kyle and Katrina Williams. It's an honor to support them in their vital missionary work. We have showcased where they have served. Take a look in the glass cabinet upstairs across from Pastor Mark's office. There are many flags of those countries and a large map with the areas designated on it.

We encourage anyone who may want to join our mission team to come check us out on November 29th at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room. We would love to have anyone interested in helping us to come and join.

We are collecting donations for Unity Commons Emergency Shelter. Several lists of items needed are located on the boards upstairs and downstairs. We appreciate all the donations we have received so far. We could use socks and long underwear.

City Gates is hosting a Dinner/Silent Auction Fundraiser at Westwood Church on November 5th. Tickets are \$50.00 and well worth the meal. They can be purchased at the door. Doors open at 4:00 pm. The Hunger Bag Food Drive at Albertsons on Pacific Avenue starts on November 1st through December. Phil can use volunteers for this fundraiser that supported over 800 families last year. I am volunteering Monday and Tuesday from 3 to 7 pm all of November. There is an 11:00 am – 3:00 pm shift also and any help would be appreciated.

Have a blessed month,

Ruby Mitchell, Mission Team Member

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Women's Ministries **Jean Heidal**

Our fall meetings with our global servants have been informational as well as inspiring. We will welcome Rev. Mylinda Baits to our November 9th meeting as she shares her globe-trotting ministry to share healing ministry through artistic expression. All women are invited to join us for the day.

On November 6th we will start taking reservations for the Christmas Brunch on December 3rd at 10:30 am. Tickets for brunch are \$12. The doors will open at 9:30 for the Treasure Room and Cookie Room.

"My Best Friends" singing group will present a program of Christmas music. Carol Sutton, retired Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries, is our devotional speaker.

Please bring your items for the Treasure Room. We have room to store them. Don't forget to pull out your cookie recipes and make a batch or two for the cookie Room.

This year we will also have two quilts to auction. They will be displayed in the sanctuary during the month of November.

As you can see we will have a lot going on the day of the Brunch. You will not want to miss this joyful pre-Christmas event.

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Moderator Moments **Jean Heidal**

November is here and with it the beginning of holiday celebrations. You would think that the boards and committees would be winding down their work, but they are all still working on projects and ministries in the life of the church. There are no holidays for ministry.

You will read about the year-long work of the church in the Annual Reports that will be presented at our Annual Meeting on November 9th, 6:30 pm on Fellowship Hall. Bring a dessert to share. We will vote on acceptance of the Spending Plan for 2023 and elect new officers.

It has been my privilege to serve as Moderator for the past 6 years. We've climbed some hills and crossed some valleys along the way. In this month of "giving thanks" remember our church staff, leaders and each other in words of praise for God's faithfulness.

November Birthdays



Glory Stewart	1
Phoebe Nash	7
Tony Burgess	11
Ethan Cooperrider	13
Lawrence Bailey	17
Helen Pothier	21
Jeremy Williams	21
Stacy Chavez	22
Becky Burgess	23
Roy Schmidt	24
Don Ice	28



Church Events!!

Mark Your Calendars!!

**THE ARTICLES FOR THE
ANNUAL REPORT
NEED TO**

**BE INTO THE
OFFICE NO LATER
THAN NOVEMBER 2nd!**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING
is on Wednesday November 9th
at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

Thanksgiving & Advent

It's hard to believe but we are entering those sacred but hectic days we call the holidays. From Thanksgiving until the end of 2022, we jump on the cultural bandwagon of shopping, parties, family gatherings, decorations, school vacations and accelerated busyness. Somehow, someway, we are also asked to find space, time, occasions, to stop. Breathe. Be still. Remember.

Remember – To Give Thanks!

I know, you know, that this should be a daily practice. To give thanks for another day of life and breath. To give thanks for those who fill your life with joy and love. To give thanks for the little things we so often take for granted. To give thanks, for the freedoms we have and for those who serve us sacrificially and selflessly. To give thanks for those gathered around your table.

To give thanks for those who aren't. To give thanks for God's patient, loving-kindness & grace.

Remember – To Give Thanks!

For the Church, the season of Advent signals, first and foremost, the ultimate gift of love that comes in the form of a baby. This Christ child symbolizes the hope and possibility of a new life for all humankind. This year, Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th and ends on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th. Our worship during Advent centers around the themes of:

Hope, Peace, Love and Joy!

Prepare yourself...

We come into these days with a combination of anticipation and a bit of dread. Yet the good news is that we are not alone. In the midst of the rush and hustle of gift buying, pie-making, school projects and extra-curriculars, and travel plans, God is present. We are surrounded by the Spirit and light of the season. For those of us who struggle emotionally and spiritually during this season, we too, are not alone. God sits with us in the midst of our anxiety, grief and loneliness. We are not outcasts, but are gathered into

God's loving arms to hear,

"you are my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased."

Give Thanks!

Anticipate the coming of the Christ Child!

Open yourself to be received and loved by the God of the Universe.

From Your Mission Board

*We would like to let you know about the needs
at Unity Commons ...*

Unity Commons is in need of:

Light-Medium blankets

Sleeping bags

Tarps

**Coats (warm, waterproof
all sizes S-XXL)**

Long underwear

Mens/Women's underwear all sizes

Socks

Gloves and Hats

**Snacks are coffee(regular n decaf),
herbal tea, creamer(liquid or powder)
and cup of noodles**

*Donations will be accepted until the end of November
(they will be packaged and delivered in December.)*

Please drop them off outside the church office.

