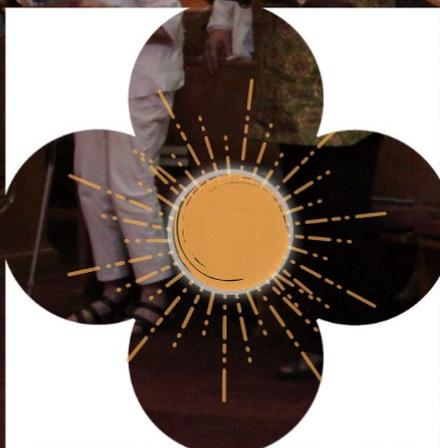


the Spire

August 2021



seattle first baptist

## Staff Directory:

Rev. Dr. Tim Phillips (x104)  
Lead Pastor  
[tim@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:tim@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Rev. Anita Peebles (x106)  
Associate Pastor:  
Next Gen Ministries  
[anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Rev. Dr. Patricia L. Hunter  
Pastor of Education & Outreach  
[patricia@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:patricia@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Ben Luedcke  
Minister of Music  
[ben@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:ben@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Un a Hwang  
Organist/Pianist  
[una@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:una@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Cherry Johnson  
Retreats Coordinator  
[retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Darren Hochstedler (x102)  
Church Administrator  
[Darren@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:Darren@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Sue Ross  
Community Nurse  
[nurse@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:nurse@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Judy Scott (x101)  
Office Administrator  
[Front\\_office@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:Front_office@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Katie Sturm  
Communications  
[katie@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:katie@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Submissions for the Spire are due  
by the 20th of the month prior.  
All submissions should be sent to  
[editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

## 2021 Officers and Church Leaders

For more information please contact the church at  
[contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Executive Committee</b>    | <b>President:</b> Jim Ginn<br><b>VPr:</b> Megan Walker<br><b>Treasurer:</b> Bob Sittig<br><b>Secretary:</b> Dick Miller |
| <b>Church Home Operations</b> | Rodhney Tull  |
| <b>Members at Large</b>       | Mike Zaugg, Metta Williams  |
| <b>Membership Engagement</b>  | Brent Marble  |
| <b>Adult Education</b>        | Martha Hopler   |
| <b>Worship</b>                | Sterling Morris   |
| <b>Personnel</b>              | Theresa Pruett (Chair)<br>Sara Tollefson, Peter Shafer<br>Marsha Ullmer, Joyce Phillips                                 |
| <b>CFYA</b>                   | Mary Jeffers  |
| <b>Stewardship</b>            | John Benner (Chair)<br>Pat Kile, Rebecca Morris, Erik Zaugg   |
| <b>Music</b>                  | Darla O'Brian   |
| <b>Outreach</b>               | Beth Reis   |

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**Service at 11 a.m. in-person and online**

Seattle First Baptist Church  
1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle WA 98112

Phone: 206-325-6051

Online: [www.seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org)

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# From the Pastor's Desk

## God is Doing a New Thing!

By Pastor Anita Peebles

In Isaiah 43:19, God says

*"See, I am doing a new thing!*

*Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*

*I am making a way in the wilderness*

*and streams in the wasteland."* (NIV)

This Scripture resonates with an Octavia Butler quote that we've heard in this church often over the last 17 months: "God is change" from *Parable of the Sower*. We see so much evidence of change around us at Seattle First Baptist Church, as we begin to explore "Multi-Access" services. This term refers to our experience growing in multiple ways of accessing worship. We see change as we regather in the sanctuary for Sunday services, as those joining us in person learn new transportation patterns, as we notice some children well known and loved who can not yet be among us because they have not yet been vaccinated, and even as we wonder what will become of the delta variant and transmission rates.

And in the midst of all of these new things, God is saying to us, "See, I am doing a new thing!" Notice the exclamation point, friends! I love an exclamation point, and the emotional emphasis contained therein. God is confident and loving as They tell us that They are doing a new thing—God is "making a way in the wilderness," not leaving us behind but accompanying us and even leading us forward as we make new paths. And the Way that God is making is like "streams in the wasteland," a Way that is fertile, a Way that is ready to burst into life, creativity waiting to happen.

God is change and God is in change. Even as we are facing these and more transitions in our church over the next year and beyond, God is with us. God is bringing water to parched soil, causing abundant life to spring up where before there was no flourishing. Likewise, we are led forward as a church community, we consider that perhaps the way forward is through the worry and anxiety and fear that we have kept at bay until now. Perhaps the way forward is by ministering with each other and with our neighborhood in ways that we have never dreamed of before! Perhaps the way that God is showing us is springing up out of this in-between, transition space, as we ask big questions about who and how we are together.

***Beloved church, I wonder what is next? I wonder how each of us individually and all of us as the body of the church will follow the Spirit's lead as the Holy does a new thing?***

## Welcome Una Hwang, SFBC's new Organist/Pianist!

Her first Sunday with us will be August 29th, and we are confident this will be the beginning of a musically rewarding and spiritually enriching relationship. It was clear from the beginning that Una was intriguing with a vast array of musical and teaching experiences alongside a long and successful career in science and research. Her mastery on the organ and her incredibly sensitive piano playing is sure to reach the hearts and souls of many. She currently serves as pianist/organist at Gethsemane Lutheran in Seattle, and previously at First Lutheran in Tacoma. In addition to her musical training, she has two degrees in physics from MIT, and she was a research scientist at University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University. The hiring committee was struck by her contagious energy and effervescence: we are confident she will not only minister to the congregation through music, but she will be a vibrant member of the staff and community here at Seattle First Baptist Church.



# Growing Together

## Volunteers & Help Needed: Wiggle Room Hosts & Nursery Attendants!

When we resume Godly Play Sunday School in the fall, we will be changing the time to 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. This means that children kindergarten-5th grade will be attending worship services at 11 a.m. In order to help children and their adults get used to this change, the Wiggle Room will be open during worship for children to use. And we need YOU, volunteers, to help host the Wiggle Room space as we make this transition! To sign up to host the Wiggle Room during worship from 11am-noon in August and September, please contact Pastor Anita at [anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Do you love working with small children? We will be actively seeking people to care for our smaller children in the nursery during the school year. Please contact Pastor Anita to learn more about the position and its benefits and responsibilities.

## Godly Play Training

**Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, August 26-28**

If you want to sign up to be a Godly Play storyteller, please contact Pastor Anita at [anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org) right away so we can get you signed up! SFBC will assist with costs for our storytellers. Training will be in person and hosted at Seattle First Baptist. We are excited to invite more storytellers into this peaceful way of sharing the Good News with the younger members of our family. See here for more information: <https://bit.ly/sfbc-godly-play>

## Godly Play

Godly Play for Kids on Sunday mornings will resume on September 12, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. for Homecoming Sunday

## Blessing of the Backpacks

**Sunday, August 29, during the 11 a.m. service**

Children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks full of school supplies to worship on Sunday, August 29 so we as a congregation can send the children off to their first days of school feeling blessed! And, grown-ups are invited to bring their car keys, bus passes, laptops, coffee mug and anything else that you carry with you in your daily life — and we'll bless you, too! If you miss that event, we will have a Welcoming the School Year Ritual and Intergenerational Activity on Wednesday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. at SFBC.



## Youth Group

**Friday, August 6, 4-7 p.m.**

**Lake Union Park**

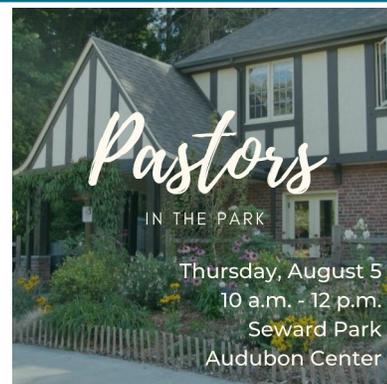
Meet at MOHAI steps at Lake Union Park. Bring: swimsuit, towel, mask, water shoes, and dry clothes. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Contact Pastor Anita for more info and to RSVP.

# Our Life Together

## Pastors in the Park

**Thursday, August 5, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**  
**Seward Park**

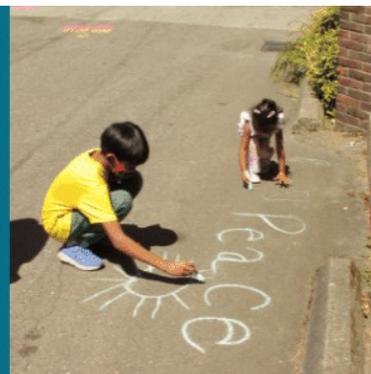
Meet at Seward Park Audubon Center. Come prepared to walk and have some informal hangout time with Pastor Anita and Pastor Patricia.



## All Church Picnic

**Sunday, August 29, after church**  
**Harvard Ave**

We are so excited to be able to celebrate another year together with our annual church picnic. This year, due to parking lot constraints, we will gather "street-party" style with food, live music, fellowship, and lots of activities for kids - whether young in age or young at heart!



## Parking Lot Blessing

On Sunday, July 11, we gathered in the alley behind the church to bless the parking lot and give thanks for all we have shared there as a church.

Please pay close attention to parking directions as we continue the process of re-gathering.

Many thanks to our church administrator, Darren Hochstedler, for his diligent work with parking logistics as we resume in-person operations.



## Choir Retreat

**Saturday, August 28, 1 p.m.**

Join us in the choir room on Saturday, Aug 28 at 1 p.m. for some singing and a preview of the fall's music. Plus it will be a great opportunity to meet and mingle with our new organist/pianist! At 3:30 p.m. we'll start to head over to Volunteer Park for food, fun, and fellowship. Should be a great time to reconnect and relax.

Look for a signup coming soon!

# Our Life Together

## Straight Talk about “Natural” Gas

### Part I: Staying Safe in our hotter climate

One of the pleasures of living in Seattle has been its temperate climate, with winters that aren't bitterly cold and summers characterized by warm days and cool nights. But as we discovered with the deadly heat wave this June, the climate has changed.

Until now, common wisdom has been that you don't need air conditioning in Seattle. But with temperatures spiking as high as 108 degrees, you may be rethinking that assumption. Demand for air conditioning has never been higher.

Before buying an air conditioner, however, [consider a more climate-friendly alternative](#): a heat pump that cools your house on the hottest days and warms your house in the winter. Installing a heat pump can be expensive, but in the long run may save you money. With the most efficient heating and cooling available, a heat pump serves as both a furnace and an air conditioner.

Here's where energy systems intersect with God's call to care for the Earth and for our neighbor: In order to stop using the fossil fuels that are putting our future at risk, we must electrify our home heating systems, our buses, our cars and more. Replacing your oil or gas furnace with an electric heat pump [can eliminate 3 to 5 tons of greenhouse](#) gas emission per year. Thanks to Seattle City Light's use of hydro power and other renewables, electricity use in Seattle produces almost no greenhouse gases.

Electrifying our homes helps everyone, particularly those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. People who live in neighborhoods with less tree cover are more likely to suffer during extreme heat waves. [A Seattle city tree canopy assessment](#) found that tree canopy covers as little as 11 percent of the land in census tracts with high numbers of people of color, while tree coverage is up to 55 percent in areas with few people of color.

In order to create a safer, more equitable city, we must bring cooling, climate-friendly heat pumps, as well as more trees, to lower-income communities of color. You can play a part by contributing to the [Green Buildings Now](#) project at the South Beacon Hill Resilience Hub.

If you have questions or comments, please email [keithervin@msn.com](mailto:keithervin@msn.com).

With blessings from these members of Interfaith Climate Action - First Hill:

*Joan Bowers, Elizabeth Burton, Cindy Ervin, Keith Ervin, Elizabeth Heath, Sandra Jones, Nora Langan, George Lawson, Harriet Platts, Donna Ward, Jackie Williams, Linda Zaugg*

## Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America ~Bautistas por la Paz: 40 Days of Peace

Summer Conference 2021 is held online! July 20 started the 40 Days of Peace, with gatherings, movie viewings, musical offerings, education programs, workshops, open mic nights and more, leading up to our International Virtual Conference. Then, **Saturday, August 28, at 2 p.m.** Pacific time, peacemakers from around the Western hemisphere will gather virtually to spend time together learning, worshipping, and meeting each other. Find out more and register today (sliding scale available) at <https://www.bpfna.org/conference-conferencial>.

Contact Pastor Anita for more information.

# Our Life Together

Thursday Bible Study is on hiatus until September 9. Enjoy the sun!

## Update - Some Task Forces Near Completion of Their Work

By Jim Segaar

In recent weeks the Long-Range Planning Program Office put together a schedule that shows the work of all the task forces, plus other efforts such as the interim pastoral search. That schedule is now available on the church website at:

<https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/long-range-planning.html>

Here are some highlights of what we learned while putting together the schedule.

The **Small Group** and **Senior Ministries** Task Forces are nearing completion of their work. An open forum is scheduled after worship on Sunday, September 26 to give the congregation a chance to learn more about their recommendations and provide input. More information about both proposals will be available later in August on the church website. Articles in the weekly email and the September Spire will also provide overviews. Both groups plan to present their recommendations to the Diaconate in October.

The **Anti-Racism** Task Force continues to consult with other task forces. They also are hosting the Brave Space discussions for people who identify as Caucasian, as well as gatherings for BIPOC members of our community. Because our anti-racism work is likely to take a number of years, the task force recommends that a more permanent group be formed during 2022 to take this important work forward.

Church leadership is asking the **Governance** Task Force to focus on recommending a new governance model for SFBC before completing its edit of the bylaws. The governance model recommendation is needed soon so that recruitment of next year's leaders can begin. The task force plans to complete its edit of the bylaws by the end of 2021. An open forum to gather input from the congregation is scheduled for Sunday, November 14 after worship. Bylaws changes are subject to approval of the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

The **Facilities** Task Force continues to research various options for our buildings going forward. A significant amount of work remains to be completed. The task force plans to have open forums with the congregation in 2022 before presenting any recommendations.

The **Pastoral Transition** Task Force has regrouped, and currently is favoring a co-pastor model for SFBC in the future. This idea is in line with the findings of the Long-Range Planning team, which gathered input from more than 120 members of our community last year. The task force continues its work to finalize this recommendation and provide input to future pastoral job descriptions.

Sunday, September 12  
**Homecoming Sunday**  
 Homecoming feels extra sweet  
 this year after spending a year  
 apart. Save the date and join  
 us for our annual community  
 Homecoming Celebration

## What on Earth are American Baptists Doing?

You might not always be aware of what our denomination is doing in the world. But the American Baptist Home Mission Societies recently reported that American Baptists gave over \$2 million in 2020 for direct COVID relief. Those funds helped individuals, community centers, and churches offer support in their neighborhoods. This is in addition to the \$10,000 SFBC gave directly to support COVID relief in our Evergreen Association. We will never fully know how those gifts impacted the world. What we do know is that your giving, along with others in this American Baptist family, have made a big difference in the world. Thank you!

## Updated Dates for Camp Burton – Summer 2021

Camp Burton is hosting summer camps once again this year and SFBC is excited to be a part of the magic that they create on Vashon.

**August 1-7: All Ages Family Camp** - Family Camp, Camp Burton

**August 8-13: Grade School (Gr 2-5)** - Faith Adventure Camp, Camp Burton

**August 8-13: Middle School (Gr 6-8)** - Faith Adventure Camp, Cascade Meadows

Contact Pastor Anita at [anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org) or Patrick Green for info about scholarships.



## Summer Programming

- ◆ Monday Night Brave Space Forum: Weekly at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday Prayer with Pastor Patricia: Weekly at 12:00 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday night programming (at both 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.), Thursday Bible Study, and Godly Play continue on hiatus through August.
- ◆ Friday Happy Hours are every other week: June 11 and June 25 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, August 5, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** - Pastors in the Park at Seward Park

**Friday, August 6, 4-7 p.m.** - Youth Group at Lake Union Park

**Thursday, August 19, 7 p.m.** - Diaconate Meeting

**Thursday-Saturday, August 26-28** - Godly Play Training

**Saturday, August 28** - Choir Retreat, Bautista de la Paz gathering

**Sunday, August 29** - Blessing of the Backpacks during service, All Church Picnic to follow