

THE SPIRE

WINTER 2025



THE NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VOLUME 89, NO. 1

Hey y'all,

There's a scene in the third season of the Canadian comedy, *Schitt's Creek*, where Catherine O'Hara's Moira Rose finds herself at an awkward lunch with her adult daughter, Alexis. It's a bit of a subtle running joke in the show that Moira's favorite child is her adult son, David. So, when she invites him to lunch in front of Alexis and he is unavailable, she reluctantly invites Alexis instead. To prepare for the lunch where she does not think she will have much to talk to her daughter, she prepares notecards with questions to ask her. Alexis discovers these and gets upset reading them aloud. Alexis reads, "What is your favorite season?" And Moira very excitedly responds, "Awards!"

I don't know if I would say that awards season is my favorite season, but it is a season I greatly enjoy. While it is the beginning of a new year, it is also the height of awards season. I love awards show, particularly those for film and television. I could take or leave the Grammys because I don't think they give Beyoncé the respect and recognition she deserves (but maybe they will this year!). When the Golden Globes and Oscars air, I make it a priority to be seated for the red carpet arrivals and the duration of the show.

I love awards season because I think art should be celebrated. I enjoy attempting (and typically failing) to watch all of the Oscar best picture nominees. I tear up when an actor is completely blindsided by their win (especially if they beat out one of the greats, like Meryl Streep or Denzel Washington). I nod along when artists make impassioned speeches for justice. I gasp with the rest of the audience if someone trips on their way up to the stage. I have high standards for the host of the show and those standards usually aren't met (Tina Fey and Amy Poehler cohosting the Golden Globes is the standard), but the host always manages to make me chuckle at least a little bit.

This year, Keith and I decided to try and get a jump on watching some of the films projected to be Oscar best picture nominees (maybe we'll make it through all of them this year!). A couple weeks ago we watched *Conclave*. The film tells the story of the selection of a new pope after the unexpected death of a current one. There are twists and turns, mind games played, scandals, and ultimately a new pope is chosen which ends up being the biggest twist of all. A conclave is the sequestered assembly of the cardinals as they vote on the new pope. Before the conclave begins, Cardinal Thomas Lawrence, played by Ralph Fiennes, delivers a homily to all the gathered cardinals.

In the homily he says, "Over the course of many years in the service of our mother, the church, let me tell you, there was one sin which I have come to fear above all others. Certainty...Even Christ was not certain at the end. 'My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?'...Our faith is a living thing precisely because it walks hand in hand with doubt. If there was only certainty and no doubt, there would be no mystery and therefore no need for faith."

Normally when I see a homily or sermon depicted in film or television, I find it lacking. I think to myself that the person who wrote the script did not consult a preacher. But, I found Cardinal Lawrence's homily to be quite good. I think he gives an important word to the gathered conclave in the film, to the viewers, and for us as we begin a new year.

There are many unknowns as we come into this new year. Many of us have fear and anxiety because of the unknowns. Many of us may even be asking questions of God, and that's okay. For our faith to continue to grow and develop, we have to remain open, be curious, ask questions, and be alright with accepting the mystery.

(continued page 2)

My friends as we enter this new year, I pray that you will lean into the mystery and ask questions. Ask questions seeking to ever deepen and grow in your faith. Take heart in knowing that God is with us and welcomes and holds all of our questions and our doubts.

Peace,

—Rev. Leigh



**MAMA BEARS SCREENING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 AT 6PM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Last year, the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists invited SFBC to host a screening of the 2022 documentary *Mama Bears*. The Romney Committee will screen this film on Friday, January 31st in the Fellowship Hall. The film follows mothers of LGBTQ+ children who leave their conservative, fundamentalist churches to champion their children and advocate for their rights. *Mama Bears* was an official selection at many film festivals across the country, including South by Southwest, Seattle Queer Film Festival, and Seattle International Film Festival.

There will be a wine and cheese reception from 6:00-6:30pm, viewing of the film (with popcorn and other snacks) from 6:30-8:00pm, and we will end the evening with a discussion. This event is free and open to the public!

**ADVOCACY 101 WORKSHOP
RESCHEDULED to Sunday, February 2nd
1:00-2:00pm in the Parlor**

An important aspect of justice work is advocacy—calling our elected officials, letter-writing, offering public comment at city council meetings, and more. If you've never done it before (or even if you have), it can feel overwhelming. With that in mind, we hope you will join us after worship on Sunday, January 5th for an Advocacy 101 workshop with Elizabeth Dickson from Faith Action Network! Lunch will be

provided. Please RSVP to Pastor Leigh (including any dietary restrictions) if you would like to attend.

**HOW TO END CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM
SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 9, 16, 23,
AND MARCH 2 & 9
9:30-10:30AM IN THE PARLOR**

Christian Nationalism is an ever-growing threat in the United States. It is insidious and is being used to strip people of their basic human rights and dignity. As followers of Jesus our faith demands that we work to dismantle Christian Nationalism in all its forms. As Baptists, we are committed to defending religious liberty for all people. But, how do we do it? Join Pastor Leigh for 5 Sundays in February and March to read and discuss the book *How to End Christian Nationalism* by Amanda Tyler. Amanda is the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and the lead organizer for the Christians Against Christian Nationalism Campaign. Reading the book is encouraged, but all are welcome whether or not you have read the book. You can purchase the book at your local bookstore or on Amazon.

Reading schedule:

- February 9th: Introduction and Chapter 1
- February 16th: Chapters 2 and 3
- February 23rd: Chapters 4 and 5
- March 2nd: Chapters 6 and 7
- March 9th: Chapter 8 and Conclusion

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays after worship from 1:00-2:30pm in the Youth Room. Lunch is provided.

January 12 & 26
February 9 & 23

Contact Pastor Anita or Brooke Rolston with any questions!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Care for one another is part of being a church family. In 2025, let's work on expanding our congregational care! We need laypeople to support the existing efforts of pastors and staff—could you help? We are dreaming of things like: birthday card ministry, grief remembrance ministry, checking on elders via phone calls and visits, and taking communion or other seasonal gifts to folks in need. If you'd be interested in volunteering to

assist with organized care for our congregation, in ways big or small, please contact Pastor Anita.

**THE 155TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 AFTER WORSHIP**

The 155th Annual Business Meeting of Seattle First Baptist Church is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2025 following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2024 annual report and volunteer recognitions, to adopt the proposed 2025 budget and Dr. Rodney Romney Legacy Fund allocations, and to elect 2025 lay leaders. The proposed budget and slate of leaders has been published on the governance page of the website. Printed annual meeting materials are also available by contacting the office.

If anyone has an additional nomination of someone, including themselves, to serve on the Council of Ministries, please secure their permission and contact Mike Zaugg, current Council President and Sue Ross, Nominations chair by e-mailing them at president@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

If you have any questions about the annual meeting, please contact SFBC President Michael Zaugg at president@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

AGENDA

- Welcome (Mike Zaugg—President)
- Opening Prayer (Pastor Leigh)
- Call to Order (Mike Zaugg)
- Quorum check (Sue Ross—Vice President)
- Presentation of the 2024 Annual Report (Sue Ross)
- Recognition of Kellie Whitlock for 25 years of service (Mike Zaugg)
- Presentation of the 2024 Financial Statement (Darren Hochstedler—Church Administrator)
- Recognition of the 2024 Volunteers of the Year (Pat Kile—past recipient)
- Adoption of the 2025 Proposed Dr. Rodney Romney Legacy Fund Utilization (Steve Smith—Chair)
- Adoption of the Proposed 2025 Budget (Pat Kile—Finance Chair) See budget here
- Election of 2025 Council of Ministries (Sue Ross and Aaron Burkhalter—Nominations (Nominations list below)
- Closing Prayer (Pastor Anita)
- Adjournment (Mike Zaugg and Sue Ross)

**COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES
CANDIDATES FOR 2025**

The following slate of officers and members-at-large are nominated by the Council of Ministries to serve in 2025.

Council of Ministries

President Sue Ross
Vice President David Greenhow
Secretary Bob Sittig
Treasurer Roger Garratt (Finance)
At-Large David Young
At-Large Daryl de la Cruz (Personnel)
At-Large Erin McGlenn
At-Large Joanne Wright

Finance Committee

Chair Pat Kile
Treasurer Roger Garratt
At-Large Metta Williams
At-Large Rebecca Morris
At-Large Abid Bhatti

Personnel Committee

Chair Brian Ross
At-Large Marsha Ulmer
At-Large Sara Tollefson
At-Large Daryl de la Cruz
At-Large Aaron Burkhalter

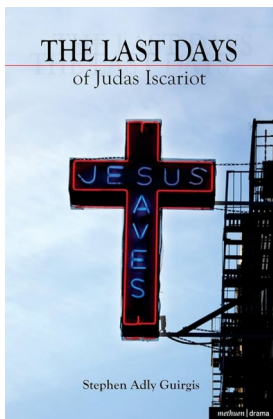
GREETERS AND USHERS NEEDED!

Do you enjoy welcoming people to church and helping them find their way? Are you someone who always finds yourself meeting new people? Would you like to be a part of hospitality at SFBC? If you've said yes to any of these questions, you are a great candidate to be a greeter or an usher on Sunday mornings! Greeters stand and the door and hand out bulletins to people. Ushers help serve communion, collect offering, and respond to any questions people might have during the service. If you can lend your service even just one Sunday per month, we'd love to add you to our list! Please contact Christina, our office manager, at christina@seattlefirstbaptist.org to be added to the list of potential helpers. Thank you!

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE



Every month on the first Saturday, from 3:00-5:00pm, SFBC's Play Reading Circle gathers on Zoom—united by a love for theater and one another's good company. New members and those who are simply curious are always welcome. We generally take two sessions to read a full-length play. On February 1st we will be reading the second half of *Kinky Boots*—a delightful drama, inspired by true events, about a drag queen who comes to the rescue of a man who has inherited his father's shoe factory and needs to diversify his product if he wants to keep the business afloat. If you missed the January meeting, you may still come for the second half of this play in February. If you need a script, contact Cherry Johnson or email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

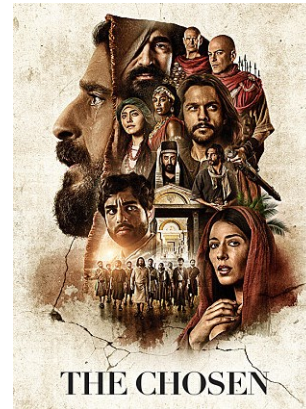


Coming in Lent: *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*—a modern courtroom drama which tells the story of a case determining the ultimate fate of Judas, using flashbacks to an imagined childhood, and lawyers who call witnesses like Mother Teresa, Caiaphas, Freud and Satan. Scripts will be available on the Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall starting February 2nd. If you need a script mailed to you, notify the church office via the email address above or by phone (206-325-6051). The mails are unpredictable, so the sooner you do this, the better.

MEETING JESUS AT THE MOVIES

Mark your calendars! Starting Sunday, March 16th Cherry Johnson will be leading a 9:30 Sunday morning Bible Study (appropriate for middle-schoolers through

adults) based on the worldwide TV sensation *The Chosen*. Prepare to come meet Jesus and other favorite biblical characters in a new way. This will definitely not be a boring Bible study! More information to follow in the Lent edition of *The Spire*.



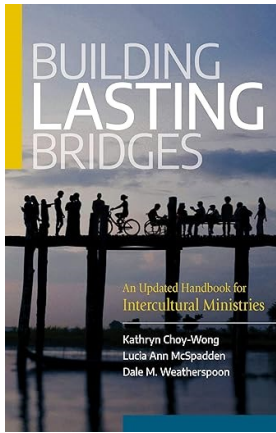
A FUN LOOK FORWARD AND BACK FOR ICA

Interfaith Climate Action (ICA) members invite you to join them in a new year celebration on Tuesday, January 21, from 10:00am to 2:00pm on lower Queen Anne Hill. It will feature celebrating the new year together, reviewing ICA accomplishments of 2024, looking ahead to 2025 activities, and sharing a delicious vegetarian potluck. ICA members hope you will come and celebrate with them, and they welcome your ideas on climate activities at SFBC.

To RSVP and get specific details, please write to contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org or call the church office. Lower Queen Anne Hill is easily accessible by the D, 1, 2, and 13 Metro buses and is just a few blocks from the Seattle Center Monorail station.

BUILDING LASTING BRIDGES SMALL GROUP—SECOND HALF

This small group is a book study and a conversation that explores what it means to be a builder of bridges as related to Race and Culture. The group uses the book *Building Lasting Bridges—an updated handbook for Intercultural Ministries*, by Kathryn Choy-Wong, Lucia Ann McSpadden and Dale Weatherspoon. In the first half of this study the group explored Parts 1-3 of the book and started to discuss tools for bridge building in Part 4. Discussion was rich as all group members participated, bringing their stories of ways they have interacted with different cultures, as well as discussing ways we each experience diversity in the life of the church.



The first Building Lasting Bridges Small Group meeting for the second half of this handbook will be Tuesday February 4, 2025 from 6:00-7:30pm. The zoom link can be found on the SFBC online calendar.

In this first meeting the group will decide what the best schedule will be going forward.

INTERGENERATIONAL DIGITAL WELLNESS CLASS ADULT ED FOR JANUARY 12, 19, 26, AND FEBRUARY 2

Ask any tween or teenager in your life if they are learning digital security and media literacy in school, and they will probably tell you yes! But for those of us 35 and up, our education happened before we started to walk around with supercomputers attached to the palms of our hands.

This winter, we'll have 4 sessions before church to review Media Literacy and Digital Security together.

The themes of the sessions will be:

1. Scams and Security: How we stay safe in a Digital World
2. Truth Discernment: How we fact check in the Information Age
3. Connections: How we treat each other as a Beloved Online Community

The last session will be a bit of a wrap-up, unless we feel bold enough to try to tackle Generative AI together! Aaron Burkhalter, Bob Sittig, Rev Leigh Curl-Dove, and Susan Blythe-Goodman will lead presentations and facilitate discussions.

A CLIMATE JUSTICE INITIATIVE IN BEACON HILL

By Keith Ervin, Cindy Ervin and Linda Zaugg

During the depths of the Covid pandemic in 2020, Interfaith Climate Action began researching ways that Seattle First Baptist Church members could use our time and money to support an equitable transition to a clean-energy economy in our community.

Within a few months we were in dialogue with community groups working to bring the benefits of clean energy to the diverse Beacon Hill community, which has suffered disproportionately from noise and air pollution from nearby airports, roads and industries.

We embraced the vision of a fossil-fuel-free “resilience hub” on the campus of Bethany United Church of Christ, where neighbors could take refuge during extreme weather events. SFBC became a leader in supporting this effort. The Outreach Committee provided a \$4,000 challenge grant, and Administrator Darren Hochstedler created a designated fund to accept donations and make expenditures for the Green Buildings Now partnership.

The Green Buildings Now leadership team included members of SFBC, Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, University Unitarian Church, Seattle Insight Meditation Society, Prospect United Church of Christ, and University Congregational UCC.

Here's what we have accomplished.

With generous contributions from SFBC members and others, grants from two foundations and two benefit concerts, we raised \$147,000 for the Beacon Hill resilience hub (now known as a cooling center).

In 2022, grant funds were used to install an extensive solar power array on the roofs of the two largest buildings on the Bethany UCC campus, along with battery backup. The sanctuary building was weatherized using funds donated through Green Buildings Now.

This past fall, most of the remaining Green Buildings Now funds were used to fully weatherize all four buildings on the campus and to replace a gas furnace with heat pumps in one building.

We expected that, through a partnership with the City of Seattle, the campus would be fully decarbonized by now. The Seattle City Council made a \$455,000 budget appropriation, but the Bethany UCC leadership was troubled by contract language for release of the city funds and decided the church could not accept the appropriation.

Bethany's board and pastor, the Rev. Angela Ying, still intend to create a cooling center, which will take more time and fundraising. They are also working with the Beacon Hill Council, El Centro de la Raza and other

community groups to establish three cooling centers in Beacon Hill.

Thanks to you and other generous donors, Green Buildings Now exceeded our fundraising goal and helped lay the groundwork for a future cooling center. The improvements to the Bethany campus will also significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Members of the Green Buildings Now leadership team remain committed to climate justice, and we have asked our Beacon Hill partners to let us know how we can help their efforts going forward. However, Green Buildings Now has accomplished what it set out to do, and leadership team members are moving on to the next phase of life.

Bethany UCC still needs support for the future cooling center. If you would like to explore ways you might volunteer your time and talents, please contact Keith Ervin or Linda Zaugg. Tax-deductible donations to Bethany's cooling center fund can be made online here or with a check to Seattle First Baptist Church (Memo: Green Buildings Now), Attn: Darren Hochstedler, 1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle, WA 98122.

Thank you for your support!

EXPLORING CONTEMPLATION WITH JIM SEGAAR

Fires. Funerals. Inaugurations. Rulings.

We live in a world where it seems that the only constants are chaos, disfunction, and fear, all of which lead to suffering. How can we be a peaceful, compassionate, loving presence in times like these?

For thousands of years spiritual teachers, Jesus included, have shown us the way to healthy living in times like ours. But their way has never become popular. It's hard. It begins by finding peace with who we are, being compassionate and loving to ourselves, so that we can be compassionate and loving to others. And it includes a regular practice of meditation or contemplation.

Much that we read in the news makes us angry. Perhaps fearful. Anxious. That is natural. But anger, fear, and anxiety do not generate love. They breed pain and suffering, for us and those with whom we interact. Finding calm and ease in ourselves is a first step forward.

Our Exploring Contemplation small group strives to create calm and ease, love and compassion in ourselves and to share that with others. We meet at

11:00am on the first and third Fridays of each month to practice together and support each other. All are welcome to join us via Zoom.

One of my teachers, James Finley, best expresses my hope for each of us:

“I hope that you will continue to discover, in all sorts of unexpected ways, that you are becoming a healing presence in an all-too-often traumatized and traumatizing world. By that, I mean you will continue to be graced with realizations that you are becoming someone in whose presence others are better able to experience the gift and miracle of who they really are deep down and who they are called to be, so that they in turn can pass on the contagious energy of healing to others.”

May it be so.

—Jim Segaar

JOIN THE ALL EVERGREEN CHOIR FOR MLK JR. CELEBRATION SERVICE

Do you love to sing? Would you like to participate in one of Evergreen's oldest and best traditions? If so, you should consider joining the All Evergreen Choir!

The All Evergreen Choir is made up of members from all of Evergreen's caucuses, and sings at special events for Evergreen. Notably this choir sings at Evergreen's Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Service and at the Annual Meetings. Each event has different Music Directors leading the choir, and there's a variety of music performed. There's few things as wonderful as seeing all of Evergreen's diversity in true harmony as we worship God together.

If you want to participate, in the All Evergreen Choir for the upcoming MLK Jr. Celebration Service, please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/ru2pyMr6aw>. Alternatively, you can sign up by calling Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen Office to at 253-859-2226.

**EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
CELEBRATION SERVICE
MONDAY, JANUARY 20 AT 7:00PM
NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP, 19300 108TH AVE SE,
RENTON, WA**



EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION
— OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA —

and the



INTERCULTURAL TEAM

Invite you to join us for our annual

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Service

at the NBCF Worship & Family Life Center, 19300 108th Ave SE, Renton, WA 98055

Monday, January 20th, 7pm

“Joining Together With A Prophetic Voice”



Featured Preacher: Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton

We're delighted that this year our Preacher will be New Beginning's very own Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton. Dr. Braxton is a courageous and prophetic voice for Social Justice in the Seattle area and beyond. He served two historic African-American congregations before becoming the Founding Senior Pastor of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship in '05.

With music from the All Evergreen Choir Lead by Zhane Perez

You can join in the All Evergreen Choir—all rehearsals at NBCF

Rehearsals: Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 6:30pm, Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 6:30pm

This is always an amazing event, with beautiful and inspiring music, preaching, and Evergreen Pastors and lay leaders directing worship. Please don't miss out on the outstanding preacher, the fantastic message, and the chance to worship and

sing together as we celebrate the life, ministry and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This event will also be livestreamed on New Beginnings website, which you can find at <https://thenbcf.org/>.

Evergreen is deeply grateful to our host for this event:



NEW BEGINNINGS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



The Play Reading Circle, December 2024.



Above: Optimism Hour at Stoup Brewing, December 2024.



*Below: Christmas Eve, December 2024.
Photo courtesy of Ben Luedcke.*

*Celebration of Light and Joy, December 2024.
Photo courtesy of Beth Reis.*




UNITED IN SONG
 AN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE CONCERT
 January 26, 2025 | 4pm | Seattle First Baptist Church



FEATURING COLUMBIA CHOIRS
 AND SPECIAL GUESTS
GONDWANA CHORALE
 Australia's National Youth Choir
 Under the direction of Paul Holley OAM and Carl Crossin OAM



 VISIT [COLUMBIACHOIRS.ORG/BOX-OFFICE](https://columbiachoirs.org/box-office) FOR TICKETS.

**COLUMBIA CHOIRS
 OF METROPOLITAN SEATTLE**
**“UNITED IN SONG”
 AN INTERNATIONAL
 COLLABORATIVE CONCERT**
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 4:00PM
 SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
 Gondwana Chorale
 Australia's National Youth Choir
 Under the direction of Paul Holley OAM
 and Carl Crossin OAM

Columbia Choirs is honored to host Gondwana Chorale from Australia for an afternoon performance featuring Cantabile, Con Brio, and Concord of Columbia Choirs. We hope you'll join us in the historic Seattle First Baptist Church for this international collaboration.

Presented in partnership with Australian American Chamber of Commerce Pacific Northwest.

Tickets available here: [https://
 www.cognitofrms.com/ColumbiaChoirs/
 ConcertTicketsGondwanaCollaborativeConcert](https://www.cognitofrms.com/ColumbiaChoirs/ConcertTicketsGondwanaCollaborativeConcert)



**SEATTLE PRO MUSICA
 NEW AMERICAN COMPOSERS SERIES**
**“WHEN THUNDER COMES”
 WITH COMPOSER MARI ESABEL
 VALVERDE**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8 AT 4:00PM
 SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pre-Concert Conversation at 3:30pm

Tickets available here: [https://
 seattlepromusica.thundertix.com/events/234910](https://seattlepromusica.thundertix.com/events/234910)

Special guest Mari Valverde comes to Seattle for Seattle Pro Musica's New American Composers Series and the world premiere of *Up/Rising Into*, her powerful love song for trans youth. Student singers from local schools will join us for Mari's *When Thunder Comes*, a tribute to the work of social justice leaders. Come hear Mari's music, meet Mari herself, and be inspired by music that honors the fight for the rights of all peoples.

Also featured will be works by Rosephanye Powell, Dale Trumbore, Eric Whitacre, Ralph Vaughan Williams, James Mulholland, Casey Rule, and more.



**SEATTLE JAZZ VESPERS
 NANCY ERICKSON LAMONT
 FEBRUARY 2 AT 6:00PM**

Nancy Erickson Lamon—vocals; Shawn Schlogel—
 piano; Chris Symer—bass; Max Wood—drums



Nancy Erickson Lamont, a seasoned jazz vocalist who studied with the renowned jazz instructor Frank DeMiero, has been leaving her mark on Seattle’s music scene for over three decades. Her impressive vocal range, lush alto, and distinctive approach to the jazz tradition have captivated audiences and earned her a reputation as one of the city’s most engaging and natural vocalists. On May 10, 2024, Nancy unveiled her fourth studio album, *Through the Passages*, produced by the acclaimed Grammy-winning, twice nominated vocalist and producer Johnaye Kendrick.

Featuring an array of jazz talent, including lauded pianist-composer-bandleader Josh Nelson (Natalie Cole, Sara Gazarek), Sean Jones (Jimmy Heath, Dianne Reeves), pianist Shawn Schlogel, bassists Chris Symer and Michael Glynn (Cory Weeds, Dave Grusin), and drummer Stefan Schatz (Jon Hendricks, The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra), *Through the Passages* is a contemplative collection of original songs exploring life’s miraculous and mysterious seasons. Nancy’s first record of originals, written in collaboration with Schlogel and pianist Darin Clendenin, *Through the Passages* draws its lyrics from poems Lamont has written throughout the last 10 years of life transitions.

Through the Passages features her wistful, immersive stories of new love, motherhood, aging, and the state of the world, propelled forward by Nancy’s nimble vocal stylings and her tight, masterful band. As each vignette sails life’s currents, Nancy’s artistry and heartfelt storytelling invites listeners to lean into a rich, disarming sonic world.

**SEATTLE JAZZ VESPERS
KELLEY JOHNSON
AND THE JOHN HANSON TRIO
MARCH 2 AT 6:00PM**



Kelley Johnson—voice; John Hansen—piano;
Michael Glynn—bass; Xavier Lecouturier—drums

Kelley Johnson is an international award winning jazz vocalist who is known and respected as an arranger, poet and lyricist with a personal body of recordings. Kelley’s lithe velvety voice mixes with a dynamic delivery and tricky colorful arrangements to showcase her interpretive finesse and inspired soloists. An organic groovy singer with a direct approach, Kelley reaches her audience with storytelling, subtlety, soulfulness and swing.

When Seattle became home in the late 80s, Johnson made a key connection with jazz vocal eminence Mark Murphy at a workshop he was doing. His mentoring both helped her develop her talent and facilitated getting the word out that an impressive new vocalist was on the scene. “Good news for jazz vocal fans!” notified Murphy. “Listen to her sureness of pitch, imaginative song selection and her ability to lyricize to a Joe Henderson theme. Many treats here, my friends. In a world of noise, yahoo, and recorded B.S., the first thing you hear here is none of that. It’s because this girl knows she is a jazz singer and doesn’t have to do anything else!”

Seattle welcomed Kelley. She had the privilege of working with and being encouraged by the greats Buddy Catlett and Clarence Acox until she met and forged a lasting musical relationship with pianist John Hansen. Kelley Johnson and the John Hansen trio with bassist Paul Gabrielson and drummer Jon Wikan gave her the modern roots jazz piano trio sound with a “horn” up front, much like Miles’ early rhythm sections. Having found the sound and the camaraderie she was looking for, her artistry bloomed, as did her arranging and lyric writing. Her first album featured both Hansen and Fred Hersch. Hersch, perhaps the preeminent vocal accompanist extant, produced her first album, “Make Someone Happy” which also featured Larry Grenadier, Steve Wilson and Lewis Nash.

Kelley has served as a professor at Cornish College of the Arts and Director of the Seattle Metropolitan Urban League’s Children’s Jazz Chorus among countless other musical ventures.

“Johnson has an uplifting brightness in her vocal delivery... Her lovely voice stands out for its emphatic clarity and for its direct approach. She pulls the blues out of thin air. It’s genuine. Johnson is a true communicator.” —Jim Santella, *All About Jazz*

SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WINTER 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 4th 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.

TUESDAYS

Parents of Adult Children with Mental Illness 2nd Tuesdays (or as noted in the online calendar), 7:00-8:30pm. Meets online at [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82549534986?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82549534986?pwd=I09c1CB9Uts0V2hR3yYhiKenZ2gkbO.1)

[pwd=I09c1CB9Uts0V2hR3yYhiKenZ2gkbO.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82549534986?pwd=I09c1CB9Uts0V2hR3yYhiKenZ2gkbO.1) Parents of Adult Children with Mental Illness is a peer-run support group that meets by Zoom the second Tuesday of each month. The group's goal is not to offer advice, but to provide mutual understanding of the difficult challenges we face as parents of mentally ill adult children. All discussion is strictly confidential.

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 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 Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30pm on Zoom (First meeting of 2025 will be on February 4; following meeting schedule to be determined). Meets online 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*.

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.

THURSDAYS

Bible Study Every Thursday, 12:00-1:00pm on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>. An exploration of the coming Sunday's scripture. Provocative discussions. Progressive commentary.

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

Men's Group Every Saturday, 11:00am-12:00pm. Meets online at [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095038488?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095038488?pwd=RlpydDZ0cERLVFhtcEFPSWmzSIQzUT09)
[pwd=RlpydDZ0cERLVFhtcEFPSWmzSIQzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095038488?pwd=RlpydDZ0cERLVFhtcEFPSWmzSIQzUT09). Where SFBC men come together to get better acquainted and support one another.

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.

Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122-4261

STAFF

Rev. Anita Peebles *Pastor*

Anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove *Pastor*

Leigh@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Darren Hochstedler *Church Administrator*

Darren@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Christina Sunstone *Office Manager*

& Small Group Ministries Coordinator

Christina@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Ben Luedcke *Minister of Music*

Ben@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Christian Broughton *Organist*

& Communications Manager

Christian@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Dick Steele *Facilities Manager*

Dick@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Chase McAdams *Caretaker*

2024 COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES (see page 3 for 2025 nominees)

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Sue Ross, *Vice President*

Inola de la Cruz, *Treasurer*

Roem de la Cruz

Heather Dodge

Janet Hasselblad

Mary Keith

Bob Sittig

David Young

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

Seattle First Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle WA 98112

(206) 325-6051

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