



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 13, 2023 • 10:00 AM



Ciro Ferri , *Ananias of Damascus laying his hand on Saul*, 1660

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

➔ 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. 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 in worship! You will find children’s Bibles in the first 10 rows of pews on the far north side of the Sanctuary. Ushers can also provide children’s bulletins and worship bags. If you need to leave the service to attend to your child, the ushers can direct you to the nearest changing table and livestream monitor. We provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9:30 to 11:30 am in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.

➔ Worship Resources Online

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

Trio Sonata no. 1 in E-flat major, BWV 525
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)
I. *Allegro Moderato* • II. *Adagio*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Jeannine Rodgers

Psalm 100:1,2,5

One: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness.
Come into God’s presence with singing!

All: **For the Lord is a gracious God,
whose mercy is everlasting;
and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

* HYMN 409

God Is Here!

* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

* 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 sings once.)



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* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE



Music: George Mxadana.
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* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

SOLO

Bist du bei mir ("If you are with me")
Heinrich Stölzel (1690–1749), attrib. J.S. Bach

<i>Bist du bei mir, geh ich mit Freuden</i>	If you are with me, then I will go gladly
<i>zum Sterben und zu meiner Ruh.</i>	unto my death and to my rest.
<i>Ach, wie vergnügt wär so mein Ende,</i>	Ah, how pleasing would my end be,
<i>es drückten deine schönen Hände</i>	if your dear hands then
<i>mir die getreuen Augen zu.</i>	shut my faithful eyes.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this

man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall

"Ananias, who gave an Assist"

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Declaration of Faith (Chapter 10, Hope in God)*

One: Hope in God gives us courage for the struggle.

All: **Hope plunges us into the struggle**
for victories over evil that are possible now
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.
Hope gives us courage and energy
to contend against all opposition,
however invincible it may seem,
for the new world and the new humanity
that are surely coming.
Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.

* HYMN 69

Here I Am, Lord

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Natalie Owens-Pike, Director of Ministry to the Online Campus

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 SOLO

Ich folge dir gleichfalls ("I follow you likewise")
from the St. John Passion, BWV 245 • J. S. Bach

<i>Ich folge dir gleichfalls mit freudigen Schritten</i>	I follow you likewise with joyful steps
<i>Und lasse dich nicht,</i>	and do not leave you,
<i>Mein Leben, mein Licht.</i>	my life, my light.
<i>Befördre den Lauf</i>	Bring me on my way
<i>Und höre nicht auf,</i>	and do not cease
<i>Selbst an mir zu ziehen, zu schieben, zu bitten.</i>	to pull, push and urge me on.

* 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 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C major, BuxWV 137
Dieterich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

The ministry of music this morning is offered by
Dr. Ryan Jackson, *William S. Perper Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries*
Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist* • Britt Hewitt, *Soprano*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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.

Please pray for:

Candy Asman, Pat Backus, Algernon John Baptiste, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Pastor Toribio Cajiuat, Ella Calderon, Denise 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 and Kyu Fong, Janet Gibbs, Sterling Gillis IV, Wanda Roush Hannan Christopher Henderson, Maggie Hendrix, Juliet Kaldanie, Frederick Loomis, Louis Sterling King Ceciwa Khonje, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson, Mary Lowry, Lauren Ma, John Macy Keiko Matsuzaki, The McCall Family, Frank Owarish, Dexter Ramcharan, Pauline Sample Robert Scheuer, Tshombe Selby, Steve Sheppard, Taylor Shultz, Lance Smith, Spencer Robert Smith Willie Gerald Smith, Frieda Sompotan, Neva Strom, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither Susan Tobiason, Betty Ty, Henny Waisapy, Bill Wanek, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks Sylvia Winrich, Deborah Wurgler, Doris Wurgler

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, 212.247.0490).

CALENDAR

Today

- 9:30 am** **Little Lambs Nursery.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary and livestream.
- Summer Kids Program.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. All kids in Preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us. For more information, please contact Jaime Staehle (familyministries@fapc.org).
- 11:15 am** **Tour the Church.** Meet at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- Coffee Hour.** Weber Terrace. Welcome Natalie Owens-Pike, our new Director of Ministry to the Online Campus!

This Week

- Thu Aug 17** **Youth Day Trip to the Farminary.** For more information, please contact the Rev. Werner Ramirez (youth@fapc.org).
- Career Directions.** 10 am. Zoom. A weekly online gathering for job seekers or anyone seeking career guidance. Contact Ashley Gonzalez (membership@fapc.org) for the link.
- Sat Aug 19** **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am. Bonnell Hall. Volunteers prepare and deliver meals to homebound neighbors. New volunteers are welcome and needed! Contact: John Wyatt (moh@fapc.org).
- Coming Up**
- Thu August 24** **Career Directions.** 10 am. Zoom. A weekly online gathering for job seekers or anyone seeking career guidance. Contact Ashley Gonzalez (membership@fapc.org) for the link.
- Sun Aug 20** **Worship.** 10 am. The Rev. Dr. Jonah So, preaching.
- Sat Aug 26** **Eat, Drink, FAYA, & Bowl Bowlero Chelsea Piers.** For more information, please contact the Rev. Sarah A. Speed (youngadults@fapc.org).
- Sun Aug 27** **Worship.** 10 am. The Rev. Werner Ramirez, preaching.
- Sat Sep 9** **FAYA NYC Day Retreat & Small Group Kick Off.** For more information, please contact the Rev. Sarah A. Speed (youngadults@fapc.org).

Next Sunday • Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

“Covered in Prayer” • John 17:6-19
The Rev. Dr. Jonah So, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

Today: The Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall

Today is the final day this summer we are blessed with the Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall's guest preaching. She is a Presbyterian pastor, a former seminary president, and a longtime Texan. In recent years, Laura and her husband, Chuck, also a Presbyterian minister, have connected with Fifth Avenue via our livestream. Laura is a gifted preacher and storyteller. During her time with us this summer, her sermons will focus on Biblical stories in which God's redemptive love enters the lives of ordinary folks.

Special Coffee Hour

You are invited to join us on Weber Terrace for a special coffee hour following today's worship service. It is Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall's last day with us after five grace-filled weeks. We will express our appreciation with a cake during refreshments. And while we say goodbye, we also say hello. It will be a chance to welcome Natalie Owens-Pike, our Director of Ministry to the Online Community. Come by to thank Laura and welcome Natalie!

Sundays, July 23 – August 13: Summer Kids!

All kids in Preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center for four Sundays this summer as we go on a roll with God in a Food Truck Party! We'll discover God's sustaining love in our lives through bible stories, crafts, music, games, and science. On vacation for a couple of weeks? No problem! Kids don't need to attend each week in order to have a great time. Parents are encouraged to take part in our 10 am worship service and then head out for brunch or a walk in Central Park until our program is finished. The cost for each day is just \$10 and includes a pizza lunch. For more information, please contact Jaime Staehle (familyministries@fapc.org).

Thursday, August 17: Youth Day Trip to the Farminary

Join us as we head down to the Farminary, our mission partner near Princeton Theological Seminary. We'll learn about how the land sustains food, and we'll help to harvest some of that food. If you're lucky, you can eat a cherry tomato right off the vine! For more information, contact the Rev. Werner Ramirez (youth@fapc.org).

Saturday, September 9: FAYA Day Retreat & Small Group Kick Off

Sign up for FAYA's first NYC day retreat and meet your fall small group! The day includes city outings and tons of fun. To sign up, please contact the Rev. Sarah A. Speed (youngadults@fapc.org).

Sunday, September 10: Homecoming

Mark your calendars for our annual Homecoming worship and celebration! This worship service will feature the world premiere of an exciting new musical composition. Keep your eyes on this space and fapc.org for more information!

Sunday, September 10: Virtual Coffee Hour

For our friends and members on the online campus, come to a special virtual coffee hour on Homecoming Sunday! This will be a great chance for you to connect with your fellow members and spend some time with Natalie Owens-Pike, our new director of ministry to the online campus. Keep your eyes on your inbox for the invite, stop by, and say hello! It will be better with you there.

OFFICERS BY CLASS

The Session

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, *Moderator* • The Rev. Dr. Jonah So, *Executive Pastor*
The Rev. Werner Ramirez, *Associate Pastor* • The Rev. Sarah Speed, *Associate Pastor*
John Wyatt, *Clerk of Session* • Meg Sheehan, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Jill Borrero	Eric Daniels	Rachel Brenner
Mae Cheng-PaVon	Ann Marie Koehler	Dennis Bushe
Bruni Fernandez	Sara Rodgers	Roseanne Lind
Paul Griggs	Chris Rogers	Nate Mahrer
Sam Griggs	Janeen A. Sarlin	Brian McLendon
Claire Kedeshian	Meg Sheehan	Louisa Raitt
John Kern	Sylvia Winrich	Martha Van Hise
William Stone		
John Wyatt		

The Board of Deacons

Greg Dow, *Moderator* • Joann Harrah, *Vice Moderator* • Sarah McKoy, *Secretary*
Shane Markstrum, *Treasurer*

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Jennica Carmona	Kirsten Aiello	Chrissy Badger
Greg Dow	Kelly Baer	Brendan Birth
Joann Harrah	Jessica Carmona	Joshua Code
Beverly Elmyra Johnson	Hope Griggs	Rumel Francois
Lydia Kalmen	Jane Henn	Jeanne Lehman French
Shane Markstrum	Sarah McKoy	Bruce Ramsden
Auguste Nipabi	Jeannine Rodgers	Susan Roberson
Joyce Nolen	Chad Schepp	Betsy Ross
Branden Wang	Dicky Tuwaidan	Amelia Vogler
Lynn Wishart	Arthur Wong	Julia Ward

The Board of Trustees

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Glenn Hubbard, *Treasurer* • Alyce Andrews, *Assistant Treasurer*

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
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Bob Henn	Ken Henderson	Meredith Fleck
Glenn Hubbard	Joanna McNurlen	Jane Hong
Daniel Krueger	Jeff Rowbottom	Susan Neunaber
Mark Moreland	Mark Snyder	Thomas Wesley


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. Sarah A. Speed *Associate Pastor for Young Adults & Membership*

The Rev. Kate Dunn, *Parish Visitor*
The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kitchen, *Parish Associate*
The Rev. Dr. J. Oscar McCloud, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*
The Rev. Randy Weber, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*
Christine Boyle, *Director of Outreach & Missions*
Ashley Gonzalez, *Director of Engagement*
Dr. Ryan Jackson, *William S. Perper Director of Music & Fine Arts Ministries*
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*
Katherine Miller, *Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor & Director of Special Projects*
Natalie Owens-Pike, *Director of Ministry to the Online Campus*
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




Fund the altar flowers
Natalie Wardius
congregationalcare@fapc.org




Join the church
Rev. Sarah A. Speed
membership@fapc.org




Make a donation
fapc.org/give



Plan your wedding
Donna Ketchledge
weddings@fapc.org



Planned giving
Richard Schexnider
finance@fapc.org

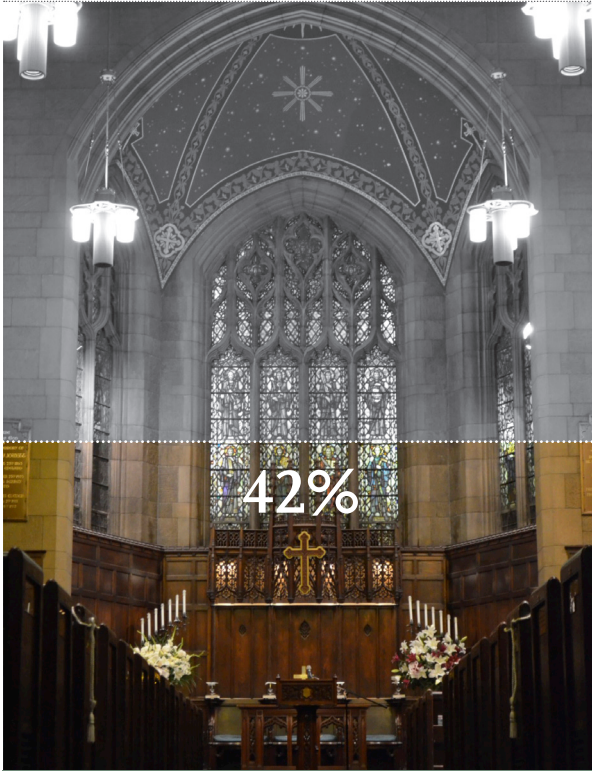


Prepare for baptism
Jaime Staehle
familyministries@fapc.org

Add a name to the prayer list • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org
Hire our caterer • Rodrigo Rosas, rodrigo@roxoevents.com
Notify us of a death or illness • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org
Request a bulletin announcement • Sean McAvoy, fapc@fapc.org
Update contact information in our database • 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) 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



Kirkland Chapel

THE NEXT 100

We are already
\$5,987,250 toward our
\$14.2 million goal!

Thank you for your
generous support.

Learn more about this
historic project, and
make your financial
commitment,
at fapc.org/chapel.

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



Summer Building Hours

Monday – Friday

9 am – 5 pm

Saturday

8 am – 1 pm

Sunday

8 am – 12 pm



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