

# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 24, 2023 • 11:00 AM

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Lauren Wright Pittman, *Mary & Elizabeth*, 2018

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**This Is God's House. All Are Welcome.**

# Welcome to Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us.

The cover of this bulletin reads, "This Is God's House. All Are Welcome." We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God's kingdom. We don't all look or act alike; God knows we don't all think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, gathered in the Sanctuary and online, we worship together as one.

In this grand old church, we do Sunday morning in some pretty traditional (very Presbyterian) ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We sing many of the same hymns our grandparents sang. Yet, in our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. I hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

After the service, please stick around. Introduce yourself to one of our clergy or someone at our Welcome Table. We have lots of programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

Scott Black Johnston  
Senior Pastor

## ➔ 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

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day • James Biery (b. 1956)  
People, Look East • James Mansfield (1927–2018)

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Jessica Carmona

One: Can you picture it?  
God is throwing open the door.  
God is laughing with joy.  
God is saying to us,  
**All: "Come in, come in!"**  
One: Make yourself at home, for you are welcome here.  
**All: We are welcome here.**  
One: All are welcome here.  
**All: Let us worship our door-opening God.**

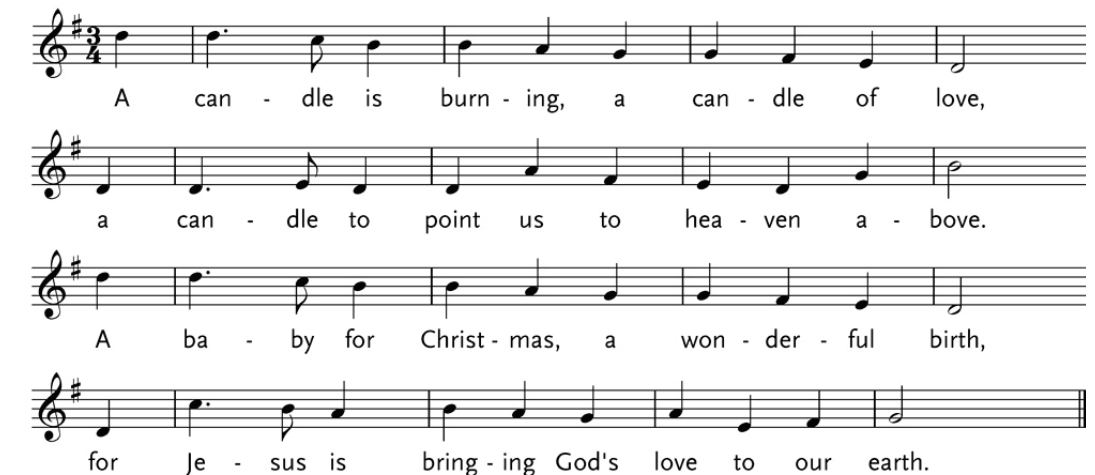
### \* HYMN 104

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

### \* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Elder Martha Van Hise

### \* SUNG RESPONSE



Music: James R. Murray, 1887 - AWAY IN A MANGER. Text: Sandra Dean © 1986 Sandra Dean.  
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### \* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

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

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,  
so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.

*Silent Reflection and Confession*

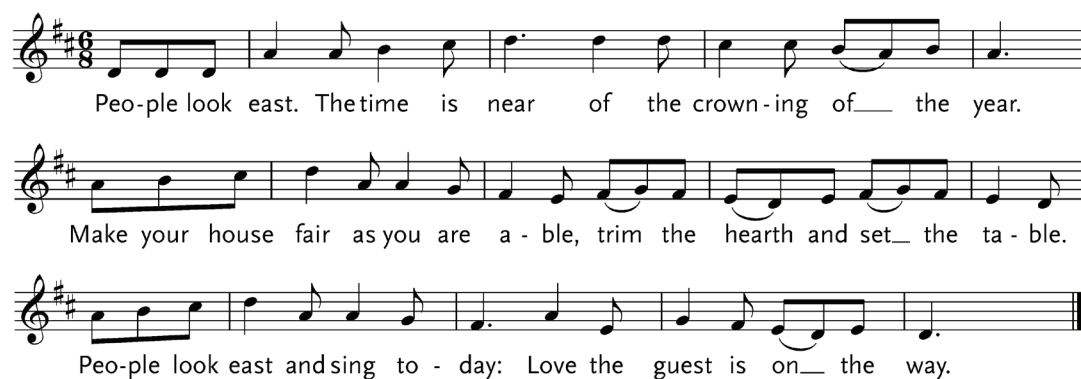
\* SUNG RESPONSE

(Cantor sings once; then the congregation joins, singing once.)



\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE



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

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

*Children (pre-K through second grade) are invited to exit the Sanctuary for Children's Church.  
If this is your child's first time at Fifth Avenue, please accompany them downstairs.*

LITANY OF PARTING

All: May God be with you there.  
Children: May God be with you here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

ANTHEM

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-56

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

And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.



	<p>He has helped his servant Israel,  in remembrance of his mercy,  according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”</p> <p>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.</p> <p>One: This is the Word of God; for the People of God.  All: <b>Thanks be to God.</b></p>
SERMON <i>The Rev. Sarah A. Speed</i>	<b>“Christmas at Mary’s House”</b>
* PRAYER FOR THE DAY	<p><b>Listening God,</b>  <b>When the world falls apart around us, remind us</b>  <b>that there is nowhere that we can flee from your spirit.</b>  <b>There is nowhere that we can hide from your love.</b>  <b>Remind us, that like Elizabeth,</b>  <b>you are standing at the open door inviting us in.</b>  <b>May we feel that love deep in our bones,</b>  <b>and on this Christmas week, may we turn that love</b>  <b>towards our aching and hurting world.</b>  <b>Amen.</b></p>
* HYMN 146	<b>Gentle Mary Laid Her Child</b>
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE <i>Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom, Director of Engagement</i>	
THE LORD’S PRAYER	<p><b>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.</b>  <b>Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.</b>  <b>Give us this day our daily bread,</b>  <b>and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.</b>  <b>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.</b>  <b>For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.</b>  <b>Amen.</b></p>
CALL TO GIVE	
OFFERTORY ANTHEM	<p><i>Magnificat • Ruth Watson Henderson (b. 1932)</i>  <i>Text: Luke 1:46-55</i></p> <p><i>Magnificat anima mea Dominum;</i>      My soul doth magnify the Lord.  <i>et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,</i>      And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.</p> <p>My soul doth magnify the Lord.  And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.  And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.  He hath shewed strength with his arm:</p>

	<p>He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  And hath exalted the humble and meek.  He hath filled the hungry with good things:  And the rich he hath sent empty away.  He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.</p> <p><i>Gloria Patri, et Filio,</i>      Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  <i>et Spiritui Sancto,</i>      and to the Holy Ghost;  <i>Sicut erat in principio,</i>      As it was in the beginning,  <i>et nunc, et semper:</i>      is now, and ever shall be:  <i>Et in Saecula saeculorum. Amen.</i>      World without end. Amen.</p>
* DOXOLOGY	<p><b>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;</b>  <b>Praise God, all creatures here below;</b>  <b>Praise God above, ye heavenly host;</b>  <b>Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.</b>  <b>Amen.</b></p>
* OFFERTORY PRAYER	
* HYMN 136	<b>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</b>
* BENEDICTION	<p><i>Please remain in your pew until the conclusion of the Choral Response.</i></p>
* CHORAL RESPONSE	<p>Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes • <i>Mark G. Sirett (b. 1952)</i>  <i>Text: Anonymous</i></p> <p>Thou shalt know him when he comes,  Not by any din of drums,  Nor his manners, nor his airs,  Nor by anything he wears.  Thou shalt know him when he comes,  Not by his crown or by his gown,  But his coming known shall be,  By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.  Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.</p>
POSTLUDE	<i>Noël grand jeu et duo • Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)</i>

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* • Rebecca Soelberg, *Soprano*

## WORSHIP NOTES

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The anthems this morning were written by two luminaries of the Canadian choral music scene: Eleanor Daley and Ruth Watson Henderson. For more than forty years, these two women have had a profound impact on choral music not only in Canada, but around the world where their pieces are beloved by choirs and audiences alike.

Eleanor Daley's cheerful setting of *Gabriel's Message* is in striking contrast to the more solemn music of the Basque carol to which this text is traditionally sung. A retelling of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel tells the Virgin Mary that she is to become the mother of Jesus, Daley sets the text to rhythmically incisive music that dances along with lightness and joy. The constantly-changing meter adds to the playfulness of the setting which, amazingly, sounds perfectly natural even as it keeps everyone guessing as to where the next beat is going to fall!

Ruth Watson Henderson's bold and beautiful setting of the *Magnificat*, the song of praise that Mary sings in response to Gabriel's Annunciation, is a wonderful example of Watson Henderson's distinctive compositional voice. The piece opens with dramatic, fanfare-like acclamations from the choir singing the Latin version of the text, "*Magnificat anima mea Dominum*," "My soul magnifies the Lord!" A gentle soprano solo transitions the music to a more introspective middle section in which the choir continues with the text in English, "For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden." The music of the middle section is highly varied, and demonstrates Watson Henderson's incredible gift for expressing the emotional essence of a text through music. The melodies are memorable and immediately appealing, undergirded by harmonies and choral textures that are imaginative and evocative. The dramatic and skillful organ accompaniment swells to lead the music back to a recapitulation of the opening fanfare-like material, this time setting the words of the "*Gloria Patri*," "Glory be to the Father." This leads to an exciting and rhythmic coda that ends grandly in the key of A major.

## 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:

Candy Asman, Pat Backus, Algernon John Baptiste, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Pastor Toribio Cajiut, 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, Irene P. Gilman, 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, The McCall Family, Frank Owarish, Dexter Ramcharan, Don Rogers 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, Wayne Zhou

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### Faithful Departed:

December 13, 2023: May McCraw—beloved aunt of Paige McKinlay.

December 20, 2023: Danny Linton—beloved uncle of Paige McKinlay.

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

<i>Today</i>	
<b>11 am</b>	<b>Worship.</b> Sanctuary & livestream.
<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>Children's Church.</b> LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
<b>12 pm</b>	<b>Coffee Hour.</b> Bonnell Hall and online.
<b>12 pm</b>	<b>Tour the Church.</b> Meet at the rear of the Sanctuary following worship.
<b>2 pm</b>	<b>Family Ministries Christmas Eve.</b> Available online on our YouTube channel, @FAPCinNYC.
<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.</b> Sanctuary & livestream. Music begins at 7 pm.
<b>11 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.</b> Sanctuary. Music begins at 10:30 pm.

### Monday, December 25 – Tuesday, December 26

*The church will be closed for the Christmas holiday. Merry Christmas, from all of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church clergy and staff!*

<b>Sat Dec 30</b>	<b>Meals on Heels.</b> 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Volunteers prepare and deliver meals to homebound neighbors. Contact: John Wyatt ( <a href="mailto:moh@fapc.org">moh@fapc.org</a> ).
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### Coming Up

<b>Sun Dec 31</b>	<b>First Sunday of Christmas.</b> 11 am • Sanctuary & livestream. The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike will lead us into the New Year as she concludes our Advent Sermon series with "Christmas at Simeon's House."
<b>Tue Jan 2</b>	<b>Weekly Word Bible Study.</b> 12 pm • Zoom. To register, visit <a href="http://fapc.org/bible-study">fapc.org/bible-study</a> . For more information, please contact The Rev. Werner Ramirez ( <a href="mailto:bible-study@fapc.org">bible-study@fapc.org</a> ).
<b>Wed Jan 3</b>	<b>Asian-American Bible Study.</b> 6:30 pm • 6th Floor Conference Room and Zoom. <b>Kate Bowler Book Study.</b> 6:30 pm • Zoom. Contact Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom ( <a href="mailto:engagement@fapc.org">engagement@fapc.org</a> ) to sign up.
<b>Sun Jan 7</b>	<b>Epiphany Sunday.</b> The Rev. Werner Ramirez will lead our celebration of Epiphany. Chapel Church. 9:30 am • Jones Auditorium. Worship. 11 am • Sanctuary & livestream.
<b>Sun Jan 14</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday.</b> The Rev. John Molina Moore, preaching. <b>Womanist Proclamation and the Arts.</b> 9:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Join us for an introduction to womanist theology with the Rev. Dr. Andrea C. White, Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Union Theological Seminary. <b>Worship.</b> 11 am • Sanctuary & livestream. The Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyterian of National Capital Presbytery, is our guest preacher this morning.
<b>Sun, Jan 21</b>	<b>Game Day with the Homeless.</b> 1 – 3 pm • Jones Auditorium. <b>Believing &amp; Belonging: New Member Class.</b> 2 pm • Zoom. An online class for prospective members. Details and registration at <a href="http://fapc.org/membership">fapc.org/membership</a> . Contact: Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom for more information ( <a href="mailto:membership@fapc.org">membership@fapc.org</a> ).

## NEWS & EVENTS

### Kate Bowler Book Study

This book group will meet Wednesdays at 6:30 pm on Zoom in January to prepare for our 2024 Gotto lecture. We will read and discuss Kate's bestselling memoir, *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* (Random House, 2018). All are welcome! Please reach out to [engagement@fapc.org](mailto:engagement@fapc.org) if you're interested in signing up.

### Sunday, January 14: Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

We have an engaging Sunday planned. Join us in Bonnell Hall at 9:30 am for "Womanist Proclamation and the Arts." The Rev. Dr. Andrea C. White, Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Union Theological Seminary and Theologian-in-Residence at The Riverside Church, introduces us to womanist theology and an exploration of black art as a site for wonder and grace. Breakfast will be served. Worship begins at 11 am in the Sanctuary and on livestream. Our guest preacher is the Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyterian of National Capital Presbytery. Rev. Molina-Moore will launch the winter sermon series "Beloved Community."

### Saturday, January 20: Women's Winter Sabbath Retreat

Come reflect and restore at this year's Women's Winter Sabbath Retreat, which will focus on storytelling. From large group keynotes to breakout Zoom conversations and "Emmaus walks" (ie: short, partnered walks through the city or building), we will find God in relationship, in listening, and in time together. This retreat will be from 10 am to 1 pm EST for our online participants and from 10 am to 3 pm for those attending in person. All generations of women are welcome and we hope to see you there! To sign up, visit [fapc.org/womens-retreat](http://fapc.org/womens-retreat). For more information, please email the Rev. Sarah A. Speed ([womensministry@fapc.org](mailto:womensministry@fapc.org)).

### Sunday, January 21: Game Day with the Homeless

Please join us for Game Day with members of the homeless community on Sunday, January 21, from 1 pm to 3 pm in Jones Auditorium. Be part of this befriending ministry tradition of sharing a meal with our homeless neighbors, playing games, and engaging our guests in conversation! Please reach out to Christine Boyle, Director of Outreach & Missions ([outreach@fapc.org](mailto:outreach@fapc.org)) with any questions. Registration for the event will close on January 16.

### Wednesday, January 31: The Sixth Annual Gotto Lecture

Author, historian, and podcast host Kate Bowler will deliver the sixth Anita and Antonio Gotto Lecture in our Sanctuary and on livestream. Bowler is the author of six books, ranging from history and memoir to devotionals and blessings. She is an associate professor of the history of Christianity in North America at Duke Divinity School and hosts the popular podcast *Everything Happens*. Her latest book, *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day! Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs & In-Betweens* will be released next month, shortly before her lecture. Head to [fapc.org/gotto](http://fapc.org/gotto) for tickets. For more information, please email Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom ([engagement@fapc.org](mailto:engagement@fapc.org)).

### Give the Gift of Church Officers

The Nominating Committee is seeking your input as it prepares a slate of officer candidates for new, three-year terms. If you, or a member you know, would be a good candidate for the Board of Deacons, the Session, or the Board of Trustees, please send us your recommendation. Information on the officer election process and the officer recommendation form are available at [fapc.org/officer-elections](http://fapc.org/officer-elections). Please submit your recommendations by Sunday, January 21.

## 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. The curriculum includes visiting authors, interfaith dialogue and other events. 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

Want stronger relationships? Community groups make that possible. 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 contact Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom, director of engagement ([membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org)).

### Congregational Care

If you (or others you know in our congregation) are going through a difficult time, we are here for you. We have a team of dedicated staff and volunteers who are available for counseling, home and hospital visits, medical escorts and prayer. You may also 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 brings together families from diverse backgrounds to nurture healthy children and strong, faithful families. Our Little Lambs nursery for infants and toddlers is available every Sunday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Sunday School and Youth Group take place at 9:30 am during the program year (September through May). Children depart the 11 am worship service to attend Children's Church every Sunday (except for our summer break, from June 25 until Homecoming). We also sponsor special events for families and kids throughout the year. Learn more and register your child 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, led by the Rev. Sarah Speed. 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). Or contact Sarah ([youngadults@fapc.org](mailto:youngadults@fapc.org)). We'd love to get to know you!

### 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) to register, or contact Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom, director of engagement (212.247.0490 ext 3005, [membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org)).

### 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:

Church of Gethsemane	Parity
The Farminary Project	Search and Care
Garden of Hope	Urban Outreach Center NYC
Hands Along the Nile Development Services	West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing
Holmes Camp and Retreat Center	
Ministry of Hope Lesotho	
Mission co-workers in	
Madagascar, the Philippines	
& the U.S.–Mexico border	

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).



## 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*

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The Rev. Kate Dunn, *Parish Visitor*  
The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kitchen, *Parish Associate*  
The Rev. Dr. J. Oscar McCloud, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*  
The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, *Director of Ministry to the Online Campus*  
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*  
Stephanie Kelley, *Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor & 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*  
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)



### Fund the altar flowers

Natalie Wardius  
[congregationalcare@fapc.org](mailto:congregationalcare@fapc.org)



### Join the church

Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom  
[membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org)



### Make a donation

[fapc.org/give](http://fapc.org/give)



### Plan your wedding

Donna Ketchledge  
[weddings@fapc.org](mailto:weddings@fapc.org)



### Planned giving

Richard Schexnider  
[finance@fapc.org](mailto:finance@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)

**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

# Abiding Light

The 2024 Pledge Campaign

86%

**Have you pledged?**

372 families have pledged \$3,027,170  
towards our \$3.5 million goal.

**Thank you!**

Your pledge supports our worship services,  
music ministries, online campus, outreach  
to our neighbors, educational offerings,  
and so much more.

Please visit [fapc.org/pledge](https://fapc.org/pledge) today!

## Support the Church

Scan this code using the camera  
on your smartphone and follow  
the instructions to make a secure  
donation to our ministries.

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



### Holiday Building Hours This Week: Dec. 25 – 31

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



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