

# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
FEBRUARY 16, 2025 • 11:00 AM



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream in "Ars Moriendi," Marseille, 15th century

**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

Prelude on "The Lone, Wild Bird" (2015) • *George Baker (b. 1951)*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

*Trustee Ken Henderson*

*From Psalm 148*

One: Praise the Lord in the heavens.

**All: Praise God from the mountain tops.**

One: Sun and moon, praise God.

**All: Morning stars, praise God.**

One: Rain clouds, praise God.

**All: Sea monsters, praise God.**

One: Wild beasts, praise God.

**All: Snow and frost, praise God.**

One: Cattle and birds, praise God.

**All: Fruit trees and cedars, praise God.**

One: People of every race, old and young together,

**All: Let all creation, praise God!**

### \* HYMN 610

**O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

### \* 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.

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, - jah!

Music: George Mxadana.  
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\* PASSING OF THE PEACE      One:      The peace of Christ be with you.  
All:      **And also with you.**

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

*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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

The Road Home • *Stephen Paulus (1949–2014)*  
Text by Michael Dennis Brown (b. 1940)

Tell me where is the road I can call my own,  
That I left, that I lost, so long ago?  
All these years I have wandered,  
Oh when will I know there's a way,  
There's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,  
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,  
Through the air there's a calling from far away,  
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away is the call,  
With love in your heart as the only song;  
There is no such beauty as where you belong,  
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Voice 1:** King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages that live throughout the earth: May you have abundant prosperity! The signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me I am pleased to recount. How great are God's signs, how mighty God's wonders! God's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and God's sovereignty is from generation to generation.

**Voice 2:** I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living at ease in my home and prospering in my palace. I saw a dream that frightened me; my fantasies in bed and the visions of my head terrified me. So I made a decree that all the wise people of Babylon should be brought before me, in order that they might tell me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the diviners came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not tell me its interpretation.

**All:** **At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and who is endowed with a spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream: “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods and that no mystery is too difficult for you. Hear the dream that I saw; tell me its interpretation.**

**Voice 1:** “Upon my bed this is what I saw; there was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth. Its foliage was beautiful, its fruit abundant, and it provided food for all. The animals of the field found shade under it, the birds of the air nested in its branches, and from it all living beings were fed. I continued looking, in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and there was a holy watcher, coming down from heaven.

**Voice 2:** The watcher cried aloud and said: ‘Cut down the tree and chop off its branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from beneath it and the birds from its branches. But leave its stump and roots in the ground, with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field. Let the king be bathed with the dew of heaven and let his lot be with the animals of the field in the grass of the earth.

**All:** **Let his mind be changed from that of a human, and let the mind of an animal be given to him. And let seven times pass over him. The sentence is rendered by decree of the watchers, the decision is given by order of the holy ones, in order that all who live may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdom of mortals; God gives it to whom God will and sets over it the lowliest of human beings.”**

**Voice 1:** All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king said, “Is this not magnificent Babylon, which I have built as a royal capital by my mighty power and for my glorious majesty?”

**All:** **While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven: “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: The kingdom has departed from you! You shall be driven away from human society, and your dwelling shall be with the animals of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like oxen, and seven times shall pass over you, until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals and gives it to whom he will.”**

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**Voice 2:** Immediately the sentence was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven away from human society, ate grass like oxen, and his body was bathed with the dew of heaven, until his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers and his nails became like birds' claws.

**Voice 1:** When that period was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me. I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored the one who lives forever. For God's sovereignty is an everlasting sovereignty, and God's kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and God does what God wills with the host of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. There is no one who can stay God's hand or say to God, "What are you doing?"

**All:** At that time my reason returned to me; and my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom. My counselors and my lords sought me out, I was reestablished over my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all God's works are truth, and God's ways are justice; and God is able to bring low those who walk in pride.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

#### SERMON

*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston*

#### **"What Counts as Reason?"**

#### \* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Draw us forth, God of creation.  
Pull the venom of anger from our bones.  
Pry us out of stuck places.  
Ground us again in the simple wonders of this world,  
and remind us who and whose we are.  
This we pray in the name of the Light on our path,  
Jesus the Christ. Amen.

#### \* HYMN 439

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike*

#### 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

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OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Psalm 150 • *Ruth Watson Henderson (b. 1932)*

O praise God in his holiness:  
Praise him in the firmament of His power.  
Praise him in his noble acts:  
Praise him according to his excellent greatness.  
Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:  
Praise him upon the lute and harp.  
Praise him in the cymbals and dances:  
Praise him upon the strings and pipe,  
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals,  
And the loud cymbals.  
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.  
Alleluia!

\* 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 645

**Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above**

\* BENEDICTION

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

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

May the Grace of Christ • *William Smith Rockstro (1823–1895)*  
*Text by John Newton (1725–1807)*

May the grace of Christ our Savior,  
And our Maker's boundless love,  
With the Holy Spirit's favor,  
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union  
Held together by the Word,  
And possess in rich communion  
Joys which earth cannot afford.

POSTLUDE

*Jauchz, Erd' und Himmel, Juble!*  
("Rejoice and Shout, Heaven and Earth"), op. 67, no. 15  
*Max Reger (1873–1916)*

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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* • Claire Myers-McCormick, *Soprano*

## WORSHIP NOTES

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The Anthem was composed in 2002 by the American composer Stephen Paulus. Over the course of his life, Paulus composed 150 works for chorus ranging from his moving Holocaust oratorio, *To Be Certain of the Dawn*, to the poignant anthem, *Pilgrims' Hymn*, sung at the funerals of Presidents Reagan and Ford. His works have received thousands of performances and recordings all over the world. The melody for *The Road Home* is derived from *The Lone Wild Bird*, an adaptation of the early nineteenth-century American folksong "Prospect." Paulus found several texts inspired by this tune, but none of them seemed quite right for the slightly melancholy air of the melody. He turned to his longtime collaborator, poet Michael Dennis Browne, and commissioned a new text, which resulted in *The Road Home*. With the old tune married to new words, Paulus then made the piece his own with innovative harmonies and his signature, rich choral textures. Stephen Paulus passed away in October 2014 at the age of 65 due to complications arising from a stroke he suffered in July 2013.



## 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, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad, Patricia Blair 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, Irene P. Gilman, Anthea and Neville Graham, Florence Hall Torian Hall, Peter S. Hawkins, Carol Healy, Christopher Henderson, Donna Marie Henderson Maggie Hendrix, Emi Iwaida, Tara Kay Johnson, Juliet Kaldanie, Ceciwa Khonje, Louis Sterling King Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson, Frederick Loomis, Mary Lowry, Violet Lorenzen, Lauren Ma The McCall Family, Epifania Mercado, Ryan Moloughney, Gerry Nagy, Frank Owarish, Emmett Raitt Dexter Ramcharan, Arthur Richmond, Ramon Rosa, Pauline Sample, Robert Scheuer, Taylor Shultz Bonnie Smith, Monica Smith, Spencer Robert Smith, Willie Gerald Smith, Frieda Sompotan Neva Strom, Lorraine Sukhu, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither, Susan Tobiason, Henny Waisapy Bill Wanek, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks, Sylvia Winrich, Deborah Wurgler, Doris Wurgler

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### **Faithful Departed:**

February 9, 2025: Alice Mae Perry, beloved mother of Willie-Mae Perry.

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.** LaDane Williamson 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.** 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**      **Bagels & Bible.** 7th Floor Conference Room. This Sunday begins a four-week study of C.S. Lewis’s allegory *The Great Divorce*.  
**Sermon Springboard.** Zoom. Join Rev. Natalie and members of the online campus for sermon discussion and fellowship.  
**Welcoming the Stranger: A Courageous Conversation on Immigration.** Jones Auditorium and Zoom.
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This Week

- Mon Feb 17**      **Presidents’ Day Holiday. Building closed.**
- Tue Feb 18**      **Weekly Word Bible Study.** 12 pm • Zoom. For more information, please email [bible-study@fapc.org](mailto:bible-study@fapc.org). To register, visit [fapc.org/bible-study](http://fapc.org/bible-study).
- Wed Feb 19**      **Community Choir.** 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All voices are welcome!  
**FAYA Midweek.** 6:30 pm • The Living Room. To learn more, contact [youngadults@fapc.org](mailto:youngadults@fapc.org)
- Thu Feb 20**      **Career Directions.** 10 am • Zoom. Visit [fapc.org/community-groups](http://fapc.org/community-groups) to sign up.  
**Dads Night Out.** 6 pm. Visit [fapc.org/dad](http://fapc.org/dad) to learn more and sign up.
- Fri Feb 21**      **Women’s Winter Sabbath Retreat.** Community of St. John Baptist, NJ.
- Sat Feb 22**      **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)).
- Sun Feb 23**      **Game Day with Ecumenical Outreach Partnership Guests.** 1 pm • Jones Auditorium. Join us for a warm afternoon of fellowship. Visit [fapc.org/mission](http://fapc.org/mission).

### Next Sunday · Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

“God vs. Zilla” • Daniel 7:1-14

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

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Today: Welcoming the Stranger: A Courageous Conversation on Immigration**

Join the Anti-Racism Response Team at 12:30 pm in Jones Auditorium and on Zoom for an event on immigration. This session features personal stories, and a theological perspective on welcoming immigrants. Join us for thoughtful dialogue on how faith calls us to approach immigration with understanding and care. Food will be served in Jones Auditorium. Learn more and register at [fapc.org/stranger](http://fapc.org/stranger).

### **Thursday, February 20: Dads Night Out**

Join the dads of Fifth Avenue at 6 pm for a time to relax, unwind, and have fun! Learn more and register at [fapc.org/dad](http://fapc.org/dad).

### **Sunday, February 23: Game Day with Guests from our Ecumenical Outreach Partnership**

Families are invited to participate in our annual Game Day with guests from our Ecumenical Outreach Partnership! Be part of this befriending ministry tradition of sharing a meal with our homeless neighbors, playing games, and engaging our guests in conversation. Outreach Ministries seeks fifteen to twenty volunteers for an afternoon of fun and fellowship with our homeless neighbors. The fun starts at 1 pm. Visit [fapc.org/game](http://fapc.org/game) to learn more and sign up!

### **Sunday, February 23: Exploring New Perspectives—Reading the Bible Through an LGBTQ+ Lens**

Have you ever wondered how the Bible might be read in ways that celebrate the diversity of God's creation? One perspective through which we can read the Bible is that of LGBTQ+ communities. Join us at 7 pm EST for this interactive Zoom session. We'll be joined by Dr. Jimmy Hoke, of the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Visit [fapc.org/new](http://fapc.org/new) to learn more and register!

### **Friday, February 28: FAYA Spring Retreat**

All young adults are invited to join us for a weekend of fellowship, games, keynotes, small groups, and late-night chats around the fire. Cost is \$170 including transportation. Limited scholarships are available. To learn more and sign up, visit [fapc.org/spring](http://fapc.org/spring).

### **Thursday, March 6: The Gotto Lecture**

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, poet, and author Eliza T. Griswold will deliver the Anita and Antonio Gotto Lecture on Thursday, March 6, at 7 pm. Griswold is celebrated for her compassionate storytelling and deep exploration of social and cultural issues. Her work, often featured in *The New Yorker*, sheds light on marginalized communities and the resilience of the human spirit. Griswold's latest book, *Circle of Hope*, offers a powerful narrative about a congregation working towards change and justice amid adversity. Register for the lecture and the pre-event book discussion at [fapc.org/gotto](http://fapc.org/gotto). This event is free and open to all.

### **Thursday, March 9: Deacons Annual Clothing Drive Begins**

This year the drive will benefit the Ecumenical Outreach Partnership and the Samaritan's Closet, a collaborative ministry of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and St. James Episcopal Church. Bring your new or lightly used clothing with you to church on Sunday, March 9 or March 16. You may also drop them off at the 55th Street reception desk during the week. In demand: casual spring and summer clothing; packages of new underwear and socks, especially men's. If you are unable to come by in person, you are welcome to order socks and underwear and ship them directly to the church, to the attention of Natalie Wardius. Thank you for your generosity!

## 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	Hands Along the Nile Development Services
Church of Gethsemane	Holmes Camp and Retreat Center
The Farminary Project	Ministry of Hope Lesotho
Garden of Hope	Mission co-workers in Madagascar, the Philippines & the U.S.–Mexico border
Good Samaritan Project	Parity
First Spanish Presbyterian Church	Urban Outreach Center NY
Green City Force	

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*

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Ann Marie Koehler  
Chris Rogers  
Janeen A. Sarlin  
Meg Sheehan  
Sienna Toung  
Sylvia Winrich

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

#### Class of 2027

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

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Jessica Carmona  
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Kathy Peterson  
Nicole Rusk

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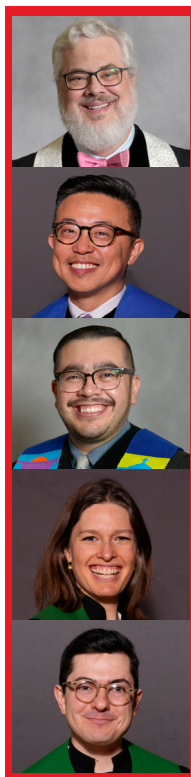
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Mark Moreland  
Marran Ogilvie  
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Phil Ryan  
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## CLERGY & STAFF



**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*

\*\*\*

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

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

The Rev. Randy Weber, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

Austin Applebach, *Director of Engagement*

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**

Austin Applebach

[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

Please visit  
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**453 families have pledged  
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\$3.65 million goal.**

**Thank you!**

**Your pledge supports  
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music program, online  
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Scan this code using the camera  
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[fapc.org/give](https://fapc.org/give)



Monday, February 17, the building will be closed in observance  
of the Presidents' Day holiday.

### Building Hours

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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