

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS / EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Service for the Lord's Day | January 4, 2026 | 11 a.m.



Kathy Sirico, *Memory of the Moon*

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

Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the Lobby 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

“What Child Is This”

Richard Purvis, arr.

Improvisation on
“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

Arise, shine; for our light has come!

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The mystery of the ages is revealed;
the eternal plan of God is known to all.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Christ will judge the people with righteousness
and defend the cause of the poor.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

HYMN 150

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

DIX

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you sent Jesus among us
to reveal your love for all people.

We confess that our sin and pride
hide the constant power of your love.

We turn away from the poor;
we ignore cries of injustice;
we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
pour over us the gifts of your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed,
we may be embraced by your mercy...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

WINCHESTER OLD

All glo - ry be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from high - est heaven be - gin and nev - er cease!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Children are invited to come forward to the steps for the prayers, and afterward, 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.

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

pew Bible, New Testament page 2/large print, New Testament page 2

SERMON

“Observations and Inquiries”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

John 1:1-5 NRSVUE, adapted

Please stand in body or spirit.

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

**The Word was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through the Word,
and without the Word not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overtake it.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM

The Southern Harmony; Jordan Sramek, arr.

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator, down from the regions of glory descend! Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger, lo, for his guard the bright angels attend. *Brightest and best of the sons of the morning dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; star in the east, the horizon adorning; guide where our infant Redeemer was laid.*

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining, low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall; angels adore him, in slumber reclining; wise men and shepherds before him do fall. *Brightest and best...*

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion, odors of Eden, and offerings divine, gems from the mountain, and pearls from the ocean, myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine? *Brightest and best...*

Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gold we his favor secure. Richer by far is the heart's adoration; dearer to God are the prayers of the poor. *Brightest and best...*

-Reginald Heber

HYMN 151

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

KINGS OF ORIENT

Please stand in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy One, the beginning and the end,
the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of your creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your child Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with angels and archangels
and with the faithful of every time and place:

Holy, holy, holy God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection.

We look with hope for Christ's coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of people on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, eternal and eternally loving God,
incarnate Word, hear us as we pray this familiar 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers, those in the back of the center aisle will be invited forward first. The servers will give you bread; please take a juice glass from the tray. You may take the juice in your own time and leave your cup in the pew holders. Gluten free bread and self-contained bread and juice are available, please ask your server. The cups contain unfermented juice, so all may partake.

ANTHEM

How splendid shines the morning star, God's gracious light from darkness far, the root of Jesse blessed. Thou David's son of Jacob's stem, my bridegroom, king, and wondrous Lamb, thou hast my heart possessed. Sweetly, friendly, O thou handsome, precious ransom, full of graces, set and kept in heavenly places.

-Philipp Nicolai; trans. Anon.

HYMN 534

"Now the Silence"

NOW

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving and gracious God,
from east and west, from north and south,
you have gathered us at your table,
called us your beloved, and fed us from your body.
Transform us to be your body in the world,
and fortify us by your Spirit,
so that we may serve you and our neighbors
with great joy. Amen.

SENDING

HYMN 156

"Sing of God Made Manifest"

SALZBURG

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE

Anglican Chant, George S. Talbot

Text may be found in *pew Bible, Old Testament page 583/large print, Old Testament page 717.*

Please remain standing in body or spirit through the conclusion of the choral response.

POSTLUDE

"In Thee Is Gladness, BWV 615"

J.S. Bach

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

The cross is dedicated
“In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community.”
Our cross-bearer today is **Suzanne Mecs.**

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
Noushin Framke and Ben Maddox, *Lay Leaders*

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 & Toddlers
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship with Communion
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
12:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women
1:00 p.m. Twelfth Night De-Decorating Party

Monday

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

Tuesday

8:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women (virtual)

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Art at First (virtual)

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing (virtual)
9:00 a.m. NY Artists Circle
12:30 p.m. Senior Luncheon
5:00 p.m. Elder Care Committee (virtual)

Saturday

10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen

Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Childcare
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12:15 p.m. Opening Reception of Climate Art Show
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
12:30 p.m. Confirmation
12:30 p.m. LGBTQ+ Brunch (off site)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Corporate and Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York, on Fifth Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets, New York, New York, will be held in person in the sanctuary and by Zoom video teleconference on Sunday, January 25, 2026 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. This meeting is for the purpose of electing elders and deacons to replace those whose terms expire and for electing successors to the following trustees: Buffy Barton, Alyssa Browne, and Timothy Warmath and to transact such other business as may properly come before it. Nominees for election to the Trustee Class of 2029 are Thomas Hoscheid, Buffy Barton and Daniel Mapes. This meeting is open to all members of First Church.

Twelfth Night Party | Today, January 4 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us this afternoon in the Great Hall for a Twelfth Night Party in the Great Hall! Come and help take down the Christmas decorations, enjoy a Chinese Food Banquet, and fellowship all at the same time.

Senior Luncheon

The Elder Care Committee invites you to attend the Senior Luncheon on Thursday, January 8 at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

reRooting | Curated by Nicole Cooper and Danielle Warren

On view January 11 to February 8 in the Great Hall. Join us for the Opening Reception on January 11 from 12 to 4 pm with live "Umbilical Walk" performances at 1 pm and 3 pm. The exhibition also features a ClimART Café on January 18 from 12:30 to 4 pm, a Curator's Talk Lunch and Learn on February 1 at 12:30 pm, and a Closing Reception on February 8 from 2 to 4 pm. Presented by the New York Artists Circle, unEarthed - reRooting invites us to reflect on what has been unearthed and imagine pathways toward reconnection with our living planet. An online gallery will open soon at nyartistscircle.com/curated-shows.

Adult Education

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

- **Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. – Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the library and on Zoom. This winter we are studying The World of Paul, focusing on 1 Corinthians on January 21, February 4, and February 11. For the January 14 session, we will explore the broader context of Paul's ministry.
- **Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Coffee and Theologians** will explore Jonathan Edwards on January 18, Harry Emerson Fosdick on January 25, and Phyllis Trible on February 1.
- **Thursdays at 8:30 a.m., virtual January 8, 15, 22, 29 Prayer Writing** on zoom. These sessions create a meditative space as we write in response to prompts from scripture and additional writings. No one is asked to share their work, nor is any writing experience needed.

For details and Zoom links, contact the front desk at frontdesk@fpcnyc.org.

Deacons of the Month

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

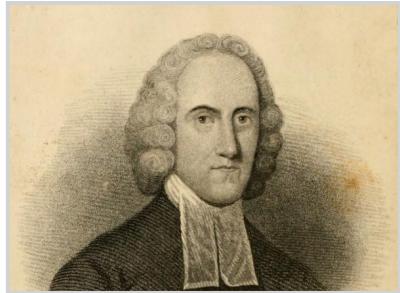
Youth & Family Ministries

- **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 dinner will be on January 23.
- **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 after worship on Sunday, January 11.

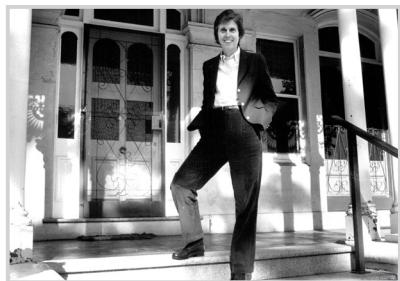
For more information, contact Jenny at jbennett@fpcnyc.org.

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 or sjsk.nyc.



Jonathan Edwards



Phyllis Trible; Photo by Robert Pearce/
Fairfax media, via Getty Images



Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1925



Paul the Apostle, detail of the mosaic in the
Basilica of San Vitale, Ravenna, 6th century

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

Winter 2026 Adult Education Programs

Coffee and Theologians

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 A.M.
(LIBRARY, ZOOM)

Jonathan Edwards
JANUARY 18

Harry Emerson Fosdick
JANUARY 25

Phyllis Trible
FEBRUARY 1

Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 12:30 P.M.
(LIBRARY, ZOOM)

The World of Paul
JANUARY 14

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS LOVE

1 Corinthians 1-10
JANUARY 21

1 Corinthians 11-14
FEBRUARY 4

1 Corinthians 15-16
FEBRUARY 11

PERMISSIONS All public domain except: *What Child Is This*. © 2004 H.T. FitzSimmons Company. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Brightest and Best*. © 2022 Rose Publications LLC. *The Morning Star*. © 1949 The H. W. Gray Co. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Now the Silence*. Music and Words © 1969 Hope Publishing Company. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



This paper contains 100% post-consumer waste content, is made with windpower and made carbon neutral.
Neenah Paper is certified by Preferred by Nature for FSC® standards and Green Seal Certified. 3-05077-F

12 W 12th Street, New York, NY 10011

212.675.6150 • fpccnyc.org