



seattle first baptist

VOLUME 86, NO. 9

OCTOBER 2022

# the Spire

The Monthly Newsletter of Seattle First Baptist Church

I write this on the first day of autumn. Though I love the flowers of spring and the sunny days of summer and the bright cold of winter, autumn is my favorite. It is a time when nature embraces change, as leaves turn colors and fall to the ground and decomposers on the forest floor do their work of transitioning decaying matter into energy. The crisp days and the waning sunlight are comforting to me, even here in Seattle where during these months sunlight is at a premium.

Our church has been talking about how we are in a transition period for...a while now. COVID, retirements, staff changes, long-range planning conversations and big decisions ahead of us. These things are big, and that's important to be noted and felt and talked about. But as we head into the autumn season, I wonder if we could try making friends with all this change—or at least, settling into a kind of peace with change.

There are many rituals from around the world that take place in autumn to mark the seasonal changes and the contemplative mood that surrounds us at this time. Rituals of celebrating the harvest, sharing with neighbors, and remembering important life transitions, such as marking the equinoxes and remembering loved ones who have passed on from this life.

This year at SFBC, as we make our way towards All Saints Day (which we will mark on November 6), the pastors invite you to participate in rituals remembering loved ones. Throughout October we will have a memory table near the Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall. On this table you may place a photo or a memento or a note about a loved one who you remember and honor. This will be a kind of communal altar, where we will light some candles and remember. Then, on All Saints Day, the altar will be moved upstairs to the sanctuary. Our all-ages movie night on Saturday, October 8 is one opportunity to share together in learning about rituals of remembrance and sharing our own stories of loved ones who have died with each other. We will watch Disney's *Coco*, a family-friendly film that takes place on Dia de Muertos. Additionally, YOU are invited to bring a photo of a loved one to this movie night, and we will have an opportunity to share with each other.

We also have several special Sundays this October!

October 2: Next Generation Sunday

October 9: Companis Sunday

October 16: Eco-Justice Sunday with Green Buildings Now

Beloved church, it is an honor to serve with you as one of your pastors. As we take time to honor the many transitions of life, the saints in our lives and in the life of our community, and the work towards justice that we do in the world, please know this: I love you, and I love being your pastor.

With gratitude,  
Pastor Anita Peebles



# Music at SFBC

## SFBC Choir

Anytime is a great time to come sing with our choir! The group is open to any and all singers regardless of experience. No audition is required. People's schedules are tough and we are accommodating: there are no attendance requirements. Just come sing when you can!

This is an exciting time for our choir with several new leaders within the choir, and all of them have experience in music education and choral conducting.

Soprano Katrina Turman is the Artistic Director of the Columbia Choirs, a large choral organization on the eastside with both K-12 and adult choirs.

Alex Katschke is an alto who recently finished her undergraduate degree at University of Northern Colorado in music education.

Baritone Jesse Floyd studied music education at Western Washington University and has conducted church choirs, including most recently First Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon.

We are lucky to have these talented singers and educators join our choir on Wednesdays and Sundays! Come sing with them and the whole choir, and make a joyful noise!



seattle pro musica 50 years

**my heart be brave**

with composer Marques L. A. Garrett

**Saturday, October 15, 2022**  
**7:30 PM**  
SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

JOIN IN GATHERING

A Choral Festival of the Greater Seattle Choral Consortium

**SEATTLE SINGS 2022**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
**FREE ADMISSION**



This is a piano bar/cabaret type event. Like Karaoke except with a live pianist. It's a time to sing with and for one another. Practice a song you've been working on, tighten up an audition piece, bring an instrument and play along, invite a sing-a long.

Events are open to all! LGBTQ+ Welcome - Transitioning voices warmly welcomed.

#### What we provide:

- Friendly, supportive folks
- Pianists
- A cozy cabaret setting with tables for 1-6 people
- Song books covering many standards, jazz, Broadway, etc.

#### What you can do:

- Bring sheet music in your key for our pianist.
- Select from music available onsite.
- BYO food or drink (alcohol is allowed)
- Bring a friend.
- Bring an instrument.

Halloween costumes and themed music  
welcomed but not required!

# Small Groups Ministry

## SMALL GROUPS – IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Each month in the Spire two or three groups from our new Small Groups Ministry will be “in the spotlight.” We hope this helps you make informed choices about which groups you want to “pop in on” or attend regularly.

### HEALING JOURNEYS

This 8-week series started on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Led by Pastor Mario Seth Morales and Dr Steve Smith, it is a group which meets at the church in the Parlor (adjacent to Fellowship Hall) on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30am, and which is repeated as a video recording on Zoom the following Thursday evening for those who are unable to attend in-person. Each week a member of the congregation shares their personal or family story of having faced critical health challenges and how that has impacted their life, their family, their faith. The sessions will include reflection and time for questions. Below is the schedule of speakers remaining:



- October 2 & 6 – Virgil Tollefson and Sara Tollefson
- October 9 & 13 – Dick Miller
- October 16 & 20 – Laura & Eric Zaugg and Theresa Pruett
- October 23 – John Malcomson
- October 30 – Laura Van Tosh
- November 6 – Janet Hasselblad
- November 13 – Inola de la Cruz and Karen Carlos

Zoom link for the Thursday evening Healing Journeys Encore group:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86779019626>



**REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AND FAITH** One of the searing topics of our day is women’s reproductive rights and the action of the US Supreme Court in overturning Roe v Wade. It has become a central focus of this November’s election, and it is one many of us are discussing. Three women of our church – Dr Jennifer Chin, Beth Reis and Susan Blythe-Goodman – have stepped up to bring this important subject to us in a way that allows us to learn, to share confidentially and have our views respected, and to explore

in the context of our faith. This group meets monthly on the **second Wednesday** (early publicity erroneously had the day wrong) - starting October 12<sup>th</sup> - from noon to 1pm on Zoom. The presentation (but not the confidential break-out discussions) will be recorded and replayed (with time for discussion) on the following Sunday after worship in the Peacemakers Room (up the ramp from Fellowship Hall) at church for those who cannot make a weekday group.

To help the leaders know how many people to expect, please email [smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org) or call the church office (206-325-6051) to let us know you plan to participate. This is not required for attendance; it’s only for planning purposes.



**BIBLE STUDY** After a two-month hiatus, this popular group is returning weekly on October 6<sup>th</sup> and every Thursday from 12-1 on Zoom. Pastor Anita, who leads the group, says “This is not your grandma’s Bible Study,” and indeed it is not. She brings in all kinds of interpretations for consideration – feminist, womanist, queer, ecological, anti-capitalist), and the discussions are quite stimulating. No one ever leaves bored. Come when you can or come every week.



For those of you bemoaning the fact that this happens on a weekday, please know that there is talk of holding another Bible Study outside of typical work hours, but it may have to wait until we have transitioned beyond this interim period. Bring your Bible and join us! If you wish to participate but don't own a Bible and cannot afford to buy one, contact [smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org) or call the church office at 206-325-6051.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>

## OCTOBER SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

For more information on each group, refer to the Small Groups Ministry brochure distributed on Homecoming Sunday, the September Spire, the church calendar, and articles which will be appearing in the *This Week* email newsletter. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to [smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org) or by calling the church office (206-325-6051).

### SUNDAYS

Healing Journeys, Church Parlor, 9:30-10:30am through November 13th

Reproductive Justice & Faith Encore, Sundays following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed, 12:30 in Peacemakers Room at the church

Friendship Circle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 1:30 Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87396272439>

BIPOC Group, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 4pm, Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85036603078>

Interfaith Climate Action, October 2 6:30, Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81420918394>

### MONDAYS

Brave Space 7-8pm, Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84851754597>

### TUESDAYS

Prayer Group Noon-12:30 Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776242649>

Legacies Group, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 1:30-3pm, Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83965596894>

Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a book discussion on Zoom at 7pm as part of the Environmental Book Group series this Fall. The book will be *The Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson.

### WEDNESDAYS

Reproductive Justice & Faith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed noon-1, Zoom <https://washington.zoom.us/j/98270878634>

### THURSDAYS

Bible Study, Weekly, noon-1pm, Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>

Roamin' Catholics October 20th 7-8 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81154876899>

## SATURDAYS

Men's Group, 10am, Zoom. To obtain link, email Dick Johnson [reldejohns@comcast.net](mailto:reldejohns@comcast.net) or call the church office (206-325-6051)

Women's Conversations, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 11:30am, Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89163623743>

Play Reading Circle, 1<sup>st</sup> Sat 3-4:30pm, Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85424372570>  
(Email Joanne Hjort by the 15th of each month if you plan to participate:  
[jlhjort@gmail.com](mailto:jlhjort@gmail.com) )

## Interfaith Climate Action – Sunday, Oct 2 6:30pm



Do you worry about the climate emergency? Do you fear for future generations? Do you want to move from being frozen by fear to taking some action steps? Then this small group is for YOU!

Are you interested in other religions and want to learn more? Would you like to learn about the intersection of biblical teachings and environmental justice? Then this small group is for YOU!

On the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Interfaith Climate Action – First Hill (a collaboration of Seattle First Baptist Church and Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue) – Cindy Ervin will be speaking and leading a discussion about *shmita* – the Torah teaching about the seven year cycle which always ends in a *shmita*, a year of release, or sabbatical year. It is during the *shmita* that the fields lie fallow, debts are forgiven, private land holdings are open to everyone, and all food storage and perennial harvests are available to the poor. A built-in system of environmental and social justice!

Come to this group to explore the spiritual and personal meaning of *shmita* in YOUR life and for all of us in the midst of the climate emergency we face today. The last *shmita* year will have just ended with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and we will be exploring what it means to be re-turning, starting a new cycle, thinking ahead seven years to the time when scientists tell us we will have reached the point of irreversible harm to our planet. We will be looking inward – deeply (as one does during Yom Kippur – the Day of At-Onement – which starts at sundown on October 4<sup>th</sup>), and wondering what choices we will make, what actions we will feel called to at this turning time.

Think climate change is not a social justice issue? Just ask the people of Pakistan or Puerto Rico or Skykomish. Ask those living on Seattle streets, whose lungs are black from smoke. How will **you** be called to soul searching and action in this new cycle? This group is your chance to make a start! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81420918394>

## Facilities Task Force Update

We are processing the input from the first Congregational Forum this summer. Thanks to all who turned out to one of the two iterations (in-person and on-line)! If you missed the meeting, you can check out the packet of documents that were handed out on the website ([seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://seattlefirstbaptist.org)) under the Long Range Plan button or the Governance tab on the homepage, or by contacting Linda Zaugg ([thezaugg@icloud.com](mailto:thezaugg@icloud.com)) for an emailed copy.

The Meriwether RFI (Request for Interest) will go out at the end of this month and we are looking to hire a Public Relations consultant to help us with media requests about the RFI that may come from the wider Seattle community. The RAFN engineering group will soon be providing us a “rough order of magnitude” estimate on seismic cost. This ballpark figure, based on their experience and expertise with older buildings originally constructed with unreinforced masonry – and without doing any destructive testing - will give the congregation and any developers an idea what we are facing in terms of overall cost estimates.

Some ideas that we are pursuing from that forum are: a display of diagrams of the 3 buildings near the Talking Wall in Fellowship Hall; offer tours of the buildings; continue to talk with other churches about what they have done (see Case Studies doc in the packet for a few); engage the First Hill/Capitol Hill neighborhoods; work with the Council and congregation to define our mission and top priorities and how the building can best serve this mission.

The congregation has a long path ahead, and your engagement is key to what we can envision and accomplish. Stay tuned for the next forum in October/November and in the meantime please use the Talking Wall in Fellowship Hall to give and respond to ideas that have been posted.

---

### Boiler Project

So far the boiler project is scheduled to be done on-time and under budget. We are planning for the boiler to be turned on for the October 16 service. If the weather turns chilly before this date, please wear a sweater to church. We are projected to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 40%. We will keep you informed as the project is completed. Thank you for your patience during this process.

### Racial Justice Library

When you walk in the church entrance on Sunday you will notice our new Racial Justice Lending Library.

This library is a free resource for our community to learn about systemic racism. We are collecting books about racial justice and Black and Indigenous history. Please borrow any book! When you are done, return it to the shelves for someone else.

## Women's Retreat

October 21-23 at Rainbow Lodge

Imagine this. The smell of pumpkin bread is coming from the oven. Out the window you can see red and yellow leaves, and on the ground a bed of acorns and horse chestnuts. You are wearing your favorite sweater and enjoying the heat from the oven. You are sitting at the table with some good friends, just waiting ... waiting for the next story, for the next round of laughter, for your tea to cool a bit, for the taste of newly baked treats.



If that sounds good to you, **REGISTER NOW** for this year's annual Women's Retreat, which is returning to Rainbow Lodge in North Bend for the first time in three years. The retreat is a time to relax, to get to know other women more fully, to deepen faith and strengthen community. The theme this year is **AT THE KITCHEN TABLE**, and we are going to gather 'round in smaller and larger groups, sharing stories from our lives – as women have done for generations around their own kitchen tables. Come remember the sights and smells and sounds of your grandmother's table or an old friend's or one at church. Breathe in the mountain air and the smell of food someone else is cooking. We will play and sing together, have free time to explore the beautiful property at the height of the Fall colors, share meals, and worship.

For the protection of all who attend – especially our most vulnerable members - we are requiring proof of COVID vaccination and booster, and we encourage flu vaccines as well. Furthermore, we strongly request that anyone experiencing symptoms of a cold, flu or other potentially contagious illness choose to stay at home. We will be masking indoors except while eating.

**If the fee is too steep for your budget**, pay what you can, and let the scholarship fund take care of the rest. Completely confidential! Registration opens on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Sharing a room is highly encouraged, as there are not enough rooms to go around if lots of people request singles. Carpooling can be arranged. Register and pay on the website ([seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://seattlefirstbaptist.org)) by going to the GROW tab and clicking on RETREATS or by calling the church office (206-325-6051) and leaving your name and contact information.

\$225 for a shared room

\$275 for a single room.

Be sure to note when you register if you have dietary restrictions, or if mobility issues require that you have a room on the first floor (there is no elevator).

First come-first served. **Registration deadline October 13.**

# Especially for Youth

## Youth Group

Youth Group for kids in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade meets every other Wednesday from 6:30-8pm in the Youth Room. October dates are: 10/12 and 10/26. We will get to know each other, play games, learn and grow together, and more! Please contact Pastor Anita for more information.

AND grown-ups: if you want to help our Youth Group by preparing a meal for them on Wednesdays, please contact Pastor Anita to sign up

---

## Intergenerational Movie Night *Saturday, October 8 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall*

Bring your lawn chairs, sleeping bags and pillows to get cozy for a movie night with our church family! Snacks will be provided. ALL AGES welcome and encouraged to join.

Movie synopsis: Despite his family's generations-old ban on music, young Miguel dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol Ernesto de la Cruz. Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel finds himself in the stunning and colorful Land of the Dead on Día de Muertos. After meeting a charming trickster named Héctor, the two new friends embark on an extraordinary journey to unlock the real story behind Miguel's family history. This film is about memory, honoring ancestors, and finding your way to being yourself in your family.

During this event, all are invited to bring a photo or a memento of a loved one who has died to share with others.



# Welcome to Our Newest Members

On Homecoming Sunday, we welcomed six new members to the SFBC family! Please take a moment to read their short bios below, then find them in the church directory and send them a note to welcome them! To our new members: we are so glad you are part of us!

**Jim Erickson** is a lifelong Baptist and he comes to us from First Baptist Montlake Terrace, where he worshipped for many years after being part of the founding congregation. He enjoys playing the flute in the Around the Sound Community Band, and is retired from teaching at Roosevelt High School and Edmonds Community College.

**Charlotte L. Arlander Erickson** returns to SFBC from First Baptist Mountlake Terrace. She was baptized in SFBC in 1943. Charlotte cares deeply about mental health and enjoys singing in the Seattle Swedish Choir.

**Laraine Waller** also comes to us from First Baptist Mountlake Terrace, where she has attended with her parents, though she grew up at SFBC. Laraine enjoys swimming and volunteering at the food bank and thrift shop.

**Julio Gutierrez and John Davidson** are pilots for Delta Airlines and moved to Seattle last year from Atlanta.

**Vanessa Perkinson** is a seminarian at Seattle Pacific University and serves on staff there as Associate Director of the Center for Biblical and Theological Education. Originally from southern Illinois, Vanessa is called to ministry and looks forward to beginning the ordination process with SFBC.

## SENIORS AND MAYBE-NEARLY-ALMOST SENIORS SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, November 20, 2pm on Zoom  
An Introduction to Advance Planning & End of Life Options  
Presented by End of Life Washington  
More info in the November Spire

# STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Anita Peebles (x106)

*Pastor: Next Gen Ministries*  
[anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Rev. Mario Seth Morales (x104)

*Interim Pastor*  
[mario@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:mario@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Darren Hochstedler (x102)

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

Ben Luedcke

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

Christian Broughton

*Organist & Pianist*  
*Communications & Digital*  
*Services*  
[christian@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:christian@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Judy Scott (x101)

*Office Manager*  
[Front\\_office@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:Front_office@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Dick Steele

*Facilities Manager*  
[dick@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:dick@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Cherry Johnson

*Retreats Coordinator*  
*Small Groups Coordinator*  
[retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Kellie Whitlock

*Sound/Video Engineer, Graphic*  
*Arts*  
[kellie@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:kellie@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

## 2022 Officers and Church Leaders

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

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

### Our Mission Statement:

We are a community of faith united in exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ, to be a people of God, and to love and care for our neighbors. As a church we will know no circles of exclusion, no bridges we will not cross, and no loyalties above that which we owe to God.

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)

[facebook.com/SeattleFirstBaptist/](https://facebook.com/SeattleFirstBaptist/)

[instagram.com/seattlefirstbaptist/](https://instagram.com/seattlefirstbaptist/)

*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)*

### © 2022 Seattle First Baptist Church

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

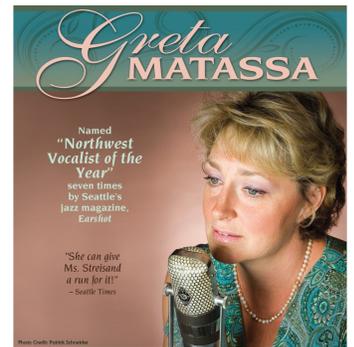
Seattle First Baptist Church  
1111 Harvard Ave  
Seattle WA 98122-4261



## Greta Matassa Quintet in Concert

October 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Seattle Jazz Vespers is proud to present  
Greta Matassa Quintet



Greta Matassa - vocals, Brian Monroney - guitar, Clipper Anderson - bass , Mark Ivester – drums, and Alexey Nikolaev – sax

In the Pacific Northwest, where she built her career, Greta Matassa wins wide acclaim; 8 times, the readers of Earshot, the Seattle jazz magazine, have voted her the best jazz vocalist in the Northwest including another award 2021.

She was inducted into the Seattle Jazz Hall of Fame in 2014. Jim Wilke, the Seattle jazz maven and host of the syndicated “Jazz After Hours” radio program, praises her versatility. “She has a fearlessness in approaching material,” Wilke says, “that makes her like an instrumentalist in a jam session.”

Her 40 year career has been a whirlwind of exciting opportunities and experiences. Over the last 20 years she has become established as one of the greatest jazz singers of her time. Working with top jazz musicians in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York. In 2016 she was featured with bassist John Clayton’s group in a centennial tribute to Ella Fitzgerald.