

THE SPIRE EASTER 2023



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VOLUME 87, NO. 3

Dear SFBC Family,

The last chapter of Cole Arthur Riley’s book *This Here Flesh*, which we have been journeying with throughout Lent, is entitled “Liberation.” In this chapter, Ms. Riley shares a vision of all the tables in the world lining up side by side, with room for all of humanity to sit and eat together. There will be enough food for everyone, enough space for everyone, enough love to go around. People will be drawn to the table, and at the table there will be no shame and no harm, no death-dealing ideologies. People will find their way to the table, even if they get lost on the way. At the table, it will become evident that “liberation...is an unending awakening.” Liberation is not an end point, but it is ongoing, for each of us as individuals and all the communities that make up our world community.

As we enter into Holy Week and then travel through Resurrection Sunday and into the season of Easter, let us hold liberation front and center in our minds and hearts. Let us allow ourselves to awaken to liberation around us—and to the places in our selves, in our families, in our world, that need a liberative breath. Part of the awakening of liberation is cultivating our awareness of how those living on the margins of society have been pushed there by the centers of power. So, as you have embraced your humanity throughout the Lenten season, practice embracing others’ humanity: those whose identities differ from yours in race, gender, sexuality, gender expression, economic status, education level, class, national origin, first language, etc. Foster curiosity about people around you: who do they love? What do they need to flourish? How can you help them breathe freely in a world that seeks to limit their liberty? How can they help you breathe freely?

And on a societal level this Eastertide, let us be mindful of where and when and how liberation is needed. During Lent, we saw far too many states threatening the rights of our transgender siblings through bans on drag shows and limitations on marriage equality. We witnessed environmental dangers in oil spills, train wrecks, new drilling in Alaska, and more. We heard about numerous efforts to ban books and limit curriculum taught in public schools. The threat of fascism is no longer just an amorphous threat—and if we’re honest, it hasn’t been for a while—fascism has sunk its teeth into the USAmerican project, into the “American dream,” into the fabric of our society, and it is pulling taut the ties that bind us. What will we do, to proclaim liberation to the captives of this ideology? What will we do to pursue freedom for those imprisoned and detained at the borders, for those seeking to live openly as their whole selves, for those living in fear of identity-based violence? How can we be agents of God’s love and peace in a world that is increasingly showing its vulnerability to forces and powers that threaten “the least of these”?

Friends, almost every time I preach I end with a benediction from William Sloane Coffin, edited slightly by the pastors who passed it down to me. In the benediction, I say: “May God give you grace not to sell yourselves short/ Grace to risk something big for something good/ Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love.” And I believe that. Don’t sell yourselves short—you are capable of so much, dear ones. Together we can risk something big for something good—as a community following the Way of Jesus, we have a higher risk tolerance together than we do alone. What is the good thing we will take risks for?

(continued p. 2)

Let us speak truth—it is too dangerous to give voice and ear to speculation, lies, gossip, and surface-level platitudes. And let us always put love into the world—love through care and compassion, through listening, through holding those in power accountable, through looking at ourselves honestly and openly and loving ourselves and those around us enough to change our biases and assumptions. Love is worth it, so let us love each other and love the Creation that is our common home.

I love you and I love being your pastor.

— Rev. Anita

Membership Exploration Class

**Saturday, April 1
from 9am-12pm**

Easter Sunday

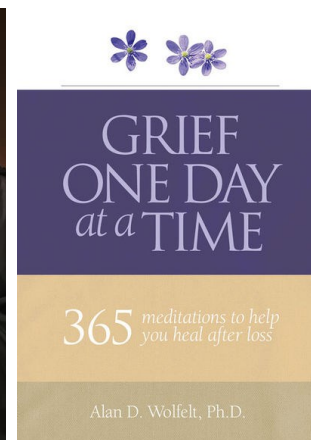
On Easter Sunday, we will be embracing the tradition of “flowering the cross.” This is a tradition that represents the transition from Good Friday and Jesus’ death at the hands of empire to the liberative love of resurrection in the garden on Easter Sunday. During the Easter service, all will be invited to come forward and add a flower to a bare wooden cross in a symbolic gesture of life-affirming love and flourishing.



Mark your calendars!

**Senior Retreat
Rainbow Lodge, North Bend
July 12-14**

**Women’s Retreat
Rainbow Lodge, North Bend
October 20-22**



Grief Support Group

Leaders: Lupe Carlos III and Karen Carlos

It seems like every week in the pastoral prayer we hear of another individual or family in our church grieving the loss of a loved one. This has been especially hard over the last three years when the pandemic has complicated things like the ability to visit loved ones in hospitals or nursing homes, and the ability to hold or attend memorial services. Maybe you were one of the loved ones left behind. Maybe you are in the throes of grief—early wrenching grief where you might find it hard to get out of bed or to talk to anyone, or possibly the kind of grief many months or years down the road where bouts of longing still overcome you at times and holidays accentuate your loss.

C.S. Lewis (in *A Grief Observed*) said “Their absence is like the sky, spread over everything.” That’s grief. If you have experienced loss, please consider participating in this new Grief Support Group. No “formula” for how to do it “right” will be offered. Each person’s experience is unique. However, sharing the burden of grief with a group can help. This is not a therapy group. It is a group of peers offering one another a safe place to grieve in whatever way is needed. The book *Grief One Day at a Time* by Alan Wolfelt will be provided to every member. Contact smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or call the church office (206-325-6051) if you need one, or pick one up at the Welcome Table during Coffee Hour.

Grief Support Group

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm starting April 4

On Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82797976361>

Facilities Task Force Update

The Facilities Task Force (FTF) thanks the nearly 100 people who participated in the congregational forum on March 5, at which we explored options for the future of SFBC's property and buildings. There was what one participant called a "healthy tension" in the room, with the group engaged, nervous, excited, and fearful simultaneously—not surprising, considering the importance of the topic! Thanks to church administrator Darren Hochstetler, who helped make the forum a social occasion by providing lunch!

Following lunch in Fellowship Hall, the FTF presented a report on its progress since the previous congregational forum, which took place approximately six months ago. At that time, the FTF was preparing to engage with Merriwether & Associates to assess interest within the development community in partnering to redevelop our property. In response to the Request for Interest documents sent out by Merriwether, four development firms submitted proposals. Strada, based in San Francisco, stood out as the best fit with our values and with the most to offer.

The FTF, with approval of the SFBC Council of Ministries, has agreed to enter into a six-month, no-obligation series of discussions with Strada about possible options for working together. A Development Committee, to be formed soon, will represent the church in those discussions.

So, what can you expect next?

The FTF is committed to building a robust internal communication system. We collected handwritten notes from every table at the forum and are currently typing those up, so participants' feedback can be collated, analyzed for themes, and used for providing information to the congregation. Thanks to all participants for your comments and questions and to the scribes at each table who recorded those.

How can you stay informed and/or provide feedback?

1. Watch This Week and The Spire for articles on the themes and topics based on your feedback. Some emerging questions to be addressed include:

- How do we build effective internal and external communication systems?
- If redevelopment is chosen by the congregation, which buildings will be replaced—eg, the sanctuary building, the admin/education building, the Minor Hospital building, any or all of them? What will replace them?

- How would this redevelopment be funded?
- What would the design of any new SFBC space include? Would we be able to have spaces similar to what we have now—e.g. sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, gym?
- How will we honor the past? How will we deal with the grief that we may experience with the loss that accompanies change?
- And many others. . .

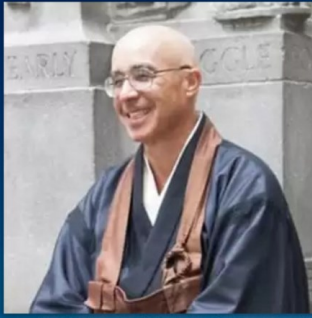
2. Post your comments and questions on the Talking Wall in Fellowship Hall. The FTF is committed to collecting these regularly and using them to keep the congregation informed. We need your dreams and ideas for this ongoing effort!

3. Mark your calendars and join in again on April 30th, right after worship over lunch in Fellowship Hall. This next forum, facilitated by Rev. Sam Kim, associate executive minister of our Evergreen region, will bring additional updates from the FTF and will address some of the questions and ideas from the March forum.

4. To obtain a copy of the slides from the March 5 presentation, email your request to facilitytaskforce@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

Unfortunately, the Easter Bunny Meet and Greet that was scheduled for April 8 has been cancelled.





THE ROMNEY COMMITTEE PRESENTS

The Practice of Meditation and Contemplative Prayer

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

a free in-person retreat
at Seattle First Baptist Church from 9am to Noon



*“The depths of the ocean of our being
are as vast as the external universe.”*

We welcome the return of **Genjo Marinello Roshi**, Abbot of Chobo-ji Zen Center and member of University Friends Meeting for the weekend of April 29-30. With more than forty years of Zen practice, Genjo will lead a Saturday morning retreat on the practice of meditation and contemplative prayer. A complimentary lunch will be provided at the completion of the retreat. On Sunday Genjo will lead a discussion on grief and loss at 9:30am in the parlor and will participate in worship.

Genjo Marinello Roshi studied Zen in Japan and has led Zen retreats in Europe and the United States, and has published a book, titled Reflections on Awakening and Maturity: For Spiritual Companions. Marinello Roshi’s visit is sponsored by SFBC’s Dr. Rodney Romney Legacy Fund. Dr. Romney was pastor of Seattle First Baptist Church from 1980-2000 and supported programs that explore personal spiritual growth and the contemplative way of life.

REGISTER

To register for the retreat, call the church office at (206) 325-6051 or email front_office@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

PARKING

We recommend using public transportation if possible as parking near SFBC is limited. **Paid parking is available at the Polyclinic side lot (entrance off Seneca) and the Harvard Market. Street parking is also available.** Public transit nearby includes the #2 Bus Line (Seneca & Boylston stop) and the Streetcar (Broadway & Pike/Pine stop). The church is a 15-minute walk or short bus ride from the Capitol Hill light rail station.

Join us Easter Sunday!

You won’t want to miss the music at the Easter service! Come sing along with brass, choir, and organ as we praise God for the glorious day!



MOVIE NIGHT

Disney • PIXAR
ONWARD

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1 AT 6PM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

FEATURING DISNEY AND PIXAR'S ONWARD
SNACKS PROVIDED!

Exploring Contemplation

Leader: Jim Segaar



Probably you've learned about some of the health and spiritual benefits of regular contemplative practice:

- Reduction in stress
- Reduced blood pressure and resting heart rate
- Increased patience and tolerance
- Focus on the present
- New perspective
- Reduction in troubling emotions and less reactivity
- Increased self-awareness and strengthened sense of authenticity
- Increased imagination and creativity
- The experience of Oneness with the Sacred

Maybe you've tried to meditate but couldn't stick with it. Maybe you wish you could be a person who engages regularly in a contemplative practice, but aren't sure where to start. Or, maybe you've read Jim Segaar's inspiring reflections on Facebook and want to learn more from this man.

Jim, who has a long history of teaching and leadership at SFBC, has been living with cancer for the last three years. During that time, he has also been studying with The Living School, which was started by the well-known and prolific contemplative teacher and founder of The Center for Action and Contemplation, Richard Rohr. Jim has been documenting this journey in a contemplative fashion through his writings.

Jim says the group will have an interfaith perspective - drawing from Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu traditions as well as Christianity. He plans to use a variety of resources, from books to YouTube. Where the group goes with all this is a mystery that will be

revealed as time progresses, which is exactly how it works in a contemplative space.

The target audience, according to Jim, is "people who are interested in contemplation, meditation, mindfulness...but have not developed a practice that works for them." Perhaps that is YOU!

Please note that this is a six-week "course." Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions. If you wish to start after Session One, please contact Jim via smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org, leaving your phone number so that he can call and bring you up to speed before you come.



Exploring Contemplation
Thursdays 5-6pm, April 13-May 18

On Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87508105511>

Baptists Playing Games
Leaders: Sue and Brian Ross



There was a time when playing games with dice or cards (or games of any kind really), especially on Sundays, would have been considered sinful. Not so at SFBC! Who says Baptists can't have fun? Join us on Sunday mornings in May from 9:30-10:30am for an intergenerational time of fun with table games, cards, puzzles and the like. Family-friendly! Watch the *This Week* e-newsletter for more details.



**Embracing Our Humanity:
Lent with Seattle First Baptist Church 2023**

During the Lenten season, we are engaging with the wisdom in *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation and the Stories That Make Us* by Cole Arthur Riley.

If you choose to read the whole book as your Lenten practice, you are invited to read along with other church members according to the reading guide provided here. Each Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30am, you are invited to gather in the church Parlor to discuss the weekly theme, important quotations, and to share our stories with each other (over coffee, of course!) ***The last session is this Sunday, April 2!***

If reading a whole book is too much, that's ok! A quote is provided for each day. This quote can be an invitation to prayer, meditation, artistic expression or a conversation-starter. However you feel inspired to be present with the daily quote is ok. You may wish to journal or take a photo each day while pondering these quotes.

In the introduction to the book, Cole Arthur Riley writes that "contemplative spirituality is a fidelity to beholding the divine in all things. In the field, on the walk home, sitting under the oak tree that hugs my house. A sacred attention." (p. X)

May you find the spaciousness within yourself to pay sacred attention during this holy season.

4/2 Palm Sunday Joy; Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:19-29 "What if sometimes God just wants to be with you?" (p.156)

4/3 pgs. 158-163 "If we are to survive the wait of justice and liberation, we must become people capable of delight. And people who have been delighted in." (p.159)

4/4 pgs. 163-165 "It takes just as much strength to believe someone's joy about you as it does to muster it all on your own." (p.159)

4/5 pgs. 166-169 "Joy...is inherently communal." (p.164)

4/6 Maundy Thursday p. 169 "The Christian story hinges on a ceremony of communal remembrance. This should train us toward an embodied memory." (p. 174)

4/7 Good Friday Memory; pgs. 170-179 "The answers to the biggest questions we have about identity, story, and God can only be answered in relation to memory." (p.171)

4/8 Holy Saturday pgs. 179-181 "In many spaces, to foster collective memory well, we must habitually ask ourselves, Whose story gets told, whose story is believed, and who gets to tell it?" (p.175)

4/9 Easter Sunday Liberation; Matthew 28:1-10 pgs. 182-195 "I think we can be fully free yet still have the capacity to become more free. Maybe this is heaven." (p.188)



Be a Part of Something Great!

Joan Benner has been single-handedly organizing the three times yearly Place at the Table dinners since she started them back in 2020. Now she is asking for a partner to help with this process, which primarily involves being available after worship on the Sundays when hosts are signing up to have dinners in their homes and then when people who wish to attend are signing up. It is not a huge time commitment, but it is a great service. These dinners are very well attended and they universally generate positive feedback and great stories of friendships made, connections discovered, and wonderful evenings of food and fun. Could it be YOU partnering with Joan? If you are willing, please email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or call the church office (206-325-6051).

Spring Place at the Table Dinners May 20th



It's that time again! There is a Place at the Table Dinner scheduled for Saturday, May 20th. If you have been to one before, you know what it's like to get to know others from the SFBC community in this kind of casual setting—to share a meal, to talk, to make connections. If you've never participated, here's how

it works: Three times a year, we gather for meals in private homes.

Those willing to host a group in their home (*you get to decide how many guests you can accommodate*) sign up in advance in Fellowship Hall following worship (*in this case, on April 13 & 20*).

Those who wish to attend sign up later in the same way—choosing which dinner they would like to go to. Maybe you want one on a busline or in your neighborhood, or conversely maybe you want to go to a part of town where you are less familiar. Maybe you want to be with people you know; maybe you want to branch out and get to know others!

The hosts then contact the guests to let them know time, directions, and what food they might bring to the event.

And then, we gather. We dine. We talk. We laugh.

Finally, we can't wait to do it again (*next Fall*).

Consider being a host this Spring! You don't have to live in a palace or be a gourmet cook. You get to decide how the "potluck" works and how casual or formal it looks. A picnic on the floor (*or at a park*) might be as appealing to some as a lovely dining room table is to others. Be yourself! Those willing to host need to sign up on April 23 or 30 during Coffee Hour, or you can email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or call the Church Office (206-325-6051).

For information on when to sign up to attend a dinner, be sure to read the weekly SFBC *This Week* e-newsletter which comes out every Thursday.

Place at the Table Dinners—May 20th
Sign up to be a host: April 23 and April 30



Concert Spotlight
Francesco Crosara Quartet
April 2, 2023 at 6:00pm

Francesco Crosara, piano;
Milo Petersen, drums;
Phil Sparks, bass;
Jay Thomas, trumpet, sax, flute

Originally from Milan, Italy, Francesco Crosara's music melds an impressive mix of jazz improvisation, a romantic vein from his classical training, along with Latin influences.

Francesco stands among the European-bred jazz greats, performing over the years with the likes of Lionel Hampton, Freddie Hubbard, Roy Hargrove, Richie Cole, Lilian Terry, and more. His recordings have featured a multicultural and international array of musicians.

Since 2017, the Northwest can claim his talents, too, as he's demonstrated an eagerness to contribute to the local scene. Francesco was selected to perform at the 2021 Earshot Jazz Festival in Seattle and has been featured two years in a row in the trend-setting Earshot Jazz.

"A pianist who originally hails from Italy, Crosara is well-versed in bop lore, and his delicate flow might indicate a debt to Bill Evans." —*Down Beat Magazine*

"Crosaras compositions are considerate of their audience, providing a source of joy, comfort, escape, and healing. Crosara believes jazz is a collective experience and a living language that distills a multitude of identities, backgrounds, and personalities." —*Earshot Jazz*



CELEBRATE EARTH SUNDAY

APRIL 23, 2023



For the Love of the Earth: Celebrate Earth Sunday With Us on April 23

On April 23, Earth Sunday, we will celebrate and give thanks for our precious Earth. Led by members of Interfaith Climate Action—First Hill, we will reflect on and renew our sacred commitments to live in harmony with the Earth and with all God’s creatures with whom we share it. Please take part in as many Earth Sunday celebratory activities as you can.

At 9:30am in the Parlor, our education session is “Eating for and from the Earth: Videos and Conversation.” We’ll watch two very short videos that will remind us—and may surprise us!—about the best and worst foods for the climate. We’ll share personal stories of the dietary changes we have made, would like to make, and why. You will leave the conversation with at least one exciting idea to put into action to reduce your carbon footprint. All ages are welcome.

At the 11am worship service in the Sanctuary, guest preacher Abby Castle Brockway will offer an Earth Sunday sermon “Re: Creation” with inspiration from Acts 2:14a, 36-41. Abby is an artist, painter, and activist as well as a member and elder (*an elected and ordained layperson*) at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church.

At 12:15pm in Fellowship Hall, come to a Celebration and Tasting of Vegetarian and Vegan Food. Sample over two dozen vegan and vegetarian dishes provided by members and friends of SFBC and Bet Alef. Besides the delicious earth-friendly foods (*and access to the recipes*), you’ll be able to try a range of non-dairy milks and cheeses and to test yourself on how much you know about climate issues. For example, do you know

which non-dairy milk requires the most water in its production? Is it almond, rice, soy, or oat milk? Come to the tasting and find out!

Note to all cooks and bakers: We need vegetarian and vegan dishes to fill out our tasting tables. If you can provide a dish, please sign up during coffee hour on April 2, 9, or 16—or contact Lynn Gaertner-Johnston (lynngaertner-johnston@comcast.net) or Carole Cornell (carole.cornell@outlook.com). As a reminder, a vegetarian dish does not include meat, poultry, fish, seafood, insects, gelatin or animal rennet, or stock and fat from animals. It may include eggs, dairy products, and honey. True vegan dishes avoid all animal foods including meat, fish, shellfish, insects, dairy, eggs, and honey.

At 6:30pm on Zoom, the Interfaith Climate Action—First Hill Meeting takes place. You are invited to learn about the work of ICA and join in discerning how to faithfully respond to the climate emergency. Find the link on the SFBC calendar; get more information from Cindy Ervin (cynthervin@msn.com).

Get to Know Your Council Members

The Council of Ministries is SFBC’s elected body that represents members and friends of the congregation in policy and decision-making matters. In each of the next several issues of *The Spire*, we’ll introduce you to two members of the Council. Please share questions, concerns, and insights about church governance with these individuals; they are here to represent your interests! If you’re interested in serving on the Council in the future, please let them know.



Bob Sittig (he/him), member at large, has been a member of SFBC for over 35 years. He has been both

President and Treasurer of the congregation (at different times), and was employed as Church Administrator for six years. Retired from careers in general contracting and designing and constructing automated industrial machinery, he presently serves on several nonprofit boards, including as Board Chair of The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. Bob and wife Susan Dohrmann have three adult children and seven grandchildren. He enjoys wood-working, photography, and sailing when he has spare time.



David Young (he/him), member at large, is retired from a career in customer-service positions. He now divides his time among doctor appointments, volunteering at Bailey-Boushay House, and loving music: as a member of the Sanctuary Choir since 1990, and as a lifelong record and CD collector now selling off his collection online. David joined SFBC soon after his first visit 34 years ago (at the invitation of a stranger on a Metro bus); he and husband Tom Tiberio were married here in 2018.

Directory Updates

Get ready for your directory photo! On Palm Sunday and Easter, Bob Sittig will be taking pictures of members and friends before and after church in the Whitman room right beside the main entrance. The pictures will be used for our new online directory.

If you have not yet logged on to the new directory and checked out your information, e-mail Darren and he will send you a link. If you have your family password, you can view the directory by clicking this link. <https://servantkeeper.com/directory/seattle-first-baptist>. You can bookmark this link on your computer or phone so the directory is always available. Call the church office or e-mail Darren in you need help.

We are asking everyone to get their picture taken so new members can put a face with a name.

Losing Things By Dick Johnson

Where are my car keys as I am get ready to go somewhere?
 Where are my eyeglasses, which I need when I drive?
 Where are my hearing aids, so I can hear the people I am seeing?
 Where is my phone, so I know where I am going?
 Where is my Covid mask, which they say at my age we still need to wear?
 Where is the credit card, that I may need to buy something?
 Where will I park my car, so I can be sure to find it?
 Where is my memory, as I've grown older and older?

My car keys were under the bed spread, where I took off my pants.
 My eyeglasses could be anywhere, but sometimes I am already wearing them.
 My hearing aids only get lost, because i am not using them as I should.
 My smart phone can't be found, because its battery is dead.
 My covid mask is in my coat pocket, but in which of my many coats' pockets?
 My lost credit card, to my chagrin, is usually where I last used it.
 And my car, eventually, is found in the exact spot where I parked it.
 Our memory, yes, often fails us. But we can learn to pay more attention. That is something we can practice, and not blame everything on memory.

SMALL GROUPS SCHEDULE for EASTERTIDE



SUNDAYS

Baptists Playing Games 9:30-10:30am in the Parlor all Sundays IN MAY (*A time for intergenerational fun*)

Earth Day Educational Event: Eating For and From the Earth—Videos and Conversation Sunday, 4/23 ONLY 9:30-10:30am in the Parlor (*see separate article*)

Gay Men's Group 3rd Sunday of the month 12:30-1:30pm in the Parlor (*For all men who identify as gay*)

Friendship Circle In April and May this group will not meet on its usual dates due to holiday conflicts. Please monitor the SFBC *This Week* e-newsletter which comes out on Thursdays for announcements of the alternate dates. (*Women coming together for fellowship, spiritual support and a focus on justice*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88288815847>

Reproductive Justice and Faith 3rd Sunday of the month 1:30-3pm in Fridell and on Zoom (*Open to all genders and beliefs; learn about justice issues related to reproductive freedom, and how this all relates to faith; learn about actions you can take.*)

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/98270878634>

Interfaith Climate Action 4th Sunday of the month, 6:30-8pm on Zoom (*For those who wish to learn more/ do more about the climate emergency*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9831359120>

MONDAYS

Brave Space 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month, 6-7pm on Zoom, but no meeting on April 3. (*For white-identified folks who wish to learn more about racism, the systems that support it, and skills for addressing it*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81180960514>

TUESDAYS

Prayer Group Weekly on Tuesdays 12-12:30pm on Zoom (*A brief time for reflection, prayer and sacred community in the middle of the day*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776242649>

This season offers a multitude of opportunities to engage spiritually and interpersonally in small group settings. All of our groups and their meeting times are listed below. All groups are open to new members. If you have ideas for other groups you would like to see happen, or you are willing to lead a small group, please email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or all the church office (206-325-6051).

Legacies Group 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1:30-3pm on Zoom (*A group where the stories of our lives are shared. A different prompt is used each time.*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86065659153>

Grief Support Group 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm on Zoom (*see separate article*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82797976361>

WEDNESDAYS

Optimism Hour 2nd Wednesday of the month 5:30-6:30pm at Optimism Brewing Co on the corner of Broadway and Union just east of the church (*where choir members, the choir-curious, and anyone else who wishes can spend some relaxed social time prior to choir rehearsal*). Non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Bring your own food or snacks to share if you wish.

THURSDAYS

Bible Study 12-1pm weekly on Zoom (*An exploration of the coming Sunday's scripture; provocative discussions; progressive commentary*)

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

Exploring Contemplation 5-6pm weekly April 13-May 18 on Zoom (*6-week class from an interfaith perspective, for those interested in developing a contemplative practice*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87508105511>

SATURDAYS

Men's Group Weekly 10am on Zoom (*Where SFBC men come to know one another*)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095038488?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095038488?pwd=RlpydDZ0cERLVFhtcEFPSWMzSlQzUT09)

[pwd=RlpydDZ0cERLVFhtcEFPSWMzSlQzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095038488?pwd=RlpydDZ0cERLVFhtcEFPSWMzSlQzUT09)

Place at the Table Dinners held in members' homes 3 times annually; must sign up in advance to attend. Next dinner is May 20th. Sign-up for hosts will be April 23 and 30. Sign-up for attendees will follow that.

Women's Conversations 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm (*Where women of the church get acquainted and strengthen friendships*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82388737061>

Play Reading Circle 1st Saturday of the month, 3-5pm on Zoom (*Full-length plays read over two sessions; follow This Week e-newsletter or contact smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org to find out what is being read and how to obtain a copy of the current script*)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85424372570>

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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 those that we owe to God.

SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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SEATTLE, WA 98122-4261



SAVE THE DATE

THE ROMNEY LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS
Cole Arthur Riley at SFBC

JUNE 9-11, 2023

LECTURE Saturday, June 10
PREACHING Sunday, June 11

more details forthcoming