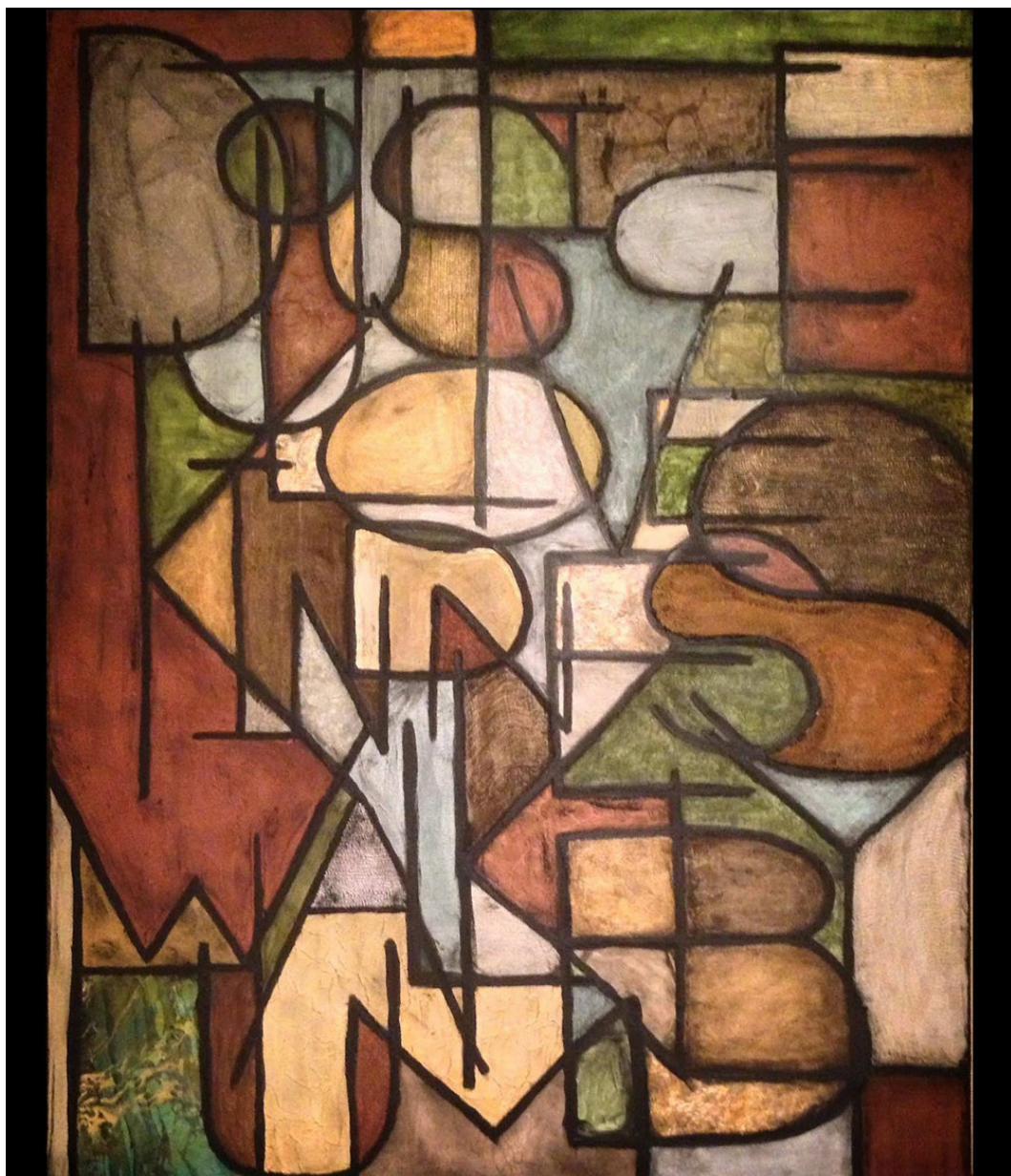




Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 8, 2023 • 11:00 AM



Jaime Winton, *Micah 6:8*, 2013

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! 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. 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 & Fugue in G major, op. 37 no. 3
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

* CALL TO WORSHIP *Elder Roseanne Lind*

Micah 6

One: With what shall we come before the Holy One,
and bow ourselves before God on high?

All: God has shown us what is good.

One: What does the Holy One require of us?

All: To do justice,

One: and to love kindness,

All: and to walk humbly with our God.

One: Let us worship God, tender and just.

* HYMN 757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

* CALL TO CONFESSION

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

* 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.

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
The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

ANTHEM Beati quorum via • C.V. Stanford (1852–1924)
Beati quorum via integra est, Blessed are those who live with integrity,
qui ambulant in lege Domini. who walk in the law of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 7:22-35

And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” (And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, because they had been baptized with John’s baptism. But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves.) “To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling

to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.’ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

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

SERMON
The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

“Practicing Heaven”

* RESPONSE OF FAITH

from *Philippians* 2:12-13
We will work out our salvation with fear and trembling;
for it is God who is at work in us,
enabling us both to will and to work for God’s good pleasure.
Amen.

* HYMN 725

O Jesus, I Have Promised

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
The Rev. Werner Ramirez

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Blessed are all they that fear Him,” from *Elijah*
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847), text: *Psalms* 128:1 and *Psalms* 112:4
Blessed are all they that fear Him,
They ever walk in the ways of peace.
Through darkness riseth light,
Light to the upright.
He is gracious, compassionate;
He is righteous.

* 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 65 **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

* BENEDICTION

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

* CHORAL RESPONSE May God Who Creates You • *Louise Skibsted*

May God who creates you give you light;
May God who sustains you make you wise;
May God who protects you give you joy;
May God who surrounds you give you peace.

POSTLUDE Organ Sonata no. 2 in C minor, op. 65, no. 2:
IV. Fuga: Allegro moderato
Felix Mendelssohn

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

WORSHIP NOTES

The Anthem is a very famous setting by one of the great-grandfathers of English choral music, Charles Villiers Stanford. *Beati quorum* via (“Blessed are those”), is the second in a set of three motets for unaccompanied choir, composed around 1892 and published in 1905. The motets are dedicated to Alan Gray and the choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, and are widely considered to be amongst Stanford’s finest choral compositions. In particular, the elegant six-voice part writing in *Beati quorum* via ensure its place as one of Stanford’s most exquisite compositions for unaccompanied choir.

The Offertory Anthem comes from Felix Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, an English-language oratorio written in 1846 for a music festival in Birmingham, England. This piece was composed in the spirit of Mendelssohn’s Baroque predecessors Bach and Handel, whose music he loved. In 1829, Mendelssohn had organized the first performance of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* since the composer’s death and was instrumental in bringing this and other Bach works to widespread popularity. *Elijah* depicts various events in the life of the Biblical prophet. Many of the texts are drawn from the first and second book of Kings, as well as the Psalms. “Blessed are all they that fear Him” (originally “Blessed are the men that fear Him”) is one of the most well-known and frequently performed choruses from this beloved oratorio.

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, 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, Henny Waisapy, Bill Wanek, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks, Sylvia Winrich Deborah Wurgler, Doris Wurgler

Faithful Departed:

September 28, 2023: Mary Coffey—beloved mother of Sean Coffey and mother-in-law of Anne Coffey. Beloved grandmother of Kate, Cameron, and Conor Coffey.

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, Sunday School, and Youth Group.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- Chapel Church.** Kirkland Chapel.
- The Word is Out.** 6th floor of the Curry Church House.
- 11 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary and livestream.
- 12:15 pm** **Deacons Food Drive.**
- 12:15 pm** **Coffee Hour.** Weber Terrace and online.
- 2 pm** **Believing and Belonging.** Zoom. Contact the Rev. Sarah A. Speed (*membership@fapc.org*) to register.

This Week

- Tue Oct 10** **Staff-led Bible Study.** 12 pm. For more information, contact Christine Boyle (*bible-study@fapc.org*).
- Wed Oct 11** **Zoom Women's Bible Study.** 8 am. For more information, please contact the Rev. Sarah A. Speed (*community@fapc.org*).
- Community Choir Rehearsal.** 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All are welcome.
- Asian-American Bible Study.** 6:30 pm • 6th Floor Conference Room & Zoom.
- Fri Oct 13** **Youth Fall Retreat.** 5 pm. For more information, please contact the Rev. Werner Ramirez (*youth@fapc.org*).
- Sat Oct 14** **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

- Sun Oct 15** **Deacons Food Drive Ends.** Bring your non-perishable foods before worship this Sunday or drop them off throughout the week at the 55th Street reception desk.
- Believing & Belonging.** 2 pm • Zoom. Class for new members. For more information, contact Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom (*membership@fapc.org*).
- Fri Oct 20** **Fall Concert: Celestial Songs: In Celebration of Music.** 7 pm • Kirkland Chapel & livestream. Tickets available at *fapc.org/tickets*.
- Fri Oct 27** **Kenneth O. Jones Distinguished Service Awards.** 6:30 pm • Jones Auditorium and Bonnell Hall. To secure your reservation, please visit *fapc.org/jones*.

Next Sunday • Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

"Wild Awe" • Job 12:7-12
Natalie Owens-Pike, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

Today: Believing & Belonging Membership Class

If you are hungry for deeper faith and deeper belonging, then we have a spot saved for you! Come explore what it means be a part of the Christian church, the Presbyterian tradition, and this congregation. We would love to see you there! This two-part class will meet today and next Sunday (Oct. 15) at 2 pm ET on Zoom. To save your spot in this fall's membership class, or to learn more, please contact Rev. Sarah A. Speed at (*membership@fapc.org*).

Tuesday, October 10: Online Bible Study

This is the perfect opportunity for you to strengthen your relationship with Scripture and deepen your faith. Throughout the year, Fifth Avenue's senior staff will guide you through some of the Bible's most thought-provoking passages. Participants will learn how these sacred words can help us navigate our modern dilemmas. This month, Christine Boyle, Director of Outreach and Missions, leads an exploration of how the Bible depicts human migration. Future months will feature other topics, including women in Scripture, the difficult words of Jesus, and the Sermon on the Mount. This series meets every Tuesday at 12 pm on Zoom. For more information, please contact Christine Boyle (*bible-study@fapc.org*). To register, visit *fapc.org/bible-study*.

Sunday, October 15: Deacons Food Drive Concludes

The annual Deacons Food Drive concludes on Sunday, Oct. 15. The Deacons will be on hand before worship to accept your donations of non-perishable foods on behalf of our mission partner the Urban Outreach Center NYC. This year the Urban Outreach pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and one-pound bags of rice. For our extended family, you can participate from wherever you are. Simply go to your favorite online delivery website and send us either peanut butter or rice. Set delivery to Deacons of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7 W. 55th St., New York, NY 10019. Thank you for your generosity! For more information, contact Natalie Wardius (*congregationalcare@fapc.org*).

Friday, October 20: Celestial Songs: In Celebration of Music

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir presents Celestial Songs, an evening of choral music in celebration of sacred song and poetry. Immerse yourself in the dazzling soundscape of Benjamin Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, a mesmerizing choral tribute to the patron saint of music, performed alongside Francis Poulenc's delightful setting of the *Gloria*. The program also features the concert premieres of Jessica French's majestic new anthem, *At Heaven's Proclamation*, and Philip Stopford's festive *Te Deum*, commissioned by the Fifth Avenue congregation in honor of Ryan Jackson's 10th anniversary as music director. Tickets available at *fapc.org/tickets*.

Available Now: The FAPC Congregational Survey

Take 5 minutes today to be counted in the Fifth Avenue Congregational Survey! Help us connect with you by completing this short survey of your demographic and contact info. We especially encourage our far-flung family to let us know who and where you are. Finishing the survey enters you in a raffle for a set of Kate Bowler's books or a fun Fifth Avenue swag bag! You can find the survey at *fapc.org/survey*. If you have any questions, please email Natalie Owens-Pike (*hybridchurch@fapc.org*).

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*

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
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*

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
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*

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
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-Grissom, *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-Grissom
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

Mark Your Calendar!

On October 27 at 6:30 pm, we will celebrate the **Kenneth O. Jones Distinguished Service Awards.**

It's one of our biggest nights of the year! The Jones Awards began in 2011 to celebrate officers and former officers and to recognize individuals for their outstanding service to the church.

The awards honor the memory of the Rev. Kenneth O. Jones, associate minister of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church for 33 years until his death in 1996.

The event begins with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in Jones Auditorium, followed by a three-course dinner and the awards presentation in Bonnell Hall. See you there!

To secure your reservation, please visit fapc.org/jones.

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



Building Hours

Monday,
Wednesday – Friday
9 am – 6 pm

Tuesday
9 am – 9 pm

Saturday
8 am – 1 pm

Sunday
8 am – 2:30 pm



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