



# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 • 11:00 AM

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Aberlemno Stone #3 in Angus, Scotland, c. 900

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**This Is God's House. All Are Welcome.**

# Welcome to Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us.

The cover of this bulletin reads, “This Is God’s House. All Are Welcome.” We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike; God knows we don’t all think alike. We don’t all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, gathered in the Sanctuary and online, we worship together as one.

In this grand old church, we do Sunday morning in some pretty traditional (very Presbyterian) ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We sing many of the same hymns our grandparents sang. Yet, in our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. I hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

After the service, please stick around. Introduce yourself to one of our clergy or someone at our Welcome Table. We have lots of programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

Scott Black Johnston  
Senior Pastor

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## ➔ New to Fifth Avenue?

Please fill out the welcome card you will find in your pew. Place the card in the offering plate, hand it to an usher, or drop it off at the Welcome Table (inside the Fifth Avenue entrance). You may also complete the welcome form online at [fapc.org/welcome](http://fapc.org/welcome). Our friends at the Welcome Table can provide you with information about our ministries, programs and volunteer opportunities.

## ➔ Large-Print Bulletins

Please speak with an usher if you would like to use a large-print bulletin or hymnal to follow the service.

## ➔ Families with Children

Children are always welcome! You will find children’s Bibles in the first 10 rows of pews on the far north side of the Sanctuary (to the right when looking down the aisle). Ushers can also provide children’s bulletins and worship bags. If you need to leave the service with your child, the ushers can direct you to the nearest changing table and livestream monitor. Every Sunday, we provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. There is Sunday school for children in preschool through 5th grade at 9:30 am and Children’s Church for children in preschool through 2nd grade at 11:15 am.

## ➔ Worship Resources Online

A replay of today’s service will be available this afternoon at [fapc.org/playback](http://fapc.org/playback). This morning’s Prayers of the People can be found at [fapc.org/pray](http://fapc.org/pray). Details about the upcoming service each week can be found at [fapc.org/this-sunday](http://fapc.org/this-sunday). For information about future worship services, visit [fapc.org/worship](http://fapc.org/worship).

## ➔ Parking

We have a parking arrangement with the garage at 51 W. 56th St. For \$16, you may park for up to three hours, seven days a week. Please provide your mobile phone number or an email address to the staff person at the 55th Street reception desk. You will receive a QR code to use at the garage. (The garage no longer provides physical validation stickers.)

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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*As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.  
Please **silence all electronic devices** and **do not take flash photos** during the service.*

PRELUDE

Master Tallis's Testament • *Herbert Howells* (1892–1983)

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

*Elder Roseanne Lind*

*from the Iona Community, Scotland*

One: Way beyond all journeying,  
Truth behind all mystery,  
Life within all living:

**All: We praise you.**

One: Salve for every soreness,  
mender of every brokenness,  
midwife of a better future:

**All: We praise you.**

One: Ground of all being,  
judge of every nation,  
conscience of the universe,

**All: We praise you.**

One: Maker, Messiah,  
confessor, companion,  
befriender, inspirer,  
God beyond all names,

**All: We praise you.**

One: Let us worship the Holy One, tender and just.

\* HYMN

O God, beyond All Praising

1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor - ship you to - day  
 2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
 3 Then, hear O gra - cious Sav - ior, this song of praise we sing.

and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;  
 its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you our God most high;  
 May we, who know your fa - vor, our hum - ble ser - vice bring;

for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry give you send,  
 but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown,  
 and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:  
 though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:  
 we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
 for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
 and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Music: Gustav Holst, 1916 – THAXTED. Words: Michael Perry, ca. 1982.  
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\* CALL TO CONFESSION

*The Rev. Chris Palmer*

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
 in thought, word and deed, by what we have done,  
 and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
 help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,  
 so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
 to the glory of your holy name.**

*Silent Reflection and Confession*

\* SUNG RESPONSE

*Cantor* Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. *All* Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.  
*Cantor* Chri - ste e - lei - son. *All* Chri - ste e - lei - son.  
*Cantor* Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. *All* Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Music: John L. Bell, 1998.  
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\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;  
 light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death.  
 Vic-tory is ours; vic-tory is ours through God who loves us. us.

Music: John L. Bell, 1996. Text: Desmond Tutu, 1994.  
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\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.  
 All: **And also with you.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*The Rev. Werner Ramirez*

Baptismal Questions  
 Prayer of Thanksgiving  
 Baptism

\* CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's Church;  
 for we are all one in Christ.**

**We promise to love, encourage and support you,  
 to share the good news of the gospel with you,  
 and to help you know and follow Christ.**

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*Choir and Congregation*

\* SUNG RESPONSE

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;  
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children  
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

*Children (pre-K through second grade) are invited to exit the Sanctuary for Children's Church.  
If this is your child's first time at Fifth Avenue, please accompany them downstairs.*

LITANY OF PARTING

**All:            May God be with you there.  
Children:    May God be with you here.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike*

ANTHEM

Behold, O God, Our Defender • *Herbert Howells*  
*Text: Psalm 84:9-10*

Behold, O God our defender,  
And look upon the face of thine anointed.  
For one day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

**1 Samuel 4:15-21**

Now Eli was ninety-eight years old and his eyes were set, so that he could not see. The man said to Eli, "I have just come from the battle; I fled from the battle today." He said, "How did it go, my son?" The messenger replied, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also been a great slaughter among the troops; your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured." When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years.

Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. When she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth; for her labor pains overwhelmed her. As she was about to die, the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer or give heed. She named the child Ichabod, meaning, "The glory has departed from Israel," because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

**1 Samuel 7:8-12**

The people of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, and pray that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines." So Samuel took a sucking lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord; Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him. As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel; but the Lord thundered with a mighty voice that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion; and they were routed before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and struck them down as far as beyond Beth-car. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah, and named it Ebenezer; for he said, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

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One: This is the Word of God; for the People of God.  
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston*

**“Ichabod & Ebenezer”**

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (USA)*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. Amen.**

\* HYMN 329

**God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Rev. Werner Ramirez*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Jubilate Deo • Herbert Howells*

*Text: Psalm 100*

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:  
Serve the Lord with gladness,  
And come before his presence with a song.  
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:  
It is He that hath made us,  
And not we ourselves;  
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,  
And into his courts with praise.  
Be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.  
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting:  
And his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
World without end. Amen.

\* DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

\* HYMN 475

**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

\* BENEDICTION

*Please remain in your pew until the conclusion of the Choral Response.*

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

God Be with You Till We Meet Again  
*Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*  
*Text by Jeremiah Eames Rankin (1828–1904)*

God be with you till we meet again;  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

Fanfare for Organ • *Richard Proulx (1937–2010)*

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The ministry of music this morning is offered by the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Choir  
Dr. Ryan Jackson, *William S. Perper Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries*  
Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist*

## WORSHIP NOTES

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Herbert Howells was one of the most influential composers of English choral music in the 20th century. Born in Gloucestershire in 1892, Howells began his musical studies with the great Herbert Brewer at Gloucester Cathedral. In 1912, he won an open scholarship at the Royal College of Music, where he studied with Charles Villiers Stanford and Charles Wood, joining the faculty himself in 1920. He succeeded Gustav Holst in 1936 as Director of Music at St. Paul's Girls School (a post he held until 1962), and was appointed Professor of Music at London University in 1950.

In November 1952, Howells was invited to compose a short introit for the coronation service of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953. The text was to be two verses from Psalm 84 beginning with, "Behold, O God our defender." Howells finished composing the piece at the end of that year on Christmas Day, and the results were stunning. Although it is relatively short, "Behold, O God Our Defender" is a gem containing many of the musical qualities that made Howells one of the greatest choral composers of the 20th-century: long, soaring vocal phrases; evocative modal harmonies; and the uncanny capacity to evoke both breathtaking grandeur and profoundly personal piety almost simultaneously. This piece is a highlight of the great English choral tradition.



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The setting of the *Jubilate Deo* sung this morning was composed as the second in a set of two morning canticles (along with a famous setting of the *Te Deum*) that Howells wrote for the choir of King's College, Cambridge (known in Latin as *Collegium Regale*). This collaboration turned out to be remarkably fruitful: in addition to the morning canticles, Howells composed a set of evening canticles (*Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*) for the King's College choir, as well as a setting of the complete Anglican communion liturgy. Howells' evocative and utterly distinctive compositional voice is at the very height of its maturity in these pieces, and their sound arguably redefined the aesthetics of church music going forward.

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## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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**Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Valdiva and William Furey, rejoicing over their marriage on September 20, 2024.**

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### **If You Are in Need of Prayer**

Deacons (wearing white stoles) are available to pray with you after the service. Your prayers are confidential unless you request that they be shared with our Congregational Care staff. You may also complete a prayer request card (available in the pews and at the entrances) and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. You may submit prayer requests online at [fapc.org/prayer-requests](http://fapc.org/prayer-requests).

### **Please pray for:**

Ann Alexander, Pat Backus, Patricia Blair, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad  
Bob Butter, Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Pastor Toribio Cajiuat, Ella Calderon  
Denise Campbell, Nina S. Campbell, Phoebe Chiu, Sookjoong Choi, Anne Coffey, Dr. Johanna Cook  
Eugenia Connerat, Edna Craddock, William Cuffee, Athanassia Doucas, Sherian Edgreen  
David Elissa and Barbara Mitchell, Michael Elissa, Narmella Elissa, Sohn Fong, Irene P. Gilman  
Anthea and Neville Graham, Florence Hall, Torian Hall, Wanda Roush Hannan, Peter S. Hawkins  
Christopher Henderson, Donna Marie Henderson, Maggie Hendrix, Emi Iwaida, Juliet Kaldanie  
Frederick Loomis, Louis Sterling King, Ceciwa Khonje, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson  
Mary Lowry, Violet Lorenzen, Lauren Ma, The McCall Family, Gerry Nagy, Frank Owarish  
Dexter Ramcharan, Don Rogers, Ramon Rosa, Pauline Sample, Robert Scheuer, Nancy Seelig  
Tshombe Selby, Taylor Shultz, Bonnie Smith, Monica Smith, Spencer Robert Smith  
Willie Gerald Smith, Frieda Sompotan, Neva Strom, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither  
Susan Tobiason, Henny Waisapy, Bill Wanek, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks, Sylvia Winrich  
Deborah Wurgler, Doris Wurgler, Priscilla Young-Rodgers, Wayne Zhou

### **Faithful Departed:**

June 27, 2024: Letitia Celeste Wright, beloved cousin of Lillian Jackson.

August 9, 2024: Paul Bruce Mitchell, Sr., beloved cousin of Lillian Jackson.

August 18, 2024: Bernice A. Brown, beloved cousin of Lillian Jackson.

Sept. 18, 2024: Joshua Goode, nephew of Charlotte Kidd.

If you would like to add a name to the church prayer list or the list of faithful departed, please contact Natalie Wardius ([congregationalcare@fapc.org](mailto:congregationalcare@fapc.org), 212.247.0490).

## CALENDAR

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### Today

- 9:30 am** **Chapel Church.** Jones Auditorium.  
**Little Lambs Nursery & Sunday School.** Christian Education Center.
- 10:15 am** **Children's Choir.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.  
**Parents Community Group.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 11 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.  
**Youth Group.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 11:15 am** **Children's Church & Communion Class.** Christian Education Center.
- 12:15 pm** **Coffee Hour & Adult Education.** Bonnell Hall. Join us after worship for a cup of coffee and "From Echo Chambers to Empathy," the Adult Ed kickoff event.  
**Tour of the Church.** After worship, look for a docent in the back of the Sanctuary with a "tour starts here" sign.
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### This Week

- Tue Sep 24** **Memorial service for Carol Spomer.** 1 pm • Sanctuary.  
**Theatre Fellowship wine & cheese reception.** 7 pm • Weber Terrace. All theater lovers welcome!
- Wed Sep 25** **Community Choir.** 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All voices are welcome!  
**Asian-American Bible Study.** 6:30 pm • 6th Floor Conference Room & Zoom.  
**FAYA Midweek.** 6:30 pm • The Living Room. To learn more, contact [youngadults@fapc.org](mailto:youngadults@fapc.org)
- Thu Sep 26** **Career Directions.** 10 am • Zoom. Visit [fapc.org/community-groups](http://fapc.org/community-groups) to learn more and to sign up.  
**Memorial Service for Philip Snyman.** 11 am • Sanctuary.
- Fri Sep 27** **Parents Night Out.** 6 pm • Weber Terrace.  
**Youth Last Friday Meetup.** 7 pm • Christian Education Center.
- Sat Sep 28** **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Volunteers prepare and deliver weekend meals to homebound seniors. New volunteers are welcome and needed!  
Contact: John Wyatt ([moh@fapc.org](mailto:moh@fapc.org)).

### Coming Up

- Sun Sep 29** **Bagels & Bible.** 6th Floor Conference Room. Calling all those 40+ to join the Rev. Dr. Jonah So for bagels & Bible study.

### Next Sunday • Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Bend the Knee" • 1 Samuel 8:1-22

*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.*

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Baptized Today**

Irina Sansigre, child of Elena and Manuel Sansigre.

### **Today: From Echo Chambers to Empathy: Navigating Election Conversations with Pantsuit Politics**

Join us for our Fall Adult Education Kickoff! We'll be virtually joined by Pantsuit Politics founders Sarah and Beth. Together, we'll delve into navigating grace-filled conversations amidst the heated atmosphere of the current election climate. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and tools for fostering understanding and empathy in our community. This event will take place at 12:30 pm in Bonnell Hall and on Zoom. Food will be served in Bonnell. Please visit [fapc.org/adult-ed](http://fapc.org/adult-ed) to register for Zoom.

### **Tuesday, September 24: Theatre Fellowship Wine & Cheese Reception.**

The Theatre Fellowship will hold a wine and cheese gathering at 7:00 pm on the Weber Terrace. This event is for everyone interested in our community and who would like to help plan future projects. You do not need to be an actor or stage professional, just a theater lover!

### **Friday, September 27: Youth Group Last Friday Meetup**

Youth of Fifth Avenue, join Rev. Werner Ramirez for pizza, games, and a meaningful devotional time to deepen your faith and connect with each other. These evenings are all about fun, friendship, and growing closer to God in a supportive community. Bring your friends and join us for unforgettable nights of laughter, games, and spiritual growth. To register or learn more, please visit [fapc.org/friday](http://fapc.org/friday).

### **Sunday, September 29: Exploring Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus**

Explore the intersection of faith and social justice through the lens of German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer's experiences of church in 1930s Harlem. His time there deepened his understanding of racial injustice and shaped his courageous leadership upon returning to Nazi Germany. We'll examine how Bonhoeffer's journey highlights the transformative power of faith in ethical leadership and offers invaluable lessons for navigating contemporary challenges. Our guide will be Rev. Dr. Reggie Williams, a respected theologian and author renowned for his expertise in theology, race, and ethics. To learn more and register, please visit [fapc.org/bon](http://fapc.org/bon).

### **Friday, October 4: Youth Fall Retreat**

The semester is going full steam ahead, so maybe you need some time away from the screens, the books and the homework. Youth in grades 6-12, join us for a weekend of hanging out, fall foliage, fun and games in the barn, cooking together, and lots of laughter! The retreat costs \$200 for the weekend, with scholarships available. We depart on Friday evening and return to the church by noon on Sunday. To learn more and register, please visit [fapc.org/retreat](http://fapc.org/retreat).

### **Sunday, October 6: Believing and Belonging Membership Class**

Join us for Believing & Belonging, a new member class. Led by the Rev. Dr. Jonah So and the Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, this class focuses on getting to know one another, learning about the history and mission of this church, and understanding more about the Presbyterian tradition. To find out more, reach out to [membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org) or sign-up at [fapc.org/membership](http://fapc.org/membership).

## GETTING CONNECTED

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### Adult Education

Each spring and fall, we offer courses in theology and Scripture, spirituality, social issues and other disciplines. We offer classes in person, online and via podcast. All classes are free and open to all. Information on upcoming classes is available at [fapc.org/adult-ed](https://fapc.org/adult-ed).

### Community Groups

We have over 20 community groups to help you form closer bonds within the Fifth Avenue family. Options available online and in-person. Learn more at [fapc.org/community-groups](https://fapc.org/community-groups), or email ([membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org)).

### Congregational Care

If you (or someone you know) are going through a difficult time, we are here for you. We are available for counseling, home and hospital visits, medical escorts and prayer. Please visit [fapc.org/care](https://fapc.org/care) to submit a prayer request and learn more about our Congregational Care program.

### Family Ministries

Family Ministries nurtures diverse, strong, faithful families. Our Little Lambs nursery for infants and toddlers is available every Sunday from 9 am to 12:30 pm during the program year (September–May). Sunday School (PreK – 5th Grade) is at 9:30 am and Children’s Church (PreK – 2nd Grade) is following the Litany of Parting during the 11 am worship service during the program year. Youth Group worships at Chapel Church at 9:30 am and meets at 11 am. On the first Sunday of the month, Youth Group worships at both services. Learn more at [fapc.org/family](https://fapc.org/family). Contact: Jaime Staehle (212.247.0490 ext 3003, [familyministries@fapc.org](mailto:familyministries@fapc.org)).

### FAYA | Fifth Avenue Young Adults

FAYA is an open and affirming community for those in their 20s and 30s. During the program year, we meet every Wednesday night for small groups, supper, Bible study and fellowship. Find out more about our weekly gatherings, monthly fellowship events and weekend retreats at [fapc.org/faya](https://fapc.org/faya) or on Instagram [@fapcfaya](https://www.instagram.com/fapcfaya).

### Hybrid Church

Did you know that this church has a vibrant online community? Whether you’re a New Yorker worshipping from home, a longtime member who moved, or a visitor new to our livestream, you are a part of our online campus! There are many ways you can get involved. Don’t miss our virtual small groups, online office hours for pastoral care, retreat programming and seasonal gatherings here at Fifth Avenue. Contact Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike at [hybridchurch@fapc.org](mailto:hybridchurch@fapc.org) for more information.

### Membership

When we say “All are welcome,” we mean it. Whether you live in the neighborhood, or across the country, we welcome you to join our family of faith. Through our Believing and Belonging seminars, you explore what it means to be a part of the Christian church, the Presbyterian tradition and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Whether you’re sure membership is right for you, or you’re just beginning to wonder if this might be your spiritual home, we’d love to have you in an upcoming in-person or online class. Visit [fapc.org/membership](https://fapc.org/membership) or email [membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org) to register.

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## Music & Arts

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is home to a versatile program of music and arts in our worship and community life that endeavors to inspire, challenge and comfort all who encounter it, and to provide opportunities to share our artistic gifts. In addition to the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Choir and Chamber Choir, we offer the Fifth Avenue Community Choir for anyone who loves to sing. Visit [fapc.org/choirs](http://fapc.org/choirs) to learn more. The Arts & Our Faith Committee sponsors exhibitions of art, history and photography in the Chesnut Gallery, often featuring work by members of the congregation. Theatre Fellowship is a community of artists and artisans that promotes congregational fellowship through our shared love of the theater.

## Outreach Ministries

Through our Outreach Ministries, hundreds of members and friends of the church are engaged in volunteering, advocacy and service. Our programs include our Befriending Ministry on behalf of our neighbors experiencing homelessness; the Ecumenical Outreach Partnership, a collaborative ministry with Saint Thomas Church and St. Patrick's Cathedral that serves the homeless population of Midtown; A Place at the Table, a twice-weekly sidewalk lunch for our homeless and hungry neighbors; and Meals on Heels, Saturday-morning meal preparation and delivery to homebound seniors. We also maintain mission partner relationships with local, national and international organizations. Our current mission partners are:

Asylum Support Clinic	Mission co-workers in Madagascar,
Church of Gethsemane	the Philippines & the U.S.–Mexico border
The Farminary Project	Parity
Garden of Hope	Search and Care
Hands Along the Nile Development Services	Urban Outreach Center NYC
Holmes Camp and Retreat Center	West Side Federation for Senior
Ministry of Hope Lesotho	and Supportive Housing

To learn more, visit [fapc.org/outreach](http://fapc.org/outreach), or contact Christine Boyle, director of outreach and missions (212.247.0490 ext 3006, [outreach@fapc.org](mailto:outreach@fapc.org)).

## Volunteering

Volunteering is one of the most important ways we show that God's house is truly a place where all are welcome. Each week, members of this community serve as ushers and greeters, prepare and deliver meals to the homebound, provide comfort and support to the elderly, lead tours for members and visitors, and work with the underserved of New York City. To learn more about our diverse volunteer opportunities, and how you can join in, visit [fapc.org/volunteer](http://fapc.org/volunteer).

## Fifth Avenue Women's Ministry

For generations, the women of Fifth Avenue have gathered for service, fellowship, and deeper faith. Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before, we continue to connect and would love to include you in our community. The women's ministry at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is trans affirming and welcoming to women of any age and stage. We meet for annual retreats, fellowship events, Bible study, and small groups. To learn more and get involved, email [womensministry@fapc.org](mailto:womensministry@fapc.org) or visit [fapc.org/women](http://fapc.org/women).

## OFFICERS BY CLASS

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### The Session

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The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, *Moderator* • The Rev. Dr. Jonah So, *Executive Pastor*  
The Rev. Werner Ramirez, *Associate Pastor* • The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, *Associate Pastor*  
The Rev. Chris Palmer, *Associate Pastor* • Meg Sheehan, *Clerk of Session*  
Dennis Bushe, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Eric Daniels	Rachel Brenner	Chloe Hawker
Carol Kenney	Dennis Bushe	Josie Lawrence
Ann Marie Koehler	Roseanne Lind	Persis Luke
Chris Rogers	Nate Mahrer	Patrick Obeng-Frimpong
Janeen A. Sarlin	Brian McLendon	Thomas Pak
Meg Sheehan	Louisa Raitt	David Roberson
Sienna Toung	Martha Van Hise	Beth Rumore Stanley
Sylvia Winrich		Jama Toung

### The Board of Deacons

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Kirsten Aiello, *Moderator* • Chad Schepp, *Vice Moderator* • Sarah McKoy, *Secretary*  
Susan Roberson, *Treasurer*

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Kirsten Aiello	Chrissy Badger	Jesse Allen
Kelly Baer	Brendan Birth	Andy Craven
Jessica Carmona	Joshua Code	Myra Ford
Hope Griggs	Rumel Francois	Mary Sue Highmore
Jane Henn	Jeanne Lehman French	Kyle Hughes
Sarah McKoy	Bruce Ramsden	Susie Hunter
Jeannine Rodgers	Susan Roberson	Trevor Illingworth
Chad Schepp	Betsy Ross	Jamie Ku
Dicky Tuwaidan	Amelia Vogler Topping	Elizabeth (Beth) McCullough
Arthur Wong	Julia Ward	Kathy Peterson
		Nicole Rusk

### The Board of Trustees

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Ken Henderson, *President* • Jane Hong, *Vice President* • Susan Neunaber, *Secretary*  
Christopher Duffy, *Treasurer* • Meredith Fleck, *Assistant Treasurer*

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Susan Cersovsky	Christopher Duffy	Joyce Hansen
Jose Guardado	Chris Edwards	Mark Moreland
Ken Henderson	Meredith Fleck	Marran Ogilvie
Joanna McNurlen	Jane Hong	Constance Pond Hubbard
Jeff Rowbottom	Susan Neunaber	Phil Ryan
Mark Snyder	Thomas Wesley	William Stone

## CLERGY & STAFF



**The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston** *Senior Pastor*

**The Rev. Dr. Jonah So** *Executive Pastor*

**The Rev. Werner Ramirez** *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Family Ministries*

**The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike** *Associate Pastor for Ministry to the Online Campus*

**The Rev. Chris Palmer** *Transitional Associate Pastor for Young Adults & Membership*

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The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kitchen, *Parish Associate*

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Lim, *Parish Visitor*

The Rev. Dr. J. Oscar McCloud, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

The Rev. Randy Weber, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

Christine Boyle, *Director of Outreach & Missions*

Emily Harris, *Program Coordinator for Welcome & Women's Ministry*

Dr. Ryan Jackson, *William S. Perper Director of Music & Fine Arts Ministries*

Stephanie Kelley, *Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor & Co-Director of Special Projects*

Donna Ketchledge, *Program Coordinator & Assistant to the Executive Pastor*

Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist*

Derek Maddalena, *Director of Facilities*

Sean McAvoy, *Director of Communications & Development*

Can Olgun, *Director of Chapel Church Music*

Richard J. Schexnider, *Director of Finance*

Jaime Staehle, *Director of Christian Education*

Dr. Eugenia Oi Yan Yau, *Director of Music for Family Ministries*

## CONTACT US



**Announce a birth or adoption**

Jaime Staehle

[familyministries@fapc.org](mailto:familyministries@fapc.org)



**Join the online campus**

Natalie Owens-Pike

[hybridchurch@fapc.org](mailto:hybridchurch@fapc.org)



**Join the church**

Jonah So

[membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org)



**Make a donation**

[fapc.org/give](http://fapc.org/give)



**Make a bequest**

Richard Schexnider

[finance@fapc.org](mailto:finance@fapc.org)



**Plan your wedding**

Donna Ketchledge

[weddings@fapc.org](mailto:weddings@fapc.org)



**Prepare for baptism**

Jaime Staehle

[familyministries@fapc.org](mailto:familyministries@fapc.org)

**Add a name to the prayer list** • Natalie Wardius, [congregationalcare@fapc.org](mailto:congregationalcare@fapc.org)

**Fund the altar flowers** • Natalie Wardius, [congregationalcare@fapc.org](mailto:congregationalcare@fapc.org)

**Hire our caterer** • Rodrigo Rosas, [rodrigo@roxoevents.com](mailto:rodrigo@roxoevents.com)

**Notify us of a death or illness** • Natalie Wardius, [congregationalcare@fapc.org](mailto:congregationalcare@fapc.org)

**Request a bulletin announcement** • Sean McAvoy, [fapc@fapc.org](mailto:fapc@fapc.org)

**Update contact information in our database** • [update@fapc.org](mailto:update@fapc.org)

We livestream our worship services and provide online playback on demand. We also shoot videos and photos from time to time in the church house (interior and exterior). By your presence, you grant Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church unrestricted rights to use and publish, transmit or telecast your image or likeness in communications related to the church.

Please contact Sean McAvoy ([fapc@fapc.org](mailto:fapc@fapc.org)) if you have questions or concerns. If you prefer to sit outside of camera range during the service, please speak with an usher.

# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church



Get an up-close look at our historic Sanctuary and Church House!

Free, docent-led tours of our historic Sanctuary and the Chesnut Gallery are offered every Sunday following the 11 am worship service. Meet at the rear of the Sanctuary, just inside the Fifth Avenue entrance, and look for the docent holding the yellow “TOUR STARTS HERE” sign.

Read about the art and architecture of this landmark church at [fapc.org](http://fapc.org).

## Support the Church

Scan this code using the camera on your smartphone and follow the instructions to make a secure donation to our ministries.

[fapc.org/give](http://fapc.org/give)



## Building Hours

Monday,  
Wednesday – Friday  
9 am – 6 pm

Tuesday  
9 am – 9 pm

Saturday  
8 am – 1 pm

Sunday  
8 am – 2:30 pm



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