

THE SPIRE SUMMER 2024



THE NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VOLUME 88, NO. 4

Hey y'all,

As a kid growing up in Memphis, Tennessee, I don't know if I would say I loved summers. Don't get me wrong, I loved the break from school. I loved the length of the days. I loved the activities of summer—vacations, camps, swimming, time with friends. But, I was not a fan of the heat and the humidity. So, maybe it is more accurate to say that I loved summer but hated the weather. Memphis sits right on the Mississippi River and it is HUMID in the summers. As soon as you step outside, you are immediately damp. Even if you go inside for the glorious respite of air conditioning, you are still damp. Humidity is impossible to escape, and with my curly hair it was a disaster. Needless to say, I am looking forward to my first summer away from the heat and humidity of the South.

What I loved most about summers as a kid, and what I love about them now is the pace of life. There is a leisurely pace to summer days—a slowness. The days are longer and there is time to breathe deep and rest. There is time to unplug and enjoy being present. It seems there is more time for the things I truly enjoy that bring me life.

As I get older, though, it gets harder to rest regardless of the season. I always have a reason not to. There is always something that needs to be done—a phone call to make, an email to send, a sermon to write, a meeting to go to, a protest to attend. The technological world we live in doesn't do us any favors, because it feels impossible to unplug. We are always reachable through our phones. It is easy to make excuses not to rest. It is easy to think that the busyness of our lives and our world are more important than rest.

But the thing is, friends, rest is a necessity. We cannot live without rest. So, however you find yourself this summer, whether life slows down or not, it is my hope

and my prayer for each of you that you find rest in one way or another. May this “Blessing of Rest” from Jan Richardson settle you in and set the tone for your rest:

*Curl this blessing
beneath your head
for a pillow.*

*Wrap it about yourself
for a blanket.*

*Lay it across your eyes
and for this moment
cease thinking about
what comes next,
what you will do
when you rise.*

*Let this blessing
gather itself to you like the stillness
that descends
between your heartbeats,
the silence that comes
so briefly
but with a constancy
on which
your life depends.*

*Settle yourself
into the quiet
this blessing brings,
the hand it lays
upon your brow,
the whispered word
it breathes into your ear
telling you
all shall be well
all shall be well
and you can rest
now.*

(continued on page 2)

This summer, take a moment, take an hour, take a day, take a week—take whatever you need, and believe (if only for a moment) all shall be well. Breathe deep and rest, friends.

Peace,

—Rev. Leigh

**SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING
SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 12:30-2PM
IN THE PEACEMAKER'S ROOM**

Join Pastors Leigh and Anita for an in-person Small Group leader training on Sunday, June 16 from 12:20-2pm. This training is for new Small Group leaders and current leaders who might like to refresh their facilitation skills. Lunch will be provided. Please email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org to RSVP, so the pastors can plan for lunch.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER GATHERING
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 12:30-1:30PM
IN THE PARLOUR**

Following worship on Sunday, June 30, there will be a time of fellowship for all current small group leaders. Grab some coffee or tea and come chat with other group leaders! This will be a time where leaders can share how things are going in their groups, encourage one another, and share ideas together.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Do you know anyone in our church family who is graduating this year, from kindergarten through PhD? We want to celebrate you! Please contact the pastors to let them know and we will recognize your accomplishment in church! Information to send to the pastors: photo of the graduate, name, pronouns, institution, degree and future plans (if applicable). We will celebrate our graduates on June 9 during worship.



**EVERGREEN AND
YOUNG ADULTS GROUP
AT THE MARINERS!**

Join our Evergreen Region family at the ballpark!

WHO: You (and your SFBC friends!)

WHAT: Evergreen Region and the SFBC Young Adults Group at the Mariners game! A fun baseball outing with our Evergreen family!

WHEN: Saturday, June 15 at 4:15pm

WHERE: T-Mobile Park

HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$21 each, payable to SFBC.

HOW: Contact Anita (anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org) by June 5th to RSVP. Limited tickets available.

Please note: The Young Adults Group will not be meeting in July or August, so this will be the last event until the group meets again in September.

**JUNE SUNDAY MORNING GATHERINGS
PASTORS' PONDERINGS LED BY
PASTOR ANITA AND PASTOR LEIGH**

Join the pastors on Sundays in June from 9:30-10:30 in the Parlor for conversation about ministry, co-pastoring, the future of The Church, visioning for SFBC and more! We will have thoughtful conversation, learn and laugh a bit too! All are welcome.

June 2: My Favorite Things: Bible and Church

June 9: Exploring Our Co-Pastor Model

June 16: Pastoring as Millennial Women

June 23: Why the Church Matters

June 30: AMA (Ask Me Anything): Pastors Edition

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP
AUGUST 18 AT FIRST HILL PARK**

Bring a folding chair, sunscreen, your sunglasses and get ready to worship outside in our church's beautiful neighborhood. We will have a regular worship with music, preaching, and fellowship, followed by a neighborhood picnic. Thanks to Darren Hochstedler for working with the First Hill Improvement Association, Birch Road Clubhouse and the Stimson-Green mansion to organize the after-worship festivities!

**WORSHIP IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**JULY 14 TO
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

**BACK IN THE SANCTUARY
FOR HOMECOMING
SEPTEMBER 8**

CHURCH MOVIE NIGHT

JUNE 14, 6-9PM

FEATURING DISNEY & PIXAR'S "LUCA"



“Set in a beautiful seaside town on the Italian Riviera, the original animated feature is a coming-of-age story about one young boy experiencing an unforgettable summer filled with gelato, pasta and endless scooter rides. Luca shares these adventures with his newfound best friend, but all the fun is threatened by a deeply held secret: he is a sea monster from another world just below the water's surface.” This beautiful movie engages topics of difference, identity, prejudice and embracing all of who you are.

Bring a camp chair, a cozy blanket and get ready to share in viewing this movie with your church family! All ages welcome.

Contact Pastor Anita to volunteer to help with setup and/or cleanup.

**SENIOR RETREAT
AT RAINBOW LODGE IN NORTH BEND
TUESDAY, JULY 9 TO THURSDAY, JULY 11**



Pastor Anita invites all who consider themselves senior adults (generally 60+) to a retreat with the theme “Clouds and Presence,” considering the clouds of loved ones that surround us, the clouds of witnesses whose names we call each year on All Saints’ Day, and contemplating the presence we want to share with the world. There will be time for fellowship, rest, storytelling, arts & crafts, walking and hiking in nature, games, and more.

\$275 for single rooms and \$225 for Double Rooms. Contact Pastor Anita for scholarship information.

Registration is open NOW through June 25: <https://forms.office.com/r/B2rW3eVELK>

**JOIN SFBC AT PRIDEFEST
IN CAPITOL HILL!**



SFBC loves our LGBTQIA+ members, siblings and friends! Let’s share that love with our Capitol Hill community by showing up at Capitol Hill Pride. SFBC is hosting a booth at the Capitol Hill Pride on Saturday, June 29 and we need YOU to VOLUNTEER to be a booth host!

Shifts are 2 hours and will be shared among 4 people. While at the booth, smile and wave and share love with our neighbors!

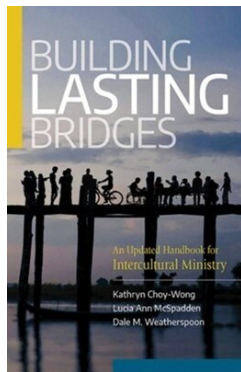
Sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D49ABAC2AAAFD0-49735118-sfbc> OR stop by the Welcome Table!

And if you’re going to Pride, stop by and say hi!

THANK YOU, PDC!

Thank you to the Property Development Committee for the work they've done over the past 2 years. With great thought and care, they explored options and possibilities for the SFBC property. While development is not in our immediate future, we are drawing the work of the PDC to a close. A group of church members will continue to explore parking options and to respond to any further interest in partnership for developing our building, as it arises.

BUILDING LASTING BRIDGES GROUP THROUGH JULY 23



Last fall, a group of us came together to study the first half of the book *Building Lasting Bridges* and reflect on the questions it raises about living in a United States that is more multicultural than ever before. The group experience was designed to be a beginning point for creating community, trust, shared vocabulary, and shared experiences to develop cultural humility and build lasting bridges and a Beloved Community.

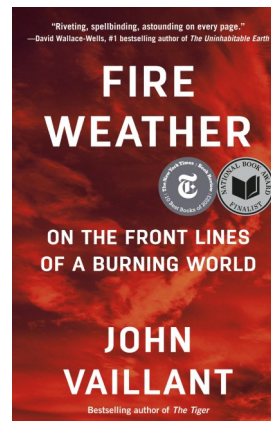
We reconvened this group on May 7th. Until July 28th, we will meet online the first and third Tuesdays of the month, from 6 to 7:30pm. (Note: our last meeting will be on Sunday, July 28th in person.) Join us to learn tools to deepen your skills in interacting respectfully, especially in multicultural settings. Newcomers welcome!

If you're curious and would like to know more and/or sign-up, follow this link [<https://www.judsonpress.com/Content/Site189/FileSamples/J304-Sample.pdf>] to the table of contents and/or talk with course facilitators, Sandra Jones (425) 241-3729 or Martha Hopley (206) 817- 4913. We look forward to your joining us!

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 6-7:30pm
Through July 28th

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83290563542>

CONGREGATIONAL BOOK DISCUSSION *Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World*



Our Interfaith Climate Action group invites you to join in a congregational discussion on August 5 of the book *Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World* by John Vaillant. Chosen as a Best Book of the Year (2023) by The New York Times, The New Yorker, and Smithsonian Magazine, among other media, *Fire Weather* tells the shocking true story of the 2016 wildfire that destroyed the city of Fort McMurray, the hub of Canada's oil industry. The book is described as "a stunning account of a colossal wildfire and a panoramic exploration of the rapidly changing relationship between fire and humankind from the award-winning, best-selling author of *The Tiger* and *The Golden Spruce*." Copies will be available for sale at the Welcome Desk after church on June 23 and 30 and July 7, and the book is also available at local public libraries. All are welcome to join the conversation!

Monday, August 5, 7-8:30pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474603114>



SFBC SUMMER CHOIR

Beginning Sunday June 9, everyone is welcome to join the choir in the sanctuary at 10am to learn the service music for the day. There are no regular Wednesday rehearsals during the summer months, so this is a great time to join!

PNW AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

Friday, June 28—Sunday, June 30
Camp Bethel, Hoquiam, WA

Theme: Bridging Cultural Barriers with Love
Bible Study Leader: Georgia McDade
Mission Speakers: Sarah & Luis Matos

Registration form available here: <https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-Conference-Information-Registration-Form.pdf>

If you have any questions, please email Nadine Glass,
President of the PNW ABW, at edandnadine@msn.com.





**SEATTLE CHORAL COMPANY PRESENTS
 “AMERICAN PSALMFEST”
 SATURDAY, JUNE 8 AT 8PM
 SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pre-concert talk at 7pm by director Freddie Coleman

Featured Works:

“Chichester Psalms” by Leonard Bernstein
 “I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes” by Adolphus Hailstork
 Psalm settings by Abbie Betinis and Nathan Carter

Tickets available here:

seattlechoralcompany.org/shop/purchase-tickets/

To conclude Seattle Choral Company’s 42nd season, director Freddie Coleman has chosen two contrasting American works from the Book of Psalms: “I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes” cantata by Adolphus Hailstork, and “Chichester Psalms” by Leonard Bernstein.

Since its premiere in 1965, “Chichester Psalms” has been one of the most performed of Bernstein’s concert works. In 1977, Bernstein described “Chichester Psalms” as “the most accessible, B-flat major-ish tonal piece I’ve ever written.” With a libretto entirely in Hebrew, and vocal part writing associated with Christian church music, Bernstein was implicitly issuing a plea for peace in Israel during a turbulent time in the young country’s history.

Adolphus Hailstork’s “I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes” is a three-movement cantata written in 1997 for tenor soloist, chorus, and accompaniment. Words are taken from Psalms 121, 13, and 23. Hailstork composed this piece in memory of Undine Smith Moore, the “Dean of Black Women Composers.”

**SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY
 SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER**



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.

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

Friendship Circle Women coming together for fellowship, spiritual support, and a focus on missions. Second Sunday of the month, 12:45-2pm in the Peacemaker’s Room and on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88288815847>). *Note: This group will not be meeting in June, July, or August. It will resume in September.*

Gay Men’s Group A time of fellowship and co-support for all who identify as gay men. Third Sunday of the month (June 16, July 21, and August 18), 12:30-1:30pm in the Parlour.

Women’s Group A social & support group for women, trans women and those who identify as gender queer or non-binary. Fourth Sunday of the month (June 23), 12:30-2pm in the Peacemaker’s Room. *Note: This group will not be meeting in July or August. It will resume in September.*

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Exploring Contemplation Monthly gathering of all interested in contemplation, 6:30-7:30pm on Zoom. *Note: This group will not be meeting in June, July, or August.*

Interfaith Climate Action A group for those who wish to collaborate with others to learn and do more about the climate emergency. Fourth Sunday of the month (June 23, July 28, and August 25), 6:30-8pm on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474603114>).

MONDAYS

Environmental Book Discussion Congregational conversations based on books with environmental/ecological themes. Sponsored by Interfaith Climate Action. This summer's book is *Fire Weather* by John Vaillant (see article). August 5, 7-8:30pm on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474603114>).

TUESDAYS

Prayer Group A brief time for reflection, prayer and sacred community in the middle of the day. Weekly on Tuesday (every Tuesday in June), 12-12:30pm on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776242649>). *Note: This group will not be meeting in July or August. It will resume September 10.*

Building Lasting Bridges—Part 2 A study and discussion group using the book *Building Lasting Bridges* to reflect on how we can develop cultural humility and build lasting bridges. First and third Tuesday (June 4 & 18, July 2 & 16), 6-7:30pm on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83290563542>). In-person meeting Sunday July 28 at 12:30pm.

Parents of Adult Children Living with Mental Illness A peer support group for parents impacted by the mental illness of their adult children. Third Tuesday of the month (June 18, July 16, and August 20), 7-8:30pm in the home of a member. For more details or to obtain the address for the meeting, email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or call the church office at (206) 325-6051.

Young Adults Group A group where SFBC young adults ages 21-40 meet to connect with one another and have fun. Last meeting before summer break will be June 15 (see article). *Note: This group will not be meeting in July or August. It will resume in September.*

WEDNESDAYS

Optimism Hour A time for fun and socializing at a nearby bar before choir rehearsal. Choir members, the choir-curious, and anyone else welcome! Second Wednesday of the month, 5:30-6:30pm at Stoup Brewing on the corner of Broadway and Union. *Note: This group will not be meeting in June, July, or August. It will resume in September.*

THURSDAYS

Bible Study An exploration of the coming Sunday's scripture; provocative discussions; progressive commentary. Weekly on Thursday (every Thursday in June), 12-1pm on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>). *Note: This group will not be meeting in July or August. It will resume September 12.*

SATURDAYS

Intergenerational Baking Group Everyone invited to come together to bake cookies for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Variable schedule.

Men's Group Where SFBC men come together to get better acquainted and support one another. Weekly on Saturday, 11am on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095038488pwd=RpYdDZ0cERLlVfhtcEFPSWmzSlQzUT09>).

Play Reading Circle Full-length plays read over two sessions; sign out your copy of the script at the Welcome Table on a Sunday morning or contact smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or the church office (206) 325-6051 to have one mailed to you. First Saturday of the month, 3-5pm on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85424372570>).

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2024 COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

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Roem de la Cruz

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Julio Gutierrez

Janet Hasselblad

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Bob Sittig

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Sunday service at 11am in-person and online

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