

# THE SPIRE

## WINTER 2026



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
VOLUME 90, NO. 1

## CURL-DOVE BABY SHOWER DECEMBER 2025



Thank you all so much for celebrating with us at our baby shower on Sunday! We had a wonderful time and felt so much love and support from each one of you. We are deeply grateful for your generosity that allowed for both a stroller and pack-n-play to be gifted. We have also loved reading your notes of encouragement. It is wonderful to know and see how much you all already love our daughter. We want to say a special thank you to Pastor Anita, Sue Ross, Janet Hasselblad, and Megan Walker for planning the shower. Thank you all for your love and support!

Peace,  
*Pastor Leigh and Keith*

## LUNCH WITH SANTA DECEMBER 7, 2025



ADVENT AMONG THE GENERATIONS  
SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 2025



Christmas carol sing-a-long led by our SFBC  
Sanctuary Choir



Advent Candle Lighting, December 2025

## HOLIDAY CONCERTS AT SFBC DECEMBER 2025

In December, Seattle First Baptist Church hosted the following groups for their holiday season concerts:

- Bellevue Chamber Chorus
- Northwest Chamber Chorus
- Seattle Girls Choir with The Byrd Ensemble
- Seattle Bach Festival
- Seattle Classical Christian School
- Seattle Jazz Vespers
- Seattle Pro Musica
- Seattle University Choirs



Bellevue Chamber Chorus, Ben Luedcke, director,  
December 14, 2025



Seattle Classical Christian School, December 8, 2026

## SEATTLE JAZZ VESPERS JACQUELINE TABOR QUINTET JANUARY 4, 2026



*SFBC Small Groups and other organizations that use  
our facilities may submit photos for this newsletter to  
editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org*

**THE ORDINATION OF JOHN MALCOMSON  
TO CHRISTIAN CHAPLAINCY  
JANUARY 18, 2026**



Ash Wednesday in Hintz Chapel, February 18, 2026



John Malcomson with Pastor Anita Peebles



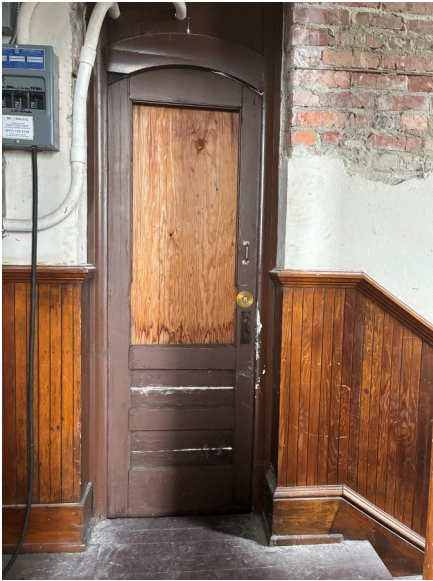
Youth Group building gingerbread houses,  
December, 2025



John Malcomson, Evergreen Executive Associate  
Minister Rev. Paul Schneider, and Pastor Anita  
Peebles

## NEW TOWER DOOR

Special Thanks to Bob Sittig! Many of you will not recognize this door and you may never see it but at the top of the Seneca tower, across from the original pastor's office, is a door that leads to the roof of the sanctuary. In the "old days" before the development of downtown, you could stand at this door and see all the way to the bay. Well, after more than 100+ years of PNW weather, the door was in bad shape. Bob stepped up to hand build a door very similar to the original design. We are blessed to have faithful members who give so much of their time to help us keep the SFBC buildings functional and beautiful. Thank you, Bob! If you ever want to see some of the lesser traveled areas of SFBC, find Bob or Darren or contact the church office, we'd be happy to give you the tour!



Tower door after



Tower door before



SFBC Men's Group

## SFBC OPTIMISM HOUR AT STOUP BREWING



Kira Walmsley receives the 2025 Volunteer Recognition Award

## CARTOGRAPHY OF TENDERNESS

Imagine a news reporter pointing to a map of the world. You give an audible sigh and think to yourself “what’s happened now?” However, instead of bad news and speaking of violence and tragedy around the world, the reporter speaks of cities and communities holding a global Poetry Marathon. Dozens, or hundreds of people gathering to read and listen to poetry together. They’re in parks, on street corners, inside churches and community centers.

That’s the idea initiated by the Global View Foundation of Ecuador. After the isolation and restrictions of the COVID Pandemic it was important to reclaim public spaces that had been off limits. Instead of a Geography of Fear—which had become the norm—they wanted to create a Geography of Tenderness. In 2022, people gathered for the first time to share poetry. Young, old, poor and wealthy listening to one another read, “highlighting the importance of sharing the Word as a means to build societies of social justice.”

Seattle First Baptist Church and our surrounding community is going to join in with our friends from Ecuador, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Arizona, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Chile. We are going to have a number of activities during this year that we can do together in anticipation and preparation for the Poetry Marathon in October.

The “Co-Ambassadors of Peace” for Seattle are Pastor Anita and Janet Hasselblad. We will be attending monthly Zoom meetings with our cohorts from the countries mentioned. And we will be inviting you to join us as we create a Geography of Tenderness within and outside our walls.

*On the Cover:  
BelleVue Chamber Chorus conducted by  
SFBC Music Minister Ben Luedcke*

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#### 2026 COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

Sue Ross, *President*

David Greenhow, *Vice President*

Joanne Wright, *Secretary*

Roger Garratt, *Treasurer*

Daryl de la Cruz

Cherry Johnson

Brent Marble

Kira Walmsley

Sunday service at 11:00am

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[seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://seattlefirstbaptist.org)

[YouTube.com/SeattleFirstBaptistChurch/](https://www.youtube.com/SeattleFirstBaptistChurch/)

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