



# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 21, 2025 • 11:00 AM



Brother Mickey McGrath, *The Windsock Visitation*, 2016

**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! 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](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

Cradle Song • *Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

Her Children Rise Up and Call her Blessed

*Margaret Vardell Sandresky (b. 1921)*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

*Deacon Trevor Illingworth*

One: Sing out, good souls!  
Sing of God's holy ways.

**All: We will sing of God  
who delights in humble people,**

One: who lifts up the poor,  
and who satisfies the hungry,

**All: who gives voice to the silent,  
and hope to the forgotten,**

One: who promises to stand among us,  
alongside us, and to heal us all.

**All: Sing out my soul.**

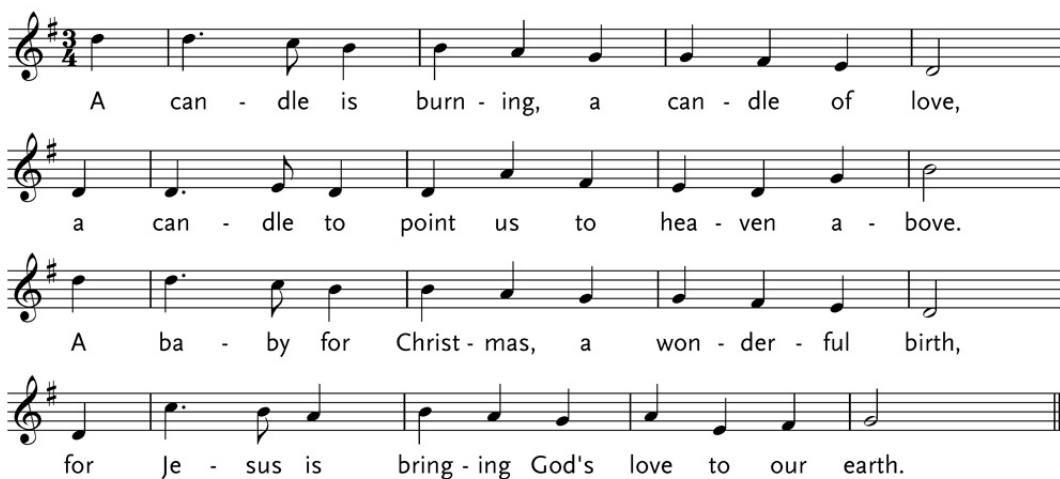
### \* HYMN 104

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

### \* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Fifth Avenue Young Adults: Justin Horn, Chloe Hawker, and Bethany Fitch*

### \* SUNG RESPONSE



A can - dle is burn - ing, a can - dle of love,  
a can - dle to point us to hea - ven a - bove.  
A ba - by for Christ - mas, a won - der - ful birth,  
for Je - sus is bring - ing God's love to our earth.

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*

\* 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.)

Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son,

Chri - ste e - le - - - i - son.

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Peo-ple look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the year.

Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.

Peo-ple look east and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.

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.

ANTHEM

*Fifth Avenue Choir  
& Community Choir*

Christmas Lullaby • *John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem;  
Angels are singing, their sound fills the air.  
Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah;  
But only a mother and baby lie there.

*Refrain*

'Ave Maria, Ave Maria':

*Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.*

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*'Ave Maria, Ave Maria,  
Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King'.*

Where are his courtiers, and who are his people?  
Why does he bear neither scepter nor crown?  
Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people,  
With peace as his scepter and love for his crown.

*Refrain*

What though your treasures are not gold or incense!  
Lay them before him with hearts full of love.  
Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother  
Who bore us a Savior by grace from above.

*Refrain*

*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.*

LITANY OF PARTING

**All: May God be with you there.**

**Children: May God be with you here.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Rev. Dr. Jonah So*

CAROL

*Ave Maris Stella • Philip Stopford (b. 1977)*

*Text: Anonymous, 8th century*

*Ave, maris stella,  
Dei mater alma,  
atque semper virgo,  
felix cœli porta.*

*Sumens illud "Ave"  
Gabrielis ore,  
funda nos in pace,  
mutans Evæ nomen.*

*Ave, maris stella,  
Solve vincla reis,  
profer lumen cæcis,  
mala nostra pelle,  
bona cuncta posce.*

*Ave, maris stella,  
Vitam præsta puram,  
iter para tutum,  
ut videntes Jesum  
semper collætetur.*

*Sit laus Deo Patri,  
summo Christo decus,  
Spiritu Sancto  
tribus honor unus. Amen.*

Hail, star of the sea,  
Loving Mother of God,  
And ever Virgin,  
Happy gate of Heaven.

Receiving that "Ave"  
From the mouth of Gabriel,  
Establish us in peace,  
Transforming the name of "Eva".

Hail, star of the sea.

Loosen the chains of the guilty,  
Send forth light to the blind,  
Dispel our evils,  
Entreat for all good.

Hail, star of the sea.

Bestow a pure life,  
Prepare a safe way,  
That seeing Jesus  
We may ever rejoice.

Praise be to God the Father,  
Glory to Christ in the highest,  
To the Holy Spirit  
Be honor, to the three equally. Amen.

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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 God has looked with favor on the lowly state 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 God's name;  
indeed, there is mercy  
from generation to generation for those who fear God.  
God has shown strength with his arm;  
scattering the proud in the imagination of their hearts,  
casting down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly;  
God has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
God has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promises made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

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

SERMON

*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston*

**"When Mary Sings"**

\* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**O Wondrous God,  
help us hear Mary's song on the winds of Advent.  
If we are fearful, move us to confidence.  
If we are weary, offer us rest.  
If we are empty, fill us with hope.  
We have scanned the horizon watching for you.  
Open our eyes that we might find you in our midst,  
changing people's hearts and minds,  
urging us to join your work of love.  
All this we pray in the name of the One who is coming,  
Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

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\* HYMN 100

**My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Rev. Werner Ramirez*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

CALL TO GIVE

*The Rev. Chris Palmer*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Magnificat • Ruth Watson Henderson (b. 1932)*

*Text: Luke 1:46-55*

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum;  
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,*

My soul doth magnify the Lord.  
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

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:

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.

*Gloria Patri, et Filio,  
et Spiritui Sancto,*

*Sicut erat in principio,*

*et nunc, et semper:*

*Et in Saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be:

World without end. Amen.

\* 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

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\* HYMN 146

**Gentle Mary Laid Her Child**

\* BENEDICTION

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

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes • *Mark G. Sirett (b. 1952)*  
*Text: Anonymous*

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.

*~ Please watch your step as you exit your pew. ~*

POSTLUDE

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child • *James Biery (b. 1956)*

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

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**WORSHIP NOTES**

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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:**

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  
George Illingworth, 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  
Norma Santos, Robert Scheuer, Taylor Shultz, Monica Smith, Spencer Robert Smith  
Willie Gerald Smith, Frieda Sompotan, Neva Strom, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither  
Susan Tobiason, Henny Waisapy, John Weisel, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks, Sylvia Winrich  
Deborah Wurgler

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### **Faithful Departed:**

December 9, 2025: Donna L. Bell, beloved sister of Janice Hass.

December 13, 2025: Alexander Kulick, beloved uncle of Sabrina Rodriguez.

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**      **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, Sunday School & Youth.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 12:15 pm**      **Coffee Hour.** Narthex. Join us after worship for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to chat with clergy and friends.  
**Fifth Avenue Caroling.** Fifth Avenue steps. All are welcome.  
**Sermon Springboard.** Zoom. Join members of the online campus for sermon discussion and fellowship.
- 12:45 pm**      **Women's Ministry Festive Noel Luncheon.** Bonnell Hall. Learn more and register at [fapc.org/luncheon](http://fapc.org/luncheon).
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Coming Up

- Thu Dec 25**      **Christmas Holiday.** Church offices closed.  
**Meals on Heels Christmas.** 8 am • Bonnell Hall. Meals on Heels will be preparing and delivering a special Christmas Day meal to homebound seniors. Sign up is required. Contact John Wyatt at [moh@fapc.org](mailto:moh@fapc.org) for more details.
- Fri Dec 26**      **Christmas Holiday.** Building closed.
- Thu Jan 1**        **New Year's Day.** Building closed.

### Christmastide Worship Services

#### Wednesday, December 24

##### Christmas Eve Family Service

4 pm • Sanctuary. In the style of Chapel Church.  
*The Rev. Werner Ramirez and Jaime Staehle, presiding.*

##### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

7:30 pm • Sanctuary & Livestream. Music begins at 7 pm.  
11 pm • Sanctuary. Music begins at 10:30 pm.  
*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.*

#### Sunday, December 28 | First Sunday of Christmas

"When Shepherds Run" • *Luke 2:8-20*

11 am • Sanctuary & Livestream  
*The Rev. Werner Ramirez, preaching.*

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Today: Fifth Avenue Caroling**

Come bring beloved carols and holiday classics to our friends and neighbors on the Fifth Avenue steps! All are encouraged to stay and lift their voices with us following the 11 am worship service.

### **Thursday, December 25: Meals on Heels Christmas**

Meals on Heels will host a special holiday meal on Christmas morning. If you are available to help prepare a Christmas feast for our homebound neighbors, please join us in Bonnell Hall at 8 am. If you can assist with neighborhood deliveries, we will need you at 11 am. We will also hold our usual Saturday morning cooking and delivery on December 27, and we would be grateful for your help then as well. Sign-up is required, so please contact John Wyatt at [moh@fapc.org](mailto:moh@fapc.org).

### **Sunday, January 11: Believing and Belonging Membership Class**

Believing and Belonging is a welcoming space designed not just for those considering membership, but for anyone looking to explore the life and mission of this vibrant faith community. Whether you're new to the church, returning after some time, or looking to find connection and a spiritual home in the city, this is a great opportunity to ask questions, meet others, and discover how faith and community come together at Fifth Avenue. Come learn and see where the Spirit might lead you. Register at [fapc.org/membership](http://fapc.org/membership) and join us at 2 pm on Zoom.

### **Sunday, January 11: Family Ministries Day of Service**

All families are invited to join us for a family service project at 12:30 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. We will be putting together Kids Kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—providing school supplies for kids who have experienced natural disasters. There will also be lunch. Please register at [fapc.org/families](http://fapc.org/families) so we know how many supplies to have.

### **Sunday, January 18: Courageous Conversations**

All are invited to join our Anti-Racism Response Team for a continental breakfast and Courageous Conversations around the table. A panel of Fifth Avenue congregation members will share their life experiences in regards to race and racism, and offer us an opportunity to continue these conversations around the table. There will be opportunities to follow up these conversations in online community groups this winter as well. This event will take place at 9:30 am in Bonnell Hall and on Zoom. Food will be served. Register at [fapc.org/adulted](http://fapc.org/adulted).

### **Sunday, January 25: All Men Are Created Equal—A Faithful Reckoning**

How have communities of color read the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution? Join us as we learn from Dr. Andrea C. White and explore how Christians of color have sought to hold the nation accountable for its failures while reclaiming the moral and spiritual promises embedded in its ideals of liberty and justice. Dr. White is the Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Union Theological Seminary, where her research focuses on womanist theology, Black critical theory, and phenomenology. Join us at 12:45 pm in Jones Auditorium. Food will be served, and the lecture will be recorded for later viewing.

### **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).

## 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. 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**

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

### **Congregational Care**

If you (or someone you know) are going through a difficult time, we are here for you. We are available for counseling, home and hospital visits, medical escorts and prayer. Please 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 nurtures diverse, strong, faithful families. Our Little Lambs nursery for infants and toddlers is available every Sunday from 9 am to 12:30 pm. During the program year (September–May) we offer Sunday School for Pre-K through second grade at 9:30 am and Pre-K through fifth grade following the Litany of Parting during the 11 am worship service. Youth Group worships at Chapel Church at 9:30 am and meets at 11 am. On the first Sunday of the month, Youth Group worships at both services. Visit [fapc.org/family](http://fapc.org/family) to learn more, or 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. 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).

### **Hybrid Church**

Did you know that this church has a vibrant online community? Whether you're a New Yorker worshipping from home, a longtime member who moved, or a visitor new to our livestream, you are a part of our online campus! There are many ways you can get involved. Don't miss our virtual small groups, online office hours for pastoral care, retreat programming and seasonal gatherings here at Fifth Avenue. Contact Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike at [hybridchurch@fapc.org](mailto:hybridchurch@fapc.org) for more information.

### **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) or email [membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org) to register.

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## 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:

Asylum Support Clinic	Green City Force
Church of Gethsemane	Hands Along the Nile
Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar	Development Services
The Farminary Project	Holmes Camp and Retreat Center
Frontera de Cristo	Ministry of Hope Lesotho
Garden of Hope	Parity
Good Samaritan Project	PC(USA) Global Liaisons Cobbie and Dessa Palm
of First Spanish Presbyterian Church	Urban Outreach Center NYC

To learn more, visit [fapc.org/outreach](http://fapc.org/outreach), or contact Ruben Nuño, director of the Ecumenical Outreach Partnership (212.247.0490 ext 3038, [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).

## Fifth Avenue Women's Ministry

For generations, the women of Fifth Avenue have gathered for service, fellowship, and deeper faith. Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before, we continue to connect and would love to include you in our community. The women's ministry at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is trans affirming and welcoming to women of any age and stage. We meet for annual retreats, fellowship events, Bible study, and small groups. To learn more and get involved, email [womensministry@fapc.org](mailto:womensministry@fapc.org) or visit [fapc.org/women](http://fapc.org/women).

## 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*

<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 Toung	Lynn Wishart

### The Board of Deacons

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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	Jessica Carmona	Linda Ferm-Fagan
Joshua Code	Andy Craven	Debbie Goetz
Rumel Francois	Myra Ford	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	

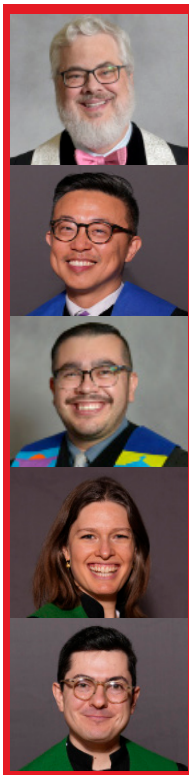
### The Board of Trustees

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Jane Hong, *President* • Joyce Hansen, *Vice President* • Chris Edwards, *Secretary*  
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
Chris Edwards	Mark Moreland	Tammi Kenton
Meredith Fleck	Marran Ogilvie	Daniel Krueger
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** *Associate Pastor for Young Adults & Membership*

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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](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](http://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

## SOWING

# Abundance

**77%**  
**\$2,907,017**

The 2026 Pledge Campaign

**This congregation has pledged over \$2.9 million for Sowing Abundance, our 2026 pledge campaign. We are over 77% towards our goal. Thank you!**

Your pledge supports Fifth Avenue's profound worship services, moving music ministries, robust hybrid church family, outreach to the vulnerable, and so much more.

To help our church meet its \$3.7 million goal, please make your pledge today at [fapc.org/pledge](https://fapc.org/pledge).

## 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)



**Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26, the building will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday. 🎅**

## Building Hours

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



FAPCNYC



FAPC\_NYC



FAPCinNYC



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