

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

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## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

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Kathy Sirico, *The Great Current*

# 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 worshipping 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 Great Hall 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

“Still Be My Vision,” from *Triptych*

Stephen Paulus

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Christopher Tye

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace, eternal source of love; inflame, we pray, our inmost hearts with fire from heaven above. As thou dost join with holiest bonds the Father and the Son. So fill us all with mutual love and knit our hearts in one.

—Charles Coffin; trans. John Chandler

HYMN 163

“Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

ABERYSTWYTH

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,**

**in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,  
making us part of the body of Christ.**

**We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,  
separated from one another.**

**We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,  
and show reluctance to welcome one another.**

**We allow the past to hold us captive.**

**In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us,  
and free us from sin.**

**Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life,  
and live together in grace...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

WINCHESTER OLD



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, 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.*

**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.**

## ANTHEM

F. Melius Christiansen

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now  
and forevermore be thine!  
—*Münster Gesangbuch*; Joseph A. Seiss, trans.

## HEARING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:13-17

*pew Bible, New Testament page 3/large print, New Testament page 3*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

“Becoming and Belonging”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN 490

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

BEACH SPRING

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin,  
to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church,  
the faith in which we were baptized.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce  
evil and its power in the world?

**I do.**

Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying Christ's word and showing Christ's love?

**I will, with God's help.**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**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

Ralph Vaughan Williams

My soul, praise the Lord, speak good of his Name. O Lord our great God, how dost thou appear! So passing in glory, that great is thy fame; honor and majesty in thee shine most clear.

With light as a robe thou hast thyself clad. Whereby the earth all thy greatness may see: the heavens in such sort thou also hast spread, that they compared to a curtain may be.

The praise of the Lord forever shall last. Who may in his works by right well rejoice? His look can the earth make to tremble full fast. Likewise the mountains to smoke at his voice.

To this Lord and God will I sing always; so long as I live my God praise will I. Then am I most certain my words shall him please, I will rejoice in him, to him I will cry. (Praise ye the Lord's Name). —William Kethe

## DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Please stand in body or spirit.*



*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 618

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

DEO GRACIAS

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

“We All Believe in One True God, BWV 680”

J. S. Bach

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

LEADING THIS MORNING  
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*  
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*  
Steven White, *Lay Leader*  
  
The First Church Choir  
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

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## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

### Today

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)

### Monday

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

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing (virtual)

### Saturday

10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen

### Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Childcare  
9:30 a.m. Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers  
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology  
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. Lunch & Learn: Belonging and Connection  
1:30 p.m. Literary Group (hybrid)

## 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.

Childcare will be extended allowing for attendance for all at the annual meeting. Childcare for infants through elementary-aged children will be provided. For more information, please reach out to Jenny Bennett at [jbennett@fpcnyc.org](mailto:jbennett@fpcnyc.org).

### LGBTQIA+ Brunch | Today, Sunday, January 11

After coffee hour, the LGBTQ action group will meet for brunch at 12:30 at the front desk of the Mellin Macnab building. We'll walk to a local restaurant for some yummy fellowship. Please RSVP to [lgbtq.fpcnyc@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtq.fpcnyc@gmail.com) by Friday evening so we can make an accurate reservation. We'd love to have you and allies are very welcome!

### 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.

### 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 p.m. with live "Umbilical Walk" performances at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The exhibition also features a ClimART Café on January 18 from 12:30 to 4 p.m., a Curator's Talk Lunch and Learn on February 1 at 12:30 p.m., and a Closing Reception on February 8 from 2 to 4 p.m.

### Lunch & Learn: Belonging and Connection with guest speaker Eric Klinenberg

Join us on Sunday, January 18 at 12:30 p.m. for a thoughtful Lunch & Learn exploring belonging and connection in modern life. Together, we will reflect on why connection has become such a defining experience for so many people today and what faith communities can do to respond with care, creativity, and hope. This conversation will invite honest reflection, shared learning, and practical insight into how we nurture belonging with one another. All are welcome to join this timely and engaging conversation. Lunch will be provided. Sponsored by the Elder Care Committee and Deacons.

### Adult Education

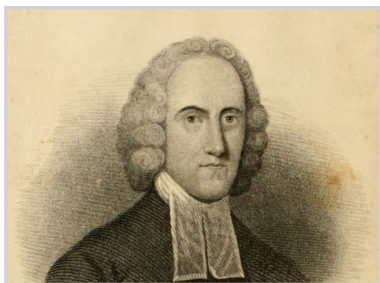
This year's hybrid adult education programs explore hope through ancient and contemporary voices.

- **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 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](mailto:frontdesk@fpcnyc.org).
- **Young Adults Bible Study** - Calling all 20s and 30s young adults! Join us after worship on **February 8 and February 15 from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the library for a bible study led by Dr. Barbara Davis**. Come to one or both! To get on the email list for future young adults events contact Emily Dawson at [emilydawson1992@gmail.com](mailto:emilydawson1992@gmail.com).

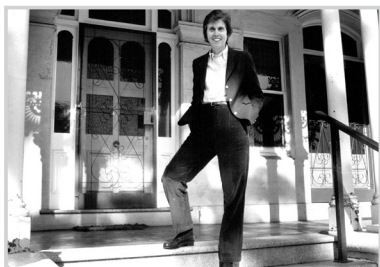
### Youth & Family Ministries

- **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](mailto:jbennett@fpcnyc.org).



Jonathan Edwards



Phyllis Tribble; 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 Tribble

**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**

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