



# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 22, 2024 • 11:00 AM



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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

*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

Three Settings of *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland*  
("Savior of the Nations, Come"), BWV 599, 659, and 661  
*J.S. Bach (1685–1750)*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

*Elder Janeen Sarlin*

One: This is the season of holy waiting.

**All: We watch for lanterns winking in the dark.**

One: We listen for a familiar voice at the door.

**All: We hold our breath.**

One: Signs are all around us.

**All: Joy stirs in our hearts.**

One: Love is on the way!

**All: Let us worship God!**

### \* HYMN 104

**O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**

### \* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Hybrid Church Members: Henryette, Byron, and Calvin Fisher*

### \* SUNG RESPONSE



A can - dle is burn - ing, a can - dle of love,  
a can - dle to point us to hea - ven a - bove.  
A ba - by for Christ - mas, a won - der - ful birth,  
for Je - sus is bring - ing God's love to our earth.

Music: James R. Murray, 1887 - AWAY IN A MANGER. Text: Sandra Dean © 1986 Sandra Dean.  
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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 sings once; then the congregation joins, singing once.)

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son,  
Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Peo-ple look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
Peo-ple look east and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.

Music: French folk melody - BESANÇON. Text: Eleanor Farjeon © 1928 David Higham Associates.  
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\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*The Fifth Avenue Choir  
& Community Choir*

How Far Is It to Bethlehem? • *Nicholas White (b. 1967)*  
*Text by Frances Chesterton (1869–1938)*

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.  
Shall we find the stable-room lit by a star?  
Can we see the little child? Is he within?  
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass, or sheep?  
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?

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If we touch his tiny hand, will he awake?  
Will he know we've come so far just for his sake?

Great kings have precious gifts, and we have naught;  
Little smiles and little tears are all we brought.  
For all weary children Mary must weep;  
Here, on his bed of straw, sleep, children, sleep.

God, in his mother's arms, babes in the byre,  
Sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

*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. Dr. Jonah So*

ANTHEM

Gabriel's Message • *Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)*  
*Text by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee.  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel the Christ was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Luke 1:39-45*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

One: This is the Word of God; for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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SERMON

*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston*

**“Lanterns of Love”**

\* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**God who visits,  
God who brings good news,  
stir our expectant hearts in this season.  
Draw us into the arms of your love.  
Guide us, this week, to Christmas.  
Amen.**

\* HYMN 94

**Now the Heavens Start to Whisper**

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

*The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Mid-Winter • *Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)*

*Text by Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830–1894)*

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air—



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But only his mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can, I give him—  
Give my heart.

\* 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 93

**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

\* BENEDICTION

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

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes  
*Mark G. Sirett (b. 1952), Text: Anonymous*

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by any din of drums,  
Nor his manners, nor his airs,  
Nor by anything he wears.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by his crown or by his gown,  
But his coming known shall be,  
By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Trio Sonata no. 6 in G major, BWV 530: I. Vivace  
*J.S. Bach*

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The ministry of music this morning is offered by The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Choir  
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Community 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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Nicholas White's *How Far Is It to Bethlehem* is a tender and introspective setting of Frances Chesterton's gentle poem. With its warm harmonies and elegant phrasing, White captures the simplicity and wonder of the Nativity, inviting both singers and listeners into a quiet moment of reflection.

Eleanor Daley's *Gabriel's Message* offers a radiant reimagining of Sabine Baring-Gould's poetic account of the Annunciation. Known for her gift of creating expressive and lyrical choral music, Daley infuses the angel Gabriel's proclamation with shimmering harmonies and rhythmic vitality. The interplay of flowing melodic lines and unexpected shifts in meter brings the story to life with grace and a sense of joyous anticipation.

Bob Chilcott's *Mid-Winter* transforms Christina Rossetti's evocative poem into a musical gem of warmth and intimacy. Chilcott's rich choral writing and the understated piano accompaniment capture the poignant imagery of the text, weaving a musical atmosphere both intimate and radiant. Together, these three anthems showcase the creative brilliance of women poets brought to life by contemporary composers.



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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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).

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### **Please pray for:**

Ann Alexander, Pat Backus, Patricia Blair, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Pastor Toribio Cajiuat, Ella Calderon, Denise Campbell Nina S. Campbell, Phoebe Chiu, Sookjoong Choi, Anne Coffey, Dr. Johanna Cook, 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, Ryan Moloughney, Gerry Nagy, Frank Owarish Dexter Ramcharan, Arthur Richmond, 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

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.  
**Sunday School & Little Lambs Nursery.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10:15 am**      **Parents Community Group.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 11 am**          **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
- 11:15 am**      **Children’s Church.** Kirkland Chapel & Christian Education Center.
- 12:15 pm**      **Coffee Hour.** Bonnell Hall. Join us after worship for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to chat with clergy and friends.  
**Tour of the Church.** After worship, look for a docent in the back of the Sanctuary with a “tour starts here” sign.
- 12:30 pm**      **Sermon Springboard.** Zoom. Join Rev. Jonah and members of the online campus for sermon discussion and fellowship.
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*This Week*

- Wed Dec 25**      **Christmas Holiday.** Building closed.  
**Meals on Heels Christmas.** 8 am • Bonnell Hall. Meals on Heels will be preparing and delivering a special Christmas Day meal to homebound seniors. Sign up is required. Please contact John Wyatt at [moh@fapc.org](mailto:moh@fapc.org) for more details.
- Thu Dec 26**      **Christmas Holiday.** Building closed.
- Sat Dec 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)).

### Christmastide Worship Services

**Tuesday, December 24**

#### ***Family Ministries Christmas Eve***

A recorded service for families will be available on demand on our YouTube channel, *FAPCinNYC*.

#### ***Christmas Eve Candlelight Services***

7:30 pm • Sanctuary and Livestream. Music begins at 7 pm.

11 pm • Sanctuary. Music begins at 10:30 pm.

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.

**Sunday, December 29**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

“Life at the Kids’ Table” • *Galatians 4:4-7*

11 am • Sanctuary & Livestream

The Rev. Chris Palmer, preaching

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Wednesday, December 25: Meals on Heels Christmas**

In this joyful season, Meals on Heels will prepare and bring a special Christmas Day meal to homebound seniors. Volunteers are needed to help cook and deliver the meals. Please contact John Wyatt at [moh@fapc.org](mailto:moh@fapc.org) to for more details and to volunteer. On this special day, let's come together for our elderly neighbors.

### **Saturday, January 11: African Burial Ground National Monument Tour**

Join us for a reflective journey to the African Burial Ground National Monument, where we'll honor the lives and legacies of enslaved and free Africans who contributed to the construction and culture of colonial New York. Rediscovered in 1991 during construction on Broadway, this sacred six-acre site revealed over 15,000 skeletal remains dating back to the 1630s, transforming our understanding of New York's history. Learn more and register at [fapc.org/tour](http://fapc.org/tour).

### **Sunday, January 12: Women's Ministry New York Historical Society Tour**

Join us for an inspiring tour of the New York Historical Society's new exhibit, Real Clothes, Real Lives: 200 Years of What Women Wore, led by our own Jeanne Pape! This fascinating collection from the Smith College Historic Clothing Collection reveals how women's everyday clothing reflects changes in roles, race, and class across generations. Learn more and register at [fapc.org/clothes](http://fapc.org/clothes).

### **Sunday, January 19: What Kind of Christianity**

Join Dr. William Yoo, Associate Professor at Columbia Theological Seminary, for a powerful and thought-provoking class on the history of slavery and anti-Black racism in the Presbyterian Church. Drawing from his book, *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*, Dr. Yoo will explore how Presbyterians in both the North and South were often complicit in supporting or ignoring slavery and racial injustice. This class will challenge us to confront this painful history and consider how it shapes our ongoing responsibility to pursue racial justice today. A discussion of Dr. Yoo's book will take place prior to the event. The event will be held in person a 9 am and recorded for later viewing. Register for the book discussion, breakfast during the event in Bonnell Hall, or both at [fapc.org/adult-ed](http://fapc.org/adult-ed).

### **Friday, February 21 – Sunday, February 23: Women's Winter Sabbath Retreat**

Come away with us for a sabbath weekend at the Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham, New Jersey! This retreat offers Bible study, worship, and meaningful conversation, alongside quiet reflection and meditation. The cost is \$250. Please register at [fapc.org/women](http://fapc.org/women). Limited scholarships are available. Please email [womensministry@fapc.org](mailto:womensministry@fapc.org) to learn more.

### **Give the Gift of Church Officers**

The Nominating Committee is seeking your input as it prepares a slate of officer candidates for new, three-year terms. If you, or a member you know, would be a good candidate for the Board of Deacons, the Session, or the Board of Trustees, please send us your recommendation. Information on the officer election process and the officer recommendation form are available at [fapc.org/officer-elections](http://fapc.org/officer-elections).

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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*

#### Class of 2025

Eric Daniels  
Carol Kenney  
Ann Marie Koehler  
Chris Rogers  
Janeen A. Sarlin  
Meg Sheehan  
Sienna Toung  
Sylvia Winrich

#### Class of 2026

Rachel Brenner  
Dennis Bushe  
Roseanne Lind  
Nate Mahrer  
Brian McLendon  
Louisa Raitt  
Martha Van Hise

#### Class of 2027

Chloe Hawker  
Josie Lawrence  
Persis Luke  
Patrick Obeng-Frimpong  
Thomas Pak  
David Roberson  
Beth Rumore Stanley  
Jama Toung

### The Board of Deacons

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

#### Class of 2025

Kirsten Aiello  
Kelly Baer  
Jessica Carmona  
Hope Griggs  
Jane Henn  
Sarah McKoy  
Jeannine Rodgers  
Chad Schepp  
Dicky Tuwaidan  
Arthur Wong

#### Class of 2026

Chrissy Badger  
Brendan Birth  
Joshua Code  
Rumel Francois  
Jeanne Lehman French  
Bruce Ramsden  
Susan Roberson  
Betsy Ross  
Amelia Vogler Topping  
Julia Ward

#### Class of 2027

Jesse Allen  
Andy Craven  
Myra Ford  
Mary Sue Highmore  
Kyle Hughes  
Susie Hunter  
Trevor Illingworth  
Jamie Ku  
Elizabeth (Beth) McCullough  
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*

#### Class of 2025

Susan Cersovsky  
Jose Guardado  
Ken Henderson  
Joanna McNurlen  
Jeff Rowbottom  
Mark Snyder

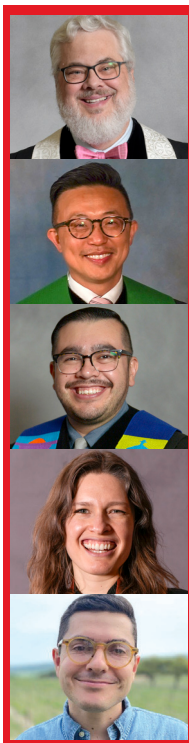
#### Class of 2026

Christopher Duffy  
Chris Edwards  
Meredith Fleck  
Jane Hong  
Susan Neunaber  
Thomas Wesley

#### Class of 2027

Joyce Hansen  
Mark Moreland  
Marran Ogilvie  
Constance Pond Hubbard  
Phil Ryan  
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*

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*

Dr. 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](https://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

TO WHOM  
MUCH  
HAS BEEN  
GIVEN

THE 2025 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Together this congregation has pledged \$3,013,032 putting us 83% towards our goal. Thank you!

Your pledge supports our worship services, music ministries, groundbreaking hybrid church initiative, outreach to our homeless neighbors, educational offerings, and so much more.

Pledge your support and help us meet our \$3.65 million goal!

Visit [fapc.org/pledge](https://fapc.org/pledge). Thank you!

## 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](https://fapc.org/give)



Wednesday, December 25, and Thursday, December 26, the building will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

## Building Hours

Monday, Wednesday – Friday	Tuesday	Saturday	Sunday
9 am – 6 pm	9 am – 9 pm	8 am – 1 pm	8 am – 2:30 pm



FAPCNYC



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