

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 8, 2026 • 11:00 AM

Executive Mansion,

Washington, _____, 1863.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal"

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow, this ground—the brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, ^{we here be} to stand here,

Nicolay Draft of the Gettysburg Address, 1863

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 in D major, BWV 532 • J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Julia Ward

One: Lord, we have come into your house,
some holding joy, others searching for truth,
a few rattled by doubt,
and many hungry for purpose.

All: Welcome us—as we are—to your altar, O God.

One: Much of these days can feel full and fraught,
our bodies weary from their labors
and our minds clouded with worry.

**All: Hold our worries, Gracious Savior.
Calm our fears.**

One: We have sometimes fallen off the road,
given up hope,
or too easily caved for a more convenient path.

**All: Build us up again into your Temple,
O Great Cornerstone,
that we might provide shelter,
disrupt injustice, and harbor hope.**

One: Let us worship Almighty God! Amen.

* HYMN 346

For the Healing of the Nations

* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

* 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

Praise our Ma - ker, peo - ples of one fam - 'ly:
God is love! God is love! Praise our Ma - ker
peo - ples of one fam - 'ly: God is love! God is love!

Music: E. Rawdon Bailey (1859–1938). Text: Church and School Hymnal, 1926; adapt. RGH.

* 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. Scott Black Johnston

ANTHEM

Come, Renew Us • *Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)*
Text: *David Adam (1936–2020)*

Come Lord, come to us,
Enter our darkness with your light.
Fill our emptiness with your presence,
Come, refresh, restore, renew us.
In our sadness, come as joy,
In our troubles, come as peace,
In our fearfulness, come as hope,
In our darkness, come as light,

In our frailty, come as strength,
In our loneliness, come as love.
Come, refresh, restore, renew us.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

One: This is the Word of God; for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Chris Palmer

“The Unfinished Work of the Living”

* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**Gracious Lord,
What is my story without my neighbor's?
What is my life without my neighbor's?
What is my peace without my neighbor's?
What is my liberty without my neighbor's?
Amen.**

* HYMN 308

O God in Whom All Life Begins

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Be Joyful • *Philip Stopford (b. 1977)*

Text: Psalm 100

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
Serve the Lord with gladness,
And come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:
It is he that hath made us,
And not we ourselves;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise.
Be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting:
And his truth endureth from generation to generation.
O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands.
Glory be to the Father;
Glory be 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

* HYMN 772

Live into Hope

* BENEDICTION

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

* CHORAL RESPONSE

May the Blessing of God Be upon You • *William H.M. Wright*
Text by R. Gordon Nodwell

May the blessing of God be upon you.
May God's love light all your way.
May the grace of Christ enfold you and peace around you stay.
May the Spirit of God dwell within you.
May you live in joy each day.

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

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D major, BWV 532 • *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* • Rachel Mikol, *Soprano*



LOVE THE MUSIC?

Scan this code to enjoy your favorite music from worship.

[YouTube.com/@fapcchoir](https://www.YouTube.com/@fapcchoir)

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](https://www.fapc.org/prayer-requests).

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, Kathy Floyd Jeanne Lehman French, David Getz, Irene P. Gilman, Anthea and Neville Graham, Cleofe De Jesus Guevarra, Florence Hall, Torian Hall, Peter S. Hawkins, Carol Healy, Christopher Henderson Donna Marie Henderson, Susie Hill, George Illingworth, Emi Iwaida, Tara Kay Johnson Juliet Kaldanie, Ceciwa Khonje, Louis Sterling King, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson Violet Lorenzen, Penelope Rose Lovely, Mary Lowry, , Lauren Ma, The McCall Family Octavia McLaren, Epifania Mercado, Ryan Moloughney, Gerry Nagy, Joyce Nolen, Nahid Oloumi Frank Owarish, Micki Peck, 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, Christine Van Hise, Henny Waisapy, John Weisel, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks Sylvia Winrich, Deborah Wurgler

Faithful Departed:

February 3, 2026: Estelle Brenner, beloved grandmother of Rachel Brenner, Zachary Brenner, Jesse Brenner, and Ben Brenner.

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.

The Word Is Out. 6th Floor Conference Room.

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. Bonnell Hall. Join us after worship for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to chat with clergy and friends.

Sermon Springboard. Zoom. Join Rev. Natalie 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.

12:30 pm

Chili Cook-Off. Bonnell Hall. Learn more at fapc.org/chili.

Coming Up

Tue Feb 10

Weekly Word Bible Study. 12 pm • Zoom. For more information, please email community@fapc.org. To register, visit fapc.org/community.

Wed Feb 11

Community Choir. 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All voices are welcome!

Asian American Bible Study. 6:30 pm • 6th Floor Conference Room & Zoom.

FAYA Ice Skating. 7 pm • Bryant Park. Contact youngadults@fapc.org to learn more.

Thu Feb 12

Career Directions. 10 am • Zoom. Visit fapc.org/community to learn more and to sign up.

Sat Feb 14

Meals on Heels. 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. New volunteers are welcome and needed! Sign up is required. To learn more and sign up, contact John Wyatt at moh@fapc.org.

Galentine's Lunch & Candle Holder Making. 12 pm. Rita Arlen Room. To learn more, visit fapc.org/galentine.

Sun Feb 15

Family Ministries Pancake Day. 9:30 am. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. To learn more visit fapc.org/pancake.

Wed Feb 18

Ash Wednesday Worship. 12 pm & 6 pm, Sanctuary. The 12 pm service will be available on livestream and YouTube.

Next Sunday • Transfiguration of the Lord

"The Virtues and Vices of Moderates" • Revelation 3:14-20; Philipians 4:4-9

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

Welcome to the World

William Teleisha, child of Konstance and Dan Teleisha, born on January 7, 2026.

Today: The Chili Cook-Off

This year's cook-off will take place at 12:30 pm in Bonnell Hall. Your \$10 admission goes directly to the Souper Bowl of Caring, which works to alleviate hunger in local communities. Your admission also allows you to judge all of the chilis, prepared by individuals, families, and teams.

Wednesday, February 11: Prayer Service for Minneapolis & Immigrant Families

Join us on Zoom as we gather to pray for Minneapolis and immigrant families. We will engage part of our Outreach programming to Pray, Act, and Give in the face of great need in our world. We will pray together, hear an update on what's happening in Minneapolis via our clergy connections there, and tend to our spirits in this time. The service begins at 5:30 pm ET. Register at fapc.org/minneapolis.

Saturday, February 14: Galentine's Lunch and Candle Holder Making

Celebrate friendship and creativity this Valentine's Day! Join the women of our community for a joyful afternoon filled with good food, laughter, and the chance to craft your own custom candle holder. It's the perfect way to treat yourself, connect with others, and share the love this Galentine's Day. Join us at 12 pm in the Rita Arlen Room. The cost is \$25 for lunch and candle supplies. Learn more at fapc.org/women.

Sunday, February 15: Family Ministries Pancake Day

Celebrate Shrovetide! Join us for fellowship and pancakes before the Lenten season. Shrove Tuesday, often called Pancake Day, is the traditional day before Lent when families use up rich ingredients such as eggs, milk, and sugar by making pancakes. It's a fun and meaningful way to mark the transition into the Lenten season with a simple, wholesome, and fun shared meal. No registration needed.

Sunday, February 15: Perils & Promise of a Big-Tent Faith | Lessons from the Civil Rights Era

We live in one of the most diverse societies that humanity has ever known and in an era marked by hyper-polarization. Must we choose between love and justice? In the story of how ecumenical Protestants navigated the Civil Rights era, we'll find both inspiration and cautionary tales for church and nation alike as we approach America's 250th anniversary. Dr. Heath Carter, Associate Professor of American Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary, will lead this class in Jones Auditorium at 12:45 pm. Food will be served. This class will be recorded for later viewing.

Thursday, February 19: Dads Night Out

All dads are invited to join Rev. Werner and other fathers for Dads Night Out! Come out and have a fun evening with other fathers! Register at fapc.org/dads.

Friday, February 27 – Sunday, March 1: FAYA Spring Retreat

Get ready for FAYA's favorite weekend of the spring at the Holmes Camp & Retreat Center! It's a chance for intentional community-building, where we spend time together away from the hustle and bustle. Expect fellowship, games, keynotes, small groups, and late-night chats around the fire. The cost is \$180 and includes transportation, lodging, and food. Scholarships are available. Register by February 11 at fapc.org/faya.

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 Toung	Lynn Wishart

The Board of Deacons

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

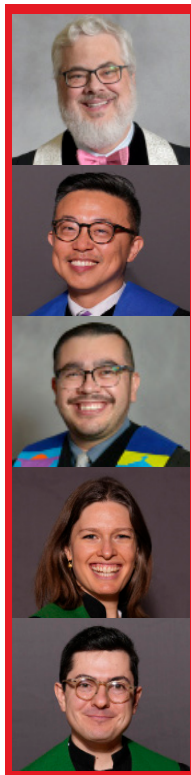
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Chrissy Badger	Jesse Allen	Lisa Cinelli
Brendan Birth	Jessica Carmona	Linda Ferm-Fagan
Joshua Code	Andy Craven	Debbie Goetz
Rumel Francois	Myra Ford	Tingting Markstrum
Jeanne Lehman French	Kyle Hughes	Gary McKoy
Bruce Ramsden	Susie Hunter	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

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*

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

SOWING Abundance

95%
\$3,569,968

The 2026 Pledge Campaign

**So far, 470 individuals
and families have pledged
\$3,569,968, over 95%
of our goal.**

We have a little over two weeks left to go before Ash Wednesday. Now is the time to pledge your support for this church.

If you have not yet made a pledge, please visit fapc.org/pledge today.

Thank you!

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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