



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 18, 2024 • 10:00 AM



Fresco from the Visoki Dečani Monastery, *Ananias Baptizes Paul*

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

Trois Pièces: 2. Cantabile • César Franck (1822–1890)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Bruce Ramsden

from Psalm 27 and 51

One: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer!

**All: “Come,” my heart says, “seek God’s face!”
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

One: Create in me a clean heart of God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

**All: Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

One: Give me the joy of your salving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**All: Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise!**

* HYMN 421

Have Mercy, God, upon My Life

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Seminarian Emily Harris

* 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.)



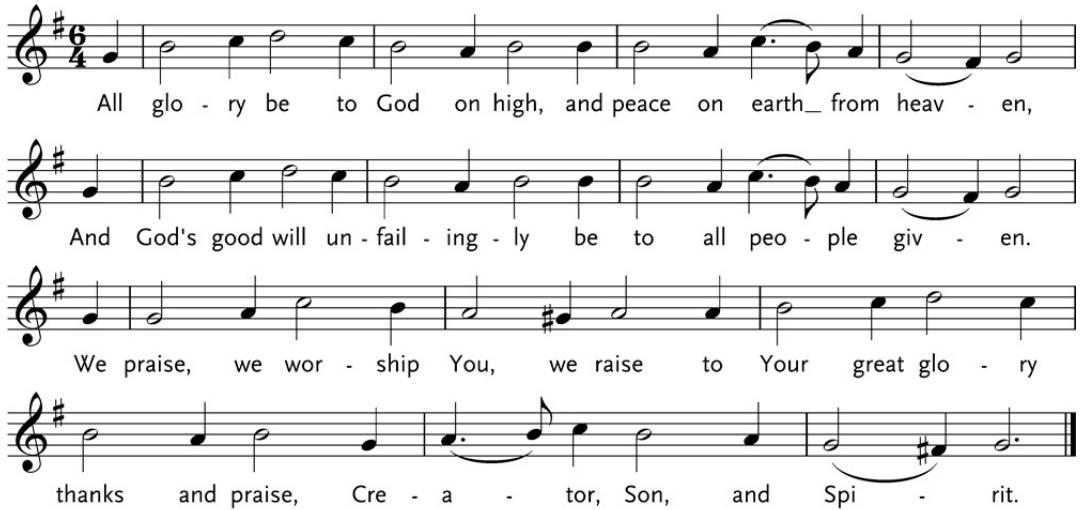
To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you, I lift my soul.____

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* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE



All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth_ from heav - en,
 And God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be to all peo - ple giv - en.
 We praise, we wor - ship You, we raise to Your great glo - ry
 thanks and praise, Cre - a - tor, Son, and Spi - rit.

Music: Nikolaus Decius, 1539 - ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH'. Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1522, trans. F. Bland Tucker.
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* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLO

The Seasons: The Traveler Stands Perplexed
F.J. Haydn (1732–1809)

The traveler stands perplexed, forlorn, uncertain he,
 Which way his wandering steps to turn across the trackless waste.
 No human dwelling cheers his sight,
 no mark of human foot is found.
 And onward as he bravely toils, in deeper error plunges still.
 Depressed his courage sinks, and anguish wrings his heart.
 As night its sable horrors sheds, and weariness and cold
 Have stiffened all his limbs. Before his gladdened sight appears
 A sudden gleam of neighboring light;
 And now revived he springs, with joyful panting breast,
 To gain the door, to gain the welcome door,
 Where all his pains may find relief!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:1-19

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.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

“Why Engage?”

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Confession of 1967

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no person has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace. Amen.

* HYMN 719

Come, Labor On

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kitchen

OFFERTORY SOLO

Elijah, op. 70: If with all your hearts
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

If with all your heart ye truly seek me,
Ye shall ever surely find me,
Thus saith our God.

If with all your heart ye truly seek me,
Ye shall ever surely find me,
Thus saith our God. Thus saith our God.

Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
That I might even come before his presence.
Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
That I might even come before his presence,
come before his presence.

Oh, that I knew where I might find him.
If with all your heart ye truly seek me,

Ye shall ever surely find me,
Thus saith our God.

Ye shall ever surely find me,
Thus saith our God.

* 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 299

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Symphony no. 1 in D minor, op. 42: *III. Final*
Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911)

The ministry of music this morning is offered by
Eddie Zheng, *Guest Organist* • Garrett Eucker, *Soloist*

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:

Ann Alexander, Pat Backus, Patricia Blair, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Pastor Toribio Cajiuat, Ella Calderon, Denise Campbell Nina S. Campbell, Phoebe Chiu, Sookjoong Choi, Anne Coffey, Dr. Johanna Cook, Eugenia Connerat Edna Craddock, William Cuffee, Athanassia Doucas, Sherian Edgreen, David Elissa and Barbara Mitchell, Michael Elissa, Narmella Elissa, Sohn Fong, Irene P. Gilman, Anthea and Neville Graham, Florence Hall, Torian Hall, Wanda Roush Hannan, Peter S. Hawkins Christopher Henderson, Donna Marie Henderson, Maggie Hendrix, Emi Iwaida, Juliet Kaldanie Frederick Loomis, Louis Sterling King, Ceciwa Khonje, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson Mary Lowry, Violet Lorenzen, Lauren Ma, The McCall Family, Gerry Nagy, Frank Owarish Dexter Ramcharan, Don Rogers, Ramon Rosa, Pauline Sample, Robert Scheuer, Nancy Seelig Tshombe Selby, Taylor Shultz, Bonnie Smith, Monica Smith, 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, Priscilla Young-Rodgers, Wayne Zhou

Faithful Departed:

June 18, 2024: David May Koeppel, beloved husband of Jacqueline DeSimone.

August 6, 2024: Joan P.R. Cabanos "Aunty Io," beloved member of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Beloved mother of Victoria, Gregory, and Keiki-Michael Cabanos. A memorial service for Io will be held in the Sanctuary on Monday, August 26 at 1 pm.

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.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10 am** **Kids Bible Adventure.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
- 10:15 am** **Children's Church.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 11:15 am** **Coffee Hour.** Bonnell Hall and online.
- Tour the Church.** Meet at the rear of the Sanctuary following worship.
- 11:30 am** **Women's Ministry: White Elephant Book Swap.** Corning Logan Room.
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This Week

Thu Aug 23 **Career Directions.** 10 am. Zoom.

Sat Aug 24 **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall.

Coming Up

Sun Aug 25 **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & livestream. Join us for a Chapel Church-style worship service! The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, preaching.

Sat Aug 31 **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall.

Sun Sep 1 **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. The Rev. Dr. Jonah So, preaching.
Bagels & Bible. 11:30 am • 7th Floor Conference Room. Calling all those 40+ to join the Rev. Dr. Jonah So for bagels & Bible study.

Mon Sep 2 **Labor Day holiday.** Building closed.

Wed Sep 4 **Feed Your Soul.** Dinner, 6 pm, Bonnell Hall. Worship, 7 pm, Jones Auditorium & Zoom. Register at fapc.org/soul.

Sat Sep 7 **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall.

Sun Sep 8 **Homecoming.** 11 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.

Family Ministries Breakfast. 9:30 am • LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.

Sun Sep 15 **Chapel Church returns!** 9:30 am • Jones Auditorium.

Next Sunday • Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship in the style of Chapel Church

“Why Pray?” • Psalm 146

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

HOMECOMING & FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Homecoming is only a few weeks away! On Sunday, September 8, at 11 am, we'll celebrate the beginning of our program year. Senior Pastor Scott Black Johnston will launch a new sermon series. We'll cap the joyous day with a festive coffee hour in Bonnell Hall and an Opportunities Fair where you can learn more about everything going on at church. See you at Homecoming!

Following Homecoming, we have a vibrant lineup of events to bring our community together in fellowship, worship, and celebration. Mark your calendars and join us!

- **Women's Ministry Walk in the Park.** Wednesday, Sept. 18, 6 pm.
- **Fall Concert.** *Unclouded Day: Sacred Songs of America.* Friday, Oct. 18, 7 pm.
- **Family Ministries Fall Festival.** Sunday, Oct. 20, 12:30 pm.
- **The Kenneth O. Jones Awards.** Friday, Oct. 25, 7 pm.

We look forward to seeing you at these events as we come together to enjoy the blessings of the fall season!

Next Week: Chapel Church in the Sanctuary!

Join us next Sunday at 10 am in the Sanctuary for a special Chapel Church-style service. Come experience the Chapel Church band, the Holy Interruption, written prayer, and all the creativity of this special contemporary worship celebration. If you haven't experienced Chapel Church before, this is your chance to see how the Spirit moves there. See you at 10 am next week!

Wednesday, September 4: Feed your Soul

Join the staff of Fifth Avenue for an evening of fellowship, prayer, and a shared meal at Feed Your Soul. This event is a wonderful opportunity to prepare for a year of dedicated service as officers, vocalists, ushers, greeters, Sunday School teachers, Outreach volunteers, and more. Dinner will begin at 6 pm in Bonnell Hall. We will also host this annual worship service via Zoom for the online campus, including online communion. Please register at fapc.org/soul by Wednesday, August 28 as registration is required. For more information, contact Christine Boyle at outreach@fapc.org.

Tracing Our Roots: Join the 2025 Trip to Scotland

We are thrilled to invite you to join us on an exciting trip to Scotland! Join Jamie Staehle, Director of Christian Education, and explore the rich history and heritage of the Presbyterian Church. You'll visit historic sites, delve into our shared faith's deep-rooted traditions, and enjoy the breathtaking landscapes. Traveling with friends is the best kind of travel! Sign up for this unforgettable journey to make memories and deepen our faith together. Secure your spot by DATE. To learn more and register visit fapc.org/scotland.

Did you know...

...that you can sponsor Coffee Hour in honor of a loved one, celebration of a milestone, or commemoration of a significant personal or familial event? Contact Rodrigo Rosas (rodrigo@roxoevents.com) for more information.

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. Natalie Owens-Pike, *Associate Pastor*
Meg Sheehan, *Clerk of Session* • Dennis Bushe, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Eric Daniels	Rachel Brenner	Chloe Hawker
Carol Kenney	Dennis Bushe	Josie Lawrence
Ann Marie Koehler	Roseanne Lind	Persis Luke
Chris Rogers	Nate Mahrer	Patrick Obeng-Frimpong
Janeen A. Sarlin	Brian McLendon	Thomas Pak
Meg Sheehan	Louisa Raitt	David Roberson
Sienna Toung	Martha Van Hise	Beth Rumore Stanley
Sylvia Winrich		Jama Toung

The Board of Deacons

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

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Kirsten Aiello	Chrissy Badger	Jessie Allen
Kelly Baer	Brendan Birth	Andy Craven
Jessica Carmona	Joshua Code	Myra Ford
Hope Griggs	Rumel Francois	Mary Sue Highmore
Jane Henn	Jeanne Lehman French	Kyle Hughes
Sarah McKoy	Bruce Ramsden	Susie Hunter
Jeannine Rodgers	Susan Roberson	Trevor Illingworth
Chad Schepp	Betsy Ross	Jamie Ku
Dicky Tuwaidan	Amelia Vogler Topping	Elizabeth (Beth) McCullough
Arthur Wong	Julia Ward	Kathy Peterson
		Nicole Rusk

The Board of Trustees

Ken Henderson, *President* • Jane Hong, *Vice President* • Susan Neunaber, *Secretary*
Christopher Duffy, *Treasurer* • Meredith Fleck, *Assistant Treasurer*

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Susan Cersovsky	Christopher Duffy	Joyce Hansen
Jose Guardado	Chris Edwards	Mark Moreland
Ken Henderson	Meredith Fleck	Marran Ogilvie
Joanna McNurlen	Jane Hong	Constance Pond Hubbard
Jeff Rowbottom	Susan Neunaber	Phil Ryan
Mark Snyder	Thomas Wesley	William Stone

CLERGY & STAFF



The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So *Executive Pastor*

The Rev. Werner Ramirez *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Family Ministries*

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike *Associate Pastor for Ministry to the Online Campus*



The Rev. 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*



Dr. Ryan Jackson, *William S. Perper Director of Music & Fine Arts Ministries*

Stephanie Kelley, *Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor & Co-Director of Special Projects*

Donna Ketchledge, *Program Coordinator & Assistant to the Executive Pastor*

Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist*

Derek Maddalena, *Director of Facilities*

Sean McAvoy, *Director of Communications & Development*

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



Join the online campus

Natalie Owens-Pike

hybridchurch@fapc.org



Join the church

Jonah So

membership@fapc.org



Make a donation

fapc.org/give



Make a bequest

Richard Schexnider

finance@fapc.org



Plan your wedding

Donna Ketchledge

weddings@fapc.org



Prepare for baptism

Jaime Staehle

familyministries@fapc.org

Add a name to the prayer list • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org

Fund the altar flowers • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org

Hire our caterer • Rodrigo Rosas, rodrigo@roxoevents.com

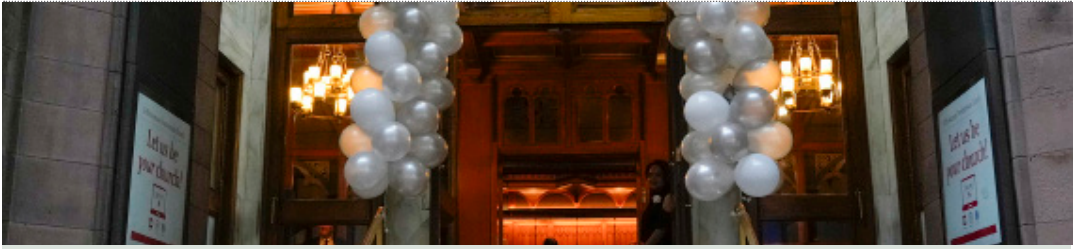
Notify us of a death or illness • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org

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



HOMECOMING

Sunday, Sept. 8 • 11 am

See you at Homecoming! We'll celebrate the start of our program year after the summer break. Senior Pastor Scott Black Johnston will launch an exciting new sermon series. We'll cap the joyous day with a festive celebration in Bonnell Hall where you can learn about everything going on at Fifth Avenue.

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



FAPCNYC



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