

***Olympia
First
Baptist
Church***

Inside this issue:

**Front Page:
THE THIN PLACE**

THE THIN PLACE 2
CONTINUED

WHERE'S PASTOR MARK 3
NOW?

ST. JOHN | SAN JUAN 4
EPISCOPAL CHURCH:
MISCHA YOLLECK, A
PREMIER CLASSICAL
GUITARIST IN CONCERT,
&
THE 2026 EVERGREEN
ANNUAL GATHERING

Insert: OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS, LADIES
LUNCHEON, & THE
OLYMPIA GOSPEL
MISSION: A Tribute to
Disney Oct. 17th at the
Washington Performing
Arts Center

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP 5
TEAM, Wendy Wilson

FROM THE DEACONS' 6
BENCH, Pat De Neu

OCTOBER 2026 7
CALENDAR

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

Do you ever feel like the movie title to your life is?

Ready or Not!

Yes, that's how I've been feeling lately. More likely, I have come to accept that the life I am living, called to live, and, sometimes avoiding, is a cosmic game of ready or not between myself, God, and others. I really do believe that the vast majority of us are trying to live our lives, faithfully, with intention, and a commitment to do so with love, grace, and kindness. Again, I don't know about you, but there are these moments when I find myself trying to catch my breath when it feels like schedules, to-do lists, and expectations (my own and others) are collapsing on top of me and I have no idea how I'm going to dig myself out. Does any of that sound and/or feel familiar to you?

If it does, I'd love to know, to hear, how you cope and deal with those moments. What practices do engage with to dig yourself out? Is it just something you do on your own, or is it a tag-team approach between you and God or perhaps you have a trusted someone or someone's who serve as a helping hand? Maybe those are the kind of conversations we should be having as a faith community, whether in small groups and/or a once a month, relaxed setting on a Saturday morning?

I'll start...when I'm in the midst of the rubble of ready or not (mostly, not), I try to make time to catch my breath and do the following:

A simple prayer:

"O God, in your mercy...hear my prayer...help!"

Now, to be clear, God has never swooped in right after that prayer and fixed what I was feeling and experiencing and/or facing. But God's Spirit does seem to comfort me, calm me, and whisper, softly, very softly, "breathe." We got you.

Colossians 3:12—14 (The Message)

***So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God
picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline.
Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense.***

Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you.

And regardless of what else you put on, wear love.

It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Continued pg 2...

Thin Place cont...

I love this passage! In fact, I would add verses 15 thru 17 as well, but verses 12-14, above, are my core understanding of what I am called to be, as a follower, disciple and apprentice of Christ. This is how I would answer the question of “what does it mean to live a holy, Christ-centered life?” Sorry, I went down a bit of a rabbit hole there...

When I’m in the midst of the rubble of ready or not, reading this passage from the Message, reminds me, clarifies for me, what I’m to be about, even when I feel like I’m buried up to my neck in the weeds of ready or not living. That means, I need to wear love, God’s Agape Love, even if I don’t feel it in that moment. And that, gives me something specific to focus on, to be about, and, to actually attempt to do. It can, slowly dig me out of feeling overwhelmed, or feeling sorry for myself, and/or looking for a scapegoat to pin those feelings on when I’m stressed out.

Again, it doesn’t happen instantaneously, but there is a shift, even if it’s only a very slight one, that gives me the perseverance to move forward.

How about you?

With October upon us, we are entering that time of year where we are praying, looking at and preparing our church budget for the coming year, 2027. As your Pastor, I want to reiterate what our Leadership and Stewardship Ministry Teams believe and want to convey to all of you:

Thank you!

The Church of Jesus Christ, the church we call Oly First, on the corner of 9th and Washington, is the people. Not buildings. Not programs. Not structures or institutions, new or ancient. Nope. Christ’s Church is you. A church built upon relationship, faith, and acts of service, charity, and love.

So, thank you!

Thank you for your faithful giving of time, talent, and yes, your financial treasure!

We believe in generosity over duty or guilt. We believe that when we give to the church we do so because we recognize the generosity of God and have been on the receiving end of that generosity. We give in response to the generosity we have received from God. We give because of our relationship with God and God’s desire to build relationship with others. In this way, we become relationship partners with God in building God’s Kingdom. Your, our, giving of tithes and offerings, as generously as we are able, is one way, we express our gratitude and thankfulness for what Christ has done, is doing, and will continue to do, in the future. We start, with thank you.

Next month, we will explore the challenges we are facing and how we are planning on moving forward as we build a sustainable future into that unknown future. Ready or not...



Where's Pastor Mark?



In the midst of our life together, a rather busy life, by-the-way, I was reminded by Kathleen that I hadn't taken any vacation time this year. So, this is the plan going forward, this month of October:

I will be gone October 7th thru October 12th to attend the Evergreen Annual Regional, in Napa, California. The theme is "Reimagining the Church," which we, here at Oly First has been doing the past couple of years. It will be interesting and hopefully, helpful experience to hear what others are doing within our Evergreen sister churches.



From October 13th thru October 21st, I will be taking a week's vacation in sunny Arizona, spending time with my Mom and our family friends, the Olson clan. In the midst of that time, Mom and I are taking a road trip to Kingman, Arizona, to see John and Robin Paget and take in the Arizona portion of their Route 66 documentary.

In my absence, the Deacons will continue doing congregational care and support. They are always working hard to be present and available when you have a need.

You will enjoy a couple of different voices from the pulpit while I'm gone as well on October 11th and 18th. I will be back in the office on Thursday, October 22nd and back in the pulpit on Sunday, the 25th.

Speaking of October 25th, we will be having a Baby Dedication as part of the Worship Service that morning. We will surround Luca Matos and his extended family with God's blessing as well as our commitment to love Luca and be a support system for him and for his Mom and Dad!

Blessings and Joy! – Humble over Hype!

Come and See!

Pastor Mark (Rev)

Continued pg 4...



Mischa Yolleck, a premier classical guitarist based in Seattle, and winner of the 2022 Northwest Guitar Competition, will perform in concert at St. John | San Juan Episcopal Church in Olympia beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 18.

Mischa was captivated by the classical guitar when he first laid hands on one as a college freshman. He has been guided by exemplary classical guitarists and his solo engagements have included those with the Seattle Classical Guitar Society, The Classical Guitar Society of Tri-Cities and several benefit concerts.

The program includes: BWV 998, Prelude Fugue and Allegro, by J.S. Bach; Andante Largo by Fernando Sor; Mallorca by Isaac Albeinz; and many other classics. You may learn more about Mischa and make a donation to reserve tickets here:

<https://stjohnsoly.org/music/concerts>

2026 Evergreen Annual Gathering

"Reimagining Church" (Isaiah 43:19)

October 8-10, 2026

Join us for a time of fellowship, empowerment, equipping, and holy business at Crosswalk Community Church in Napa, California.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jamie Washam
Pastor of First Baptist Church of America,
Providence, Rhode Island

If you are interested in attending, using the online option in person, visit/register on the Evergreen website: www.ea-abc.org

If you have questions, let Pastor Mark know.
If he doesn't know, he can find someone who does!

From The Stewardship Team

Dear Congregation of Olympia First Baptist Church,

On behalf of the Stewardship Team, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful generosity, prayerful support, and steadfast commitment to the ministry of Olympia First Baptist Church.

Each time you share your time, talents, and financial gifts, you help bring the loving work of our church to life. Because of you, we are able to worship together, care for one another, welcome our neighbors, and carry God's love into the wider community. Every gift—large or small—is a meaningful expression of faith, and we are truly grateful.

From Summer Block Parties – Intergenerational Community Gatherings – Camp Bethel – Summer Day Camp – World Relief Fund Raisers – Baby Showers – Housewarming Parties – Special Music – Table Grace – Women's Ministries – Men's Breakfast – Etc. Etc.! God is at work on the corner of 9th and Washington in our beloved Church and in our communities.

What means the most to us is the loving spirit behind every gift. Your generosity, compassion, and hope show how deeply you care for one another and for the work God has entrusted to our church. We feel truly blessed to serve alongside you and to be part of this warm, faithful church family.

As we look ahead, please know how deeply grateful we are for each of you. May God continue to bless your lives, strengthen our church family, and use our shared gifts to bring hope, welcome, and love to our community. Thank you for being such an important part of the life and ministry of Olympia First Baptist Church.

2 Corinthians 9:11 "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God"

The Stewardship Team

Olympia First Baptist Church

Wendy Wilson – Stewardship Team Leader



Times Of Refreshing come from the presence of the Lord in our lives.

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

BY Pat De Neui

Jesus is calling...YOU!!!

Come to me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. Walk with me and your life will be renewed. Relax in my healing presence for refreshment and peace. Try saying, "I trust you, Jesus" in response to whatever may happen to you. You can achieve the victorious life through living in deep dependence on Christ. He is able to do far beyond all that you ask or even imagine. Try to view each day as an adventure, carefully planned by your Guide. Let Him bless you with His grace and peace. Open your heart and mind to receive all that Christ has for you! Seek His face, and you will find more than you ever dreamed possible. Strive to trust Him in more and more of your daily life. Give up the illusion that you deserve a problem-free life. As He told his disciples, in the world you will have trouble. Yet know His promise of eternity is a problem-free life in heaven. Trust is a golden pathway to heaven. When you walk on this path, you live above your circumstances. Keep your focus on Jesus and worship Him only, for He is our strength and shield. "I am with you always." These were the last words Christ spoke before ascending into heaven. The fact that Christ is with you makes every moment of your life meaningful. You are a child of God!!! Bless you!

Shalom,
Pat DeNeui

October 2026 10am Worship • Child Care & Nursery • 3:00 pm Table Grace

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL 				
4 10:00 am Communion Sunday Worship Service	5 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fireside Room 7:00-9:30 pm Voices of the Sound Fellowship Hall, Rm 102, Fireside Room	6 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 7:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	7 11:15 Staff Meeting	8 No Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102	10 11:00 am Widows Group Library
11 10:00 am Worship Service	12 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fireside Room 7:00-9:30 pm Voices of the Sound Fellowship Hall, Rm 102, Fireside Room	13 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 5:30 pm Woodturners Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm OMT Sanctuary	14 11:15 Staff Meeting	15 No Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102 1:00 pm Ladies Luncheon At Rivers Edge	17 11:00 am Executive Leadership Team Room 102
18 10:00 am Worship Service <u>WINDOWS DEADLINE</u>	19 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fireside Room 7:00-9:30 pm Voices of the Sound Fellowship Hall, Rm 102, Fireside Room	20 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 7:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	21 11:15 Staff Meeting	22 No Bible Study 6:30pm Stewardship Team Rm 102 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102	24
25 10:00 am Worship Service	26 5:30 pm Chair Yoga Fireside Room 7:00-9:30 pm Voices of the Sound Fellowship Hall, Rm 102, Fireside Room	27 11:00am-1pm Lions Club Fireside Room 5:00 pm Congregational Care Team Fireside Room 7:00 pm OMT Fellowship Hall	28 11:15 Staff Meeting	29 9:30 am Bible Study Rm. 102 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 9:30 am TOPS Rm. 102	31 8:00 am Men's Breakfast Fireside Room

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

Contact Information

360-357-3881
Email: olyfbc@aol.com
Web: fbcolympia.org

Church Staff

Rev. Mark Rambo, Senior Pastor
Jonathan Spatola-Knoll, Director of Music Ministries
Lela DePaolo, Secretary
Aaron Delaney, Interim Campus Maintenance

October Sermons – Ordinary Time – 2026 – Olympia First Baptist Church

Sunday, October 4th – Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday
Sermon Scripture – Psalm 19
Homily Title: Words are Overrated
The Written Word: Philippians 3:4b—14
The Written Word: Psalm 80:7—15

Sunday, October 11th – Ordinary Time
Guest Preacher – TBD

Sunday, October 18th – Ordinary Time
Guest Preacher – Rev. Dr. David Roberts
Sermon Title & Text: TBD

*Sunday, October 25th – Ordinary Time
(Pastor Mark back from Vacation)
Sermon Text: Matthew 22:34—46
Sermon Title: Yep, Love is the Real Deal!
The Written Word: Leviticus 19:1—2, 15—18
The Written Word: Psalm 1

*Baby Dedication of Luca Matos will take place as well!

My grace
is sufficient
for you.

*My power is
made perfect in
weakness.*