

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Service for the Lord's Day | February 1, 2026 | 11 a.m.



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

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?**



STEWARDSHIP 2026



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

“Danza del Espiritu Santo”

Robert J. Greene, Jr.

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

Come, all of you who have been filled with abundance and joy;
here we will find humility and gratitude.

Come, all of you who are weary and heavy laden;
here we will find rest for our souls.

Come, all of you who are injured
and have been weighed down by yesterday;
here we will find hope.

**For the mercy of God is sure,
and Christ’s peace will fill our hearts this day.**

HYMN 321

“The Church’s One Foundation”

FOUNDATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
you gather your people from all walks of life
to be your witnesses in this broken world,
and to model your grace and mercy
as a new community of faith.**

**We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us.
We do not listen for your word of grace,
speak the good news of your love,
or live as a people made one in Christ.**

**Have mercy on us, O God.
Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit,
and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people,
doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

O QUANTA QUALIA

How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your pow'r to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness con-fid-ing?

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF 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

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 4:32-37

pew Bible, New Testament page 122/large print, New Testament page 148

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"You Belong"

Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand in body or spirit.

A New Creed (United Church of Canada)

**We are not alone;
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM

The text may be found in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 697.

Aaron David Miller

HYMN 817

Please stand in body or spirit.

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

DUNLAP'S CREEK

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, creator of the universe,
with joy we praise you and give you thanks...
Therefore we join our voices with all those who sing
to the glory of your name:

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!

We bless you for creating the whole world,
and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells...

In your love and mercy, God,

hear us as we pray together,

now joining in one voice to pray the prayer you taught us, saying:

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

See what love the Father has given us, that we may be called the children of love. And everyone who hopes in him
through the Lord is blessed.

Lena J. McLin

-1 John 3:1, 3 (altd)

HYMN 515

“I Come With Joy”

DOVE OF PEACE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

HYMN 733

Please stand in body or spirit.

“We All Are One in Mission”

ES FLOG EIN

KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

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.

*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 Sorrel Ann Alburger.

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes, *Guest Preacher*
Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

The First Church Choir
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

Today we welcome Dr. Craig Barnes to the pulpit. Dr. Barnes grew up on Long Island and holds degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago. He has served congregations in Madison, Washington DC, and Pittsburgh, and later became president of Princeton Theological Seminary, where he now serves as president emeritus. He currently directs a national pastoral ministry project for the Association of Theological Schools and is the author of nine books. He and his wife, Dawne, have three children, four grandchildren, and a Bearded Collie.

MUSIC NOTES Robert J. Greene, Jr. is Organist/Music Associate of First Presbyterian Church, Bristol, Tennessee. His *Danza del Espiritu Santo* was composed in 1991 and based on the Pentecost story from Acts 2. It later won first prize in the 2011 American Guild of Organists Region V composition competition. The Latin rhythmic feel of the work is inspired by the composer’s time teaching in Mexico.

Born into a family of ministers and musicians, Rev. Lena J. McLin’s (1928–2023) creative gifts were nurtured from an early age. She earned degrees from Spelman College and the American Conservatory of Music, taught in the Chicago public schools for 36 years, and founded two professional arts organizations. McLin composed over 400 works, including symphonies, operas, art songs and many arrangements of African American spirituals. The communion anthem, *See What Love*, reflects the strength of McLin’s personal faith through words from 1 John 3.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

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 with Communion
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Open Gallery of
“Unearthed→reRooting”
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
12:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women
12:30 p.m. Earth Care Seminar

Monday

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

Tuesday

8:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study (hybrid)
5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)
6:00 p.m. Art at First (virtual)

Thursday

9:00 a.m. NY Artist Circle
5:00 p.m. Elder Care Committee (virtual)

Saturday

10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen
12:00 p.m. RIF Asylum Support

Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Childcare
10:00 a.m. Club 345
10:15 a.m. Student Choristers
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Closing Reception of
“Unearthed→reRooting” and
“Umbilical Walk” Performance
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
12:30 p.m. LGBTQ Brunch (offsite)
12:30 p.m. Young Adults Bible Study
12:30 p.m. Confirmation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 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, February 22, 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 Buffy Barton, Thomas Hoscheid, and Daniel Mapes. This meeting is open to all members of First Church.

A Fool's Errand: On Museums and Purpose | Tuesdays, February 10 & 24 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Join us for a two-part virtual discussion inspired by the book *A Fool's Errand* by Lonnie G. Bunch III, exploring how museums are created and for whom. Sessions will be led by educator and First Church member Nadya Minott. Please RSVP to receive the Zoom link. Used copies are available in the Church Library or may be purchased online. Find the link to RSVP in this week's First Matters.

unEarthed → reRooting | Curated by Nicole Cooper and Danielle Warren

On view now through February 8 in the Great Hall. Join Earth Care and Art at First today, Sunday, February 1 at 12:30 p.m. in the Great Hall for a Curator's Talk Lunch and Learn. Enjoy a light lunch as curators Nicole Cooper and Danielle Warren share about the exhibition, joined by artists Suzanne Williamson, Priscilla Stadler, and Cecilia Andre, followed by Q&A. In a time of profound environmental crisis, unEarthed → reRooting asks how we might begin to heal our relationship with the planet. The Closing Reception on February 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. will include a live "Umbilical Walk" performance. Presented by the New York Artists Circle.

Senior Luncheon | Thursday, February 12 | 12:30 p.m.

Please mark your calendar for a real treat! The renowned New York City Gay Men's Chorus will perform at the next Senior Luncheon on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at the First Presbyterian Church in NYC. We will enjoy a Valentine's Day-inspired musical program that is guaranteed to be terrific.

A Choir Cabaret | Tuesday, February 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us on Shrove Tuesday as members of the First Church Choir step out of the choir loft to delight with an hour of song in the Great Hall. Free admission; reservation required. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments. Reserve at the lobby desk or mshake@fpcnyc.org.

Lent Music Meditations return | Wednesdays, February 18–March 25, noon–12:45 p.m.

Reflect and decompress with musical offerings from community artists in the sacred beauty of our historic Sanctuary. Organist and Director of Music Michael Shake opens the series February 18. Free and open to all.

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 February 4 and February 11.
- **Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Coffee and Theologians** will explore Phyllis Trible on February 1.
- **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.

For details and Zoom links, contact the front desk at frontdesk@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 dinner will be Friday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m..
- **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, February 8.

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

who we are

Stewardship 2026

**God spoke: “Let us make human beings in
our image, make them reflecting our nature...”
Genesis 1:26**



This year, our stewardship theme is Who We Are. Stewardship is one way we live out our identity as a community shaped by faith, generosity, and shared responsibility. A pledge is a promise made in advance that helps First Church plan faithfully and sustain the worship, care, music, and outreach that define our life together. Even a modest, steady gift can make a meaningful difference.

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

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