



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 • 11:00 AM



Vincent Van Gogh, *The Good Samaritan*, c. 1890

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. Sunday School for pre-K through fifth grade follows the Litany of Parting during the 11 am worship service.

➔ 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 and Fugue in C minor, BWV 549 • J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Trustee Dan Krueger

from the Iona Community, Scotland

One: Way beyond all journeying,
Truth behind all mystery,
Life within all living:

All: We praise you.

One: Salve for every soreness,
mender of every brokenness,
midwife of a better future:

All: We praise you.

One: Ground of all being,
judge of every nation,
conscience of the universe,

All: We praise you.

One: Maker, Messiah,
confessor, companion,
befriender, inspirer,
God beyond all names,

All: We praise you.

One: Let us worship the Holy One, tender and just.

* HYMN 394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Chris Palmer

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

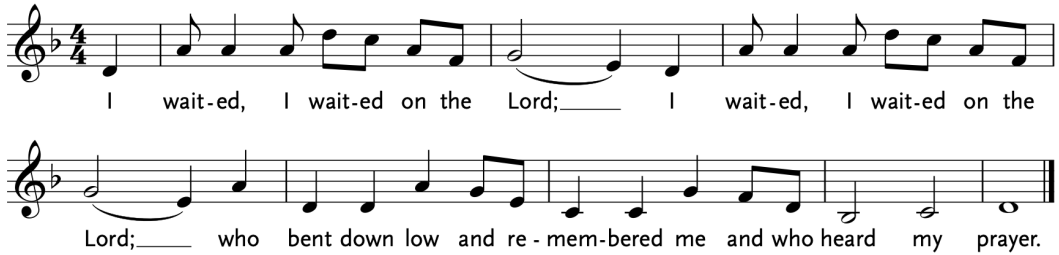
**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**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.)



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* **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

* **RESPONSE OF PRAISE**



Music: John L. Bell, 1996. Text: Desmond Tutu, 1994.
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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 fifth 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

If Ye Love Me • Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)
Text: John 14:15-17

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father,
And He shall give you another Comforter,
That He may abide with you forever,
Ev'n the Spirit of truth.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" The lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, the lawyer asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

"Answers"

* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**God of truth,
God who reaches into the human soul
and pries loose the lies we tell ourselves,
give us a passion for holy answers,
instill in us compassion and courage,
help us to "go and do likewise."
Amen.**

* HYMN 693

Though I May Speak

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

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

Greater Love Hath No Man • *John Ireland (1879–1962)*

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.
Love is strong as death.
Greater love hath no man than this,
That a man lay down his life for his friends.
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
That we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.
Ye are washed, ye are sanctified,
Ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;
That ye should show forth the praises of him
Who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God,
That you present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy,
Acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

* 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 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

* BENEDICTION

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

* CHORAL RESPONSE

May the Grace of Christ • *William Smith Rockstro (1823–1895)*
Text by John Newton (1725–1807)

May the grace of Christ our Savior,
And our Maker's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor,
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
Held together by the Word,
And possess in rich communion
Joys which earth cannot afford.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C major, BWV 545 • *J.S. Bach*

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* • Francesca Lionetta, *Soprano* • Fredy Bonilla, *Baritone*

WORSHIP NOTES

The composer of the Anthem this morning, Thomas Tallis (1505–1585), figures prominently in the history of English church music and is widely considered to be one of England's greatest early composers. Tallis was capable of switching the style of his compositions to suit the different monarchs' vastly different demands. During the reign of King Edward VI (1547–1553) it was mandated that all services be sung in English (as opposed to the traditional Latin), and that the choral music be brief and succinct, "to each syllable a plain and distinct note" so as to be easily understood. *If Ye Love Me* is an elegant example of this new style of English anthem: featuring a clear setting of the text and restrained emotion, the piece remains incredibly expressive and distinctly the voice of Tallis.

The offertory anthem this morning is John Ireland's most enduring work for the church, and one of the cornerstones of the great English choral tradition: *Greater Love Hath No Man*. Composed in 1912, the text of this Edwardian anthem is a collage of scriptural excerpts assembled by the composer himself. Ireland's choice of New Testament texts, which speak of self-giving sacrifice, has traditionally made this anthem a popular selection for services of remembrance. When considered through the lens of this morning's reading, however, the text of this masterpiece takes on even broader implications: at every moment we can choose to lay ourselves down—our concepts, beliefs, opinions, and prejudices—in favor of the radically unconditional and sacrificial love modeled for us by Jesus. Through God's redeeming love, we are called to "present our bodies, a holy, living sacrifice;" to live as the walking, talking body of Christ alive and at work in the world today.

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, Eliseo Batuan, 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
David Getz, 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, Cekiwa 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, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither, Susan Tobiason, Henny Waisapy
Bill Wanek, John Weisel, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks, Sylvia Winrich, Deborah Wurgler

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** **Chapel Church.** Jones Auditorium.
Little Lambs Nursery & Sunday School. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10:15 am** **Children's Choir.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 11 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
Little Lambs Nursery, Parents Community Group, Sunday School & Youth. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 12:15 pm** **Sermon Springboard.** Zoom. Join Rev. Natalie and members of the online campus for sermon discussion and fellowship.
Luncheon. Bonnell Hall. Join us for a light lunch before the Gotto Lecture.
- 2 pm** **The Gotto Lecture with Shannon Vallor.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
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Coming Up

- Wed Oct 1** **Community Choir.** 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All voices are welcome!
FAYA Midweek. 6:30 pm • The Living Room. Contact youngadults@fapc.org to learn more.
- Thu Oct 2** **Career Directions.** 10 am • Zoom. Visit fapc.org/groups to learn more and to sign up.
- Sat Oct 4** **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).
- Sun Oct 5** **Deacons Food Drive begins.** Bring non-perishable goods to church to benefit the Urban Outreach Center pantry.
Adult Education: They Will Know You by Your Love (of Robots). 12:45 pm Jones Auditorium.
- Tue Oct 7** **Weekly Word Bible Study.** 12 pm • Zoom. For more information, please email community@fapc.org. To register, visit fapc.org/community.
- Thu Oct 9** **Moms Night Out.** 6 pm • Urban Hawker. Enjoy an evening away from the kids! Register at fapc.org/moms.
Asian American Bible Study. 6:30 pm • 6th Floor Conference Room and Zoom.
- Fri Oct 10** **Youth Fall Retreat.** 5 pm • Beacon, NY. Take a break from the screen, books, and hustle. Learn more at fapc.org/retreat.
- Sun Oct 12** **Believing and Belonging Membership Class.** 1 pm • The Living Room. Register at fapc.org/membership.

Next Sunday • World Communion Sunday

"Strays" • Luke 15:1-7

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

Today: The Gotto Lecture featuring Shannon Vallor

Philosopher of technology and AI ethics expert Shannon Vallor will deliver the Anita and Antonio Gotto Lecture in our Sanctuary on Sunday, September 28, at 2 pm. Vallor is the Baillie Gifford Professor in the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence at the University of Edinburgh. She directs the Centre for Technomoral Futures at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, where her work explores how emerging technologies transform human character, moral reasoning, and civic life. This lecture is free, but registration is required. Learn more and register at fapc.org/gotto.

Sunday, October 5: Deacons Food Drive Begins

The annual Deacons Food Drive gets underway on Sunday, Oct. 5, and concludes on Sunday, Oct. 12. The Deacons will be on hand following worship each morning 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 plastic jars of peanut butter. Learn more at fapc.org/food.

Sunday, October 5: They Will Know You by Your Love (of Robots)

Come to Jones Auditorium at 12:15 pm after worship to hear Dr. Kathryn Reklis of Fordham University. She'll draw on scientific speculation, philosophy, and pop culture to explore different ways we imagine human relationship with AI. Is AI our child/servant/tool, our friend and companion, or an inhuman "other" that threatens our existence? Dr. Reklis is a theologian and cultural historian whose teaching and research sit at the intersections of theology, aesthetics, and morality.

Thursday, October 9: Moms Night Out

All moms are invited to join us for a fun evening out with other moms from Fifth Avenue. We'll meet at Urban Hawker for a fun evening away from the kids. To learn more and register, please visit fapc.org/moms.

Friday, October 10 - Sunday, October, 12: Youth Fall Retreat

Take a break from screens, books, and the hustle. Join us for a weekend retreat near Beacon, NY. We will enjoy the fall foliage, fun and games in the barn, cooking together, and lots of laughter playing mafia! We depart on Friday evening and return to the church by noon on Sunday. Sign up today and prepare for a refreshing weekend away! Scholarships are available. Learn more and register at fapc.org/retreat.

Friday, October 17: The Fall Concert | Of Voice & Verse

This fall the Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir presents an unforgettable evening celebrating the divine union of words and music. The program features Benjamin Britten's dazzling *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, a vibrant tribute to the patron saint of music; Charles Villiers Parry's soaring *Blest Pair of Sirens*, an epic setting of Milton's visionary poetry for organ and double choir; and Eric Whitacre's ethereal *Her Sacred Spirit Soars*, a luminous soundscape where text and tone intertwine in breathtaking harmony. Purchase your tickets at fapc.org/tickets and join us in the Sanctuary or on livestream at 7 pm.

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

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Rachel Brenner	Chloe Hawker	Evelyn Acosta
Dennis Bushe	Josie Lawrence	Amanda DeMeola
Roseanne Lind	Persis Luke	Kathy Henderson
Nate Mahrer	Patrick Obeng-Frimpong	Phillip Ma
Brian McLendon	Thomas Pak	Thomas Mann
Erica Moffett	David Roberson	Glenda Moreland
Martha Van Hise	Beth Rumore Stanley	McKenna Nelson
Suri Wong (Youth Elder)	Jama Toug	Lynn Wishart

The Board of Deacons

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

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Chrissy Badger	Jesse Allen	Lisa Cinelli
Brendan Birth	Andy Craven	Linda Ferm-Fagan
Joshua Code	Myra Ford	Debbie Goetz
Rumel Francois	Mary Sue Highmore	Tingting Markstrum
Jeanne Lehman French	Kyle Hughes	Gary McKoy
Bruce Ramsden	Susie Hunter	Charlotte Nichols
Susan Roberson	Trevor Illingworth	Matt Roush
Betsy Ross	Jamie Ku	Anggryani Sumenge
Amelia Vogler Topping	Elizabeth (Beth) McCullough	David Sytsma
Julia Ward	Kathy Peterson	Suzanne Zywicki
	Nicole Rusk	

The Board of Trustees

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Marran Ogilvie, *Assistant Secretary* • Christopher Duffy, *Treasurer* • Constance Pond, *Assistant Treasurer*

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Christopher Duffy	Joyce Hansen	Julie Hennighausen
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Jane Hong	Constance Pond Hubbard	Janet Nettleton Otto
Susan Neunaber	Phil Ryan	Sean Topping
Thomas Wesley	William Stone	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*

Austin Applebach, *Director of Engagement*

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*

Isabel Packevicz, *Parish Visitor and Young Adult & Youth Associate*

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

Austin Applebach
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

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Believing & Belonging

Beginning Sunday, October 12 • 1 pm

Join the Rev. Chris Palmer and Austin Applebach for the next installment of Believing and Belonging!

This fun two-part class dives into the theology and history of the church and invites you to be a part of that ongoing legacy.

Register for this class at fapc.org/belong.

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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