# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026 • 10:00 am

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 if 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 during worship in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. Sunday School for pre-K through fifth grade follows the Litany of Parting during the 10 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 — Sonata no. 6: IV. Finale: Andante
*Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)*

* Call to Worship
*Deacon Gary McKoy*

*Psalm 63*

One: O Lord, your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
**All: Our lips shall give you praise.**
One: So we will bless you as long as we live
**All: And lift up our hands in your name.**
One: Come, let us worship God, tender and just.

* Hymn 301 — **Let Us Build a House**

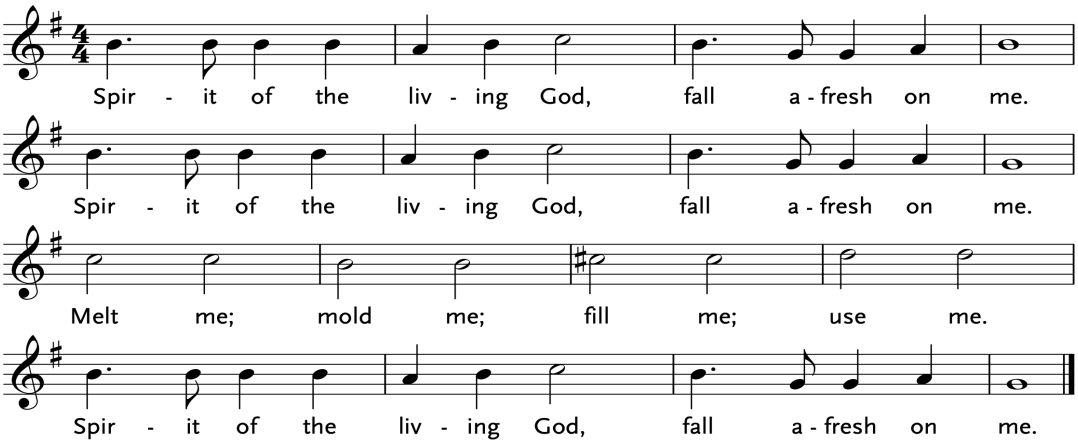
* Call to Confession
*Summer Pastoral Resident Barron Flood*

* 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



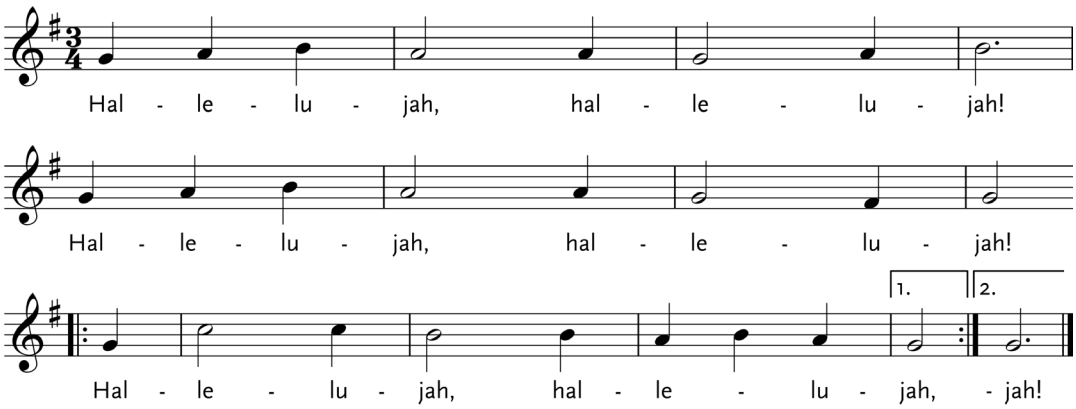

Text and Music: Daniel Iverson, 1926 – LIVING GOD © 1935 Birdwing Music. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-721169.

* Assurance of Pardon



**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

* Response of Praise




Music: George Mxadana.
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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. Chris Palmer*

Solo

*Ich folge dir gleichfalls* ("I follow you likewise")
from the *St. John Passion,* BWV 245 • *J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)*

| | |
|---|---|
| *Ich folge dir gleichfalls mit freudigen Schritten* | I follow you likewise with joyful steps |
| *Und lasse dich nicht,* | and do not leave you, |
| *Mein Leben, mein Licht.* | my life, my light. |
| *Befördre den Lauf* | Bring me on my way |
| *Und höre nicht auf,* | and do not cease |
| *Selbst an mir zu ziehen, zu schieben, zu bitten.* | to pull, push and urge me on. |

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson *Mark 2:23-3:6*

One Sabbath he was going through the grain fields, and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food, how he entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions?" Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath, so the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They were watching him to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

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

Sermon — **"Sabbath Hands"**
*The Rev. Dr. Jonah So*

* Affirmation of Faith — from *The Westminster Confession of Faith*

**Sabbath is then kept holy unto the Lord when individuals,**
**after a due preparing of their hearts,**
**and ordering of their common affairs beforehand,**
**do not only observe an holy rest all the day**
**from their own works, words,**
**and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations;**
**but also are taken up the whole time**
**in the public and private exercises of God's worship,**
**and in the duties of necessity and mercy. Amen.**

* Hymn 308 — **O God in Whom All Life Begins**

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 — *Alleluia,* from *Exsultate, jubilate* • *W.A. Mozart (1756–1791)*

* 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 298 **Lord, You Give the Great Commission**

* Benediction

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

Postlude Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 557 • *J.S. Bach*

The ministry of music this morning is offered by
Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist* • Hannah Penzner, *Soprano*

**Love the music?**

Scan this code to enjoy your favorite music from worship.

***YouTube.com/@fapcchoir***

## 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*.

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## Please pray for:

Ann Alexander, Pat Backus, Eliseo Batuon, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad
Patricia Blair, Teresita Block, Sarah Boyce, Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Ella Calderon
Denise Campbell, Nina S. Campbell, Phoebe Chiu, Sookjoong Choi, Anne Coffey, Dr. Johanna Cook,
Edna Craddock, Tom Crowfis, William Cuffee, Athanassia Doucas, Sherian Edgreen, David Elissa
and Barbara Mitchell, Michael Elissa, Narmella Elissa, Daniele Engome, Jacqueline Fickling
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, Joyce Nolen
Nahid Oloumi, Frank Owarish, Micki Peck, David Rafalimanana, Emmett Raitt, Dexter Ramcharan
Debbie Rogers, Ramon Rosa, Amirhossein Sahebkar, 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:

Saturday, June 13: John D. Groendyke, grandfather of Zane Hodgen.

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).

*Today*

**10 am** **Little Lambs Nursery & Sunday School.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.

**Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.

**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.

*Coming Up*

**Thu June 25** **Career Directions.** 10 am • Zoom. Visit *fapc.org/community* to learn more and to sign up.

**Sat June 27** **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Sign up is required. Contact John Wyatt at *moh@fapc.org*.

**FAYA Long Island City Brewery Crawl.** 1 pm • Fifth Hammer Brewing Company. Learn more at *fapc.org/brewery*.

**Sun June 28** **Pride Sunday.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream.

**Kids Bible Adventures.** 10 am • LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. Register at *fapc.org/families*.

**Margaret Shafer Picnic.** 12 pm • Bonnell Hall. Learn more and register at *fapc.org/picnic*.

**Youth Group World Cup Watch Party.** 3 pm • Astoria. Learn more and sign up at *fapc.org/world*.

**Thu July 9** **Mosaic Music Concert.** 7 pm • Kirkland Chapel. Learn more and purchase tickets at *fapc.org/mosaic*.

**Sat July 11** **FAYA at the Playa.** 10:30 am • Brighton Beach. Learn more and register at *fapc.org/faya*.

**Wed July 15** **Youth Serve Day.** 12 pm • 55th Street. All youth are invited to serve with A Place at the Table. Learn more and register at *fapc.org/youth*.

**Sun July 19** **Kids Bible Adventures.** 10 am • LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. Register at *fapc.org/families*.

**Wed July 22** **FAYA Visits the NY Liberty.** 7 pm • Barclays Center. To learn more and sign up, visit *fapc.org/liberty*.

**Next Sunday · Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

"Hellfire and Rainbows" • Luke 16:19-31

Guest Preacher: *The Rev. Daniel Vigilante*

**Saturday, June 27: FAYA Long Island City Brewery Crawl**

Long Island City is home to some great breweries. Join the Fifth Avenue Young Adults at 1 pm for a time of fellowship and fun. We'll begin our crawl at Fifth Hammer Brewing Company and explore some of the crafty options that LIC has to offer. Non-alcoholic options are, of course, also available. Learn more at *fapc.org/brewery* or by emailing *youngadults@fapc.org*.

**Sunday, June 28: Pride Sunday | Celebrate Pride with Fifth Avenue!**

Wear your brightest colors and celebrate Pride! On June 28, we will welcome Rev. Daniel Vigilante as our guest preacher for 10 am worship. Following the service, The Word is Out and FAYA will meet at Coffee Hour and join our sister congregation at First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York (12 W 12th St.). We'll cheer on the annual NYC Pride March and hand out water to participants and spectators. All are welcome! Contact Barron Flood and Austin Applebach (*community@fapc.org*) for more information and to let us know you're coming.

**Sunday, June 28 & Sunday, July 19: Kids Bible Adventures**

Looking for a fun way to kick off the summer? Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center from 10 am – 1 pm. We'll explore the stories of Jesus through The Chosen Adventures with games, crafts, Bible stories, and more! The cost is $10 per child, and includes a pizza lunch. Preschoolers are invited to join us for their own special program from 10 – 11 am. Register at *fapc.org/families*.

**Sunday, June 28: Margaret Shafer Picnic**

Join us at 12 pm in Bonnell Hall to serve lunch to those in our community who are experiencing homelessness or in need of a relaxed meal among friends. This event is named in honor of the late Margaret Shafer, our former associate for outreach and a beloved friend and advocate of the homeless. To learn more and register to volunteer, please visit *fapc.org/picnic*.

**Sunday, June 28: Youth Group World Cup Watch Party**

The youth of Fifth Avenue are invited to Astoria for a World Cup knockout round party. The fun begins at 3 pm at the Ramirez home. Learn more and sign up at *fapc.org/world*.

**Thursday, July 9: Mosaic Music Concert**

Enjoy an evening of music and connection! Join us at 7 pm in Kirkland Chapel for the inaugural Mosaic Music concert, featuring Chapel Church Music, songwriter J Lind, and singer-songwriter Jayne Sugg. Mosaic Music is a new initiative of Fifth Avenue that highlights devotional songwriting in New York City. Bring a friend! Tickets are $10 and include admission for two. Learn more and purchase tickets at *fapc.org/mosaic*.

**Saturday, July 11: FAYA at the Playa**

Get out your best beach chair! Join the Fifth Avenue Young Adults at Brighton Beach in Brooklyn. The fun begins at 10:30 am. Come and spend the day in the sun. Learn more at *fapc.org/faya*.

**Did you know...**

...that you can sponsor a Coffee Hour? In honor of a loved one, celebration of a milestone, or commemoration of a significant personal or familial event, you can support a Coffee Hour at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Please contact Austin Applebach (*engagement@fapc.org*) for more information.

## 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* • Persis Luke, *Clerk of Session*
Glenda Moreland, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

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| Josie Lawrence | Kathy Henderson | Alexandra Graves |
| Persis Luke | Phillip Ma | Mary Jo Keeble |
| Patrick Obeng-Frimpong | Thomas Mann | Lucas Koehler |
| Thomas Pak | Glenda Moreland | Sarah McKoy |
| David Roberson | McKenna Nelson | Reginald McQuay |
| Beth Rumore Stanley | Lynn Wishart | Nancy Moore |
| Jama Toung | | |

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Gary McKoy, *Treasurer*

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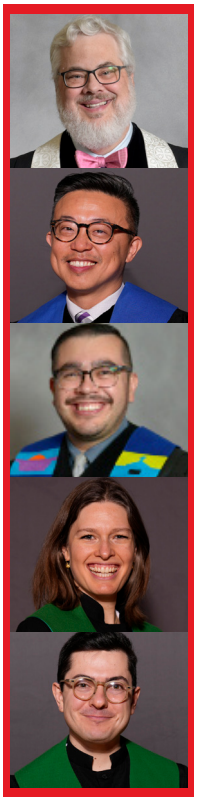
## Clergy & Staff



**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*
Christine Boyle, *Director of Outreach & Missions*
Barron Flood, *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, *Office Manager and Program Coordinator*
The Rev. Dr. Eun Joo Kim, *Parish Visitor*
Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist*
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Dr. Can Olgun, *Director of Chapel Church Music*
Danielle Shelby, *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**
Danielle Shelby
*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

# Mosaic Music Concert

## Thursday, July 9 • 7 pm, Kirkland Chapel

Featuring Chapel Church Music, songwriter J Lind, and singer-songwriter Jayne Sugg.

**Purchase tickets at *fapc.org/mosaic*.**

## 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 | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|
| 9 am – 5 pm | 8 am – 1 pm | 8 am – 12 pm |

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