

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 19, 2026 • 10:00 AM



Norman Rockwell, *Saying Grace*, (1951)

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 during worship 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

Organ Sonata no. 4, op. 65, no. 4: II. Andante religioso
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Evelyn Acosta

Adapted from *Psalms* 107

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**All: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those God redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from every land.**

One: Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

**All: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and the Lord delivered them from their distress.**

One: Let us worship the Living God!

* HYMN 624

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

* 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.)

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

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, - jah!

Music: George Mxadana.
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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

If with All Your Hearts, from *Elijah*, op. 70 • Felix Mendelssohn

If with all your heart ye truly seek me,
Ye shall ever surely find me,
Thus saith our God.
If with all your heart ye truly seek me,
Ye shall ever surely find me,
Thus saith our God. Thus saith our God.

Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
That I might even come before his presence.
Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
That I might even come before his presence,
come before his presence.
Oh, that I knew where I might find him.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After he entered the Pharisee's home, he took his place at the table. Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. Standing behind him at his feet and crying, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. He would know that she is a sinner.

Jesus replied, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Teacher, speak," he said.

"A certain lender had two debtors. One owed enough money to pay five hundred people for a day's work. The other owed enough money for fifty. When they couldn't pay, the lender forgave the debts of them both. Which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the largest debt canceled."

Jesus said, "You have judged correctly."

Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn't give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. You didn't anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

The other table guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this person that even forgives sins?"

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Chris Palmer

"It's for You"

* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**Lover of Restless Hearts,
Help us trust the slow, patient, and steady
work that you have begun within us.
No progress is too little,
no accomplishment is too small,
no fault is too great.
Step by inching step, we are kingdom bound.
Amen.**

* HYMN 201

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

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 SOLO

Be Thou Faithful unto Death, from *Paulus*, op. 36
Felix Mendelssohn

Be faithful unto death,
and I will give you the crown of life.
Be not afraid, my help is nigh.

* 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 42

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure

* BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

Organ Sonata no. 2, op. 65, no. 2: IV. Fuga: Allegro moderato
Felix Mendelssohn

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



LOVE THE MUSIC?

Scan this code to enjoy your favorite
music from worship.

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

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 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, Lesa Holmes, 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

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 Nursery.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
- Kids Bible Adventures.** 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.
-

Coming Up

- Wed July 22** **FAYA Visits the NY Liberty.** 7 pm • Barclays Center. To learn more and sign up, visit fapc.org/liberty.
- Thu July 23** **Career Directions.** 10 am ET • Zoom. Visit fapc.org/community to learn more and to sign up.
- The Memory Tree™ Summer Series.** 2 pm • Rita Arlen Room.
- Fifth Avenue Reading Circle: A River Runs Through It.** 7 pm ET • Zoom. Visit fapc.org/read to sign up.
- Sat July 25** **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Sign up is required. Contact John Wyatt at moh@fapc.org.
- Sun Aug 2** **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, preaching.
- Fifth Avenue Bible Trivia.** 11:30 am • Jones Auditorium. Visit fapc.org/adulted to learn more.
- Sun Aug 9** **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. Director of Engagement Austin Applebach, preaching.
- Thu Aug 13** **Fifth Avenue Reading Circle: A Change of Habit.** 7 pm ET • Zoom. To sign up visit fapc.org/read.
- Sat Aug 15** **FAYA at the Cyclones.** 6 pm • Maimonides Park. Cheer on the Brooklyn Cyclones with the Fifth Avenue Young Adults. Learn more and register at fapc.org/faya.
- Sun Aug 16** **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. Summer Pastoral Resident Barron Flood, preaching.
- Thu Aug 20** **Youth Pizza and Game Night.** 6:30 pm • Weber Terrace. Visit fapc.org/youth to register.

Next Sunday • Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

“This Is Where I Say I’ve Had Enough” • Luke 10:38-42

The Rev. Werner Ramirez, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

Senior Pastor Scott Black Johnston is currently on study leave.
He will return to the pulpit on Homecoming Sunday, September 13, 2026.

Wednesday, July 22: FAYA Visits the NY Liberty

Join the young adults of Fifth Avenue as they head back to Barclays to watch the NY Liberty take on the Chicago Sky. Are you a sports fanatic? This is totally for you. Not a sports fanatic? This is still totally for you. Tickets are \$30. Join FAYA as we cheer on the home team! The game gets underway at 7 pm. Learn more and sign up at fapc.org/faya.

Thursday, July 23: The Memory Tree™ Summer Series

The Memory Tree's twelve-week program will meet at Fifth Avenue and online for people experiencing mild memory loss, including early-stage Alzheimer's disease. Each Thursday at 2 pm, participants will explore music through discussion, memory exercises, and performances by students from the Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music. The program is free for members of Fifth Avenue. Space is limited. To register, contact Elizabeth Fine at eafoundation@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 23: Fifth Avenue Reading Circle | *A River Runs Through It*

Join us to discuss *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Mclean. You're invited each month to read and discuss a variety of books. From fiction to non-fiction, books that will stretch our faith and our imagination, books that inform, and books that entertain—we read them all! We meet at 7 pm ET on Zoom. Sign up at fapc.org/read.

Sunday, August 2: Fifth Avenue Bible Trivia

Think you know your Bible, theology, and favorite hymns? Ready to challenge your fellow pew-mates over some snacks and friendly competition? Join us at 11:30 am in Jones Auditorium for a classic trivia experience—with a holy twist! We'll bring the questions and the snacks; you bring the brainpower. Round up a team of four (or come solo and we'll match you up!), and show off your biblical knowledge for a shot at some awesome prizes. Don't miss this chance to laugh, learn, and let loose as we dive into categories like "Who Said That?," "Hymn Lyrics Challenge," and "Holy Headlines!" It's trivia...church-style. See you there! Email adulded@fapc.org for more information.

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.

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.

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

Class of 2027

Chloe Hawker
Bruno Hennig
Josie Lawrence
Persis Luke
Patrick Obeng-Frimpong
Thomas Pak
David Roberson
Beth Rumore Stanley
Jama Toung

Class of 2028

Evelyn Acosta
Amanda DeMeola
Kathy Henderson
Phillip Ma
Thomas Mann
Glenda Moreland
McKenna Nelson
Lynn Wishart

Class of 2029

Ben De Winkle
Dora DePugh
Alexandra Graves
Mary Jo Keeble
Lucas Koehler
Sarah McKoy
Reginald McQuay
Nancy Moore

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Gary McKoy, *Treasurer*

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Trevor Illingworth
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Elizabeth McCullough
Kathy Peterson
Nicole Rusk

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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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Ann Dille Bushe
Samuel Duffy
Michael Franch
Susan Kneefel
Ethan LaFrance
Leah Mealey
Ella Nkhoma
Jeanne Pape
Bonnie Smith

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Haejin In
Amy Ramsden
Alex Yanos

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*

Derek Maddalena, *Director of Facilities*

Sean McAvoy, *Director of Communications & Development*



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

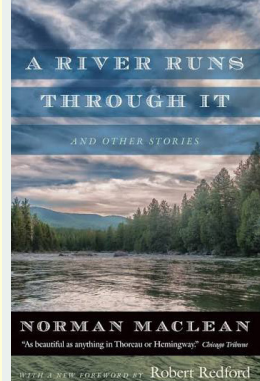
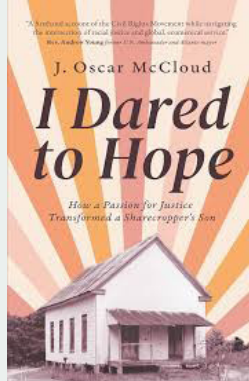
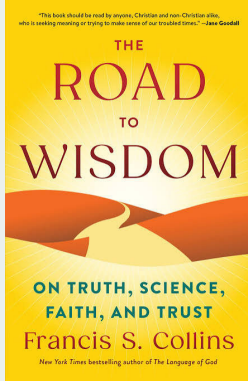
Request a bulletin announcement • Sean McAvoy, fapc@fapc.org

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

Summer Reading



Explore the Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston's summer reading list and join the Fifth Avenue Reading Circle on Thursday, July 23, at 7 pm ET on Zoom to discuss *A River Runs Through It*.

Learn more at fapc.org/read.

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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