



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 27, 2023 • 10:00 AM



Paul White, *Pieces*, 2021

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

Prelude on Rhosymedre • *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*
Six Miniatures: I. Prelude • *Arthur Milner (1894–1972)*

* CALL TO WORSHIP *Deacon Kelly Baer*

Psalm 124

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: who made the heavens and the earth.

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,

All: then the flood would have swept us away.

One: The God who saved Israel
is still at work in the world,

**All: hearing the cries of the afflicted
and setting God’s people free.
Thanks be to God!**

* HYMN 330

Our Help Is in the Name of God

* CALL TO CONFESSION *The Rev. Sarah A. Speed*

* 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.)



Music: John L. Bell, 1995. Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995.
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**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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLO *Elijah*, op. 70: 14. Aria: Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel,
This day let it be known that thou art God,
And that I am thy servant!
Lord God of Abraham!
Oh shew to all this people
That I have done these things according to thy word.
Oh hear me, Lord, and answer me!
Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel,
Oh hear me and answer me,
And shew this people that thou art Lord God.
And let their hearts again be turned!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON *John 11:30-36*

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

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

SERMON
The Rev. Werner Ramirez

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Hope Dangles on a String”

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

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve. Amen.

* HYMN 703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

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

Frightening Fishes · *Ben Gibbard and Tom Howe*

These days, I’ve been barely holding on
Climbing the walls every dusk ‘til dawn
Fearing the future, morning will pass
The hours moving slowly, then vanishing fast

But I’m trying in my way to concede
And to tell you just what I need

Help me carry this weight that’s dragging me down
Pull me out of the drink before I start to drown
Let the wreckage all sink
To where the fishes are frightening
I wanna hear myself think again
I wanna hear myself think again

For so long, I’ve been turnin’ into the skid
And waltzing away from the damage I did
I’d brush off my shoulders and tuck in my shirt
And flee from the scene before I knew I’d been hurt

	<p>But I've been trying my best to concede To cease, to take, just receive 'Cause there's more than your love That I need, that I need</p> <p>Help me carry this weight that's dragging me down Pull me out of the drink before I start to drown Let the wreckage all sink To where the fishes are frightening I wanna hear myself think again</p> <p>Help me carry this weight that's dragging me down Pull me out of the drink before I start to drown Let the wreckage all sink To where the fishes are frightening I wanna hear myself think again I wanna hear myself think again Think again</p>
* DOXOLOGY	<p>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.</p>
* OFFERTORY PRAYER	
* HYMN 772	Live into Hope
* BENEDICTION	
POSTLUDE	<p>Sonata no. 2 in C minor, op. 65 no. 2: IV. Fuga <i>Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)</i></p>
<p>The ministry of music this morning is offered by Dr. Patrick Kreeger, <i>Associate Organist</i> Shafiq Hicks, <i>Soloist</i></p>	

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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, Janet Gibbs, Sterling Gillis IV, Wanda Roush Hannan Christopher Henderson, Donna Marie Henderson, Maggie Hendrix, Juliet Kaldanie Frederick Loomis, Louis Sterling King, Ceciwa Khonje, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson Mary Lowry, Lauren Ma, Keiko Matsuzaki, The McCall Family, Frank Owarish, Dexter Ramcharan Pauline Sample, Robert Scheuer, Tshombe Selby, Taylor Shultz, 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

Faithful Departed:

August 22, 2023: John Macy—beloved brother-in-law of Ann and Dennis Bushe, and husband of Joy Macy.

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.
11:15 am	Tour the Church. Meet at the rear of the Sanctuary.
11:15 am	Coffee Hour. Weber Terrace.

This Week

Wed Aug 30	Office Hours for Natalie Owens-Pike. 5:30 – 7 pm. A chance for members to get to know Natalie over Zoom. Contact Natalie (hybridchurch@fapc.org) for the link.
Thu Aug 31	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 Sep 2	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 Sep 7	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 Sep 9	Meals on Heels. 8:30 am. Bonnell Hall.
Sun Sep 3	Worship. 10:00 am. The Rev. Sarah A. Speed, 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).
Sun Sep 10	Family Ministries: Homecoming Breakfast. 9:30 am. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. Parents and kids are invited to kick off the new program year together! For more information, contact Jaime Staehle (familyministries@fapc.org). Worship. 11 am. Homecoming Service. The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.
Wed Sep 13	Feed Your Soul. Bonnell Hall & Kirkland Chapel. For more information, please contact Christine Boyle (outreach@fapc.org).

Next Sunday • Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Sarah A. Speed, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

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

Sign up for FAYA's first NYC day retreat and meet your 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! Please note that with this service, Sunday worship in the Sanctuary will return to an 11 am start time. This year's Homecoming will feature the world premiere of an exciting new musical composition. Keep your eyes on this space and fapc.org for more information!

Family Ministries: Homecoming Breakfast

We invite all families with kids to join us on September 10 for breakfast to kick off a new program year! You will have a chance to meet Sunday School teachers and childcare staff, hear more about choir programming, and catch up with friends. Bring your backpacks for a back-to-school blessing! For more information, contact Jaime Staehle (familyministries@fapc.org).

Wednesday, September 13: Feed Your Soul

The Rev. Werner Ramirez and the staff of Fifth Avenue welcome you for an evening of breaking bread, fellowship and communal prayer as we reflect on the many gifts each of us offers in service to our faith community. Feed Your Soul is designed to prepare us all for a year of faithful service as officers, vocalists, ushers, greeters, Sunday School teachers, Outreach volunteers and more! Join us for dinner in Bonnell Hall, followed by reflection and communion in Kirkland Chapel. Please register online by Friday, Sept. 8. Registration is required for this event. For more information, please contact Christine Boyle (outreach@fapc.org).

Sunday, September 17: Chapel Church Returns

On September 17 we will celebrate the joyous return of Chapel Church. Come worship with us and hear some great music from our Chapel Church Band, featuring music director Can Olgun and members of the Fifth Avenue family. Chapel Church gathers every Sunday at 9:30 am from September through May. To learn more, please contact the Rev. Sarah A. Speed (chapelchurch@fapc.org).

Sunday, September 24: The Word Is Out

All are welcome to "The Word is Out," a Community Group for LGBTQ people of faith facilitated by John Kern. Join us for fellowship at 9:30 am on the 6th Floor Break Room in the Curry Church House. To learn more, contact Ashley Gonzalez (membership@fapc.org).

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.

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

Ken Henderson, *President* • Joanna McNurlen, *Vice President* • Susan Cersovsky, *Secretary*
Glenn Hubbard, *Treasurer* • Alyce Andrews, *Assistant Treasurer*

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Alyce Andrews	Susan Cersovsky	Christopher Duffy
Paula Berry	Jose Guardado	Chris Edwards
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*
Can Olgun, *Director of Chapel Church Music*
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
Ashley Gonzalez
membership@fapc.org




Make a donation
fapc.org/give



Plan your wedding
Donna Ketchledge
weddings@fapc.org



Planned giving
Richard Schexnider
finance@fapc.org

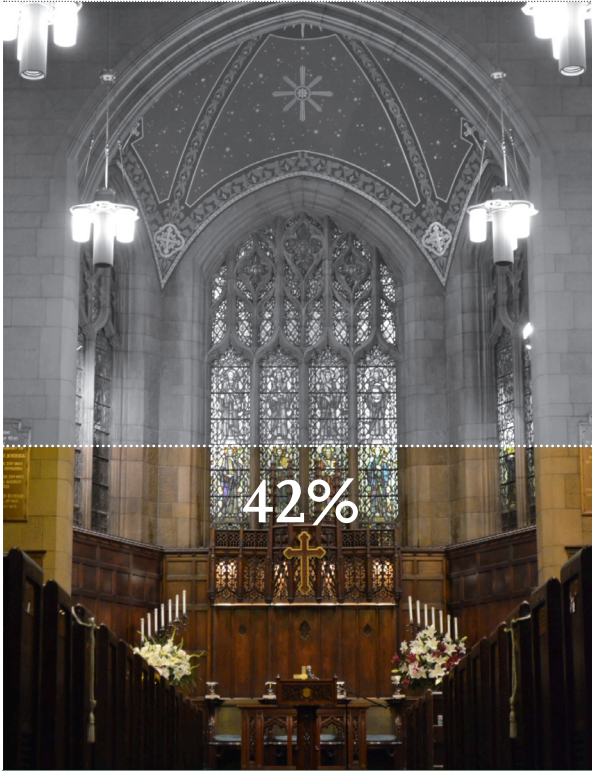


Prepare for baptism
Jaime Staehle
familyministries@fapc.org

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
\$6,004,250 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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