



the Spire

The Monthly Newsletter of Seattle First Baptist Church



From
the
Pastor's
Desk

Dear church,

I write this in the days after the deadly shooting of elementary school children in Uvalde, Texas. It is hard to know what to say in times like these, other than NOT ONE MORE. Only in this country do mass shootings happen so frequently. And due to the epidemic of white supremacy, people of color are often the targets of this violence, as we have seen in the mass shootings in the past two weeks. On May 14, Black people were targeted in a grocery store in Buffalo, NY. On May 15, Taiwanese worshippers were targeted in their church in Orange County, CA. On May 24, third and fourth graders were gunned down in their classroom. Rachel weeps for her children because they are no more (Jeremiah 31:15). Some cry "peace, peace!" but there is no peace (Jeremiah 6:14).

How long, O God, how long?

I was in college in northeast Ohio ten years ago when elementary schoolers in Sandy Hook, Connecticut were murdered. A young woman I knew from the interfaith campus organization was from Sandy Hook, and she was at a terrible loss for how this could happen in the elementary school she went to, in her hometown, to families she grew up with. At the time, I remember thinking that this would be it, that there must be legislative action following the murder of these children, just little ones like those I taught in Sunday school at my church. But there wasn't action. Legislators continued to be cowards driven by greed and power, even though kindergarteners had been killed. Kindergarteners. Now I see that the USA lost its soul, if we had one after all the atrocities at the hands of this country, when it did not act to protect schoolchildren.

How long, O God, how long?

There is a crisis in this country and it looks like gun violence. It looks

like assault weapons being readily available to buy with no background checks or waiting periods or training requirements. It looks like toxic masculinity, as two of these tragedies I named above were carried out by 18-year-old young men. It looks like weaponized whiteness that threatens—and carries out—destruction against people of color. It looks like sending “thoughts and prayers” without following up with action to prevent the carnage from happening again. It looks like school children being taught how to behave in active shooter situations instead of lawmakers doing what is in their power to make those drills unnecessary. This crisis looks like two generations (my own included) of traumatized children and youth who grow up expecting that one day they will be part of a statistic, and being surprised when they make it through.

How long, O God, how long? How long will we, the people, stand for this?

Beloved ones, if we treasure the children in our congregation, let us take action to protect

them. It is not someone else’s problem, it is OUR problem. Any child that dies from gun violence, from poverty, from domestic violence, from abuse, from neglect, from malnourishment, from racist policing, from war—*any* one child is too many. As the choir recently sang, “there are no other people’s children.”

Here are some organizations to pay attention to for gun violence prevention.

- Everytown for Gun Safety, everytown.org
- Moms Demand Action, momsdemandaction.org
- March for Our Lives, marchforourlives.com

The [Baptist Peace Fellowship](http://BaptistPeaceFellowship.org) and the [American Baptist Home Mission Society](http://AmericanBaptistHomeMissionSociety.org) also have gun violence resources and advocacy information on their websites.

This world can be different, if only we make it so. God have mercy.

With love,
Rev. Anita Peebles, pastor

Learning Together

SFBC Faith Journey Series Returns by Popular Demand!

Save the dates for this year's Faith Journey Series June 19-July 17

Our Faith Journeys have been a fan favorite for our summer learnings. Each Sunday our SFBC members or friends will share how faith has influenced their decisions and life’s work. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of our committed SFBC friends.

We will meet in the parlor each Sunday morning at 9:30-10:30 am. This year our children will be sharing their faith journeys too. All ages are welcome to attend. Pastor Anita will host an area with comfy seating and art materials in the Parlor for kids attending the program.

Our 2022 Faith Journey Leaders

June 19	Our Godly Play Children	July 10	Val Thomas-Matson
June 26	Richard (Dick) L. Miller	July 17	Daryl de la Cruz
July 3	Marv Kvamme & Alex		



SAGES AND SCAREDY CATS

Senior Retreat



July 13-15, 2022
at the Rainbow Lodge

Seniors are sometimes revered for being *wise ones* and sometimes accused of being frozen in time, unable to learn new tricks, afraid of the changing world - essentially, *scaredy cats*. Most of us are a bit of both. There are spiritual questions and challenges attached to both wisdom and fear. This happens differently at each stage of senior-hood:

- ◆ **New seniors:** those still a bit uncomfortable with the word "senior," perhaps approaching or newly having reached retirement or Medicare age;
- ◆ **Seasoned seniors:** those well acquainted with the "ropes" of being a senior, but well-aware they face a different world than their elders;
- ◆ And finally, the **Elder statespersons of seniorhood:** the most experienced seniors among us who generally find themselves to be among the oldest in any room

No matter which of these categories comes close to describing you, you are invited to join us in exploring the theme with others, in spending time with nature, in finding inspiration, eating great food and having a rollicking good time!

This is a great place to meet people and to deepen friendships. Registration opens June 1.

- ⇒ Register by going to the GROW tab on the church website and choosing "Retreats".
- ⇒ Or, register by calling the church office
- ⇒ Payment can be made by check or securely on the website. Payment in full due at time of registration.

Things to note at the time of registration: A good email address for you, whether you have an identified roommate, whether you need a "roomie," special dietary needs

\$225 for a shared room | \$275 for a private room

If this cost is prohibitive for you: Pay what you can for a shared room and let the scholarship fund take care of the rest! (Really....don't stay home for lack of ability to pay!)

PLEASE NOTE: In order to keep this event as safe as possible and in accordance with Rainbow Lodge policies, all participants will be required to show proof of COVID vaccination and boosters. In addition, you will need to show proof of a negative same-day home COVID test. To order free home tests, go to the following state website: <https://sayyescovidhometest.org/>

All questions about the retreat can be addressed to Cherry Johnson at:

retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Growing Together

Small Group Ministry Update

You may remember that one recommendation of the Long Range Planning Process was that we institute a Small Group Ministry at SFBC. Subsequently, in 2021, a Task Force envisioned what that ministry would look like. That proposal was approved and funded. This year a Small Group Ministry Advisory Group has been meeting to work on the details in preparation for implementation. Members are: Susan Blythe-Goodman, Bruce Chittick, Daryl de la Cruz, Martha Hopler, Janet Hasselblad, Cherry Johnson, Wendy Van Koevering and Linda Zaugg. The goal is to launch the ministry in September, with training for leaders happening prior to that.

Groups could include those for Spiritual Growth and Development, Support, Issue-Focused Study and/or Action, and Social Connections/Fun. The purpose of this ministry is:

- ◆ To complement worship ministry by offering opportunities for engagement throughout the week;
- ◆ To offer a variety of ways for EVERYONE to connect and to experience a sense of belonging;
- ◆ To provide many options for growing in faith and for putting faith in action.

If you have ideas for groups you would like to see happen in this new ministry, and especially if you might be willing to be a group leader, please contact Cherry Johnson:

Smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Godly Play on Summer Vacation

The last day of Godly Play Sunday School for kindergarten through 5th grade is June 12. However, kid-friendly programming doesn't stop there! Kids are invited to Faith Journeys, where Pastor Anita will host a cozy corner with quiet activities for use as we listen. The Wiggle Room will continue to be open during Sunday worship for families wishing to worship together.

Sing in Summer Choir

Beginning Sunday June 12th, everyone is welcome to join the choir in the sanctuary at 10am to learn the service music for the day. There are no regular Wednesday rehearsals during the summer months, so this is a great time to join! Summer Choir runs through the end of July.

Pride Sunday at SFBC

Wear your rainbows in support and celebration of LGBTQIA+ siblings, friends, family and neighbors for Pride Sunday on June 26!

Baptism on June 12

On June 12 in worship we will baptize new SFBC member Corey Clemons. Join us as one body as we celebrate Corey's commitment to follow the Way of Jesus, and as we promise to support and uphold him as a member of this congregation.

Nursery Needs

Part of being a welcoming and inclusive faith community is providing a nursery staffed by responsible and caring adults. We are currently looking for a Nursery Caregiver Coordinator and will be looking for additional nursery helpers soon. Please see [the job description on the church website](#) if you are interested. Thank you for helping support young children and their parents and guardians.

Our Lives Together

Summer Calendar

Recurring

- Prayer on Tuesdays
- Worship on Sundays
- Faith Journeys every Sunday, June 19–July 17
- No regular Bible study on Thursdays in June, July, August



Save the Dates

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Pastors in the Park
<i>@ East Green Lake Park</i> | Thursday, June 23 at 10am-11ish |
| SFBC table at Pride in Capitol Hill | Saturday, June 25 12-8pm |
| Pastors at the Pub
<i>@ Optimism Brewing Company (Broadway near church)</i> | Wednesday, July 13, 4-5pm |
| Intergenerational Movie Night
<i>@ SFBC Fellowship Hall (pizza and snacks provided!)</i> | Saturday, July 23, 6pm |
| Pastors in the Park
<i>@ Seward Park</i> | Thursday, August 11 at 10am-11ish |
| Church picnic | Sunday, August 13 |

Update from the Investment Committee

The Investment Committee is a group within the Church Finance Committee that is charged, among other duties, with managing SFBC's investments. The members meet at least once a year, usually in November, to review the Church's portfolio of investments, see that it complies with the Investment Policy, and determine the amount that will be allocated in the coming year to the church budget and endowment funds.

As part of its analysis, the Committee looks at the gain or decline during the present year, and then averages this amount with the gain or decline from each of the previous four years. The resulting 5-year average return on investments is then applied to the total portfolio amount to calculate the amount of money that will be applied to next year's budget and endowment fund balances. In the last 15 years, the 5-year average has ranged between a low of 4.8% and high of 10.86% (in 2021). Once the total allocation amount is determined, specific budget and fund allocation amounts are then made by the Council of Ministries.

Because of economic volatility, political instability, and pandemic unpredictability, the Committee decided during its meeting last November to meet again this May. The purpose of the added meeting was to review the equity/fixed income mix of our holdings, look at current performance benchmarks, and determine the optimum investment strategy for maximizing return to the Church with a minimum of risk.

The stock and bond markets have lost value over the past four months, and our holdings, down 10.7% in the first four months of 2022, were no exception. Yet this result beat the year-to-date S&P benchmark of -12.4%. The bond market did not do any better during the same period, down -12.3%. Our UBS portfolio manager and advisor calculated our investment allocation currently at about 75% equities and 25% fixed income and cash. He and the Committee were satisfied with keeping the 75/25 mix in place. He estimated that the chance of a recession is small, but predicted growth to be very modest through the rest of 2022.

The Committee unanimously decided to stay the course with our present holdings. We will keep a close eye on our portfolio and the economy until our next meeting on November 9 and will meet again before that date if economic changes dictate another portfolio review.

- John Benner, Finance Committee Chair
- Phil Mortenson, Investment Committee Chair

Other investment Committee members: Darren Hochstedler (Church Administrator), George Lawson, Bob Sittig, Metta Williams, and Mike Zaugg

SFBC at Capitol Hill Pride

Table on Saturday, June 25, noon to 8pm

SFBC loves our LGBTQIA+ members, siblings and friends! Let's share that love with our Capitol Hill community by showing up at Capitol Hill Pride. SFBC is hosting a booth at the Capitol Hill Pride on Saturday, June 25 and we need YOU to VOLUNTEER to be a booth host!



Shifts are 2 hours and will be shared among 4 people. While at the booth, smile and wave and share love with our neighbors! Sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D49ABAC2AAAFD0-sfbc> OR stop by the Welcome Table. And if you're going to Pride, stop by and say hi!



Water Your Neighborhood Trees

First Hill Improvement Association is encouraging neighbors to water trees during the hot, dry summer! Take a look around your neighborhood and commit to watering new and young trees near you!

Masks are Required for Balcony Seating and Choir Concert

Please be aware that the balcony areas of the church require masking to protect those who are more vulnerable. If you sit in the balcony during worship or other church events please wear your mask! **MASKS IN ALL AREAS OF THE SANCTUARY WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE UPCOMING SFBC CHOIR CONCERT.** Please respect the wishes of our choir and wear your mask for this beautiful concert. The choir will be fully masked. Thank you for your flexibility as numbers continue to rise in King County.

SFBC Choir to Give Benefit Concert

Sunday, June 5 at 1:00

The SFBC choir will give a concert titled "I Believe in Love," with themes of reconciliation, hope, and an end to violence across the globe. Please come and support this ministry! Proceeds will benefit "Doctors without Borders," a non-profit with a world-wide reach providing medical supplies and services to those in need.

There will be a light lunch served immediately after worship, and the concert will begin at 1pm with guest vocalists, percussion, and a complement of strings.

I Believe in Love

A concert of music in support of peace and reconciliation in Ukraine and around the globe

Free will offering in support of:

1:00pm - Sunday, June 5th
Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave
Seattle First Baptist Church Choir

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Outreach Projects Invite Your Help

The Outreach Committee would like to invite you to help with two short term projects:

1) Distribution to the homeless

In partnership with 4 other outreach groups that stand shoulder to shoulder with the homeless community, Outreach is preparing essentials to be distributed. For this project the following help is needed from the congregation:

- **BAKERS** of cookies/brownies. Bag them 2 per baggie and bring them to SFBC either **Friday June 10 between 10 & 2** or **Sunday June 12 before worship**. Need: another 18 dozen at least, ideally another 42 dozen.
- **MUSCLE** to help haul supplies from a closet to the parlor before church that day (**June 12**) and from the parlor to vehicles that day around 2 pm. Need: 4-6 more people

Continued on next page

- SORTERS that day 12-2 or 2:30 to serve on work teams sorting donations. Need: another 1-5 people
- DRIVERS to come pick up stuff that day to deliver in the few days following June 12. Need: Another 2-4 drivers

2) Outreach to the LGBTQ Community

SFBC will have a table at the Capitol Hill Pride Festival on June 26th as an outreach to our LGBTQ community. We need people to host the table at Cal Anderson park in 2 hour shifts, and bakers to provide treats for the church booth. Sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D49ABAC2AAAFD0-sfbc> OR stop by the Welcome Table.

To assist with these projects or share ideas for future projects, please contact Beth Reis at outreach@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

6 PM
19 JUNE

SFBC is a proud sponsor of this historic event.

One Seattle
Juneteenth
The Songs of Black Folk:
The Music of Resistance & Hope

Father's Day Special Recognition
Free Event to the Public

Musical Conductors
Stephen Michael Newby
Ramón Bryant Braxton

Special Guest
Darin Atwater

Performances by
Bridget Bazile
James Connor
Solomon Howard

City of Seattle
Mayor Bruce Harrell

A&C
OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
SEATTLE

NEW BEGINNINGS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Get your tickets today!

McCaw Hall
321 Mercer St
Seattle, WA 98109

A collaborative partnership with Community Churches

On Sunday June 19th at 6:00 pm at McCaw Hall the City of Seattle will present an historic musical event to recognize the federal government's inaugural celebration of the Juneteenth holiday. The event is titled *JUNETEENTH – The Songs of Black Folk: Music of Resistance and Hope*.

The concert will expose the audience to Negro Spirituals and the diverse musical traditions that have spun off from them, including Gospel, jazz, R&B, and even Hip-Hop. The Concert's conductors, Dr. Stephen Michael Newby and Mr. Ramon Bryant Braxton, will guide a journey through a musical culture that has functioned as both a tool of resistance and a source of hope for African-American people living in an anti-Black society.

Register for tickets at <https://one-seattle.ticketleap.com/juneteenth/>.

Concert Spotlight

Dmitri Matheny Quintet

June 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.



Seattle Jazz Vespers is proud to present the **Dmitri Matheny Quintet** on **Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 6 p.m.**

Dmitri Matheny – flugelhorn; **Bill Anschell** - piano; **Milo Petersen** – guitar; **Phil Sparks** – bass; **Mark Ivester** – drums

During the interlude, we will be awarding the SJV Young Jazz Artist Scholarship. Also, there will be a short tribute to Shirley Cline, our longtime SJV co-chair and booking agent who passed away earlier this year. At the conclusion of the concert, all past SJV

performers are invited to join us in a special finale of "Route 66," Shirley's favorite song, to wrap-up our 20th season.

"Dmitri Matheny is a jazz treasure. The lyrical Matheny has impressive chops, but it's his warmth and soulfulness that win you over."—All Music Guide

Acclaimed for his warm tone, soaring lyricism and masterful technique, American flugelhornist Dmitri Matheny has been lauded as "one of the most emotionally expressive improvisers of his generation" (International Review of Music). An honors graduate of the Berkley College of Music, Dmitri Matheny vaulted onto the jazz scene in the 1990s as the protégé of jazz legend Art Farmer. Since then he has garnered critical acclaim and a loyal international following, touring extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, traveling to 19 countries. With over 100 recordings to his credit, Dmitri Matheny has released 11 albums as a leader. His latest is *Jazz Noir*, a fresh spin on crime jazz, film noir movie themes and timeless classics. The San Francisco Chronicle calls Matheny "one of the jazz world's most talented horn players."



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2022 Officers and Church Leaders

For more information please contact the church at
contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Officers	President: Megan Walker VP: Dick Miller Treasurer: Metta Williams Secretary: Eric Watness
Members at Large	Inola de la Cruz David Delgado Martha Hopley Nirmala Jeldi Bob Sittig Christine Warren David Young

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

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Submissions for the Spire are due by the 20th of the month prior. All submissions should be sent to editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org

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The Spire is published monthly by Seattle First Baptist Church,
1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle, WA 98122

Email Delivery: To subscribe for email delivery or our weekly newsletter, register online at www.seattlefirstbaptist.org

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SEATTLE BLOOD BANKS ARE AT A CRITICAL LOW LEVEL AND HAVE ANNOUNCED AN EMERGENCY BLOOD SHORTAGE.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



SAVE A LIFE. GET A PIZZA.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2-7 P.M.



All participating donors in this blood drive will receive a coupon for a FREE two-topping pizza at Papa John's (as well as 20% off all other regular priced menu items).

Seattle blood banks are at a critical low level and have announced an Emergency Blood Shortage. This is resulting in delays in lifesaving medical care and elective surgery. SFBC will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Thursday, June 23. Donors will receive a coupon for a free pizza from Papa John's. To reserve your space visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>