

THE SPIRE SPRING 2023



THE NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VOLUME 87, NO. 4

Dear church family,

Recently, I found myself reflecting on perfectionism—ok, ok, it was not just recently, it's more like *all the time*. I struggle with perfectionism, and have my whole life. Maybe it's the eldest-daughter thing, or the academic-achievement thing, or the people-pleasing thing... this drive to be perfect, to do and say everything right, to be beyond reproach, could come from lots of places. But no matter where it comes from (family, friends, society, church expectations, inside my own anxious brain), I realize that it is important to acknowledge it...and to expose perfectionism for the lies it tells.

I wonder if some of you reading this relate to me, if you struggle with perfectionism too. Or if you're thinking, "wow, interesting, I don't really have that pressure." Or if you're wondering, hey Pastor Anita, what does this have to do with church? Well, we can talk about all of those things—maybe not in this article but I'm glad to chat, so reach out and come find me!

What does perfectionism have to do with church? Well, I think there's a special kind of perfectionism that creeps inside well-meaning, left-leaning, majority-white churches. It's not anyone's fault, it's in the culture! Most importantly, I think perfectionism is dangerous because it keeps us from authenticity, and authenticity is a key ingredient to making church. Perfectionism keeps us from authenticity when we try to stave off vulnerability by instead being obsessed with appearing to be so good, so smart, so generous, so worldly, etc. Perfectionism lies to us and tells us that we are only worth as much as we are morally righteous, or we are only deserving of love if we are the most self-sacrificing, or that we can only be accepted in a community if we appear to have no flaws. Perfectionism thrives when we are scared of failure, or even just of messing up a little, like stepping on someone's

toe or expressing an idea without tact or introducing yourself to someone you forgot you already met.

So how do we combat perfectionism? I'm surely not suggesting that we go around letting bad behavior run rampant and letting folks escape accountability. There's got to be a middle way between "being perfect" and "being a horrible human being." Yes, of course there is! And *the middle way is where all of us are, all the time*. We are human—we are loving and kind and beautiful, and we also make mistakes, speak before we think, forget our manners, harm others' feelings. The opportunity comes when we realize that we've messed up, or hurt someone we care about: *how do we respond?* Do we spiral into shame? Or do we accept the truth with humility—that we have not lived up to our standards, or how we see ourselves, and that we want to do better. Then, *we can commit to doing better*.

The shame spiral and I are well known to each other. But little by little, I am trying to break away from perfectionism—so I can be a healthier and more whole person, and a better minister. And I hope that if you are caught in the mire of perfectionism, know that you're not alone. We all exist in the middle ground, none of us are perfect, and we can accept our humanity with humility. And together, we can encourage each other, help each other grow, hold each other accountable, and lift each other up when the spiral pulls us down. That's what church is—living authentically together, choosing to love each other and care for each other and "the least of these" (as was said in Jesus' day). I am glad we get to be church together—beautiful and messy and playful and thoughtful and full of wonder.

I love you, and I love being your pastor.

—Rev. Anita

AAPI Heritage Month

SFBC celebrates our Asian American and Pacific Islander members and friends!

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AA & PI Heritage Month) and so we give thanks for our church family, friends and neighbors whose lives are shaped by their connection to the land, history and people of the Asian continent and the Pacific Islands. The whole church is who we are because of you, and we are grateful that you are part of what makes SFBC amazing.

WHERE IN SEATTLE IS PASTOR ANITA?



Where in Seattle is Pastor Anita?

In honor of Pastor Anita's 5 years of ministry at SFBC (*as of July 1, 2023*), she will be reviving the popular series "Where in Seattle is Pastor Anita?" This series of visits was instrumental in helping Pastor Anita get to know Seattle and get to know our congregation! On the following dates and times, she will be available for casual hang-outs at the locations named. Be sure to check public transit and parking availability.

- Tuesday May 30 at 3-4pm Kaladi Brothers Coffee, 517 E Pike St
- Thursday June 8 at 5-6pm Optimism Brewing Company, Broadway & Union
- Wednesday June 14 at 4-5pm Plaza Garibaldi, 1st Ave N
- Wednesday July 5 at 4-5pm Volunteer Park (*by the Conservatory*)

Save the Date

Seattle Sounders vs Portland Timberwolves

Save the Date and RSVP to go to the Seattle Sounders with SFBC! Saturday, June 3 at 1:30 at Lumen Field, playing against the Portland Timberwolves. 20 tickets are reserved for SFBC, \$20-40 per person sliding scale, payable to the church with a note "Sounders tickets." First come first serve. Contact Pastor Anita if buying tickets would be a hardship and you would still like to come. RSVP to Pastor Anita by June 1.

Cole Arthur Riley: Romney Lecture Series

Saturday, June 10

Lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00pm

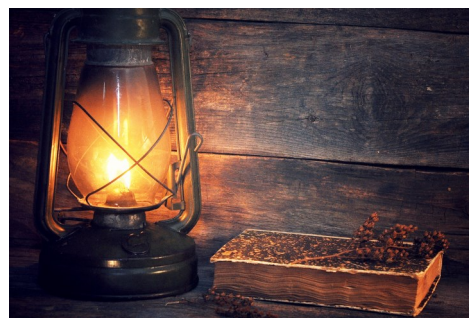
Learn: Lecture in Sanctuary at 1:00pm-2:00pm

Please register here:

<https://forms.gle/9K4tHxypbGpEs4JU9>

Sunday, June 11

Cole Arthur Riley preaching in 11am Worship



Oil in My Lamp

A Retreat for Seniors

Rainbow Lodge, North Bend

July 12-14, 2023

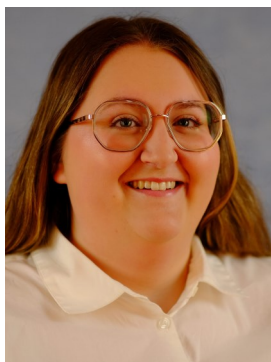
Registration starts June 1st

Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Day was April 26. We are grateful for our Administrator, Darren Hochstedler, and Judy Scott, our Office Manager, for all they do for SFBC and our community! Celebrate them by sending them an email in thanks.

Darren@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Front_office@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Introducing Vanessa Perkinson



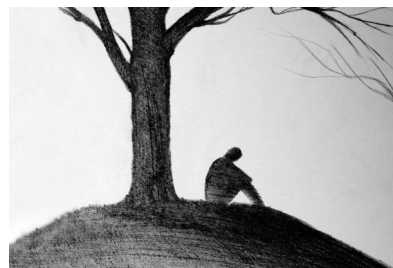
The Small Groups Ministry has a new Program Coordinator—Vanessa Perkinson. She is a member of SFBC, and many of you will remember her from the sermon she guest preached for us a few weeks ago. Vanessa is just finishing up her Masters in Theology at Seattle Pacific University, where she has also been working as the coordinator of a small group program.

Vanessa joins us as a Companis Volunteer. She will be taking care of the day-to-day operations of the Ministry, such as responding to emails, reserving rooms, obtaining Zoom links, tracking attendance, setting up training dates for new leaders, troubleshooting tech problems, etc. In other words, she will be the public face of the ministry and your first point of contact if you have an idea for a group, want to volunteer, or have a concern. She can be reached by e-mailing smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

Cherry Johnson, who is stepping down from the Coordinator position, will continue on as Chair of the Small Groups Ministry Advisory Group, which also includes Susan Blythe-Goodman, Daryl de la Cruz, Janet Hasselblad, Martha Hopley, Jacob Maez, Wendy Van Koevering, and Linda Zaugg.

Welcome Vanessa!

Grief Support Group



Have you suffered a loss recently...or even not all that recently, but the grief still has a strong hold on you? Everyone grieves in their own way; there are no “rules” for how to do it or how long it takes. But you don't have to do it alone. Twice a month members and friends of SFBC gather to support one another on this journey of grief. There is a “chair” waiting for you. Consider joining us!

Grief Support Group

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

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

Sunday Morning Games



What is laughter? What is laughter?
It is God waking up! O it is God waking up!
It is the sun poking its sweet head out
From behind a cloud
You have been carrying too long . . .
O what is laughter,
It is the glorious sound
Of a soul waking up!

—Hafiz, 14th century Persian mystic and poet

Start out your Sundays with a little fun and games! Join Sue Ross in the Parlor for cards, puzzles and table games every Sunday morning this month. This is an intergenerational group, so the whole family is welcome! Bring your own favorite game(s) or find out what Sue has brought. No experience necessary (*meaning, if you are normally a very serious person, this group is for you, too*). Coffee and juice provided. Laughter will abound. Our souls will awaken. We might just encounter the Divine!

Sunday Morning Games

All Sundays in May 9:30-10:30am

In the Parlor

Reminder

Friendship Circle will not meet on the 2nd Sunday because it is Mother's Day but *instead* will meet on the 3rd Sunday this month—May 21st from 2-3pm on Zoom.

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





A Confession

We all swim in a sea of bias whether we want to or not. Racial bias, gender bias, class bias, religious bias, political bias, etc. It's impossible to live in our society without doing this. In recent years I have been working hard on recognizing my biases and monitoring my actions accordingly. The SFBC group Brave Space has been a strong support in that process. However, there are times when we all say or do things that are harmful to others without realizing we're doing it, and today I want to confess to such an action on my part. It is my belief that admitting when we screw up helps us confront our biases and improve our behaviors. For me it allows me to face my mistakes, learn from them and move on to do better. If I hold onto the mistakes, they turn into a sense of shame, which serves no one.

Here at SFBC we place a strong value on welcoming everyone to the table. I like to think I'm good at that. And yet, when thinking of a name for the new Sunday morning intergenerational group where we get together to play games, the name that popped into my head was "Baptists Playing Games." I come from a long line of Baptists, and it isn't that far back in my family history when games, especially with cards or dice, were considered evil and unworthy of "good" religious folk! So, I thought "Baptists Playing Games" not only described the group well but also added humor to its name.

I was wrong. My action in choosing and advertising that name caused harm. It does not matter what my intention was. That's the way with microaggressions. We usually do them inadvertently. My intention was humor. The result was harm in the form of alienation—exactly the opposite of being welcoming. And *that* is what matters.

Many people in our church do not identify as Baptist. Many grew up in other Christian denominations, or other religious traditions altogether, or no religion at all. Many in our midst are uncomfortable and feel

like they are being treated as "other" when references are made that imply or assume we are all Baptists here or all grew up Baptist. I know this, and yet I did not think about how the group name might impact some of these siblings.

I apologize to anyone who felt unwelcome as a result of reading my article about a small group that seemed to be only for "Baptists." I would welcome a conversation with you if you want that. And I am very grateful to the person who, in their hurt, took the risk to bring this to my attention. I cannot change the past. But I have changed the name of the group to Sunday Morning Games, a group where *all* are welcome.

Thanks for hearing my confession! I deeply value your sacred witness.

—Cherry Johnson

Chair, Small Groups Ministry Advisory Group

Place at the Table Dinner May 20



Before the pandemic sent us all to our homes (*if we were lucky enough to have homes*), back when we blithely gathered without masks to enjoy one another's company, Joan Benner started a new tradition at SFBC: Place at the Table Dinners. The idea was simple but profound: gather in small groups at one another's homes for a meal three times a year, and from this, build relationships and strengthen community. For two weeks people signed up to host the meals, and then for two weeks the rest of us signed up to go to one of the hosted dinners. The response was immediate and uniformly positive.

During the early months of the pandemic when the Long Range Planning team was holding Focus Groups on Zoom to hear the concerns and dreams of the congregation, a pattern began to emerge. In almost every group people talked about how they *loved* the Place at the Table dinners and wanted *more* things like that. Conversations spun off from that beginning—about the value of small groups of people being present to one another, listening to each other in

informal settings, and being a welcoming presence to one another. The excitement was palpable. This was the seed that grew into what is now the Small Groups Ministry.

So, thank you Joan Benner! And thank you to all of you who have hosted in the past and who have signed up to host for the May 20th dinners! If you wish to attend one of these dinner (*this usually involves bringing a dish of food to share, and then just showing up*), sign up during coffee hour on May 7 and May 14. You get to pick which dinner you attend. Pick one that feels comfortable and familiar, or push yourself to go to an unfamiliar neighborhood or to dine with people you don't know at all. As Cesar Chavez said, If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with them—the people who give you their food give you their heart.

P.S. Joan is looking for a partner to help with these dinners. This involves things like staffing the sign-up of hosts and attendees, and contacting hosts about what they need to do. Be a part of this thing that the congregation loves so much! Contact smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org if you feel called to join Joan in this endeavor.

Place at the Table Dinners
Saturday, May 20
Sign-Up to Attend—May 7 & 14
during Coffee Hour

Sacred Allyship Training



A number of our small groups seek to work for justice—racial justice, reproductive justice, justice for LGBTQ folks, justice for women, economic justice, and so on. Those doing this kind of work often identify as allies to the group for whom they are seeking justice. *But what exactly is an ally?* And perhaps more importantly, what is it not? We may have great intentions, but that does not mean that what we do is always appropriate or helpful. The answer is not to stop working toward justice for fear of making a mistake, but to learn how to be an effective ally.

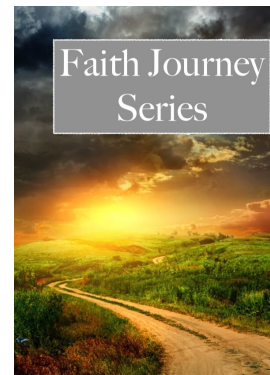
The Small Groups Ministry offers a training, developed by Susan Blythe-Goodman, about what it means

to be an ally. The Brave Space Group, which is for white-identified members and friends committed to antiracism, personally and systemically, spends time learning with one another about the structures which support racism, as well as practicing ways to “interrupt” racism effectively. During May and June, this group will be going through the Sacred Allyship Training. The Reproductive Justice Group just completed this training, and the discussions were rich and provocative. One member called out in the middle of one session, “*Now, this is church!*”

Like all the Small Groups at SFBC, Brave Space is open to new members and visitors. If you would like to become better at “doing justice,” why not consider joining us on Zoom for these important conversations about being an ally!

Brave Space—Sacred Allyship Training
1st & 3rd Mondays of May & June,
6-7 pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81180960514>

Faith Journey Series Returning This Summer!



One of the most popular programs at SFBC over the past two decades has been the Summer Sunday morning Faith Journey series, during which members and friends of the congregation share their life stories and the role of faith in that life. Each story is different, and *all* are a treasure! Mark your calendars for 9:30-10:30am Sunday mornings in June and July to come to the Parlor and hear these stories.

Thank you so much to the following people who have said “yes” to presenting their Faith Journeys this summer: Emma de la Cruz, David Delgado, Jim & Charlotte Erickson, Julio Gutierrez, Joanne Hjort, Roy Ostergren, Renna Pierce, Brooke Rolston, and Spencer Van Koevering. We look forward to hearing your stories!

Watch for further details in each Thursday's edition of the *This Week* e-newsletter.

**Jami Bess, Guest Speaker
Reproductive Justice & Faith**



Did you know that 70% of the infant mortalities (*prior to first birthday*) in King County happen in the south end of the county where the poorest and most diverse neighborhoods are? In fact, babies born to Black and Indigenous parents are two and three times, respectively, more likely to die than those born to white parents. Shockingly, the infant mortality rate for Native American/Alaska Native mothers in King County is significantly higher than the overall rate in Mississippi, which is known to have the highest infant mortality rate in the country!

An organization called Open Arms Perinatal Services has been providing free community-based, culturally-responsive support during pregnancy, birth and early parenting to families from those neighborhoods with the greatest need for over twenty-five years (*including providing doulas who look like the people they are serving*). You should know that your Fellowship Fund dollars have provided support to this organization. Jami Bess is their Program Director for Family Support Services. She will be the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Reproductive Justice & Faith group on May 21st. This is a story about reproductive health disparities for BIPOC, immigrants, refugees, and the poor. It is also about how a group of women showed up to do something about that here in Seattle. Don't miss it! Absolutely everyone is welcome.

Reproductive Justice & Faith
3rd Sunday of the Month—May 21st
12:30-2pm in Fridell Lounge and on Zoom
<https://washington.zoom.us/j/98270878634>

**Save the Date
PrideFest Capitol Hill**

Save the Date and help volunteer at PrideFest Capitol Hill, Saturday June 24 in Capitol Hill on Broadway. Contact Eric Setran to RSVP to help staff the booth.



Reminder

The Play Reading Circle will not be meeting in May. The next meeting will be on June 3rd. Scripts for that session are available at the Welcome Table in Fellowship Hall. Please sign your name to the list when you pick one up.

Those who care for an adult
dealing with a mental illness spend
an average of 32 hours each week
assisting their loved one.

Coming Soon!

Support Group for Parents of Adult Children
living with mental illness

Leaders: Carla Granat & Dick Miller

Watch the *This Week* e-newsletters for further info



Concert Spotlight
Dina Blade Quintet
May 7, 2023 at 6:00pm

Dina Blade, vocal and guitar;
Hans Brehmer, piano;
Osama Afifi, bass; Darian
Asplund, sax/clarinet/flute;
and Jamael Nance, drums

Dina Blade is a singer with a deeply relaxed sense of time and swing who spent her early childhood watching old cartoons with jazz soundtracks and has been enthralled with the music ever since. She has graced stages in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Cuba and Brazil, singing at festivals, jazz clubs.

An effervescent performer with a devotion to the timeless songs from the 1930s and 40s Great American Songbook, Dina has created several thematic shows preserving the work of the master composers and lyricists from that era. For this concert she will be playing classic and romantic songs from Brazil and the Great American Songbook. For this reason she is a recipient of the American Masters Performance Initiative from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Concert Spotlight
Jovino Santos Neto Quinteto
June 4, 2023 at 6:00pm
Doors open at 5:30pm

3-time Latin Grammy nominee Jovino Santos Neto is a master pianist, flutist, composer, arranger and conductor from Rio de Janeiro. After 15 years as a member of the legendary Hermeto Pascoal Group, he moved to Seattle in 1993. Since then, Jovino has established himself as a fascinating performer, whether playing solo piano, leading his award-winning Quinteto, or in guest appearances with ensembles and orchestras worldwide. He has shared the stage and the studio with some of the most creative musicians of our times.

Jovino's compositions have been performed by the Seattle Symphony, NDR Big Band in Hamburg and by numerous jazz and chamber music groups. Jovino gives lectures, clinics and master classes worldwide on a variety of musical topics.

Jovino has received commissions by the Cheswaty Foundation, IAJE, ASCAP, CMA/Doris Duke Foundation, Jack Straw Foundation, the City of Seattle, 4Culture, Artist Trust and Meet the Composer. He has been artist in residence at some of the most prestigious music schools in the world. In 2012 he was inducted into the Seattle Jazz Hall of Fame and in 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2018 the Jovino Santos Neto Quinteto won as Best Northwest Acoustic Group in the Golden Ear Awards by Earshot Jazz. He also was awarded an Artist Trust Fellowship in Music in 2012.

Also, we will be awarding our Shirley Cline Memorial "Young Jazz Artist Scholarship" during the interlude between sets.



Outreach Event May 13 Volunteers Needed

What organizations will we be serving with our Big Homelessness Work Party on May 13th? We specifically choose groups that treat the unhoused community as human beings with dignity who have gifts and stories and agency and who deserve respect. All the organizations are also all about relationships rather than charity. Tentatively, we're partnering this time with: Africatown's BENU Community Home

If you can help, SFBC needs you. If you can...

(1) Bake 2+ dozen cookies or brownies between now and May 13, **we still need 10-15 bakers** for another 33 dozen cookies or brownies.

You can bake any time and bring your baked goods to church any time the office is open or else on a Sunday to be frozen. Or you can bring them at noon on Saturday, May 13.

(2) Come have lunch and help haul or sort & box up & label resources on May 13, we still need at least 9 more worker bees.

You can arrive at noon for lunch and we will work until 3-4pm. It is generally a really fun day. And you don't need strength or mobility. We need some of that but not every worker bee needs to be physically able. Everybody is welcome and needed.

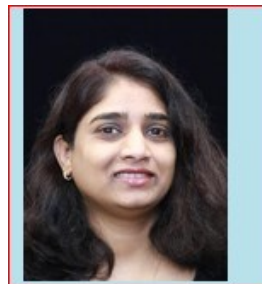
(3) Deliver supplies to one of our partner orgs on May 13-16, we still need 1 more delivery person or family.

A sedan is all you need. Some folks will pick up supplies around 3:00 or 3:30 on Saturday, May 13. Some will get them the day they deliver them.

If you can do any of these tasks or if you have questions, please contact Beth Reis by emailing outreach@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

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 three issues of The Spire, we'll introduce you to additional members of the Council (this series began in the last issue). 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.



Nirmala ("Nimi") Jeldi (she/her; member at large) joined the Council to share her perspectives, experiences, thoughts, and opinions. She and husband Sam Jangam became members in 2015, and they and their children Nathan (11) and Steffi (4) are all active and beloved participants in the life of this church. Pastor Anita's example inspired Nimi to help the SFBC community build relationships with God, with each other, and with the world around us.

Eric Watness (he/him), a relatively new member (along with his wife, Carolanne), sits on the Council as Church Secretary. A preacher's kid raised in the Northwest, he grew up in the Lutheran tradition. Following a long stint in sole private practice focused on family, adoption, and probate law, Eric was a Court Commissioner in King County Superior Court; he retired over ten years ago, and currently works part time as a mediator and arbitrator. His interests involve driving and riding his pair of Norwegian Ford horses and learning to play the Norwegian hardanger fiddle. Eric and Carolanne have two adult daughters, Kjirsten and Ann, who, with wonderful sons-in-law, are raising their five grandchildren, ages 8 to 18.



SMALL GROUPS SCHEDULE for MAY



SUNDAYS

Sunday Morning Games 9:30-10:30am in the Parlor all Sundays in May. This is an intergenerational group. *(see separate article)*

Faith Journeys 9:30-10:30am in the Parlor all Sundays in June & July. *(see separate article)*

BIPOC Group 4th Sunday of the month 12:30-1:30pm in Fridell and on Zoom. *(A safe space for those who identify as Black, Indigenous and other Persons of Color to get to know and support one another)*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82868987493>

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

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

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

Friendship Circle Usually meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 2-3pm on Zoom, but in May it will meet on May 21st because the 2nd Sunday is Mother's Day. *(Women coming together for fellowship, spiritual support and a focus on justice)*

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

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. For white-identified folks who wish to continue their learning about racism, the systems that support it, and skills for addressing it.

(see separate article)

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

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).

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>

Legacies Group 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 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 of the month, 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 thru May 18 on Zoom. A 6-week class from an interfaith perspective, for those interested in developing a contemplative practice; if you have not attended the previous sessions, contact the leader before coming, by calling the church or e-mailing

smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org. Be sure to leave your contact info & the group name.

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

SATURDAYS

Men's Group Weekly 10am on Zoom (*Where SFBC men from the church come to know one another*)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095038488?pwd=RlpYdDZ0cERLVFhtcEFPSWMzSlQzUT09>

Women's Conversations 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm on Zoom. (*Where women of the church strengthen friendships across generations*)
<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. Scripts are available for check-out at the Welcome Table. (*See separate article about date change in May*) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85424372570>

Place at the Table Dinners held in members' homes 3 times annually; must sign up in advance to attend. Next dinner is Saturday, May 20th. Sign-up for Attendees is on May 7 & 14. (*see separate article*) Details will be provided by hosts. No virtual dinner on Zoom this time.

Photos from Easter Sunday, April 9



President's Prattle

Church Updates from Mike Zaugg

1. Good News for Small Groups Ministries! As of May 1, Vanessa Perkinson will assume the Program Coordinator role of SGM, as a Companis placement. This allows Cherry Johnson to take a step back from the herculean task of getting this wonderful new program off the ground. Thank you, Cherry and thank you Vanessa!
 2. In the coming summer we can look forward to the installation of the new assisted listening system that Darren had several of you test out last week. This is the latest technology that will vastly improve our sound output for those with hearing aids.
 3. Bob Sittig assures us that the Pastoral Search is moving steadily ahead.
 4. Development Exploration: The development group Strada of San Francisco has entered into a period of "due diligence" with us, to assess the possibility of exchanging the value of our property (*about 20 Million currently*) for the right to build a rental high-rise on our site. We would get a new or remodeled facility and parking for our 20 Million and hopefully also address seismic, accessibility, and environmental concerns. It will take Strada several months to complete their feasibility study, meeting with architects, engineers, construction firms and apartment managers and make a proposal or proposals. Until then we don't even know if this grand scheme *could* work. So there is nothing to accept or decline at this time, until we see if both sides can get their priorities met.
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STAFF DIRECTORY

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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.

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

Sunday service at 11am in-person and online

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editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

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SEATTLE, WA 98122-4261



THE ROMNEY LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS
Cole Arthur Riley

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

LUNCH 12pm in the Fellowship Hall

LECTURE 1pm in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

PREACHING at 11am Worship