



THE SPIRE

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

2022



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VOLUME 86, NO. 10

Advent Theme: Revelations of Joy, Hope, Love, Peace

Dear church family,

Advent is my favorite season of the church year. Maybe that's because I am a December baby. Maybe that's because it is theologically significant to me, with beautiful words like *incarnation* and *awake* and *embodiment* floating around. Or maybe it's because I just love the twinkling lights of the season, making the gray, rainy Seattle days go by. Or maybe it's all of that, together.

Whatever the reason for my love of the season, this year I feel I have been waiting for it to arrive. And that's fitting, because Advent is a time of waiting. But, as our Advent candle-lighting ritual says, this waiting is not passive, sit-around-and-do-nothing waiting. This is waiting with *esperanza*, waiting with *expectant hope*. And for what are we waiting during Advent? For the revelations of God's love to be made fresh among us. Each Sunday in Advent, we will experience the revelations of the season—revelations of joy, hope, love and peace. Revelation, in the Bible, is related to *unveiling*—making that which is hidden plain, and that which is unknown known. I wonder, what will the Holy reveal to you during this season of unveiling?

Throughout the Advent season, you are invited to participate in the Advent Photo-A-Day Challenge. In the Spire and in the church at the Welcome Table, you will find a list of words for each day of Advent that will help you prepare your heart for the revelations of this season. Each day, notice the word of the day.

Take a photo of something related to the word of the day, and share it to this file:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/18uut1kbd58k4r0gxvb3z/h?dl=0&rlkey=abht7s7cku0ob7v5qrddyje4d>.

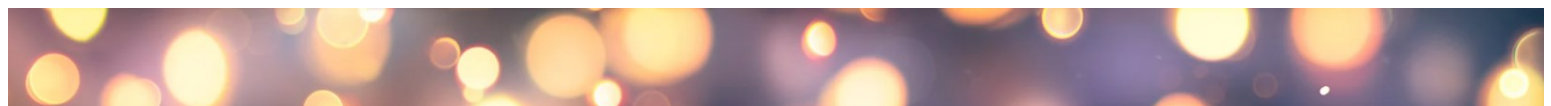
Or, post it on social media and tag @SeattleFirstBaptistChurch and use the hashtag #adventphotoaday2022.

I also have to acknowledge that this season of the year is a tender time for many, as griefs are brought to the surface, as mental health struggles increase, as traumas are replayed by people visiting their families of origin. For so many reasons, winter and the holiday season can be very difficult. I, like many of you, have lost loved ones during this time of year. And so, I urge you to be tender with yourself. Do what you need to do to get through. Remember to rest your body, mind and spirit. If you don't feel joyful, that's ok. Your feelings are valid. You may wish to find a Blue Christmas service to attend or find the Advent Taizé services contemplative and soothing. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or another friend in the congregation if you need someone to listen to you and hold the complexity of the season with you.

Through these times of transition, the surprises and frustrations, the heartache and pain, the celebrations and life events we've marked together, thank you for being a church. YOU make us a church family; with the love you share and the learnings that grow us all. I am grateful to be in ministry with each of you.

Dear church, Happy Advent. Merry Christmas.
I love you, and I love being your pastor.

—Rev. Anita Peebles



ARE YOU A SENIOR OR YOUNGER ADULT WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANNING FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE END-OF-LIFE?



This may not be everyone’s favorite topic, but it is one that **all adults need to think about**. None of us wants to end up receiving treatments that are against our wishes, or having virtually no say in the quality-vs-quantity-of-life issues most of us will face at some point. The majority, if not all, of us want to make our own choices whenever possible, and in order for that to happen, we need to get some ducks in a row as early as we can. To learn more, please join us:

THIS SUNDAY, November 20th at 2pm on Zoom

An Introduction to Advance Planning and End of Life Options

*Presented by representatives of End of Life Washington
Sponsored jointly by SFBC Senior Ministries and Small Groups Ministry*

INTERGENERATIONAL GODLY PLAY!

For many of us, the Time with Children—especially when it is a Godly Play story—is a highlight of the Sunday morning service. Do you ever wish you could be a young child experiencing such wonderful and creative spiritual learning opportunities? Perhaps, like me, you remember “Sunday School” as being much less fun. **Well, this is your chance, adults!** Join us on Sunday mornings during Advent (**November 27 – December 18**) for a time of Intergenerational Godly Play in the Church Parlor from **9:30-10:30**.



**THANKSGIVING VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
NOVEMBER 24, 11AM - NOON**

Maybe you’re spending Thanksgiving Day alone. Maybe you are spending time with family, but in light of that you’d love to check in with your SFBC family first. Maybe this is a tough holiday because of recent losses. Maybe you just like to hang out with people who care about you. No matter your reason, consider joining Cherry Johnson on Zoom for this time of fellowship and fun on the holiday. Stay for 5 minutes or for the whole hour.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86850817707>



IF YOU LOVE THEATER...

The **Play Reading Circle**, which started in October, meets on the first Saturday of each month from 3-5pm on Zoom. So far, the response has been great, and participants report having a splendid time. On December 3rd we will finish reading *Spoon River Anthology* as well as a play called *O Come Let Us Adore Him* which gives the backstory of several Christmas carols. If you enjoy being on the big screen (well—the little screen of your electronic device perhaps) and being theatrical with others, this is the group for you. But you will need copies of the scripts! To obtain these, e-mail smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or call the church office (206-325-6051). We look forward to seeing you!



**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
6PM IN THE SANCTUARY**

Candlelight guides the way to the manger as we remember how Jesus was born in a humble stable, and as we do our best to live the revelation of hope, joy, peace and love every day. All ages welcome. Candles provided for adults, and glow-sticks provided for young worshippers.

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
11AM IN THE SANCTUARY**

Christmas is on a Sunday this year! Gather together with your church family for a celebratory and interactive worship service. Christmas pajamas and festive sweaters encouraged! Bring yourself and your loved ones to celebrate the joy of the day! All ages welcome!

COOKIE BAKING FOR OUR ELDERS

On Saturday, December 3 from 10-12, the Congregational Care Committee and the children and youth will gather to bake cookies for our elderly congregants and neighbors. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen, then share a sack lunch together. Contact Darla O'Brian for more information.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets Wednesday, December 7 and 21 from 6:30-8 in the Youth Room. If anyone would like to make dinner for our youth, please contact Pastor Anita.



GUEST PREACHER SPOTLIGHT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BAPTIST
PEACE FELLOWSHIP OF NORTH AMERICA
BAUTISTAS POR LA PAZ

Rev. Jason Smith has been a part of churches, movements and small groups of people committed to changing the world. After participating in the 2017 Peace Camp in Toluca, Mexico, and experiencing a truly spiritual moment with other peacemakers, he was deeply called to join BPFNA~Baptists for Peace as a peacemaker.

Previously Jason served remotely as director of strategic donations for Sojourners, working to strengthen relationships with major donors and building support for Sojourners. Before this Jason was a development specialist with the Alliance of Baptists; he also served as adjunct professor at the Sutton School of Social Sciences at the Ouachita Baptist University. Jason also works in ministry as a part-time pastor for the First Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia, and preaching at the First Presbyterian Church, Gurdon, Arkansas.

Jason completed postgraduate studies at the Wesley Theological Seminary ('14, M.Div.) in Washington, D.C., where he focused on urban ministry. He was ordained at Calvary Baptist Church in D.C. in 2014. He's a member of the board of directors of Interfaith Arkansas. He's also served on the board of BPFNA~Bautistas por la Paz.

Jason grew up in Costa Rica as the son of Baptist missionaries. He continues participating in special collaborative projects with communities of faith in Latin America, including Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico and Panama. He and his spouse, Myra, live in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, where Myra is an associate professor of history in the Baptist University of Ouachita with an emphasis in the legal and constitutional history of South Africa. They have four children and share their home with a dog and a cat. For fun, Jason travels, watches Ted Lasso, cheers on the Little Rock Rangers and tries to play the piano like Elton John.

Learn more about BPFNA~Bautistas por la Paz at bpfna.org, and prepare to welcome him as our preacher on December 18.

ADVENT TAIZÉ SERVICES



The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastery in Taizé, Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who hail from over thirty countries. They live simply, and make their home available to visitors from all over the world. Young people, especially, flock to this place in search of spiritual nourishment and peace. Our own Pastor Anita spent some time there. This community has composed, over time, a large body of contemplative music designed to help the participant commune with the Sacred, each in their own way.

Here at SFBC, we have hosted a number of Taizé services over the years. Those who participate speak of finding moments of peace in the midst of their otherwise chaotic or stressful lives. Pastor Anita will be hosting such services on Thursday evening during Advent. No sermons, no announcements—just quiet time singing/chanting together, listening to sacred texts and engaging in prayer and reflection. Consider joining us for this brief weekly time of contemplation and community during the Advent season. Come experience the Sacred.

Advent Taizé Services

Thursdays 6:30-7:15pm

December 1, 8 & 15 on Zoom only

December 22 in the Parlor and on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87355272382>



**Help decorate
our Christmas
Trees!**

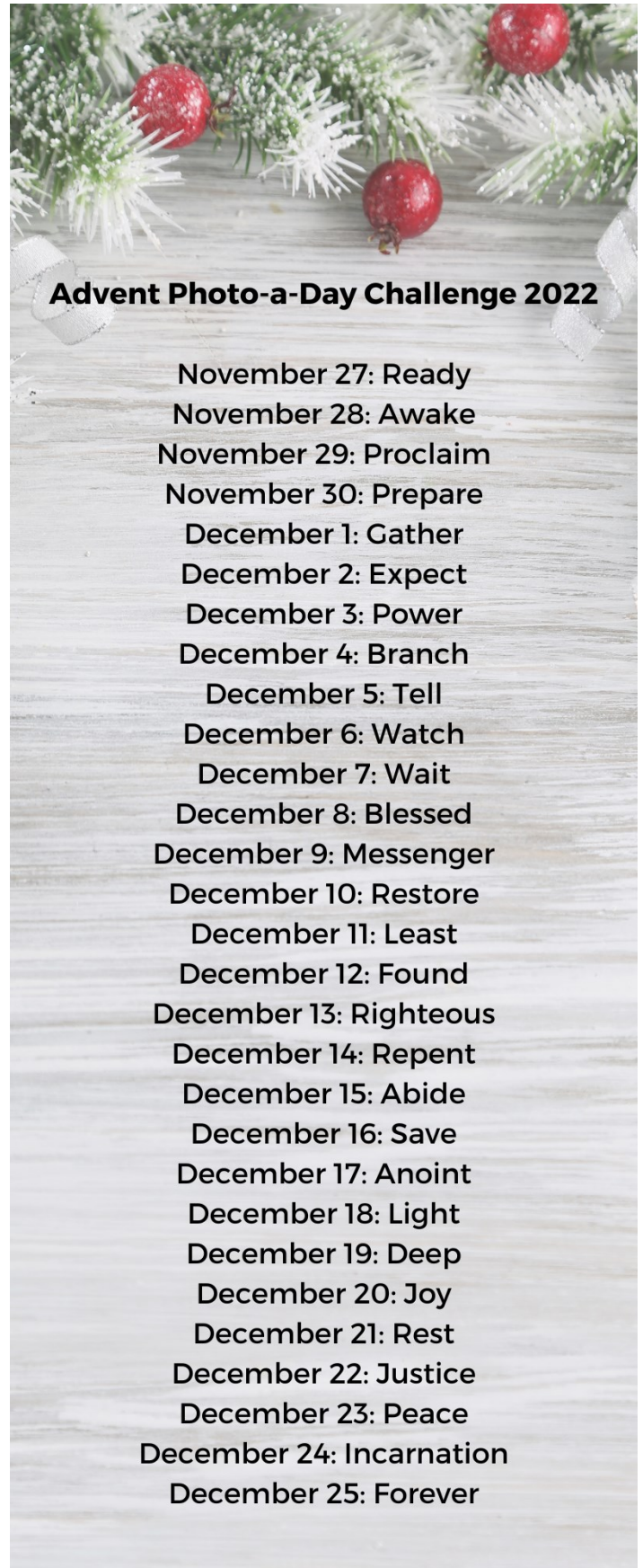
**Sunday,
December 4th
after the service.**

Pizza provided!

**PINT WITH A PASTOR:
CHRISTMAS EDITION
AT OPTIMISM BREWING**

**Wednesday, December 14 from 5-6:30pm
Drop in anytime!**

Join Pastor Anita at Optimism Brewing Company (1158 Broadway) for a Pint with a Pastor: Christmas Edition! Wear your Christmas sweater and gather to share some light snacks. Alcoholic beverages are available for individual purchase, and non-alcoholic beverages are welcome to be brought in.



Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge 2022

- November 27: Ready
- November 28: Awake
- November 29: Proclaim
- November 30: Prepare
- December 1: Gather
- December 2: Expect
- December 3: Power
- December 4: Branch
- December 5: Tell
- December 6: Watch
- December 7: Wait
- December 8: Blessed
- December 9: Messenger
- December 10: Restore
- December 11: Least
- December 12: Found
- December 13: Righteous
- December 14: Repent
- December 15: Abide
- December 16: Save
- December 17: Anoint
- December 18: Light
- December 19: Deep
- December 20: Joy
- December 21: Rest
- December 22: Justice
- December 23: Peace
- December 24: Incarnation
- December 25: Forever



10,000 Christmas lights, 400 luminaria



Santa Claus!!



Candy canes and hot apple cider

All are welcome!

Bring your family, friends, and loved ones!

Saturday, December 10th

5-7 PM

Celebration of Light and Joy



Christmas carol sing-along with choir and brass



Wreaths and garland



Snow every 15 minutes!

Corner of Harvard and Seneca

Our gift to the Community

Sponsored by Seattle First Baptist



CELEBRATION OF LIGHT AND JOY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 5-7PM

The Celebration of Light and Joy hosted by Seattle First Baptist Church is back once again on Saturday, December 10th and you won't want to miss this newest tradition. Join us on the corner of Harvard & Seneca anytime between 5:00-7:00pm and take in all the holiday cheer: Santa, Christmas lights, warm beverages, a carol sing-along with choir and brass, and more. It may even snow! Come and admire the beautiful decorations, sing carols of the season, check out kids' activities or just hang out and have fun. In addition to our congregation, many of last year's attendees live in the neighborhood; this Christmas celebration is one of the many ways we reach out and give back to the community, so please come and meet your neighbors! This is not a worship service with a sermon—it is a time for fellowship, community and joy as we celebrate the season.

All are welcome to join us as we share the light and joy! Parking is available on the lower level of the Harvard Market Garage. Seattle First Baptist Church celebrates and affirms all of our LGBTQIA+ ministers, staff, members, friends, and neighbors.





**SEATTLE JAZZ VESPERS
21ST SEASON**

**CONCERT SPOTLIGHT:
BLUESTREET VOICES**

December 4, 2022 at 6pm

BlueStreet Voices presents their own musical stamp on the season with foot stomping, snazzy, jazzy holiday tunes and standards directed by nationally renowned, Dave Barduhn and accompanied by the talented and accomplished jazz pianist and band leader Nick Moore.

BlueStreet Voices is an 18-mixed voice, vocal jazz ensemble based out of Seattle, WA that performs tunes with a professional trio. At our Seattle Jazz Vespers concert, you may hear everything from swinging jazz standards to creatively arranged contemporary pop hits, including Latin, blues, gospel, and rich ballads.

For January 2023, our concert date has been moved to January 8, 2023 because of the New Year holiday.

Seattle Jazz Vespers will feature the Darrius Willrich Quartet. An internationally acclaimed soul singer, trained jazz pianist and intelligent songwriter, Darrius Willrich delivers feel good music drawn from a wide skill spectrum. His uplifting messages encouraging love of life and his sweetly lyrical, harmonically rich sound have made him a much sought after performer.

Seattle Jazz Vespers presents a secular concert of professional jazz music, for those who love jazz, with an inspirational message. The first Sunday of every month, October through June at 6pm.



SMALL GROUPS SCHEDULE for ADVENT and BEYOND



REMEMBER: New participants are welcome in all of these groups at any time! There are three places where you can find the zoom links, descriptions and time schedules for small groups: on the church calendar (on our website seattlefirstbaptist.org), in the electronic publication THIS WEEK, and here in THE SPIRE. If you have questions or thoughts about the Small Groups Ministry, email smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org or call the church office (206-325-6051).

Saturday 11/19 Men's Group 10-11:30am
For Zoom link, contact Dick Johnson:
reldejohs@comcast.net

Sunday 11/20 BIPOC Group 4-5pm with
Rev. Doug Avilesbernal on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85036603078>

Monday 11/21 Brave Space 6-7pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81180960514>

Tuesday 11/22 Prayer Group Noon on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776242649>

Tuesday 11/22 Legacies Group 1:30-3pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86065659153>
NOTE: Legacies Group is moving to a 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays 1:30-3 schedule after this session.

Thursday 11/24 NO BIBLE STUDY
on Thanksgiving Day

Thursday 11/24 Thanksgiving Virtual Open House 11am-Noon on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86850817707>

Saturday 11/26 Men's Group 10-11:30am
For Zoom link, contact Dick Johnson:
reldejohs@comcast.net

Saturday 11/26 Women's Conversations 11:30am-12:30pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89163623743>

Sunday 11/27 Advent Intergenerational Godly Play 9:30-10:30am in the Church Parlor

Sunday 11/27 Interfaith Climate Action-First Hill 6:30-8pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81420918394>

Tuesday 11/29 Prayer Group Noon on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776242649>

Thursday 12/1 Bible Study Noon-1pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>

Thursday 12/1 Advent Taizé Service 6:30-7:15pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87355272382>

Saturday 12/3 Men's Group 10-11:30am
For Zoom link, contact Dick Johnson:
reldejohs@comcast.net

Saturday 12/3 Intergenerational Cookie-Bake! 10am-noon in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday 12/3 Play Reading Circle 3-5pm on Zoom. See separate article.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85424372570>

Sunday 12/4 Advent Intergenerational Godly Play 9:30-10:30am in the Church Parlor

Monday 12/5 Brave Space 6-7pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81180960514>

Tuesday 12/6 Prayer Group Noon on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776242649>

Tuesday 12/6 Legacies Group 1:30-3pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86065659153>

Thursday 12/8 Bible Study Noon-1pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>

Thursday 12/8 Advent Taizé Service 6:30-7:15pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87355272382>

Saturday 12/10 Men's Group 10-11:30am
For Zoom link, contact Dick Johnson:
reldejohns@comcast.net

Saturday 12/10 Women's Conversations 11:30am-12:30pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89163623743>

Sunday 12/11 Advent Intergenerational Godly Play 9:30-10:30am in the Church Parlor

Sunday 12/11 Friendship Circle 2pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87396272439>

Tuesday 12/13 Prayer Group Noon on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776242649>

Tuesday 12/13 Environmental Book Study Join Keith Ervin for a discussion of *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* by Andreas Malm 7-8:30pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84516549578>

Thursday 12/15 Bible Study Noon on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>

Thursday 12/15 Advent Taizé Service 6:30-7:15pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87355272382>

Thursday 12/15 Roamin' Catholics – This session postponed to 12/29

Saturday 12/17 Men's Group 10-11:30am
For Zoom link, contact Dick Johnson:
reldejohns@comcast.net

Sunday 12/18 Advent Intergenerational Godly Play 9:30-10:30am in the Church Parlor

Sunday 12/18 Reproductive Justice & Faith 12:30pm at SFBC in Fridell & simultaneously on Zoom <https://washington.zoom.us/j/98270878634>

Sunday 12/18 BIPOC Group 4-5pm on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85036603078>

Monday 12/19 Brave Space 6-7pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81180960514>

Tuesday 12/20 Prayer Group Noon on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776242649>

Tuesday 12/20 Legacies Group 1:30-3pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86065659153>

Thursday 12/22 Bible Study Noon on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86761779225>

Thursday 12/22 Advent Taizé Service 6:30-7:15pm in the Church Parlor; simultaneously on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87355272382>

Sometimes things change—group cancellations or times or new links. For up-to-date information, read the THIS WEEK electronic newsletter which comes out on Thursdays. If you are not subscribed to this and wish to be, call the church office or sign up via the website.

FACILITIES TASK FORCE UPDATE NOVEMBER 2022

The long-range planning Facilities Task Force has completed nearly two years of work aimed at ensuring that our property and buildings support our mission, core programs and activities. That work has resulted in a partnership currently with Meriwether and Associates, who on our behalf — with approval of the Council of Ministries and encouragement of the congregation at our July forum — sent out a Request for Interest (RFI) to determine what appetite there might be in the development community for partnering with us in redeveloping our property, if the congregation so chooses.

We are now waiting to hear what the response to the RFI has been, and the Council of Ministries has asked the Task Force to continue in operation to receive and evaluate any partnership interest and report on it to the Council. The Council, in turn, will assess any proposals in light of our community's Mission and Values to see if any development options provide a path for ministry going forward, considering the size, energy and financial capacity of our congregation. We are always grateful for questions or input.

(FTF members include Brian Ross, Daryl de la Cruz, Gary Davis, Pat Kile, Linda Zaugg, Danny de la Cruz, John Chenault, Harriet Platts, Eric Watness, and Rev. Anita Peebles)



Joyful! Noise
presents

A Winter
Lullaby

Sunday, December 18th
3 p.m.

Monday, December 19th
7:30 p.m.

Seattle First Baptist Church,
1111 Harvard Ave.

Tickets available at the door.
Adults/\$25; Seniors and Students/\$20;
Groups of 10+/\$12 each; Under 12/free.

www.JoyfulNoiseSeattle.org

Join **Joyful! Noise** and our SFBC members Belle Chenault, Phil Mortenson, Gail and Walt Foster, Darla O'Brian, Nancy Roberts Brown, Michael Miller and Darren Hochstedler, as well as instrumentalists Christian Broughton and Pastor Anita Peebles, for our concert "A Winter Lullaby." Hear songs by Sara Bareilles, Ola Gjeilo, Coldplay and Marc Cohn, and many more as we reflect on what makes this season so special and fills the heart. We can't wait to see you there!

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Our Mission Statement

We are a community of faith united in exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ, to be a people of God, and to love and care for our neighbors. As a church we will know no circles of exclusion, no bridges we will not cross, and no loyalties above that which we owe to God.

2022 OFFICERS AND CHURCH LEADERS

OFFICERS

President: Megan Walker

Vice President: Dick Miller

Treasurer: Metta Williams

Secretary: Eric Watness

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Inola de la Cruz

David Delgado

Martha Hopley

Nirmala Jeldi

Bob Sittig

Christine Warren

David Young

For more information please contact the church at contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Service at 11 a.m. in-person and online

Seattle First Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle WA 98112

Phone: 206-325-6051

Online: www.seattlefirstbaptist.org
facebook.com/SeattleFirstBaptist/
instagram.com/seattlefirstbaptist/

Submissions for the Spire are due by the 20th of the month prior. All submissions should be sent to editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

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SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1111 HARVARD AVE
SEATTLE, WA 98122-4261



Interfaith Service
WORLD AIDS DAY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
6:00 PM Educational Vendors | 7:00 PM Service
PLYMOUTH CHURCH | 1217 SIXTH AVE | SEATTLE 98101



COME LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER

Black people accounted for 42% of new HIV diagnoses in the US in 2019.

--<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/raciaethnic/africanamericans/diagnoses.html>



Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton
New Beginning Christian Fellowship
Keynote Speaker

ORGANIZERS:



For more information contact Dr. Renee McCoy, Reneem@AARTH.org