

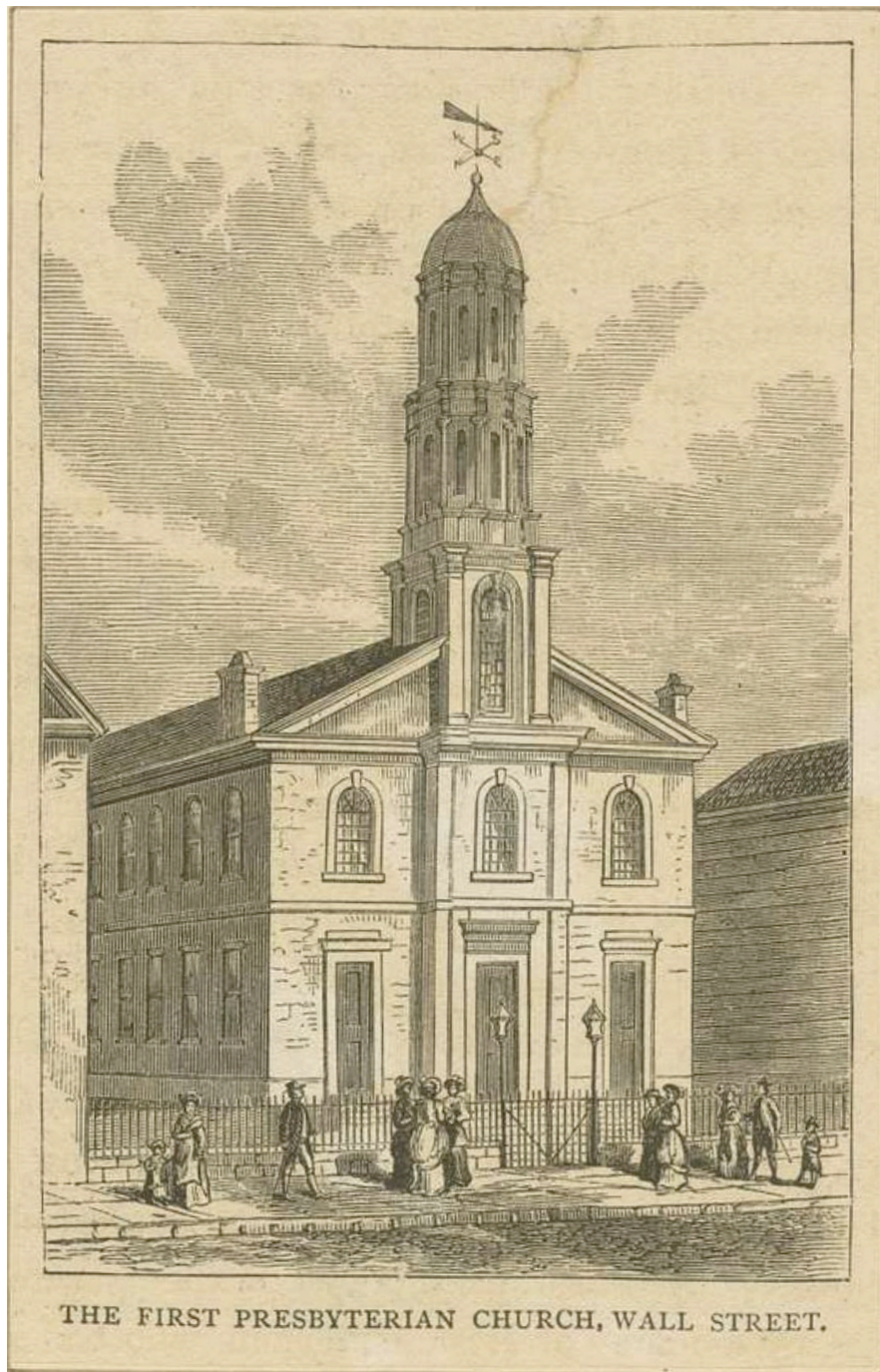
# *The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York*

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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Service for the Lord's Day* | November 16, 2025 | 11 a.m.

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WALL STREET.

First Presbyterian Church, Wall Street, pre-1844

# WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH

*The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation.*

*This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.*

Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York. Over 800 members call this place our spiritual home and we are grateful you are worshiping with us today. We believe First Church is a community of people called to stand on the intersection of faith and life as we witness to the love, grace and justice of God for all people.

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, I pray today's service will be a blessing for you. If this is your first time here, a member of the pastoral staff would love to greet you at the door and answer any questions you may have about the life and ministries of this church.

We are glad you are here. May you experience God's welcome in this place today!

Greg Stovell  
*Senior Pastor*

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Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the Lobby or on the  
North Lawn (weather permitting)  
to meet one another, say hello to new faces, and enjoy refreshments.

Gender-neutral restrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary as well as through the wooden doors at the front of the sanctuary on the south side.  
More restrooms can be found in the lobby on the north side of the sanctuary.

## GET INVOLVED



## GIVE



## INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?



*If you are in need of care, such as prayer or a call from a pastor, a ride to the church, etc., please contact our church office at (212) 675-6150.*

*Our staff will connect you with one of our pastors or a deacon from our caring ministry who can assist with your needs.*

# GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Cantabile”

César Franck

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Harold W. Friedell

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen. —St. Richard of Chichester

HYMN 357

“The Days Are Surely Coming”

LLANGLOFFAN

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,**

**you warn us to read the signs for the coming of your glory—  
in the sun, the moon, the stars,  
the roaring of the seas and the waves,  
the distress among the nations.**

**We have seen it all before.**

**Nothing seems to change.**

**Help us live with courage in this age of ambiguity  
where wars are fought for peace  
and freedoms are stripped in the name of liberty.**

**Forgive our lapse of focus,  
our sense that nothing ever really changes.**

**Teach us to wait with patience,  
that we may be ready as our redeemer draws near...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

ELLACOMBE



Now teach me wis - dom in my soul; I long to see your face.



Let bones, once bro - ken, sing with joy, and heal me by your grace.



Then I will praise you with my heart, my mind, my soul, my voice.



You save the least and seek the lost; let all — the world re - joice!

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Children are invited to come forward to the steps for the prayers. Following the Lord's Prayer, children age 3 - 6th grade are invited to Church School and should be picked up by their families at the end of the worship service.*

**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.**

## HEARING THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25

*pew Bible, Old Testament page 696/large print, Old Testament page 851*

### ANTHEM

Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end. -Psalm 119:33

### SECOND LESSON

Luke 21:5-7

*pew Bible, New Testament page 85/large print, New Testament page 103*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

"I Thought It Would Last Forever"

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN 463

"How Firm a Foundation"

FOUNDATION

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## CALL TO OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

Kenneth Jennings

With a voice of singing declare ye and tell this; utter it even to the end of the earth, Alleluia. The Lord hath redeemed his servant, Jacob. Alleluia. Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands. Sing for the honor of his name; make his praise glorious.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.  
—Isaiah 48:20b, Psalm 66:1-2, and the Lesser Doxology

### DOXOLOGY

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

OLD HUNDREDTH



*Traditional* Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures

*Inclusive* Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple



here be - low; praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;

here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;



praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## SENDING

### HYMN 366

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

HYFRYDOL

### BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

William Mathias

*The congregation is invited to continue worshipping through the postlude,  
which is offered as a thanksgiving to God.*

### LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*

Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

### Today

- 9:30 a.m. Childcare
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Circle with Babies and Toddlers
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theologians (hybrid)
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Church School
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 12:15 p.m. Art at First *Seeing Music* Closing Reception
- 12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 1:00 p.m. LGBTQIA+ Brunch (offsite)
- 2:00 p.m. Make It Meaningful

### Monday

- 5:30 p.m. Qigong (virtual)
- 7:00 p.m. Current Events (virtual)

### Wednesday

- 12:30 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)

### Friday

- 6:00 p.m. Youth Friday Dinner

### Saturday

- 10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen

### Next Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Childcare
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theologians (hybrid)
- 10:00 a.m. Club 345
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Church School
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
- 12:30 p.m. Congregational Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Literary Group
- 2:00 p.m. Make It Meaningful

## The Nominating Committee is Requesting Recommendations for FPC Leadership Roles

The 2026 Nominating Process is underway, and we need YOUR input! We are in the process of soliciting nominations from congregation members to the Session (Elders), Deacons, and Trustees. We are asking for the names of congregation members who you think would be an asset in these leadership roles. Recommendations are due by November 21, 2025.

Recommendations may be made by:

- leaving a message with FPC's front desk (**212-675-6150**) and a member of the Nominating Committee will call you.
- emailing [fpcnyc@fpcnyc.org](mailto:fpcnyc@fpcnyc.org).
- mailing your recommendation to The First Presbyterian Church, 12 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011, attention: Nominating Committee.
- dropping a nomination in the Nominating Box at FPC's front desk.

If emailing or mailing your nomination, please include the name of the nominee, role you are nominating them for, and a few reasons why you feel they would be a good leader.

Thank you from the 2025 Nominating Committee!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **LGBTQIA+ Brunch | Today, Sunday, November 16 | 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for an offsite brunch. Contact [LGBTQ.fpcnyc@gmail.com](mailto:LGBTQ.fpcnyc@gmail.com) for details.

### **Art at First: *Seeing Music***

The Art at First *Seeing Music* gallery exhibit closing reception takes place today, join us!

### **Congregational Lunch | Sunday, November 23 | Great Hall**

Now more than ever, we need community, fun, and friendship. The Deacons as well as the Membership and Elder Care groups are hosting lunch after worship on November 23. Feel free to bring dessert to share, but the meal is on us! Desserts can be dropped off in the Great Hall before the service. You may RSVP at the front desk.

### **FPC & FPCNS Thanksgiving Food Drive | Sunday, November 23 | Great Hall**

Many community members have expressed an interest in participating in a food drive to help our fellow New Yorkers in need. We are pleased to share that FPCNS and FPC have teamed up to kick off a food drive benefitting students in need at nearby Harvest Collegiate High School. We will gratefully collect donations in the lobby of 12th Street through November 25th. **Ideal donations include:** canned fish, canned chili, canned fruit, rice, ramen, shelf-stable mac n cheese, dried beans, dried pasta, and nut butters.

### **Deacons of the Month**

The November deacons of the month are **Jeanne Gordon** and **Michael Judkiewicz**. They'll be wearing a name badge at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.

### **Tartan Fair Crafts | December 5, 6, and 7**

A Tartan Christmas Fair is just around the corner, December 5, 6, and 7. It's our largest fundraiser and this year's proceeds go to Bank Street Headstart School on E. Fifth Street and the Village Voices History Project. The fair has something for everyone, a Silent Auction, Handmade Crafts and Baked Goods, a Cafe, Christmas Greenery and Poinsettias, Photo with Santa, and much, much more. Volunteers needed for set-up, shifts at the fair, and then clean-up, beginning November 30, going straight through December 11. Sign up in person in the lobby or to learn more visit [tartanfair.org](http://tartanfair.org).

### **Vespers Festival of Music: *Behold New Joy* | Sunday, December 7 | 4:00 p.m.**

A journey of musical joy through the centuries with Benjamin Britten's timeless *A Ceremony of Carols*, Ēriks Ešenvalds' radiant *Trinity Te Deum*, Shawn Kirchner's exuberant *Behold New Joy*, and rousing carol singing accompanied by brass, percussion, and organ. Featuring the First Church Choir conducted by Michael Shake. Free admission. Childcare available: infant-age 3.

### **Adult Education**

This year's hybrid adult education programs explore hope through ancient and contemporary voices.

- **Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.** – Midweek Bible Study: Series on The Way of Kings: Transforming Leadership Structures (Nov. 5–19). On hiatus 11/26.
- **Sundays at 9:30 a.m.** – Coffee and Theologians: Discussions with Jess Cook & Vivek Murthy (11/23). On hiatus 11/30.

For details and Zoom links, contact Barbara at [bdavis@fpcnyc.org](mailto:bdavis@fpcnyc.org).

### **Youth & Family Ministries**

- Worship Circle with Babies and Toddlers (ages 0–3), 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. first and third Sundays.
- Church School (ages 3–6th grade), children should be picked up in the parlor after worship.
- Student Choristers (grades 1–6), 12:20 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Youth Leadership Council (grades 6–12), monthly dinners; the next one is November 21.
- Club 345 (grades 3–5), fourth Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
- Confirmation (grades 7–9), select Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; the next meeting is Sunday, November 16.

For more information, contact Jenny at [jbennett@fpcnyc.org](mailto:jbennett@fpcnyc.org).

### **Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed**

St. Joe's Soup Kitchen, which takes place at First Church every Saturday, needs volunteers! There are two shifts—morning food prep (10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) and afternoon food service (1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.)—to help cook and serve 300-plus meals to New York City's homeless and hungry. No experience is necessary, but please sign up in advance to volunteer. [volunteer@sjsk.nyc](mailto:volunteer@sjsk.nyc) or [sjsk.nyc](http://sjsk.nyc).

*The First Presbyterian Church*  
*in the City of New York*

# Congregational Lunch

Sunday, November 23

Following Worship | The Great Hall

Now more than ever, we need community  
and friendship.

The Deacons as well as the Membership and  
Elder Care groups are hosting lunch after  
worship on November 23. Feel free to bring  
dessert to share, but the meal is on us!

Desserts can be dropped  
off in the Great Hall before the service.



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