



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 26, 2026 • 10:00 AM



Claude-Marie Calvet-Leblond, *Saint Martha*, 1822–1835

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

Rhosymedre • *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Nancy Moore

from *Psalms 119*

One: The decrees of the Lord are wonderful.

**All: The unfolding of God's word
gives light and understanding.**

One: Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.

All: Make your face shine upon your servants.

One: We come together to worship the living God.

* HYMN 459

O Word of God Incarnate

* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Chris Palmer

* 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

All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth_ from heav - en,
 And God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be to all peo - ple giv - en.
 We praise, we wor - ship You, we raise to Your great glo - ry
 thanks and praise, Cre - a - tor, Son, and Spi - rit.

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

Summer Pastoral Resident Barron Flood

SOLO

The House of Life (1903): Silent Noon • *Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Your hands lie open in the long fresh grass,
 The finger-points look through like rosy blooms:
 Your eyes smile peace. The pasture gleams and glooms
 'Neath billowing skies that scatter and amass.

All round our nest, far as the eye can pass,
 Are golden kingcup fields with silver edge
 Where the cow-parsley skirts the hawthorn hedge.
 'Tis visible silence, still as the hour glass.

Deep in the sunsearched growths the dragon-fly
 Hangs like a blue thread loosened from the sky:
 So this winged hour is dropt to us from above.
 Oh! clasp we to our hearts, for deathless dower,
 This close-companioned inarticulate hour
 When twofold silence was the song of love.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

"This Is Where I Say I've Had Enough"

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Barmen Declaration

**As Jesus Christ is God's assurance
of the forgiveness of all our sins,
so in the same way and with the same seriousness
is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life.
Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance
from the godless fetters of this world
for a free, grateful service to his creatures.
We reject the false doctrine,
as though there were areas of our life
in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ,
but to other lords—areas in which we would not
need justification and sanctification through him. Amen.**

* HYMN 436

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

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

Ten Biblical Songs: God Is My Shepherd
Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

God is my shepherd,
I want for nothing.
My rest is in the pleasant meadows.
He leadeth me where quiet waters flow.
My fainting soul doth he restore
And guideth me in the ways of peace,
To glorify his name.

And though in death's dark valley my steps must wander,
My spirit shall not fear, For thou art by me still.
Thy rod and staff are with me,
And they shall comfort me.

* 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 725

O Jesus, I Have Promised

* BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

Prelude & Fugue in B-flat major, BWV 560 • *J.S. Bach (1685–1750)*

The ministry of music this morning is offered by
Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist* • Joel Chapman, *Soloist & Pianist*



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.

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

Faithful Departed:

July 12, 2026: Carli Wu, beloved artist, daughter of Cindy Liu and Peter Wu, and friend of Benjamin De Winkle and Ophelia Ma.

July 16, 2026: Jamal Davis Neal, Jr., beloved friend of the Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, beloved partner of Antonio Ortiz, and beloved son of Velda Williams.

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.
- 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.
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Coming Up

- Tue July 28** **Midsummer Prayer Service.** 12 pm ET • Zoom. Sign up at fapc.org/prayer.
- Thu July 30** **The Memory Tree™ Summer Series.** 2 pm • Rita Arlen Room.
- Sat Aug 1** **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Sign up is required. Contact John Wyatt at moh@fapc.org.
- Sun Aug 2** **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.
- Sun Aug 23** **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. The Rev. Chris Palmer, preaching.
- Sun Aug 30** **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, preaching.
- Sun Sept 6** **Worship.** 10 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. The Rev. Werner Ramirez, preaching.
- Sun Sept 13** **Homecoming Sunday.** 11 am • Sanctuary & Livestream. The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.

Next Sunday • Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Who Invited You?” • Luke 14:1-14
The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, 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.

Today: Special Coffee Hour

Join us after worship for a special coffee hour sponsored by Sharyl B., Kerry M., and Madeleine F. on behalf of the hybrid church family.

Tuesday, July 28: Midsummer Prayer Service

The Fifth Avenue team has enjoyed the summer's pace and time in Washington, Virginia, Rhode Island, down the shore, across the pond, and on our comfy couches. Our thoughts, regardless of where we wander, always return to this wonderful community. Maybe yours do, too? If you have been longing to connect with your Fifth Avenue family this summer, please join us in prayer and on Zoom. Gather with the Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, the Rev. Chris Palmer, Austin Applebach, and Christine Boyle for a time of prayer at 12 pm ET. We will pray together and invite God's grace to see us through to our September in person and hybrid reunions. Learn more and sign up at fapc.org/prayer.

Thursday, July 30: 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.

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 adulterd@fapc.org for more information.

Thursday, August 13: Fifth Avenue Reading Circle | *A Change of Habit*

Join us to discuss *A Change of Habit* by Sister Monica Clare. Sister Monica turned from her unfulfilling career and marriage and turned towards God, entering a convent in New Jersey at the age of 46. This funny and profound memoir might be just what your spirit needs this summer. We meet at 7 pm ET on Zoom. Sign up at fapc.org/read.

Saturday, August 15: FAYA at the Cyclones

Join the Fifth Avenue Young Adults to watch the Brooklyn Cyclones take on the Jersey Shore BlueClaws at Maimonides Park in Brooklyn. Tickets are \$20 and include a free Cyclones hat. First pitch is at 6 pm. Learn more and purchase tickets 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* • 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 Toun

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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Andy Craven
Myra Ford
Kyle Hughes
Susie Hunter
Trevor Illingworth
Jamie Ku
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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Robert Hunter
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

Midsummer Prayer Service

Tuesday, July 28 • 12 pm ET, Zoom

Join the Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, the Rev. Chris Palmer, Austin Applebach, and Christine Boyle for time of prayer.

Learn more and sign up at fapc.org/prayer.

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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