

Evergreen Notes

Love Your Neighbor, No Exceptions

By Rev. Doug Avilesbernal



"The least of these...

It certainly seems easier to live in a black-and-white world. A clearly defined space where others are either with us or against us, but it isn't. That path inevitably leads to pain, loss, and oppression.

Events like the Russian invasion of Ukraine make it very tempting to think that the

only way to help freedom flourish is for the good people to be better at violence than the bad people, as the NRA spends millions to remind us with their phrase that has been the core of arms dealers since they have existed; "The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun."

They are constantly reminding us all that there are evil people across that mountain, desert, sea, our walled city, your house, and more. Their aim is to ensure the "other" is an enemy to be feared. An enemy that is surely well armed and wanting to kill you. While always forgetting to let you know that this is the same message they are giving those people about you. They prosper from war, and the best way to get war is to convince all groups that there is someone out to get them. There is too much profit to be made from war, so they are constantly working to at the very least make you think it is just around the corner.

Our US American culture has been so permeated by this message that I can already hear the usual all-or-nothing responses, "If you take our guns, only the bad guys will have them." "I'd rather have it and not need it than need it and not have it."

The question, though, is where do you think bad people come from?

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EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION
—OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA—
TRANSLATING OUR UNITY TO THE WORLD

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Pray for Churches seeking Pastoral Leadership

Filipino-American Christian Fellowship,
Lynnwood, WA

First Hispanic Baptist Church,
Santa Barbara, CA

Grace Baptist Church,
San Jose, CA

Shell Ridge Community Church,
Walnut Creek, CA

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, Oakland, CA

First Baptist Church of Chico, Chico, CA

The Disinformation Highway: How Social Media Can Be A Blessing & A Curse



By Rev. Shavon Walker

Social media is often used as a tool to share information. Sometimes, this can be good, such as learning ways to properly wash your hands or wear a mask. Sometimes, the information is incorrect or false and can harm or

hurt others. Ideally, we check our sources before we share, but because we tend to be biased toward information that fits our worldview, we often don't bother. This can result in propaganda being spread without us realizing the damage it can do.

Many of us operate in social media echo chambers, which are defined as "a biased, tailored media experience that eliminates opposing viewpoints and differing voices." Social media algorithms are designed to show us things that our friends like or keep going back to. Every time we like, retweet, share or comment on something, it tells the algorithm to show us similar items. This is great for personalization, but doesn't work well towards a well-rounded viewpoint. To make matters worse, when someone inadvertently shares an item that fits into our curated feed, we run the risk of simply accepting it instead of doing our research and working toward clarity and accuracy.

Emotions also play a big role in how quickly misinformation spreads. Many of you may remember a certain comment during the second debate about Haitians eating dogs and cats. Was it true? Absolutely not. Was it inflammatory? Yes, of course. Did some outraged Americans believe the statement and start spreading it through social media, making it a viral topic? Yes, and that was the point. When we read something that triggers our emotions, we have to stop first and analyze the source. Had the listeners done the work or, at the

very least, listened to the fact checkers, they would have immediately known that the statement was false.

People of less than pure motives, aka bad actors, will use emotions and other methods to spread propaganda. For instance, some will use bot networks to artificially post disinformation on more than one site, knowing that if people see it appearing repeatedly, they are much more likely to believe it. Others will imitate a more official account, such as the CDC, and spread information that way. And still others will repost and share false narratives, hoping that innocent users will be fooled into doing the same.

Social media is also designed to appeal to people who have short attention spans. The days of having to read a full news article are waning; now, people will see a post or a headline and repost it, not bothering to read the whole thing. Bad actors count on this and create inflammatory headlines to trigger outrage and to encourage spread. This also brings down the quality of the posts we see, since any real substance or information is missing. The articles become nothing more than opinion pieces and the posts are nothing more than filler.

But there are ways to vet your sources. You can use sites like FactCheck.org, pewresearch.org, and snopes.com (my personal preference). News sites such as ground.news will display headlines and a bar showing the coverage of the story by liberal, center or conservative outlets, as well as the number of sources for that story. Using all of these methods will help you root out disinformation when you see it.

Social media can be a wonderful technological advancement when used properly. But it's very easy to make snap judgments on what we see, and stay in our echo chamber instead of looking for other sources and researching the information. In this upcoming election season, this is even more important. Always check your sources. Make sure you have a place to go for multiple media opinions. If you see disinformation being spread, call it out. Let's counteract the lies and confusion, and focus on sharing truth and justice this season.

If you have any other topics you'd like me to write about, please feel free to contact me at Shavon@ea-abc.org. And be sure to check out our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Building Dedication for Seattle Falam Baptist



*Rev. Kip Pau, Rev. Dr. Biak Hlei Mang, Rev. Dr. Paul Aita
By Rev. Dr. Paul Aita*

On Saturday, May 30th, the Seattle Falam Baptist Church dedicated its new building at 23455 140th Avenue SE, Kent, Washington. In anticipation of service, attendees gathered outside to sing a hymn. Once the church's pastor, Rev. Kip Lian Pau, joined by Rev. Dr. Biak Hlei Mang from Chicago and Rev. Dr. Paul Aita, had cut a red ribbon that was stretched across the entryway, the congregation entered the sanctuary. In addition to church members, representatives of other local Burma Diaspora churches attended, as well as Rev. Dr. Sam Kim of the Evergreen Association. During the service, Rev. Dr. Linda Smith of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Baptist Church in Renton delivered words of encouragement, Dr. Aita gave a short speech, and Dr. Mang led in prayer. Several church groups offered music and

Kids of Seattle Falaam Baptist Church in the service



Rev. Kip Pau
dance, and Rev. Ricky Barlow brought greetings from the American Baptist Foundation.

Pastor Kip preached in the Falam dialect with Jedediah Thang translating into English for the benefit of visitors. Following the service of dedication, dinner was served outside.

The Falam church had worshiped in the facilities of the Martin Luther King church for several years. The property they purchased in Kent included a house and a barn, with a significant amount of land. Church members completely renovated the barn into a lovely sanctuary. (A video of the renovation process was also part of the service.) Pastor Kip and his wife live on the upper floor of the house, while the lower floor is used for Sunday School classes and meetings.



Rev. Ramhei Cin, Rev. Dr. Paul Aita, Rev. Kip Thian Pau, Rev. Dr. Kawl Tha, Rev. Khong Yone, and Rev. Rick Barlow.

...continued from page 1

They're not a separate species. When have you seen an interview with a killer's neighbor and heard them say, oh yeah, I knew he was an evil person. I'm surprised it took him this long to do it. Hardly any of us think that those we know, who look like us, those we like are evil people. The way we speak, the way our media writes and speaks tells us WE are not like that. This is why all white murderers are lone wolves and all brown murderers are part of a radicalized group. We are constantly told who the good people are and who the bad people are we need protection from.

Where is Jesus in all of this?

"Whatever you do to the least of these you do to me." Mat. 25:40. It always amuses me when we share this verse on its own as though Jesus did not say who it was exactly he was referring to,

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Mat. 25:35-38.

In other words, Jesus says, whatever you do to the people you care the least about, "you do to me." This includes those you dislike, fear, are envious of, and more. His response is neither ambiguous nor culturally irrelevant to

our times. Therefore, the question for us every time we encounter the other we dislike, fear, and more is not whether we should, but how we should help.

What about violence?

The one time Jesus witnessed a weapon being used for what it's designed to do, it was a close friend of his against the people who wanted to hurt him. What did Jesus do?

Stop focusing on violence itself. We, humans, are too complex, and violence is most often the result of a very long path of neglect, rejection, aggression, and more. Jesus' call isn't to become a doormat and let the bad guys with a gun kill you. Jesus' call is to say, reach out to the bad guy with a gun, way before they get to a place where they think a gun is the only solution to their pain. Will we be able to eliminate violence? Sadly no. We are too imperfect, too selfish, to beholden to the cultures we have built. But, Do remember that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, it's within reach, so feed the hungry, give something to drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked visit the prisoner, always ask how.

Some answers will be found immediately, buy a plate of food. Others will take more work, less cruel immigration laws, less oppressive business practices with smaller countries, etc. There is no single answer, but the call isn't to fix all; the call is to love your neighbor, no exceptions.

We're celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Marcia Patton, PhD, Executive Minister Emerita of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, and an accomplished author, teacher, and pastor. \$50 per person, or \$350 for a table of eight people. Meal options are chicken, seafood, or vegetarian.

We are asking that you consider bringing funds for a love gift of at least \$50 per person attending to say thank you and bless Marcia.

Our featured speaker will be Rev. Dr. Marcia B. Bailey, who is an Associate Professor of Teaching at Temple University, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Pottstown, PA, an author with Judson Press, as well as a decades long friend of Marcia Patton.

To register for this event, please visit our online reservation form, scan the QR code below, or contact Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen Office (paul@ea-abc.org or 253-859-2226).

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/JmqEC5x2km>



50th Anniversary Ordination Celebration for



REV. DR.
MARCIA PATTON

July 17th 6-9 PM

New Beginnings Christian Fellowship
19300 108th Ave SE, Kent, WA 98031

Featured Speaker
Rev. Dr. Marcia B. Bailey

Join us for this great dinner and program celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Ordination for Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton. See the flyer above for pricing and how to register for the event.

Starting at 5pm before the dinner and program there will be an opportunity for people to gather and get a chance to purchase one of Marcia's books and get them signed if they wish. Additionally, Marcia has donated twelve quilts which are going to be auctioned off with the proceeds to go to worthy organizations that Marcia supports. This will be a silent auction and there will be online participation available through the Evergreen Website.

Here's four of the quilts up for auction:



SFBC seeks Church Administrator



Seattle First Baptist Church seeks a Church Administrator to begin late July 2026. This is an exempt, full-time position with an annual salary of \$70,000. Specific duties described in the job description below.

Required Experience and Characteristics

- Significant business experience and operational knowledge of either corporate or church environments,
- Key strengths in leadership and management skills,
- Strong communication skills and ability to interact clearly and sensitively with a varied church population,
- High personal credibility, with a strong set of values consistent with SFBC's culture
- Optimistic attitude, coupled w/mental curiosity,
- Problem solver, and
- Personally motivated to help others.

Additional Information: The Church is committed to creating a diverse environment and is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or veteran status. For additional information about the church, please visit the church website at www.seattlefirstbaptist.org. The website includes extensive information about the church. Details for Submission Application packets are currently being accepted and reviewed. The position is open until filled and qualified candidates will be invited to apply at their earliest convenience. Please submit a cover letter and resume to jobs@seattlefirstbaptist.org. You may also direct questions to this e-mail address.

Manzanar Historical Site Pilgrimage



The Arc Initiative at Berkeley School of Theology invites our Evergreen family to join us on **September 25-27** for an in-depth visit to Manzanar National Historic Site, one of 10 incarceration

centers the US Government used during WWII to unconstitutionally incarcerate Japanese Americans. Our facilitator, historian Patricia Allyn Biggs, spent 12 years working at Manzanar researching, writing, and speaking about the complex history of the site and its continuing relevance to our society. The pilgrimage will include interactive activities, group discussions, and time for personal reflection on the themes of exile, injustice, confinement, clashing ideologies, and advocacy. Much of the day will be spent outdoors, with some walking required. We will visit the Manzanar cemetery, Children's Village, Merritt Park, and the site's historic entrance, as well as the reconstructed barracks and mess hall.



Please visit our website for more information and to

register by July 15!

<https://bst.edu/arc-initiative/>





EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION
— OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA —
TRANSLATING OUR UNITY TO THE WORLD

Invites you to join us for

Faith and Family Day 2026

August 1st, 1pm Game Time

@ T-Mobile Park



VS



Join us as the Seattle Mariners face off against the Minnesota Twins. In addition to being Faith and Family Night it's Aloha Shirt day and the first 15,000 fans will get a Hawaiian Shirt.

Tickets for Main Level Seating are only \$21 each.

Sign up for tickets by calling Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen office (253-859-2226 x 1), using the QR Code on the left, or this link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/HAMvHqCbBe>



Pay for your tickets by mailing a check to Evergreen (PO Box 1044, Kent, WA, 98035-1044, using the QR code on the right, or this link: <https://square.link/u/NoDelylg>



Taste of Evergreen

August 8, 12pm–2pm

@ New Beginnings Christian Fellowship
19300 108th Ave SE, Kent, WA 98031



This year, our Taste of Evergreen Fundraising event is happening on August 8th at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship (address above). This event is ticketed, with a suggested donation of \$20 for each ticket for teens and adults and \$10 per ticket for children 12 and under.

We will have food from across all four of Evergreen's caucuses, representing many different cultures. In addition to the excellent food and time there will also be the excellent Charity Dessert Auction at the end of the event, which is always one of the best ways to get tasty treats that you don't make yourself!

We are looking for volunteers to bring dishes which represent their culture, and to help set up and tear down the event. You can indicate your willingness to volunteer on the sign-up form.



To Sign Up for this event online, go here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/KYap0NuyD6>. If you'd rather, you can also call Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen Office (253-859-2226 x1) to get signed up.

To purchase your tickets, you can either send a check to Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen Office (P.O. Box 1044, Kent, WA 98035-1044), or if you want to get them online at the suggested donation price, you can buy them here: <https://square.link/u/Xy0wC0vR>.



Please join us for the

Evergreen Biennial Gathering

Reimagining Church (Isaiah 43:19)

October 8-10, 2026

at CrossWalk Community Church in Napa, CA

Our Featured Preacher

Schedule in Brief

Rev. Dr. Jamie Washam



Rev. Dr. Jamie P. Washam became the 37th settled minister of the First Baptist Church in America in Providence, RI in 2015. Jamie is a seventh-generation Texan, born and raised in Midland, in a Southern Baptist household. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Austin, Texas and moved to Boston to

pursue her Master's studies. She was ordained an American Baptist minister in 2001. Prior to pastoring in Providence, she served churches in Chicago, Illinois and Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. She considers it a privilege and joy to follow in the way of Jesus in the church gathered by Roger Williams in 1638.

Thursday

6pm—Clergy & Laity Dinner

Friday

9am—Registration

10:30am—Welcome

Plenary (livestreamed)

Noon—Lunch

1pm to 5:15pm—In

Person Workshops

1pm

5:30pm—Dinner

7pm—Worship Service

(livestreamed via

Youtube and webpage)

Saturday

8:30am—Breakfast

10am—Business Meeting (Hybrid)

Noon—Lunch

1pm to 5:15pm—Online Workshops

1pm to 5pm—Napa

Experiences

5:30pm—Dinner

7pm—Worship Service (livestreamed)

Sunday

Travel or worship with a local Evergreen Church

Hotel Information

Registration



<https://gqr.sh/aeH6>

We'll be staying at the Double Tree in American Canyon, CA, 20 minutes away from the church. We'll have shuttles to get people to and from the church and hotel. To register, please use this link [here](#) or scan the QR code below. If you're staying Th-Sat, the average price for your room is just \$149 per night.

Registration for this event can be done online via this link [here](#), or scan the QR code in the lower right hand corner. Cost is \$100 for Friday & Saturday in person, or \$110 if attending dinner on Thursday night. Online attendance is \$50. You can pay for your registration using this link [here](#), or the QR code in the lower left hand corner. Please call Rev. Paul Schneider at the



Office (253-859-2226x1) to register or make payment over the phone or with questions.





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Email: office@ea-abc.org

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#ebaabc

Return Service Requested

Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for member churches, ecumenical partners, national affiliates, and friends of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is published monthly. Please submit articles by the 20th of the month prior to expected publication. You are encouraged to copy and/or reprint information and articles for your congregation and community.

Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

Mission Statement

Being a culturally diverse people who are one in Christ and who value the liberties of our American Baptist Heritage, the Evergreen Baptist Association will **Build bridges** between communities; **Provide resources** to equip member churches to share Christ and teach God’s word; and **Translate our unity** to the world.

May God bless you with a Summer that does not scorch!

Save these Dates!

We’ve got some great events coming up. Please mark your calendars so you can participate in these fantastic events!

Marcia Patton 50th Ordiversary!

Fri. July 17th at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. See flyer page 5!

Taste of Evergreen

Sat. August 8th—at New Beginnings

Christian Fellowship. See page 8!

Southern California Area Gathering

Sat. August 22nd at First Hispanic Baptist Church in Santa Barbara, CA

Evergreen Biennial Gathering

Oct. 8-10 at CrossWalk Community Church in Napa, CA. See last page!

July Calendar

July 3—The Feast of St. Thomas

July 4—USA Independence Day

July 6—International Kissing Day

July 7—World Chocolate Day

July 11—7 Eleven Day

July 12—National Pecan Pie Day

July 15—National Hot Dog Day

July 17—50th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration for Rev. Dr. Marcia

Patton—See page 5 for more info!

July 18—Nelson Mandela Day

July 19—National Ice Cream Day

July 22—Tisha b’Av

July 24—International Self Care Day

July 30—National Cheesecake Day

July 30—Day Against Trafficking Persons

July 31—National Avocado Day