



THE SPIRE

EASTER 2025



THE NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VOLUME 89, NO. 3

Hey y'all,

I have been thinking about Matthew's account of the resurrection lately—specifically one phrase.

In Matthew's telling, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" go to see the tomb Jesus has been laid in. When they arrive, there is a great earthquake. They see an angel descend from heaven, roll away the stone, and sit on it. The soldiers guarding the tomb are so scared they pass out. The angel says to the two Marys, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you" (Matthew 28:5-7). Then Matthew tells us that the women left the tomb quickly with "fear and great joy" (v. 8).

Fear and great joy.

Our theme this Lenten season has been "Everything in Between." We have sat in the middle of many things, intention and action, stranger and neighbor, faith and works, rest and growth, lost and found, and righteousness and mercy. Jesus has met us in the midst of each of these in-betweens. In stories of neighbors, sisters, fig trees, sheep, and tax collectors, Jesus has met us there. Now on Easter, we find ourselves with Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" in between fear and great joy.

I imagine many of you might be finding yourself filled with fear right now. There is a certain degree of fear of the unknown of just how far our current presidential administration might go. Then there is the fear of what they are actually doing—the ways they are defunding necessary public service programs, the people they are deporting, the abductions of students who

have exercised their right to free speech, their attempts to erase trans folks, and more. There is a lot to fear right now.

But, joy is still present in big and small ways. There are signs of joy and life all around us—in the cherry blossoms starting to bloom, in the sun staying in the sky longer each day, in the moments of laughter shared with a friend, in the delight on your child or grandchild's face as they enjoy ice cream on a warm day, in the chorus of your favorite song that you just can't help but sing along to. Fear is present and real for many of us right now, but so is great joy.

As the Marys run to tell the disciples that Jesus has risen, as they run full of fear and great joy, Jesus meets them on the road saying, "Do not be afraid."

I never tire of Jesus' resurrection. Each year I need it more than the last. Each year I need to be reminded that life does defeat death, love does defeat hate. Death, hate, and evil do not get the last word, but Jesus does. Jesus always gets the last word, and nothing can keep him in that grave—no Empire, no army, no president, no fear—*nothing* can keep him in that grave.

My friends, this Easter may you be reminded beyond a shadow of a doubt that death does not get the last word, that life truly does defeat death. Though you may find yourself filled with both fear and great joy, take heart in knowing that Jesus will always meet you right there.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Peace,

—Rev. Leigh

HOLY WEEK AT SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13, 11AM IN THE SANCTUARY

On the final Sunday of Lent, we will undertake the journey of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem all the way to his arrest, conviction, and crucifixion. We will read scripture and sing together as we sit in the reality of how quickly the shouts of "Hosanna!" and the waving of palm branches turn to shouts of "Crucify him!" We will wonder and reflect on the ways we are implicated in Jesus' death, and how we can work against powers of empire and death in our world today. We hope you will join us for Palm Sunday on April 13th at 11:00am as we begin Holy Week.

HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 18, 6PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

All are invited to gather around the table for a simple meal and creative liturgical remembering of the last day of Jesus' life. The space between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is worth lingering in, now more than ever. As society becomes increasingly polarized, Holy Week challenges the dichotomies that divide humanity into categories like powerful and powerless, enemy and friend, innocent and guilty, "us" and "them." As violence continues to be the favored tool of many nations, Good Friday exposes the injustice of punitive "justice." And as COVID and climate change continue to wreak havoc across the planet, this sacred time lets us practice sitting with and protesting our own and others' pain. We will observe Communion and prayer, meditative Taizé songs and conversation, imaginative monologues and an embodied expression of grief, and a simple meal shared among friends. Join us for this meaningful time of reflection and remembrance.

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20, 11AM IN THE SANCTUARY

We hope you will join us in worship on Easter Sunday, April 20th at 11:00am as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! We will embrace 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. At the beginning of the service all we be invited to come forward and add a flower to a bare wooden cross to symbolize life overcoming death. Flowers will be provided, but you are also welcome to bring flowers from your home to contribute. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

ALL ABOUT SABBATICAL SUNDAY, MAY 4 9:30AM IN THE PARLOR

Join Pastor Anita to learn about her upcoming sabbatical! She will share about the biblical basis for sabbatical, the purpose of a time for rest and growth for clergy, and a bit about her upcoming plans for the summer.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

Caring for one another is an important part of being church family together. During the pandemic "at-home" times, Darla O'Brian and Carole Cornell made regular calls to our church members to check in, keep up with prayer requests, and provide support as needed. In 2025 we are breathing new life into this practice of congregational care by gathering a team who will be calling, sending cards and offering to visit members of our congregation.

If you are interested in joining this congregational care team, please contact Pastor Anita and she will connect you with a task. This is a great way to get to know our congregation, to offer a listening ear and a comforting hand, and to build our congregation stronger and closer together.



JAPANESE BAPTIST CHURCH: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TO MINIDOKA

WHAT: Mostly all expense paid mini pilgrimage to Twin Falls, ID to the site of the WWII Incarceration camp of people of Japanese ancestry.

WHEN: June 25-28, 2025

WHY: To educate and enlighten those who have not had the opportunity to tour the site and hear stories of those who spend time there.

WHO: Limited to 25 participants. JBC would love to have representation from each Caucus.

DETAIL: There will be a deposit (\$50-\$100) to secure your place in the van. JBC will cover the cost of lodging and meals.

Please contact Sandy Stice at jsttice@gmail.com if you are interested.

Easter Creation Station April 20th 2025

Come and join us as we create projects together using collage, drawing, color and clay to celebrate Easter and the coming of spring.

9:00am in the Parlor



EASTER MORNING CREATION STATION

All those who are young in age and young at heart please join Sarah Cooper and Joanne Wright for an Easter Creation Station on Sunday, April 20 during Easter Breakfast before church. We will meet in the Parlor to create projects together using collage, drawing, color, and clay to celebrate Easter and the coming of spring!

EASTER BREAKFAST

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20
9:00-10:45AM**

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



MEET YOUR COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

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 Council members whose terms began in 2025. 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 a member or a pastor know.

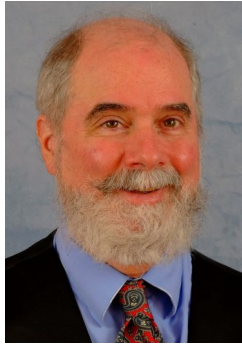


Roger Garratt (he/him), Treasurer, joined SFBC in 2023. Retired from a career in energy (primarily focused on power-generation projects), he continues to do consulting work in the field. He enjoys traveling with his wife, Kris, and cycling, and is looking forward to a Memphis-to-Seattle bike tour in May, the second section of a three-year ride following the route of the Underground Railroad. Roger and Kris have two adult children and are excited that their daughter will be marrying in June after a 10+ year courtship. Although, unlike his wife, Roger does not have any evident artistic talents, he does have an interest and talent for financial analysis.



Joanne Wright (she/her), Councilmember at large, has been a member of SFBC for ten years. She has served on the Diaconate, Adult Education Committee, in the choir, and is currently a Small Group co-leader. Joanne is a retired licensed landscape architect. She designed and managed construction in the creation and restoration of native areas such as wetlands and rivers. She is proud of her contributions to preserving

our native plants and wildlife, especially our native salmon runs. Joanne spends lots of time with her amazing two kids and two grandboys in the Seattle area.



David Greenhow (he/him), Vice President, has been a member of SFBC since 1998, when he moved to Seattle to work with Companis. David sings in the choir and participated in the Drama Group led by Joanne Hjort. He presently works as a contractor in the records department of a federal agency. He enjoys music, old movies and books, and travel, especially road trips in the U.S. and Canada.

The Council of Ministries vows to the congregation that it will function in an atmosphere of sincere curiosity, personal vulnerability, careful listening, and respect for all. We will take care to consciously earn the trust of the congregation in our deliberations and decisions, and we will be honorable custodians of the gifts each of us brings to the process.

With these values in mind, we covenant with the congregation, and each other, as follows:

- We will bear in mind that we represent the congregation at large, not just the ideas, beliefs, and biases we bring to the Council as individuals.
- We will arrive at meetings prepared to discuss agenda items, having read assigned materials in advance.
- We will take the time to listen to and understand all views prior to making decisions.
- We will actively engage with the congregation by seeking input from members (informally, as in conversation, and formally, as in town halls) and communicating our accomplishments (in announcements and publications).
- When we receive input, questions, or concerns, we will discuss them at our next meeting and provide a response (publicly or privately, as appropriate) within two weeks after that meeting.



**MEETING JESUS AT THE MOVIES
SERIES CONTINUES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM
IN THE PARLOR
(not on Easter Sunday or on May 4th)**

This Sunday morning series based on the popular TV series *The Chosen*, about the life and ministry of Jesus, continues. Each week learn about biblical passages which inspire the episodes as well as information that enhances your understanding of the times in which Jesus lived and the Judaism which defined his community and infused his teaching. The video series is gripping—both entertaining and provocative, offering unlimited material for stimulating discussion.

You can drop in from time to time or come every Sunday, but you'll get the most out of it if see all episodes. If you wish to "catch up" on what you've missed, or re-watch what we've already studied, this series can be streamed on the following:

- watch.thechosen.tv (free)
- byutv.org/the-chosen (free)
- Fandango at Home—free (may have commercials)
- Amazon Prime Video—free IF you have a Prime membership
- The Roku Channel—free if you have a Premium subscription

NEIGHBORHOOD SMALL GROUPS

The Small Groups Ministry is a wonderful way for SFBCers to engage with one another outside of Sunday morning worship. We have many groups that meet throughout the week or month at the church, over Zoom, and out and about. In imagining ways to expand small groups, the idea of neighborhood-specific groups has emerged. These groups would be a great opportunity for folks to get to know who lives in their neighborhood and build relationships outside of church. There is no set format or meeting schedule for these groups—it can be a happy hour, meeting at a

coffee shop, lunch, or meeting in someone's home. The regularity with which the group meets is up to the group. If you are interested in coordinating one of these groups in your neighborhood, please reach out to Pastor Leigh.

MEN'S GROUP SCHEDULE AND LOCATION CHANGES

The men's group small group ministry has decided to pause their Zoom meetings till the Fall. Their next meeting will be on April 27 after church at Jimmy's (1145 Broadway) to discuss future plans.

NEW SMALL GROUP MINISTRY: YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30PM

Join the young adults (ages 20-40 or so) of SFBC for a relaxed, self-directed Bible study group on Tuesday nights! We focus on young adults, but welcome anyone looking to dive into Scripture after working hours. We create our own lessons and share the teaching. We usually have a meal of sorts starting at 6:00pm, and then the study part starts at 6:30pm. Contact the church office for location info. Want to learn more? Reach out to Jacob Maez or visit <https://bit.ly/SFBCyaBS>.

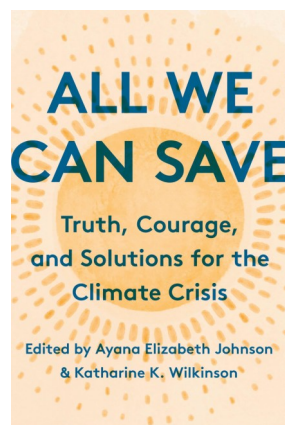
JOIN ICA AT SPEAK FOR THE SEAS 2025 SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Join Interfaith Climate Action members on Saturday, April 12, from 10:00am to noon at Speak for the Seas, a family-friendly demonstration sponsored by Seattle Cruise Control and partner organizations. The rally begins at Pier 62 at 1951 Alaska Way on the Seattle waterfront. Attendees will march the short distance to the cruise terminal at Pier 66 and demonstrate in front of the looming Norwegian Bliss, the first ship of the Alaska cruise season.

You may ask: Why protest cruises? Seattle's cruise business is immensely harmful. Cruise ships pollute our air and water, wreck the climate, harm our health, exploit thousands of onboard workers, and overwhelm the communities they visit in Alaska. And Seattle is hosting 300 sailings this year, more than ever before, at great harm to the environment. Using music, art, street theater, and more, attendees will share a message of hope and change with the Port of Seattle and the public. Contact ICA small group to learn more.

MONTHLY MEETING OF INTERFAITH CLIMATE ACTION SUNDAY, APRIL 13

ICA small group members invite you to join them on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474603114>) on Sunday, April 13, from 6:30 to 8:00pm. New this month, ICA will begin meeting on second Sunday evenings. This month we will reflect on the life of SFBC climate activist Joan Bowers, we'll talk about what's happening in the Washington State Legislature, and we'll share events, actions, thoughts, and feelings regarding our care for the planet. All are welcome!



INTERFAITH CLIMATE ACTION BOOK DISCUSSION ON APRIL 28

Our ICA small group will discuss *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis* on Monday, April 28, at 7:00pm on Zoom, and you are invited! You can find the book at Seattle Public Library and the King County Public Library system, or get a copy at your favorite bookstore. Curated by two climate leaders, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine W. Wilkinson, *All We Can Save* is a collection of essays, poetry, and art by diverse visionary women "at the forefront of the climate movement who are harnessing truth, courage, and solutions to lead humanity forward." A national bestseller, it was named one of the best books of the year by Smithsonian Magazine. Please contact ICA small group to learn more.

SEATTLE JAZZ VESPERS PRIMO KIM QUARTET SUNDAY, MAY 4 AT 6PM SFBC SANCTUARY

Primo Kim—piano, vocals;
Paul Gabrielson—bass; **Greg Campbell**—drums;
Susan Pascal—vibraphone; **Marty Tuttle**—
percussion; and special guest **Brian Nova**—guitar



Seattle's Primo Kim has headlined major concerts at Benaroya Hall, The 5th Avenue Theater, the Paramount Theater, and Meany Hall. He was chosen to welcome His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, at an Olympic Hotel gala performance in 1997. Primo has played Las Vegas, New York, San Francisco and Taipei, Taiwan. He appeared at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in 1994. He worked the Las Vegas hotel circuit. In Seattle, Primo hosted a music/talk variety show called Baysounds, which aired on KIXI radio for two years.



A graduate of San Jose State University, Primo started playing piano at age five; he later studied voice with Barbara Streisand's teacher, Judy Davis; and with David Kyle of Seattle. Jazz piano became his passion. Primo was a teen sensation whose mellifluous voice and elegant phrasing led to a big variety show at the famous Latin Quarter in New York City.

His first major CD, *Primo: To Be Near*, released in 1997, was arranged and conducted by Joe Kloess, who worked with Peggy Lee and Jack Jones. In 1999, Primo gave a major concert with an 18-piece big band orchestra at Benaroya Hall. In 2000, again at Benaroya Hall, he produced and performed at the United Negro College Fund's concert variety show. In 2004, Primo was a special guest of Marvin Hamlisch playing with the Seattle Symphony at Benaroya Hall. In 2005, he was a guest artist with the Everett Symphony. He performed in a jazz concert in Tokyo, Japan in 2008. Primo did a major concert at the Kirkland Performance Center in 2008. He appeared at the stately Fairmount Olympic Hotel and Four Seasons Hotel for many years.



CHURCH MEMBER DEATHS

Floyd Short, d. February 23, 2025
 Lyle Bjork, d. March 6, 2025
 William Thompson, d. March 15, 2025

SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2025



All groups are open to new members unless otherwise stated below. Drop in to see if a group is a good fit for you! For more information on any of these groups, see the [church calendar](#) or email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org. The schedule below is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication.

SUNDAYS

Friendship Circle 2nd Sundays, 12:45-1:45pm, in person in the Peacemaker's Room and online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88288815847>. Women meeting together for fellowship and spiritual support with a focus on missions.

Interfaith Climate Action 2nd Sundays, 6:30-8:00pm. Meets online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474603114>. Interfaith Climate Action is for those who wish to learn more/do more about the climate emergency. All are welcome!

TUESDAYS

Prayer and Reflection Every Tuesday, 12:00-12:30pm. A brief time for reflection, prayer, and sacred community in the middle of your day. Meets online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776242649>.

Young Adults Bible Study Every Tuesday at 6:00pm. A relaxed, self-directed Bible study group for young adults and anyone looking to dive into Scripture after working hours. We create our own lessons and share the teaching. To learn more visit <https://bit.ly/SFBCyaBS>.

Young Adults Group 4th Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. SFBC's Young Adults Group (ages 21-40ish) meets outside of church for various social events and activities, offering something for everyone. You'll find us in the sanctuary every Sunday, seated on the left side near the front. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month (excluding holidays or special occasions), although this can change depending on each month's activity. Watch the weekly newsletter or church calendar for details.

Building Lasting Bridges April 15, 6:00-7:30pm on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83290563542>. Connecting with ourselves and others through the lens of culture, using the information and exercises in the book *Building Lasting Bridges*. (April 15 will be the last meeting of the term for this group.)

WEDNESDAYS

Optimism Hour 2nd Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm. A time for gathering in a relaxed atmosphere, having fun and getting to know one another better. Held at Stoup Brewery, just east of the church on the corner of Broadway and Union.

FRIDAYS

Exploring Contemplation 1st & 3rd Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87508105511>. Twice-monthly gathering of all interested in contemplation. Variety of practices—song, silence, guided meditation. Newcomers to meditation welcome. Leader is on screen 15 minutes prior to start time to orient newcomers or answer questions.

SATURDAYS

Play Reading Circle 1st Saturdays, 3:00-5:00pm. Meets online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85424372570>. Gather with other theater-lovers to read plays together. Obtain scripts in advance from the Welcome Table at worship, or contact smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or the church office (206) 325-6051 to have one mailed to you.

Intergenerational Baking Group Occasional Saturdays; schedule as announced. Everyone is invited to come together to bake cookies in the SFBC kitchen for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

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David Greenhow, *Vice President*

Bob Sittig, *Secretary*

Roger Garratt, *Treasurer*

Daryl de la Cruz

Erin McGlenn

Joanne Wright

David Young

Sunday service at 11:00am in-person and online

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