



# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 24, 2025 • 10:00 AM



©Laura James, *Jesus Baptism*, 2000

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

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## ➔ 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 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](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

Pièce in C major, op. 157 • *Mélanie Bonis* (1858–1937)

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

*Deacon Amelia Vogler Topping*

*Adapted from Isaiah 40*

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness,

**All: Come prepare the way of the Lord!**

One: Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low.

**All: We join together with singing and with worship,  
with acts of service and with prayer.**

One: The Lord feeds his flock like a shepherd.  
She gathers the lambs in her arms  
and carries them in her bosom.  
The Lord gently leads the mother sheep.

**All: Nourish us, carry us, lead us,  
so we may follow in the way of the Lord.**

### \* HYMN 688

**Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart**

### \* CALL TO CONFESSION

*Summer Pastoral Resident Barron Flood*

### \* 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.)

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall  
be; set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

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

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☆ 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

I Wander By the Sea • Dale Wood (1934–2003)

I wander by the sea  
and watch the restless waves upon the shore.  
So like the sea is is one  
searching the shores for calm and rest forever more.

Each wave and grain of sand  
are numbered one by one, however small:  
So are the lives of people  
counted by Him who gave His life  
to save us all.

I wander by the sea,  
and join the ocean's song along my way.  
Give of yourself to Him!  
Treasure the sands of time;  
for soon 'tis yesterday.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Matthew 3:1-3, 13-17*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.'"

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Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

#### SERMON

*The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike*

#### **"Out of the Water"**

#### \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted 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,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.**

#### \* HYMN 279

**Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Rev. Chris Palmer*

#### 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



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OFFERTORY SOLO

O Divine Redeemer (*Repentir*)  
*Charles Gounod (1818–1893)*

Ah! turn me not away, receive me, tho' unworthy!  
Hear thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress!  
Answer me from thy throne, haste thee, Lord, to mine aid,  
Thy pity show in my deep anguish!  
Let not the sword of vengeance smite me,  
Tho' righteous thine anger, O Lord! Shield me in danger,  
O Regard me! On thee, Lord, alone will I call.

O Divine Redeemer! O Divine Redeemer!  
I pray thee, grant me pardon, and remember not my sins!  
Forgive me, O divine Redeemer! Night gathers round my soul;  
fearful I cry to thee; Come to mine aid, O Lord!  
Haste thee, Lord, haste to help me! Hear my cry,  
save me, Lord, in thy mercy; Hear my cry!  
Come and save me, O Lord!  
O, divine Redeemer! I pray thee, grant me pardon,  
And remember not, O Lord, my sins!  
Save, in the day of retribution,  
from Death shield thou me, O my God!  
O, Divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Savior!

\* 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 649

**Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sonata no. 2 in C minor: *Allegro maestoso e vivace*  
*Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)*

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The ministry of music this morning is offered by  
Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist* • Francesca Lionetta, *Soloist*

## 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:**

Ann Alexander, Pat Backus, Eliseo Batuon, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad Patricia Blair, Teresita Block, Sarah Boyce, Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Ella Calderon Denise Campbell, Nina S. 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, Daniele Engome, Jeanne Lehman French Irene P. Gilman, Anthea and Neville Graham, Florence Hall, Torian Hall, Peter S. Hawkins Carol Healy, Christopher Henderson, Donna Marie Henderson, Emi Iwaida, Tara Kay Johnson Juliet Kaldanie, Ceciwa Khonje, Louis Sterling King, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson Violet Lorenzen, Mary Lowry, Lauren Ma, The McCall Family, Octavia McLaren, Epifania Mercado, Ryan Moloughney, Gerry Nagy, Joyce Nolen, Frank Owarish, Emmett Raitt, Dexter Ramcharan Debbie Rogers, Ramon Rosa, Pauline Sample, Norma Santos, Robert Scheuer Taylor Shultz Bonnie Smith, Monica Smith, Spencer Robert Smith, Willie Gerald Smith, Frieda Sompotan Neva Strom, Lorraine Sukhu, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither, Susan Tobiason Henny Waisapy Bill Wanek, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks, Sylvia Winrich, Deborah Wurgler

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### **Faithful Departed:**

August 19, 2025: Frederick Loomis, beloved spouse of Carol Benson and beloved father of Bradford Loomis, Sarah Loomis, and Daniel Loomis.

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

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### Today

- 9:30 am** **Little Lambs.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
- 10:15 am** **Children's Church.** Christian Education Center.
- 11:15 am** **Coffee Hour.** Rita Arlen Room. Join us after worship for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to chat with clergy and friends.
- Sermon Springboard.** Zoom. Join Summer Pastoral Resident Barron Flood and members of the online campus for sermon discussion and fellowship.
- Tour of the Church.** After worship, look for a docent in the back of the Sanctuary with a "tour starts here" sign.
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### This Week

- Sat Aug 30** **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Volunteers prepare and deliver weekend meals to homebound seniors. New volunteers are welcome and needed!  
Contact: John Wyatt ([moh@fapc.org](mailto:moh@fapc.org)).
- Sun Aug 31** **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner. We will worship in the style of Chapel Church, our contemporary worship service held throughout the program year..
- Family Ministries BBQ at Jaime's House.** 4 pm • Morris County, NJ. Learn more and register at [fapc.org/bbq](http://fapc.org/bbq).

### Coming Up

- Wed Sep 3** **Feed Your Soul.** Dinner, 6 pm, Bonnell Hall. Worship, 7 pm, Sanctuary & Zoom. Register at [fapc.org/soul](http://fapc.org/soul).
- Sat Sep 6** **Come Home to Fifth.** 6 pm. Join Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike and online campus members for dinner and fellowship in New York on the weekend of Homecoming! Register at [fapc.org/home](http://fapc.org/home).
- Sun Sep 7** **Homecoming Sunday.** Worship in the Sanctuary and on livestream at 11 am.
- Sun Sep 14** **Chapel Church returns!** 9:30 am • Jones Auditorium.
- All Church Movie Matinee: Godspell.** 12:45 pm • Jones Auditorium.
- Wed Sep 17** **Community Choir.** 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. Today we welcome back all who love to sing after the summer hiatus.
- Thu Sep 18** **Theatre Fellowship Gathering.** 6 pm • Weber Terrace. Join us for an informal social gathering to welcome new members and talk about future plans.

### Next Sunday • Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

"Between Ordered and Troubled Waters" • Isaiah 43:1-3a; Genesis 1:1-13; 2:1-3

Guest preacher: The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner.



## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Today: Special Coffee Hour**

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Lisa Hernandez to celebrate the birthday of her mother, Bruni Hernandez. Thank you, Lisa, and Happy Birthday, Bruni!

### **Save the Dates!**

- **Wednesday, September 3:** Feed Your Soul Dinner and Worship Service
- **Sunday, September 7:** Homecoming Sunday
- **Sunday, September 28:** The Anita and Antonio Gotto Lecture, featuring Shannon Vallor, the Baillie Gifford Professor in the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence at the University of Edinburgh
- **Friday, October 17:** The Fall Choral Concert: *Of Voice and Verse*
- **Friday, October 24:** The Kenneth O. Jones Distinguished Service Awards

### **Sunday, August 31: Family Ministries BBQ at Jaime's House**

Jaime Staehle, our Director of Christian Education, invites all families with children to her house (in Morris County, NJ) for a BBQ on Labor Day weekend! We will gather on Sunday, Aug. 31, at 4 pm. Jaime will provide burgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers! Learn more and register at [fapc.org/bbq](http://fapc.org/bbq).

### **Sunday, August 31: Chapel Church in the Sanctuary!**

Join us 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. We will welcome our guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner, Assistant Professor of Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary. See you at there!

### **Wednesday, September 3: Feed Your Soul**

Take part in an inspiring 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 begins at 6 pm in Bonnell Hall. The evening's worship service with communion will be available on Zoom. Please register at [fapc.org/soul](http://fapc.org/soul) by Friday, August 29. For more information, contact Christine Boyle at [outreach@fapc.org](mailto:outreach@fapc.org).

### **Saturday, September 6: Come Home to Fifth Avenue!**

Join Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike and fellow online campus members for connection and fellowship on the weekend of Homecoming! We'll share a meal in NYC together and meet up before our spectacular Homecoming worship. If you'll be in New York and interested in attending dinner or worship alongside your online campus family, please register at [fapc.org/home](http://fapc.org/home).

### **Sunday, September 7: Serenity and Serendipity**

Beginning on Homecoming Sunday, the Arts and Our Faith Committee is delighted to present *Serenity and Serendipity*, an exhibit of paintings created by Deborah and Michael Jenkins in the Chesnut Gallery. Deborah and Michael are two accomplished artists from Georgia who are also husband and wife. Be sure to check out their beautiful and evocative work starting on Sept. 7!

## OFFICERS BY CLASS

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### The Session

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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*  
The Rev. Chris Palmer, *Associate Pastor* • Dennis Bushe, *Clerk of Session*  
Persis Luke, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

#### Class of 2026

Rachel Brenner  
Dennis Bushe  
Roseanne Lind  
Nate Mahrer  
Brian McLendon  
Erica Moffett  
Martha Van Hise  
Suri Wong (Youth Elder)

#### Class of 2027

Chloe Hawker  
Josie Lawrence  
Persis Luke  
Patrick Obeng-Frimpong  
Thomas Pak  
David Roberson  
Beth Rumore Stanley  
Jama Toun

#### Class of 2028

Evelyn Acosta  
Amanda DeMeola  
Kathy Henderson  
Phillip Ma  
Thomas Mann  
Glenda Moreland  
McKenna Nelson  
Lynn Wishart

### The Board of Deacons

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Brendan Birth, *Moderator* • Jeanne Lehman French, *Vice Moderator* • Kyle Hughes, *Secretary*  
Susan Roberson, *Treasurer*

#### Class of 2026

Chrissy Badger  
Brendan Birth  
Joshua Code  
Rumel Francois  
Jeanne Lehman French  
Bruce Ramsden  
Susan Roberson  
Betsy Ross  
Amelia Vogler Topping  
Julia Ward

#### Class of 2027

Jesse Allen  
Andy Craven  
Myra Ford  
Mary Sue Highmore  
Kyle Hughes  
Susie Hunter  
Trevor Illingworth  
Jamie Ku  
Elizabeth (Beth) McCullough  
Kathy Peterson  
Nicole Rusk

#### Class of 2028

Lisa Cinelli  
Linda Ferm-Fagan  
Debbie Goetz  
Tingting Markstrum  
Gary McKoy  
Charlotte Nichols  
Matt Roush  
Anggryani Sumenge  
David Sytsma  
Suzanne Zywicki

### The Board of Trustees

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Jane Hong, *President* • Joyce Hansen, *Vice President* • Chris Edwards, *Secretary*  
Marran Ogilvie, *Assistant Secretary* • Christopher Duffy, *Treasurer* • Constance Pond, *Assistant Treasurer*

#### Class of 2026

Christopher Duffy  
Chris Edwards  
Meredith Fleck  
Jane Hong  
Susan Neunaber  
Thomas Wesley

#### Class of 2027

Joyce Hansen  
Mark Moreland  
Marran Ogilvie  
Constance Pond Hubbard  
Phil Ryan  
William Stone

#### Class of 2028

Julie Hennighausen  
Tammi Kenton  
Daniel Krueger  
Janet Nettleton Otto  
Sean Topping  
Chrissy Wojcik

## 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. Chris Palmer** *Transitional Associate Pastor for Young Adults & Membership*

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The Rev. Dr. J. Oscar McCloud, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

The Rev. Randy Weber, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

Austin Applebach, *Director of Engagement*

Christine Boyle, *Director of Outreach & Missions*

Barron Flood, *2025 Summer Pastoral Resident*

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*

Dr. 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)



### Join the online campus

Natalie Owens-Pike

[hybridchurch@fapc.org](mailto:hybridchurch@fapc.org)



### Join the church

Austin Applebach

[membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org)



### Make a donation

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



### Make a bequest

Richard Schexnider

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



### Plan your wedding

Donna Ketchledge

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

**Fund the altar flowers** • 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



**Join us for a  
Chapel Church-style worship  
at 10 am in the Sanctuary  
next Sunday (August 31)  
featuring guest preacher  
the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner!**



## 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)*



## Summer Building Hours

**Monday – Friday**

9 am – 5 pm

**Saturday**

8 am – 1 pm

**Sunday**

8 am – 12 pm



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