



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 20, 2025 • 10:00 AM



Duccio de Buoninsegna, *Wedding Feast at Cana* (c. 1308–11)

This Is God's House. All Are Welcome.

Welcome to Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us.

The cover of this bulletin reads, “This Is God’s House. All Are Welcome.” We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike; God knows we don’t all think alike. We don’t all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, gathered in the Sanctuary and online, we worship together as one.

In this grand old church, we do Sunday morning in some pretty traditional (very Presbyterian) ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We sing many of the same hymns our grandparents sang. Yet, in our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. I hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

After the service, please stick around. Introduce yourself to one of our clergy or someone at our Welcome Table. We have lots of programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

Scott Black Johnston
Senior Pastor

➔ New to Fifth Avenue?

Please fill out the welcome card you will find in your pew. Place the card in the offering plate, hand it to an usher, or drop it off at the Welcome Table (inside the Fifth Avenue entrance). You may also complete the welcome form online at fapc.org/welcome. Our friends at the Welcome Table can provide you with information about our ministries, programs and volunteer opportunities.

➔ Large-Print Bulletins

Please speak with an usher if you would like to use a large-print bulletin or hymnal to follow the service.

➔ Families with Children

Children are always welcome in worship! You will find children’s Bibles in the first 10 rows of pews on the far north side of the Sanctuary. Ushers can also provide children’s bulletins and worship bags. If you need to leave the service to attend to your child, the ushers can direct you to the nearest changing table and livestream monitor. We provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9:30 to 11:30 am in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.

➔ Worship Resources Online

A replay of today’s service will be available this afternoon at fapc.org/playback. This morning’s Prayers of the People can be found at fapc.org/pray. Details about the upcoming service each week can be found at fapc.org/this-sunday. For information about future worship services, visit fapc.org/worship.

➔ Parking

We have a parking arrangement with the garage at 51 W. 56th St. For \$16, you may park for up to three hours, seven days a week. Please provide your mobile phone number or an email address to the staff person at the 55th Street reception desk. You will receive a QR code to use at the garage. (The garage no longer provides physical validation stickers.)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.
*Please **silence all electronic devices** and **do not take flash photos** during the service.*

PRELUDE

Trio Sonata no. 1 in E-flat, BWV 525: III. *Allegro*
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Myra Ford

from Psalm 27 and 51

One: Because of Jesus, you are invited.

**All: The Savior says, “Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.”**

One: Because of Jesus, brittleness can never
separate us from the love of God.

**All: The Savior says, “If anyone is thirsty,
let them come to Me and drink.”**

One: Because of Jesus, the truth of the faith
can never be brandished as a weapon.

**All: The Savior says,
“If anyone would come after me,
let them deny themselves and
take up their cross and follow me.”**

One: Because of Jesus, another world is possible –
a world beyond violence, greed, and enmity.

**All: Hear the Savior say,
“I have come so that you may have life
and have it in abundance.”**

One: Church, let us join, follow, worship, and live!

* HYMN 394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

* 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.)



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- * **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

- * **RESPONSE OF PRAISE**



Music: Nikolaus Decius, 1539 - ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH'. Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1522, trans. F. Bland Tucker.
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- * **PASSING OF THE PEACE** One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

SOLO

Mein gläubiges Herze ("My Faithful Heart")
from Cantata BWV 68 • J.S. Bach

Mein gläubiges Herze,
Frohlocke, sing, scherze,
Dein Jesus ist da!
Weg Jammer, weg Klagen,
Ich will euch nur sagen:
Mein Jesus ist nah.

My faithful heart,
delight, sing, play,
your Jesus is here!
Away with sorrow, away with lamenting,
I will only say to you:
my Jesus is near.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there for a few days.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Chris Palmer

"Wrestling a Miracle"

* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**O Heavenly God, true Master and Friend,
Open my hands so that I may return to you what is yours.
Lift my gaze so I might always know you are with me.
Slow my pace so that I might walk alongside a neighbor.
Soften my soul that I might never cease trusting in your purposes.
Amen.**

* HYMN 156

Sing of God Made Manifest

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 SOLO

Gloria, RV 589: 6. *Domine Deus* • Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis

Lord God, King of Heaven,

Deus Pater omnipotens.

God the Father Almighty.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.

Lord only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

* 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 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Four Biblical Dances (1992): IV. *The Wedding in Cana*

Petr Eben (1929–2007)

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

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

If You Are in Need of Prayer

Deacons (wearing white stoles) are available to pray with you after the service. Your prayers are confidential unless you request that they be shared with our Congregational Care staff. You may also complete a prayer request card (available in the pews and at the entrances) and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. You may submit prayer requests online at fapc.org/prayer-requests.

Please pray for:

Ann Alexander, Pat Backus, Eliseo Batuan, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad
Patricia Blair, Teresita Block, Sarah Boyce, Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Pastor Toribio Cajiuat
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
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
Frederick Loomis, Violet Lorenzen, Mary Lowry, Lauren Ma, The McCall Family, Octavia McLaren
Epifania Mercado, Ryan Moloughney, Gerry Nagy, 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, Doris 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** **Little Lambs.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
- Water Wonders and Bible Fun.** LaDane Williamson 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 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.
- 2 pm** **Believing & Belonging Membership Class.** 2 pm • Zoom. Register at fapc.org/belong.
-

This Week

- Thu July 24** **Youth: Pizza & Games on the Terrace.** 6 pm. Contact: Barron Flood (youth@fapc.org).
- Fri July 25** **FAYA at the NY Liberty.** Barclays Center.
- Sat July 26** **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).
- Seneca Village Tour.** 2 pm • Central Park. Register at fapc.org/adulted.

Coming Up

- Sun July 27** **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, preaching.
- Johnsonburg Overnight Children & Youth Camp.** Join us at Johnsonburg Camp from Sunday, July 27, to Friday, August 1, for an unforgettable week of fun and faith for children entering first through eighth grade. Learn more and register at fapc.org/camp.
- Sat Aug 2** **FAYA Silent Disco at Riverside Park South.** 5:30 pm • Riverside Park South. We’re dancing under the stars! Questions? Email youngadults@fapc.org.
- Sun Aug 3** **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. Barron Flood, 2025 Summer Pastoral Resident, preaching.
- Let’s Go (See the) Mets!** 1:30 pm • Citi Field. Find more information and buy tickets at fapc.org/mets.
- Sun, Sept 7** **Homecoming Sunday.** Worship in the Sanctuary at 11 am.

Next Sunday • Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

“Healing at the Pool of Bethesda” • John 5:1-15

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

Save the Dates!

Looking ahead to the fall, please be sure to save these dates in your calendar:

- **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 24:** The Kenneth O. Jones Distinguished Service Awards

Today: Believing & Belonging

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

Saturday, July 26: Seneca Village Tour

This summer, continue our journey of learning and justice with a walking tour of Seneca Village—the largest community of free African-American property owners in pre–Civil War New York. On Saturday, July 26 at 2 pm, we'll explore this historic site in Central Park and learn how Black New Yorkers created refuge and community in the face of racial discrimination, only to be displaced for the creation of the park. Optional dinner together afterward. Tour is 90 minutes. Space is limited. Register at fapc.org/adulted.

Saturday, August 2: FAYA Silent Disco at Riverside Park South

Dance, dance, dance with FAYA! We'll be at Pier 1 in Riverside Park South. The line forms at 5:30pm and the dancing begins at 6pm. Whether you have one or two left feet, we hope you'll enjoy the evening with friends. Headphones are free, but food and drink is on each individual person. Questions? Email youngadults@fapc.org.

Sunday, August 3: Let's Go (See the) Mets!

Join us at 1:30 pm for a fun-filled afternoon at Citi Field after worship! We'll cheer on the New York Mets against the San Francisco Giants. It's a great chance to enjoy summer baseball and connect with other families and friends from the church! Tickets are \$48 in section 502, under the overhang to keep us out of the sun! Find more information and buy tickets at fapc.org/mets.

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! Please learn more and register at fapc.org/bbq.

Have you remembered the church in your will?

If you have included a bequest for the church in your will or estate plans, please let us know! You are eligible to join our Legacy Circle, a group of members and friends who have remembered the church in their financial arrangements. Please reach out to Sean McAvoy, Director of Communications and Development, at fapc@fapc.org, to let him know of your generous provision.

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*

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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Susan Roberson, *Treasurer*

Class of 2026

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

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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

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

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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*

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



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

Support the Church

Scan this code using the camera on your smartphone and follow the instructions to make a secure donation to our ministries.

fapc.org/give



Summer Building Hours

Monday – Friday

9 am – 5 pm

Saturday

8 am – 1 pm

Sunday

8 am – 12 pm



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