



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

Evergreen Notes

Books by Evergreen Authors



By Rev. Paul Schneider

Did you know that we have some amazing authors here in Evergreen? Some are scholars, others poets, still others reflecting on the current realities of both church and society, and often more than one of those at the same time! Recently a number of Evergreen member's books have been published.

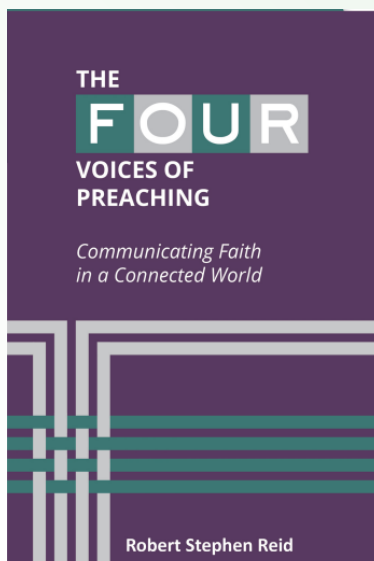
First, we have ***The Four Voices of Preaching: Communicating Faith in a Connected World***

by Rev. Dr. Robert Stephen Reid, was released in November of 2024. Bob is a member of Panther Lake, and has served Evergreen churches. This book, while technically a revised edition of an earlier work is almost completely rewritten to take into account the reality of the interconnected world we live in and the places where faith-talk is really happening. Ideas shared in this book will be part of the Evergreen Preaching Cohort happening this summer and future Evergreen Preaching Cohorts as well. This book is available in print and electronically on Kindle.

"Sermons preached before a congregation are only one way people hear messages of faith. Whether the listener is seated in a pew or listening to a

podcast or a book about faith, most of the faith-talk people hear is shaped by a speaker's faith sensibility. And those faith sensibilities can generally be distinguished as four distinctly different "voices" of preaching. Understanding what these voices are, how they differ in purpose as well as design, and how excellence in each voice can make for greater authenticity in communicating faith is what this book is about. The author canvases the tradition of American preaching called homiletics by drawing together religious, social, and cultural

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Pray for Churches seeking Pastoral Leadership

Filipino-American Christian Fellowship, Lynnwood, WA

The United Church of Moscow, Moscow, ID

Grace Baptist Church, San Jose, CA

First Baptist Church of Denver, Denver, CO

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Seattle, WA

Greater New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Seattle, WA

Why Your Smartphone Keeps Asking for Updates (and Why You Should Say Yes!)



By Rev. Shavon Walker

You're at home, minding your business, when your phone suddenly beeps. You look at your screen and see something you've never seen before: a phone software update request.

You're not sure what to do; do you hit OK and risk infecting your phone, or do you hit Cancel and risk missing out on something important? Update requests, whether they're for apps or the phone itself, can come at inconvenient times and can seem unsafe. Today, we're going to talk about why updates matter and how you can build confidence managing them.

So what is a software update? Put simply, it's a program that installs improvements and fixes from your manufacturer. It's a lot like getting your car serviced; it's something that needs to be done regularly so your purchase can stay in tip top shape.

As I mentioned before, there are two kinds of updates: updates for your applications, and updates for your phone. There are also two kinds of phone updates: security updates (to fix vulnerabilities) and feature updates (to update firmware, the software that's specific to your phone, and/or add new functions). Today, we'll be focusing on phone updates, but the process is more or less the same for both.

Why are updates important? The main reason is because of the safety factor. Security patches protect personal information. If your phone's security system isn't secure, it puts all of your applications (like your banking, photos and contacts) at risk. If you wouldn't ignore a broken lock on your door, you shouldn't ignore an update.

The other reason updates are important is because of performance improvements and new features. Performance

improvements make your phone faster and more reliable, and fixes bugs (flaws) that can make your phone stop working. Useful features may include new shortcuts for apps, new tools like voice to text, or new motions like swiping across the phone face to screenshot something. Remember that you don't have to learn all of these new things at once. Learn as you go, and get to know your features one at a time. There's no rush.

Let's take a quick look at some concerns about updating. Are you worried that updates will break your phone? Phone companies test them extensively, and it's rare to have issues. As I've mentioned before, not updating is riskier. Are you worried that an update will slow your phone down? The security will outweigh any slowdown, which will most likely be minor anyway. Are you worried that a major overhaul will make it harder for you to use your phone? Most changes are invisible and won't affect your phone interactions at all.

So how do you update safely? First, make sure your phone is charged or connected to a charging point. Updates can drain battery power. Then, while it's updating, find something else to do for 30 to 60 minutes. Watch TV, feed and play with the dog, do dishes, anything that's not phone related. You may notice your phone restart a few times, which is perfectly normal. When the update is finished, read the update notes and make sure your important apps are still functional.

One more tip here: Most Android and iPhones have the option for automatic updates. You can usually Google instructions on how to set it up, or ask someone to help you with it. The benefit to auto updating is that you don't have to do a thing except maybe approve the update. The phone will take care of the rest. But be aware that some updates may take place early in the morning, and you'll have to leave your phone on overnight to take advantage of it.

That's it for this month. Next month, I'll talk about phone app updates and why they're important. If there's a topic you'd like me to discuss, email me at Shavon@ea-abc.org. And don't forget to check out our website, Facebook and Instagram!

Taste of Evergreen July 26, 11am at PLCC

This year, our Taste of Evergreen Fundraising event is happening on July 26th at 11am at Panther Lake Community Church (10630 SE 204th St, Kent, WA 98031). 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 Evergreen's caucuses, representing dozens of different cultures. There will be a brief program where we talk about sharing culture through food, and 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!

Funds raised by this event will go to support the Translator's Fund, which we use to hire translators for members of our community for whom English is not their primary language.

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.office.com/r/BaQC7C803C>. 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/uZ2GiPOA>.

Ceasefire Oakland with Lakeshore Avenue Baptist

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland, California has been part of that city's Ceasefire movement for many years. Pastor Jim Hopkins has been a significant leader in this movement. The Night Walks are an important way for people to show up and show out against the violence, and begin building a culture of interconnectedness and share a message of peace. If you can, please join them in this ministry!

OAKLAND CEASEFIRE Night Walks

Stop the gun violence! Oakland Ceasefire is a movement to stop the killings and more people going to jail. We are uniting to build a culture of peace and healing. We are walking our neighborhoods to carry this message:
We love you and we want you to be alive and free!

Join us on a walk!

2025

April 11 ~ Sacred Heart, 4025 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
April 18 ~ Good Friday - NO WALK
April 25 ~ Mt Zion MBC, 1203 Willow Street

May 9 ~ First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue
May 16 ~ St. Columba, 6401 San Pablo Avenue
May 23 ~ New Hope MBC, 892 36th Street
May 30 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

June 13 ~ Tabernacle MBC, 10115 Edes Avenue
June 20 ~ Emmanuel Greater Praise Church,
2025 86th Avenue
June 27 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

Walks begin at 6 p.m.

Scan the QR Code
to learn more
about Ceasefire:



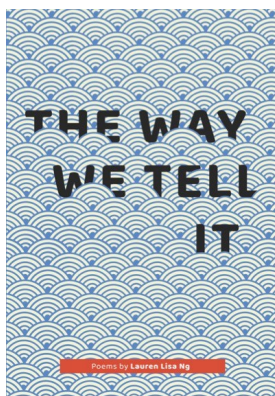
INFO:
alba@fiaeastbay.org



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concerns that have given birth to each new North American way of preaching about faith in God. The book provides a map of classic and contemporary homiletics and what their understanding looks like in communication practice. It is a book about why preaching and teaching the Gospel matters in whatever form it takes. It is a book for those who need a map.”

The next book we’ll consider is ***The Way We Tell It*** by Rev. Dr. Lauren Lisa Ng. Lauren is a member of CrossWalk Community Church, an Evergreen congregation, and serves as the Senior Program Officer for the Thriving Congregations Initiative to serve Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) churches at the Berkeley School of Theology. *The Way We Tell It* is not a theological or scholarly treatise—it is a book of beautifully crafted poems which share a view of the world from Lauren’s unique perspective, with an eye towards our common humanity.



“Immerse yourself in a poetic journey where hidden histories bloom like chrysanthemums, presenting realities as sweet and refreshing as lemonade. *The Way We Tell It* by Lauren Lisa Ng is a potent collection that turns the traditional poetry landscape on its head. Ng’s vivid verse manages to grasp the immateriality of untold histo-

ries. Drawing from a trove of generational experiences, she paints a picture of lives lived, from her ancestry to the present day.

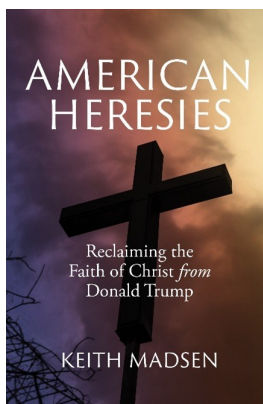
“Ng’s writing is beautifully evocative, coaxing the reader into a world where past and present intertwine, where understanding is born from the whisperings of the unsaid, and where wisdom is gleaned not just from the spoken word, but also from the silences in between.

The Way We Tell It is a celebration of the human experience in all its complexity. It’s a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit and a reminder that our stories and experiences, no matter how diverse,

are threads in the same fabric of life.

Experience a new perspective, feel the profound power of words, and let the poetry of Lauren Lisa Ng guide you on an unforgettable journey. *The Way We Tell It* is more than a book; it is a gateway into a world that will resonate with your soul, reminding you that every story, every experience, is a testament to our shared humanity.”

Our last book for this issue is Rev. Dr. Keith Madsen’s ***American Heresies: Reclaiming the Faith of Christ from Donald Trump***. Keith is a member of Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church, and has served Evergreen churches. Here he uses his faith, scripture, and scholarship to push back against current administration’s assault on the least of these, which it does under the nominal guise of Christian faith.



“Donald Trump was elected in large part because of the support of evangelical Christians. I believe those who voted that way truly believed they were voting to support Christian values. But now that we have seen over 100 days of destruction by this President, I have felt called to write a book that details all the ways that Trump’s claims

and actions are counter to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Or can we really believe favoring the rich over the poor, disregarding the needs of all people who are not white American, abusing women and pretend that ‘the Good News’ is a commodity for the profit of the wealthy few is what Jesus taught us to do? I use over 100 Bible passages along with quotations from Christian leaders present and past to show why this attempt to validate Trump and his policies is nothing less than heresy. I proclaim, ***‘...whatever is presented as Christian that is not Good News for all people is heresy!’***”

If you’re looking for these books, you can find them online at Bookshop.org, which supports independent booksellers, or at Amazon.

The Four Voices of Preaching [@Bookshop](#), [@Amazon](#) or [@Amazon Kindle](#)

The Way We Tell It [@Bookshop](#) or [@Amazon](#)

American Heresies [@Amazon](#) or [@Amazon Kindle](#)

Help the People of Burma

Though the situation in Burma under its illegal military junta continues to be dire, we don't often hear very much about it in the media. We in Evergreen are particularly aware of and interested in conditions in Burma (also known as Myanmar) because six of our member churches represent the Chin, Kachin, and Karen ethnic groups from that country. American Baptists have had an interest in Burma since the founding of our foreign mission society (now known as International Ministries) in 1814 to support the work of Anne and Adoniram Judson. That interest continues through the work of the Burma Advocacy Group (BAG), which represents many Burma Diaspora churches and organizations throughout the U.S. BAG is now reaching out to American Baptists and others to ask that we encourage our representatives in Congress to support the BRAVE Burma Act and full-funding of the provisions of the earlier Burma Act with respect to the budget being prepared for Fiscal Year 2026.

The "Bringing Real Accountability Via Enforcement in Burma [BRAVE Burma] Act" (House Resolution 3190) was reintroduced in early May. By pressing the U.S. government to enact a number of sanctions, this bill aims to curtail the Myanmar military's sources of money, arms, aviation fuel, and legitimacy that it needs to stay in power. It would also create a U.S. Special Coordinator for Burmese Democracy within the State Department to develop and help implement a comprehensive U.S. strategy to promote human rights and the restoration of civilian government in Burma.

There are resources to help those who are interested learn more about the BRAVE Burma Act and assist them in contacting their Senators and Representatives. These include the text of the proposed act itself; a script for use in calling or emailing members of Congress; and a letter from ABC General Secretary Emeritus Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, who heads the Burma Advocacy Group, to the Burma Caucus in the House of Representatives. These are available from Rev. Dr. Paul Aita (aita.paul@gmail.com), who is a member of BAG. If you wish to add your name to an online petition in support of act, you can do so at <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-congress-pass-the-brave-burma-act>.

Meet Us at the Fair!

The Fremont Fair. Saturday, June 21st and Sunday, June 22nd.

Fremont Baptist Church has a long-held tradition with the Fremont Fair, ever since its inception in the early 1970's. Our booth was built by our members. It gets repaired and repainted as the years go by. It takes all our people to make this happen each year. 100% of the donations collected from the booth and parking lot, go directly to FamilyWorks Food Bank in Wallingford. It started in our basement as the Fremont Food Bank. Our members served the people.

We erect our Bright Orange Booth with the sign on top, replica of our building's sign. We serve **Free Mukilteo Roasters Coffee** (donated by owner/former member Beth Korvin Smith); Free Lemonade, and Doggie water. We roll up our sleeves giving our time, love and compassion to everyone in our community. We have **ABC pamphlets** to help guests know who we are. People return to our booth every year. Some even became members by that chance meeting. Last year a balloon man reluctantly made a Cross for our booth. Last year the Food Bank received a nice check for \$ 2,194.78! You never know what will happen at the fair. Hope you can join us!



American Baptist Churches USA
BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT
July 3–6, 2025 | Omaha, NE
**COME SEEK
LIVING
WATER**

You're invited to the American Baptist Churches 2025 Biennial Mission Summit! The 2025 event will be a celebration of our shared faith, diversity, and deep-rooted commitment to mission and ministry, a unique space where American Baptists from all across the country gather to worship boldly, learn deeply, and connect meaningfully. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of something bigger!

Whether you attend for one day or the whole weekend, join us in Omaha, Nebraska, July 3–6, 2025, for this powerful time of worship, learning, and connection!

Please register at
www.americanbaptist2025.com by Monday,
June 16, 2025 to secure your spot.



Biennial Evergreen Booth Volunteers

Are you going to the ABC-USA Biennial Mission Summit in Omaha Nebraska July 3-7? Might you have some time between the workshops, sacred conversations, worship and business meetings to help Evergreen out?

This Biennial we will once again have a booth in the Exhibitors Hall at the Mission Summit. This booth serves as a bit of outreach to our fellow American Baptists, sharing about Evergreen—who we are, what we do, and how we do it. Those in the booth often find themselves discussing consensus, and our caucus system, and the incredible diversity of the people, viewpoints and theology that can be found in Evergreen. And if you're worried that you won't be able to say what you need to, don't worry, our Executive Minister Emerita Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton will be staffing the booth alongside all our volunteers!



If you think you might be willing to commit some time to helping out with the booth, either with setting up, tearing down, or taking a shift or three sitting at the booth, and interacting with those in the Exhibitors Hall, we have an online sign up form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/JTLfeM6rKP>.



Evergreen Preaching Cohort—Full! Get on the Wait List for the next one!

The first Evergreen Preaching Cohort is now full. If you missed out on signing up for it, **fear not!** Due to its popularity, we're going to have a second Preaching Cohort later this year or early next year.



To sign up for the waitlist, and get preferential registration for the next Evergreen Preaching cohort, please use the following link <https://forms.office.com/r/8geV4iLWVX> or contact Rev. Paul Schneider at the

Evergreen Office (253-859-2226 x1, paul@ea-abc.org).

Evergreen at the Faith & Family Day with the Seattle Mariners, Aug. 2nd

Our next Evergreen outing to go see the Seattle Mariners is coming up on August 2nd, 2025, with a game time of 1:10pm at T-Mobile Park. The Mariners will be playing the Texas Rangers. Tickets are only \$21 for main level seats. Last year we enjoyed a good game and good weather too!



We have reserved 40 tickets on the main level. To reserve and pay for you tickets, please go to the links below or contact Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen office, either by phone (253-859-2226) or by email (paul@ea-abc.org).



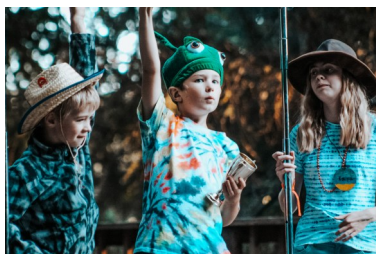
To sign up for tickets online, please use the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/7WgaUm3xqL>



To pay for tickets online, please use the following link: <https://square.link/u/CYqsUX6D>

See you at the Ballpark!

Camp Burton's Mythical Summer



At Camp Burton, we believe in the “power of camp”. Our mission is to provide opportunities to all people in which transformation and renewal may take

place. To accomplish this, we foster an environment centered on inclusivity and respect, which empowers each camper to embrace their individuality.

While at camp, people of all ages and from diverse backgrounds are able to deepen their spiritual awareness, expand their skills, and develop healthy relationships. From sleeping under the stars to shooting their first bow and arrow, campers are encouraged to try new things and overcome challenges in order to build their independence, self-confidence, and resilience. A supportive community paired with a whole bunch of fun, camp is a magical place and a life-changing experience.

Join us for Mythical Summer 2025, where we explore John 1:5, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

- Teens Redeemed Adventure Camp (Ages 14-17): August 2-8, 2025
- Family Unity Camp (All Ages): August 3-9, 2025
- Faith Adventure Camp - Grade School (Ages 7-10): August 10-15, 2025
- Faith Adventure Camp - Middle School (Ages 11-13): August 10-15, 2025
- New Horizons Camp (Adults with Disabilities): August 17-22, 2025
- Camp CAOS (Ages 21+): August 22-25, 2025

For more information, to apply to work or volunteer, or to register for camp, please visit campburton.com or email our program director (program@campburton.com). We hope to see you for a mythical summer adventure!



The Songs of Black Folk at the Tribeca Film Festival!



Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton, conductor and composer Ramón Bryant Braxton, the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship family, and all our Black Caucus members who helped create and support the incredible *The Songs of Black Folk* concert that has been part of the Seattle music scene on Juneteenth the last couple of years. Not only has your work enriched our the artistic and communal life of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest, but a 26 minute short film about the concert is now having its World Premier as a featured part of the Tribeca Film Festival this year. This work will be shown alongside three other short films about music three separate times during the Festival. To find out more, visit: <https://tribecafilm.com/films/songs-of-black-folk-2025>.



Report from the Run for Hope for Burma



By Rev. Paul Schneider, Pictures by Poe Htoo

Saturday, May 24th, the Eighth Run for Hope for Burma happened at Chambers Bay Regional Park. Over 150 registered participants joined in the 5K run/walk, which raised money for organizations supporting refugees from the war in Burma. In total \$6,260 were raised, which will go to supporting the Free Burma Rangers and Earth Missions Asia.

It was an absolutely gorgeous day for a run, and we had a number of Evergreen churches represented at the event! The event had some impressive athletes participating. The top three runners for the women were Mee Ju (1st Place), Mewan Dalangging (2nd Place) and Amelia Mueh Htoo (3rd Place). For the men the top three runners were Htoi San Awng Zinghtung (1st Place), James Paw (2nd Place) and Thierry Wah (3rd Place).

Congratulations to all the runners and walkers who participated in this very fun event, and helped make a difference for displaced people from Burma!



Evergreen Backpacking Trips 2025

Do you love to get out into nature for hiking and camping?

In the wild places some people find God's presence to be very close!

Want to participate in a great wilderness experience led by a professional guide and pastor?

Check out these two trips!

All Evergreen Backpacking Trip



June 19-22, 2025

In the Baker Wilderness

Join us for a four day, three night trip in the Baker Wilderness. This trip is open to all Evergreen Members, clergy and laity alike.

Cost is \$800,

which includes all food, permits, etc. Equipment to be provided by the individual or can be rented for a discount from the guide. Partial scholarships may be available for this trip.

Clergy Backpacking Trip



August 20-23, 2025

In the Olympic National Park

Join us for a four day, three night trip to the Olympic National Park. *This trip is for clergy only, and will be meaningful!*

Cost is \$800, which includes all food, permits, etc. Equipment to be provided by the individual or can be rented for a discount from the guide. Partial scholarships may be available for this trip.

To sign up, go to this link and fill out the form:

<https://www.wildernessjourneys.org/evergreen>

You can also get more information and inquire about scholarships at that link!

Led by Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone of Wilderness Journeys



Jonathan Malone is a minister, hiker, musician, husband, father, and slightly crazy. For a number of years he has been leading groups of youth and adults into the wilderness.

He is a trip leader, retreat leader, writer, teacher, speaker, and dreamer.

He previously led a Clergy Backpacking Trip for Evergreen in 2023.





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451

“Like” us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/evergreenabcusa;

Instagram, and Twitter @evergreenabcusa
#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 the Holy Spirit fill you and inspire your churches this Pentecost!

Save these Dates!

We’ve got some great events coming up within our region. Please mark your calendars so you can make sure to participate in these fantastic coming events!

All Evergreen Backpacking Trip, June 19-22

Join us for a great trip into the Mt. Baker Wilderness. See inside for details!

Taste of Evergreen, Sat., July 26, 11am

At Panther Lake Community Church. See inside for details!

Evergreen Clergy Backpacking Trip, Aug 20-23

See inside for details!

June Calendar

June 6—Eid al-Adha—2nd holiest festival for our Muslim siblings.

June 8—Pentecost—Remember to wear **Red!**

June 13—Oakland Ceasefire Walk—See inside for details.

June 15—Father’s Day

June 19—Juneteenth

June 19-22—All Evergreen Backpacking Trip in the Mt. Baker Wilderness. See inside for details!

June 20—Summer Solstice—Longest day of the year.

June 20—World Refugee Day—A good day to remember our displaced siblings from Burma.

June 20—Oakland Ceasefire Walk—See inside for details.

June 26—Islamic New Year and beginning of Muharram.

June 27—Oakland Ceasefire Walk—See inside for details.