

THE SPIRE HOMECOMING 2023



THE NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VOLUME 87, NO. 6

Dear friends,

“Welcome home.” I heard that phrase many times on my first Sunday back in worship following my vacation this summer. Each time it was uttered, I took a moment as my heart got stuck in my throat. What a wonderful turn of phrase, two words that carry so much more meaning than is evident in their eleven letters.

“Welcome home” is a common greeting around here, not just saved for when folks have been away and return from traveling, but spoken with joy whenever someone enters the building. Seattle First Baptist has striven to be a place of inclusion and belonging for many years. We collectively have many stories about how this has been lived out, one chief among them being the inspiration for Rod Romney writing that beloved hymn “Bring Us Home” after meeting a young man with HIV who was looking for a place to call home.

Though we like to talk about home a lot, it is complicated for many of us. Challenging relationships with families of origin, abuse, dysfunctional relationships, housing insecurity, high home prices, gentrification, colonization...all of these impact how we think about and relate to the concept of “home.”

So as we say with our mouths, “welcome home,” how do we say it with our lives, with our actions and behaviors? Some ways we do this are: extending hospitality through coffee hour; helping elders and those with mobility needs access our spaces; having a supply of snacks and socks at the ready to share with our neighbors experiencing house-less-ness; sharing our monetary resources with partner organizations; showing our values outwardly by flying our progress pride flag and our Black Lives Matter flag and putting encouraging messages on our electronic signboard. And we show

this when we greet each other, when we respect each other’s physical boundaries like wearing masks or waving when someone is not comfortable with hugs. We show this when we enthusiastically welcome families with young children, offering to show them around our worship spaces so they can choose where to worship. We show this when we say, “Hi, I’m not sure I’ve met you” or “Hi, would you please remind me of your name?” instead of assuming they don’t want to be talked to, or assuming that they are new. And we show our welcome when we do the hard and good heart-work of confronting our biases so that this place can feel like a community where as many people as possible can know in their bones they belong.

After traveling on a brief honeymoon and then visiting family in the Midwest and the South, it was so good for me and Scotty to get home, take off our shoes, sit on our couch and snuggle with our cat. And after some time off, it is good for me to be in my office or at my computer or on the phone connecting with you—I missed seeing all of you, and though I know you were in good hands with our on-call pastoral care, I carried you in my heart.

One more thing before I close this letter: I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again—thank you to all those who made my time off possible. To our fabulous staff—Darren, Ben, Judy, Christian, Dick, Chase, Kellie; to our Pastoral Intern Vanessa; to our Council of Ministries and committee lay leaders; to the Personnel Committee in particular; to all of the congregation for showing up for each other with care: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

(continued on page 2)

Won't you "come home"? Join us on September 10 for Homecoming Sunday—a day in which we celebrate this congregation and rejoice in the blessing of our life together as we worship the Holy and seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in this world so that all may know they belong.

I love you and I love being your pastor.

—Rev. Anita



Thank you!

Dear church, We are so grateful for you. Thank you for the support for Anita's time off surrounding our wedding, and for the gorgeous party that we shared on August 27! We had so much fun, and we can't wait to read all the messages and prepare all the recipes that you shared. We are grateful to have been part of this community since 2018, and we look forward to many more times of joy and celebration together.

—Love, Anita and Scotty



Youth Group

For all youth in grades 6-12

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month,
starting September 13!

6:30-8:00pm in the 3rd floor Youth Room

*(If you'd like to volunteer to provide food for youth group,
contact Pastor Anita)*



The first day of Seattle Public Schools is Wednesday, September 6! Please hold all our children, youth, young adults, parents, caregivers, teachers, administrators, bus drivers and all school staff in prayer as they begin this school year. Pray that this year will be a safe, healthy and fun experience for all.

Thank you, Vanessa!

Vanessa Perkinson has served as the first ever Pastoral Intern for SFBC this summer! Her last official Sunday as intern will be Homecoming, and we will honor her with a special blessing. She has served as a guest preacher, liturgist, worship leader. She has provided pastoral care to those in need among us, especially our elders, and she brings a kindness and compassion to everything she does. Vanessa will continue to serve as Small Group Ministries Program Coordinator, and a regular participant at SFBC. We look forward to supporting Vanessa in whatever is next on her ministry journey. Please join us in thanking Vanessa for her ministry this summer!



Send love to our Nashville SFBC family!

Sam, Nimi, Nathan and Steffi moved to Mount Juliet, Tennessee at the end of July. Scotty and Pastor Anita were able to visit them when they were in Nashville in early August. Please send some love their way in the form of a card or letter to let them know their SFBC family is thinking of them and loving them from afar. Their current address (as of August) is 1205 Bridgett Way, Mount Juliet, TN 37122.

Announcement from the Pastoral Search Committee



The Pastoral Search Committee is pleased to announce their recommendation of the **Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove** to serve alongside Rev. Anita Peebles as Co-Pastor of Seattle First Baptist Church. Leigh was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. She attended Baylor University, where she earned a B.A. in Religion with a concentration in church history. Leigh then attended Duke Divinity School, where she received a Master of Divinity degree with a certificate in Baptist studies and a concentration in preaching.

Leigh's application cover letter gave us a glimpse into her values and how they relate to those of our Church. Some excerpts from that letter:

"I am encouraged by your values and your commitment to following the way of Jesus Christ. I believe we would partner well in ministry together, as I share the same values and commitment. When I dream of what church could and should be, I see a place that mirrors the kingdom of God and has infinite seats at the table for all people. As Baptists, we believe that every member of the Church, every member of Christ's body, is a minister. Because we believe this, we also believe that all people should be welcomed and affirmed. This is done by living out the values you have committed to: being present to one another in relationships, striving to do justice, welcoming the stranger, working for peace, recognizing our own biases, and fighting systematic prejudices. Christ calls us to care for each other and the land we share. In acting on that call, I believe that we will find that common flourishing. Your values show me that you are already responding to this call and that you believe in this work too."

When Leigh came to visit with the committee in early June, we learned that her commitment to equal justice

existed in deeds as well as words.

During her seminary terms, Leigh served as an intern at three different Baptist churches during the academic years as well as the summers. After graduating from Duke Divinity School, Leigh was accepted into the Pastoral Resident Program at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. This intensive two-year program was an active practical education in worship planning, preaching, Christian Education, hospital visitation, officiating at weddings and funerals and anti-racist education. Following the residence program, Rev. Curl-Dove was ordained by Wilshire Baptist Church in 2021.

Leigh has served several churches as both intern and pastor. She has been a Ministerial Intern at Vienna Baptist Church, in Vienna, Virginia and Yates Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina. She served as the Assistant Chaplain at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. Leigh was the Discipleship Coordinator at The First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, North Carolina.

In addition to her work in churches, Leigh was employed by Church World Service in North Carolina until January of this year as a Cosponsor Coordinator. Her job involved finding local families and businesses to sponsor refugees who were being relocated in that area. She shared with the Search Committee how much she enjoyed seeing the relationships develop between the refugees and the volunteers who supported them.

Pastor Curl-Dove is presently the Youth Minister at Emerywood Baptist Church in High Point, North Carolina and a Ministerial Transition Specialist for the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina.

Leigh loves women's soccer and basketball, and much of her free time is spent following the North Carolina Courage, the U.S. Women's National Team, and the Baylor Lady Bears. She can also be found going on long walks with her dog Bells, enjoying good food, and fly fishing with her husband. Her husband, Reverend Keith Dove, is a Presbyterian Minister and he will be seeking a position in the Seattle area upon their arrival.

We will welcome Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove and Keith to visit with us during the weekend of September 16th and 17th. There will be an opportunity to meet with Leigh and Keith on Saturday at a scheduled event and on Sunday morning Rev. Curl-Dove will preach as a candidate and our congregation will have the opportunity to validate her as our Co-Pastor.

From Pastor Anita Peebles

I am excited to host Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove for her candidate weekend at SFBC. Since I met Rev. Leigh over Zoom this past spring, I have been excited for her ministry. She is smart, funny, compassionate, driven and creative. It was a pleasure to talk about and imagine the possibilities for co-pastor with Rev. Leigh. She understands the co-pastor model, the importance of collaboration, and the tenderness of the transition period in which the church finds ourselves. Rev. Leigh has served in a prestigious pastoral residency program that gave her opportunity to stretch her significant ministry gifts, as well as served in non-profits working with immigrants and refugees by helping them establish homes. Her heart is justice-centered and her preaching is enthusiastic. I look forward to the congregation meeting Rev. Leigh as a candidate for co-pastor.

—Rev. Anita

A Letter to SFBC from Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove

Dear Seattle First Baptist,

Grace and peace to you. My name is Leigh Curl-Dove (*she/her*), and I am honored and excited to be traveling to Seattle September 16th and 17th to meet you all and preach as a candidate to be your next Co-Pastor.

In October of last year, I was making my at-the-time regular rounds of various job boards and saw your Co-Pastor position on the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists website. I began to look through your website and saw your commitment to following the way of Jesus through your relational values. I remember thinking to myself, “Wow. They are truly doing the work. This might be my dream church.” So, I called to my husband, Keith, in the next room and said, “I’m going to apply to a church in Seattle and see what happens!” Little did I know or expect in the slightest that I would find myself almost a year later preparing for a candidate weekend to hopefully be your next Co-Pastor.

Throughout this search process, I have gotten to know and love the search committee and admire their commitment to and love for SFBC. I have even grown to love Seattle and the land around it (we coincidentally planned and went on a big Pacific Northwest vacation in June and spent a considerable amount of time in Washington), and our family is eager to put down roots here. I have felt the movement of the Holy Spirit continuously through this process

and know that this is the place God is calling me to pastor.

I believe Bob and other members of the search committee have shared with you all that your church values are the same values I hold. So, I want to share with you all the commitment I made to the search committee in a questionnaire when I was asked how your values would shape my ministry at SFBC if I were selected as Co-Pastor:

If selected as co-pastor of Seattle First Baptist, these values will continue to shape and inform everything I do. I will work with you to continuously go deeper in faith as we do justice, love mercy, work for peace, and walk humbly with God together. I will commit to being present with you and to our neighbors in personal relationships and in intentional engagement to learn about different viewpoints. I will have the utmost respect for all religions by learning with you about the beliefs, values, and struggles of our neighbors and demonstrating support for them. I will come alongside you to welcome the stranger—advocating for justice, supporting refugee and immigrant causes, and remembering that many of us are the children of immigrants and refugees. I will continue my own work (because it is never-ending work) of actively recognizing and changing my own biases and engaging in that work with you—fighting racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, ageism, and other systemic prejudices. This is the work of creating more space around the table and what it means to be the body of Christ together.

This is my commitment to you, Seattle First Baptist. I cannot wait to join you in this work of being the body of Christ together—work that is often not easy, but that is good.

I cannot fully express just how humbled and honored I am to be considered as your next Co-Pastor. Keith and I both are so excited to be with you September 16th and 17th, we are eager to meet you and get to know you.

Peace,

—Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove

Evergreen Meeting: Save the Date and Volunteer!

SFBC is honored to host our Evergreen Association family in our Annual Meeting on October 12-14! We need volunteers to make sure we provide the best hospitality to our sibling churches from all over the West, so if you can volunteer, please email Pastor Anita with dates/times you are available. Thank you!

AND make sure to register to attend the gathering! It will be a joyous, educational and life-giving celebration of our Evergreen Community. Visit <https://ea-abc.org/annual-meeting-2023> to register soon!

Is It Well With Our Soul?

Transformative Actions for Individual, Communal,
and Societal Wellness

2023 Evergreen Annual Meeting

October 12-14, Seattle First Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle WA 98122

Schedule

Thu., Oct. 12

6pm—Ministers' Council Gathering

Fri., Oct. 13

10:30am—Registration

11:45am—Lunch

1pm—Welcome Plenary

1:45pm—4:45pm—Workshops and

Intercultural Conversations

5pm—Dinner

7pm—Worship—Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Hawks, Associate General Counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty

Sat., Oct. 14

8:30am—Breakfast

9:15am—Noon—Business Session including Caucus Breakouts

1:30pm—4:45pm—Workshops and Intercultural Conversations

5pm—Dinner

7pm—Worship—Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Susan Hernandez, Pastor at Primera Iglesia Bautista de Santa Barbara

Workshops, Conversations & Leaders

Intercultural Conversations—Rev. Doug Avilesbernal & the Evergreen Intercultural Team

What is the Pneuma Initiative?—Rev. Sam Kim, Rev. Jason Mack

Societal Wellness—Rev. Mylinda Bates

Mental Health—Rev. Anita Peebles

Hotel Information: See opposite side. We have a discount rate with the Silver Cloud Hotel Broadway which is just a couple blocks from Seattle First Baptist Church!

Registration

Fees

\$40 for In Person Attendance (includes meals)

\$20 for Online Attendance (online track includes all workshops, plenaries, business meetings, and worship services)

To register, scan or click code for online OR call Paul at 253-859-2226



SFBC Choir

The SFBC Sanctuary Choir is open to any and all singers and the choir curious! No audition and no attendance requirements. Come sing and join in the fun when you can!

September is a great time to join in the fun: reach out to Minister or Music, Ben Luedcke, or just come show up! Our first rehearsal is Wednesday Sept 6th at 7pm in the choir room. We then will sing every Wednesday, and every Sunday at 10:15am for the rest of the church year.

SFBC is hosting the Evergreen Annual Meeting, which includes an Evergreen-wide choir rehearsal and two services.

Everyone is invited to join in the singing whether you are a regular choir singer or not! Everyone is welcome to attend one or all of the singing opportunities October 11-13th.

Wednesday, October 11: *No Rehearsal*

Thursday, October 12: Evergreen rehearsal, 7-8:30pm in the SFBC sanctuary

Friday, October 13: Evergreen rehearsal at 5:45pm in the SFBC sanctuary, Evergreen service at 7pm

Saturday October 14: Evergreen rehearsal at 5:45 in the SFBC sanctuary, Evergreen service at 7pm

Sunday, October 15: Rehearsal at 10am, service at 11am

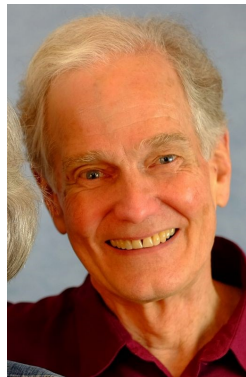
Get to Know Your Council Members

The Council of Ministries is SFBC's elected body that represents members and friends of the congregation in policy and decision-making matters. In this continuing series, we introduce you to 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.



Inola de la Cruz (*she/her*) sits on the Council as SFBC's Treasurer. Semi-retired, she left her job at Boeing as a Customer Account Manager and is now caring for her mother, who suffers from dementia. Born and raised Roman Catholic, she started coming to SFBC when she

and now-husband Danny dated in college; she joined the church in the early 2000s. They have three adult children: Elle, Katie, and Julia; all grew up at SFBC. Inola currently serves as a Companis volunteer at Camp Burton. In her spare time, she loves to try recipes and learn about plants.



Mike Zaugg (*he/him*) is the current President of the Council of Ministries. He still lip-syncs in the choir after forty years, and is proud "Opa"—with wife Linda ("Oma")—to children Karin and Erik and their families, including five grandkids. Retired from a career in real estate, he enjoys hiking, kayaking, reading, and pickleball. A mostly agnostic Buddhist,

Mike continues to call SFBC home, enjoying each and every member here, as well as the music and service(s) offered to our community.

Small Groups Ministry First Anniversary Celebration! It's a Party!



One year ago in September of 2022, SFBC launched the Small Groups Ministry (SGM) — expanding the ways in which we “do church.” This was the brain-child of YOU - the congregation - during the Long Range Planning focus groups of 2020. In its first year, 190 individuals have participated in at least one group. In addition, 43 people have trained as group leaders. This makes it well worth throwing a PARTY! We want to honor everyone involved and have some great food and fun in the process. Consider this your personal invitation.

You are cordially invited to attend the 1st Anniversary church-wide celebration of the Small Groups Ministry on Saturday September 9th from 5:30-8:30pm. Parking lot on the corner of Boylston and Spring reserved. Catered dinner. FUN. Family-friendly. Please RSVP by emailing smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org. Give us the names of all who will be in your party. This helps us know how much food to order.

Don't miss out!

SGM 1st Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, September 9th, 5:30-8:30pm
Catered dinner, program, and fun
in the Fellowship Hall.
Parking lot reserved for this event.
RSVP names of attendees to
smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Fall is a Great Time for a New Start

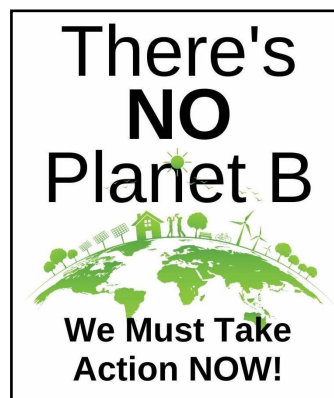


Most SFBC Small Groups took a break for the summer or at least for the month of August. However, as Fall approaches, they are starting up again. This is a great time to restart, re-connect, renew your commitment to learning, to social justice action, to deepening your faith, to getting to know more folks at SFBC and

strengthening the relationships you already have. Whoever you are, whatever your needs and interests, there is a group for you. If you are new to the church, attending small groups is a wonderful way to meet people and feel a greater sense of belonging. Most groups are re-starting after Labor Day (see group schedule on page 10). Some brand new groups will be appearing this season as well. Be sure to read the Thursday *This Week* email newsletter each week for the latest news. Consider trying a group new to you. Consider letting smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org know if you have ideas for other groups. Consider becoming a group leader. It requires no experience - just a three-hour training/orientation session. You will receive all the support you need from the SGM staff.

Here are the groups happening in September: Bible Study, BIPOC Group, Brave Space, Friendship Circle, Gay Men's Group, Grief Support Group, Interfaith Climate Action-First Hill, Legacies, Men's Group, Optimism Hour, Parents of Adult Children Living with Mental Illness, Play Reading Circle, Prayer Group, Reproductive Justice & Faith (ends in November), Women's Conversations, Young Adults Group, and more. See the September schedule below for more details.

Concerned About Climate Change?



SFBC has a very dedicated group of climate activists who have been meeting for years in an interfaith collaboration. They are Interfaith Climate Action—First Hill. They are a reliable source of information and help for any of us who wish to DO SOMETHING about climate change but are not sure how. Below are some suggestions from Keith Ervin, who has been providing leadership for this group for many years. You are always welcome to give the group a try. It generally meets once a month — their next meeting being on Sunday September 17th 6:30-8pm on Zoom. See the church calendar or the *This Week* email that comes out on Thursdays for up-to-date details.

1) The devastating fire in Lahaina was a reminder of the toll that human-caused climate change is taking on our neighbors around the globe. And a reminder of the work that we are called to do as people of faith.

One step we can take to maintain a livable planet is to encourage the Seattle City Council to pass a strong Building Emissions Performance Standard that will, over time, eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from large buildings. Members of Interfaith Climate Action—First Hill invite you to [sign the petition](#) to the City Council supporting this legislation.

If you would like to attend a City Council meeting to show your support, please contact keithervin@msn.com, cynthervin@msn.com or sarahmerner@hotmail.com for more information.

2) Since 2015, twenty-one young Americans have pursued a lawsuit in federal court claiming that the U.S. government's support of the fossil fuel industry violates their constitutional rights to life, liberty and property, and their right to essential public resources including air and water.

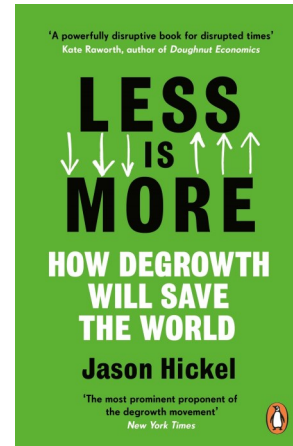
In June of this year, a federal judge allowed the children to amend their case so that it can proceed to trial. But unless the Department of Justice reverses course, it may once again try to keep the children and young adults from presenting their case. [You can support the plaintiffs](#) by asking Attorney General Merrick Garland not to attempt to prevent the case from going to trial. It takes only about 5 minutes.

Our Children's Trust, the nonprofit organization representing the young plaintiffs, has shown the power of the courts to advance climate justice. In the first such court ruling in this country, a Montana judge in August found that the state violated the constitutional rights of 16 young plaintiffs through laws and actions that promote fossil fuels and ignore climate change.

3) Start reading now to be a part of the Climate Action Book Discussion in October (*see separate article*)

4) If you would like to be on an email list to be notified about more of these kinds of opportunities for action as they arise, email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org and ask to be put on the list.

Less Is More Book Discussion in October Get Your Copy and Start Reading Now!



If we're paying attention to what's happening around us, we know that our planet is in trouble. As global temperatures have reached alarming levels, hurricanes and floods have become more lethal, droughts have driven farmers off the land and once again, on Maui, we've seen wildfires destroy an entire city.

We don't have to keep racing toward the abyss. But if we are to rebuild a sustainable world, economic anthropologist Jason Hickel argues, we must do more than embrace a switch to renewable energy. We must abandon a model of endless growth, which forces us to use increasing amounts of planet-killing fossil fuels.

Interfaith Climate Action—First Hill invites you to read Hickel's "powerfully disruptive book" *Less Is More* and join us for an online discussion, led by Susan Blythe-Goodman, on October 30th from 7 to 8:30pm. You don't have to read the book first, but we're putting the word out early so you'll have time to borrow or buy a copy and read it should you wish.

The book is proving a little difficult to come by, so the church has purchased some copies and will have them available for sale near the Welcome Table during Coffee Hour starting September 10th. \$20 if you can afford it; pay-what-you-can or free if you cannot. Credit card, exact cash or check are all okay. **START READING NOW!**

Love Those Place at the Table Dinners? Consider Taking on Leadership of These Beloved Events



Joan Benner started the Place at the Table dinners in 2020 JUST before/as the pandemic was starting. They are largely responsible for the visioning and creation of the Small Groups Ministry. During the congregational focus groups of the 2020 Long Range Planning process, a lot of people said things like “We need more stuff like those Place at the Table dinners.” That started longer conversations about the value of groups and of being present to one another and our neighbors. Hence, the Long Range Planning Team made a recommendation that we form a Small Groups Ministry, and here we are two years later celebrating its first anniversary!

Now we find ourselves at a crossroads. Joan is out of the country and not available to provide the organizing for these dinners. Consequently, we do not have one scheduled for September as we had hoped. This is not a terribly time-consuming commitment. Most of the work is concentrated during the 4-6 weeks prior to each dinner.

Here’s where YOU come in. Are you a good organizer and communicator? This may be a great volunteer opportunity for you. Here’s what would be required:

- Attend a 3-hour online orientation/training with Small Groups Ministry
- Recruit a partner if you like (they would do the training also)
- 3 times a year do the organizing required — which entails arranging for people to sign up to host these events and then for people to sign up to attend the events (SGM can provide assistance as needed.)
- Communicate with the hosts as necessary prior to the dinners.
- Live with the SATISFACTION of having provided a great service to the congregation (Friends are

made at these dinners. New people are lovingly folded into the congregation. Connections are discovered. Resources are found. People leave HAPPY.)

If this need is calling to you, email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or talk to Vanessa Perkinson or Cherry Johnson.



Small Groups Schedule for September



Many of our groups took time off during the Summer but are now gearing up for Fall. 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.

SUNDAYS

BIPOC Group (*A safe space for those who identify as Black, Indigenous and other Persons of Color to get to know and support one another.*) 4th Sunday of each month (9/24) at 12:30pm in Fridell or on Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82868987493>

Gay Men’s Group 3rd Sunday of each month (9/17) 12:30-1:30pm in the Parlor (*For all men who identify as gay*)

Reproductive Justice and Faith 3rd Sunday (9/17) 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.*) This group ends in November. <https://washington.zoom.us/j/98270878634>

Friendship Circle 2nd Sunday of each month (9/10) from 2-3pm on Zoom (*Women coming together for fellowship, spiritual support and a focus on justice*) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88288815847>

Interfaith Climate Action Meeting on 3rd Sunday (9/17) this month instead of the 4th Sunday, 6:30-8pm on Zoom (*For those who wish to collaborate with others 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. No meeting on Labor Day; resumes regular schedule on 9/18. (*For white-identified folks who wish to continue their learning 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. Resumes regular schedule on 9/5. (*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. Resumes regular schedule on 9/5. (*A group for sharing the stories of our lives. 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. (*A peer support group for those in any stage of grief*) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82797976361>

WEDNESDAYS

Optimism Hour 2nd Wednesday of the month (9/13) 5:30-6:30pm at the Optimism Brewing Co on Broadway and Union. (*A time for fun and socializing at a nearby bar before choir rehearsal. Choir members, the choir-curious and anyone else welcome! Non-alcoholic beverages are available. No food served. Can bring your own.*)

THURSDAYS

Bible Study 12-1pm weekly on Zoom. Resumes regular schedule on 9/7. (*An exploration of the coming Sunday's scripture; provocative discussions; progressive commentary*) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>

SATURDAYS

Men's Group Weekly 10am on Zoom; NO MEETING ON 9/2; Resumes regular schedule 9/9. (*Where SFBC men come together to get better acquainted and support one another*) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095038488?pwd=RLpydDZ0cERLVFhtcEFPSWMzSlQzUT09>

Women's Conversations 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm on Zoom; resumes regular schedule 9/9. (*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. NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER; Resumes regular schedule 10/7. (*Full-length plays read over two sessions; follow the 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.*) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85424372570>

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Caretaker

2023 COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

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Vice President: Megan Walker

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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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