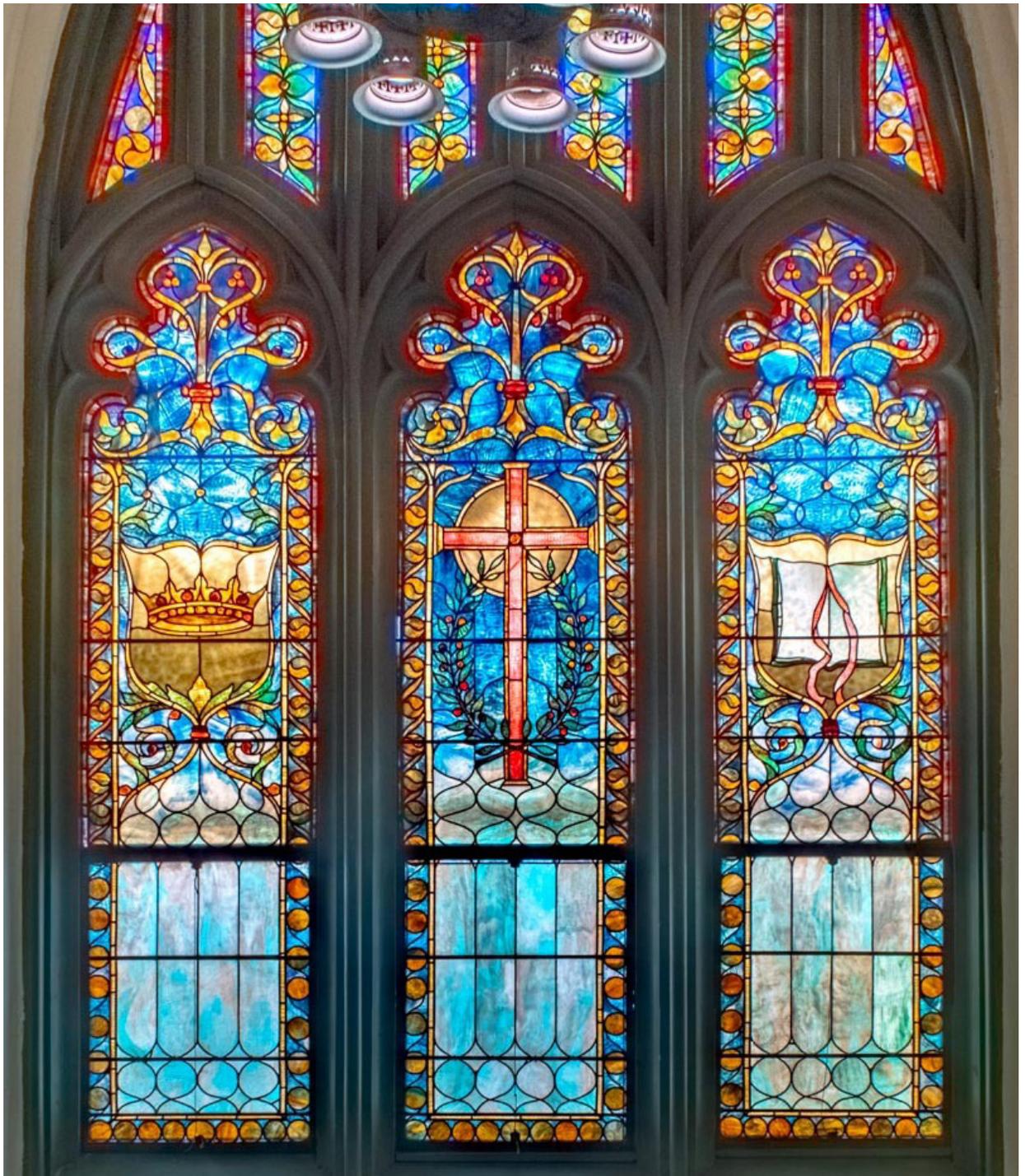


The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Service for the Lord's Day | February 22, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York, North Side Balcony Window

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

“Just As I Am,” from *Gospel Preludes*

William Bolcom

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

For God shall give their angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. You shall call upon me, and I will answer you; I am with you in trouble; I will rescue you and bring you to honor. With long life will I satisfy you, and show you my salvation.

—Psalm 91:15-16 (The Saint Helena Psalter)

HYMN 440

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

ABERYSTWYTH

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Elizabeth Kimble
—ancient liturgical text

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, whom alone we worship and serve,
your Word and Spirit sustain us in the storms.
You call us to walk in faith, yet often fear overwhelms us.
Keep us faithful in times of struggle and testing
so that we may enter into your glorious realm with Jesus Christ our Savior...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHORAL AMEN

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

O Lord, increase my faith, strengthen me and confirm me in Thy true faith, endue me with wisdom, charity, and patience.
In all my adversity, sweet Jesus, say Amen.

Henry Loosemore
—1662 *Book of Common Prayer*

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

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

pew Bible, New Testament page 16/large print, New Testament page 19

SERMON

“Thin Places: Water Walking”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 834

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

PRECIOUS LORD

Please stand in body or spirit.

DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

In this place, we will bear witness to the light of Christ.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness will not overcome it.**

In this place, we will proclaim the good news of the gospel.

**Through the grace of God in Jesus Christ,
we are set free from sin and death forever.**

In this place, we will receive the promise of God’s blessing.

**God’s love has been poured into our hearts
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

In this place, we will share the feast of Christ.

**In Christ we will hunger and thirst no more,
and God will wipe away every tear.**

Hear our prayers Holy God.

You have called us to be your church in this place.

**Today we dedicate these pledges,
as tokens of our very lives given in your service.**

Use us for your holy purpose.

**Help this, your church, to be a light in the world,
to share the good news we have received,
to pour out the gifts of your Spirit,
and to feed others as we have been fed,
so that all people may know
the fullness of life that you offer
through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Robert A. Harris

The words may be found at *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 821 stanzas 1 and 3.



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 819

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Be Still, My Soul”

FINLANDIA

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

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

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

The First Church Choir

Robbie Cowan, *Assisting Conductor*

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Today

9:30 a.m. Childcare (through the Annual Meeting)
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
12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers

Monday

5:30 p.m. Qigong (virtual)
6:30 p.m. Tartan Fair Meeting (hybrid)
7:00 p.m. Current Events (virtual)

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Facing Racism Book Discussion

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Music Meditation
12:45 p.m. Open Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing (virtual)
12:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study (hybrid)

Friday

6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner (off site)

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 & Theologians (hybrid)
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Opening Reception of "Dottie Sheppard"
Show & Performance
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
12:30 p.m. Confirmation
12:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women
12:30 p.m. Earth Care Seminar

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.

Childcare will be extended allowing for attendance for all at the annual meeting. Childcare for infants through elementary-aged children will be provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent Midweek Music Meditation with Kyle P. Walker | February 25 | 12:00–12:45 p.m.

Pause midweek in the historic Sanctuary at First Church for a time of reflection and quiet, with music offered by pianist Kyle P. Walker. A critically acclaimed artist, Walker is known for bringing together classical repertoire and the voices of historically overlooked composers. He has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Apollo Theater, and Lincoln Center. All are welcome to step away from the day and be renewed through music in this Lenten season.

Answering the Call: How Faith Implores Us to Act in the ICE Age | Thursday, February 26 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Join Brotherhood Synagogue for an interfaith conversation on how faith traditions inspire courage and action in moments of injustice, and what that means as immigrant New Yorkers face intensified enforcement. Hosted in partnership with Documented, the evening features our own Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell alongside Rabbi Daniel Alder, Amadou Ly, and Merrill Zack. Free and open to all. RSVP on the Brotherhood Synagogue website.

Earth Care Seminar | Sunday, March 1 | 12:30 p.m. Lunch • 1:00 p.m. Program

Join us in the Morrow Room for an Earth Care Seminar with Taige Rambarran, Environmental Educator and Outreach Coordinator with TreesNY. Learn how to care for neighborhood street trees, discover how they support our environment and reduce energy costs in New York City, and get your questions answered. Taige will also help us begin organizing a spring tree planting event. All are welcome.

Connecting Dot: The Art of Dorothy C. Sheppard | Open now through April 19

This exhibition honors the life and work of Dorothy C. Sheppard through paintings, prints, and theatrical masks, with live mask demonstrations during the run of the show. Join us for the opening reception on Sunday, March 1 from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. Gallery hours are Sundays 12:00 to 4:30 p.m. (except March 22), Tuesdays 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., and Thursdays 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; scheduled use of the space may occasionally pre-empt open hours.

Vespers Festival of Music: Handel's *Messiah*

SAVE THE DATE! We celebrate 180 years of First Church on Fifth Avenue with a complete performance featuring the First Church Choir, soloists, and orchestra. Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Free; no tickets required.

Adult Education

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

- **Bible Study** Join us for Lenten Bible Study: Stories of Resistance, Thursdays, **12:30 p.m., hybrid, February 26.**
- **Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing**, Encountering the Holy, meets virtually on **February 26** with themes including Fire, Water, Sky, Sea, Creatures, Humans, and Garden.
- **Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Theologians** will gather for a hybrid book study of *An Altar to the World*, exploring chapter 3 on February 22.
- **Young Adults Bible Study** For adults in their 20s and 30s. **Meets February 15 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the library, led by Dr. Barbara Davis.**

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

Youth & Family Ministries

Childcare will be extended through the Annual Meeting. Following worship, children in Church School should be picked up in the Parlor before the meeting begins.

- **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. Children ages 4–6 are warmly invited to join the Chorister rehearsals. Young singers will prepare alongside our Student Choristers and share in leading worship on Palm Sunday, March 29. All are welcome to come sing!
- **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. **The next meeting will be Sunday, March 22.**
- **Confirmation (grades 7–9)**, select Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; **the next meeting is after worship on Sunday, March 1.**

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

Deacons of the Month

The February deacons of the month are **Aurora Jones & Janet Shin**. They'll be wearing a name badge at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.



LENT MUSIC MEDITATIONS

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 18–MARCH 25

12:00–12:45 P.M.

Pause midweek in the historic Sanctuary at First Church to reflect and decompress, with music shared by a vibrant community of artists.

Free and open to all.

FEBRUARY 18 Michael Shake, *organ*

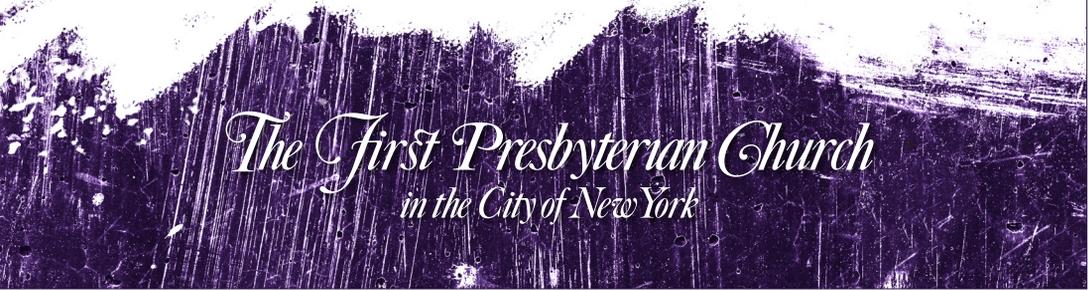
FEBRUARY 25 Kyle P. Walker, *piano*

MARCH 4 Juilliard School Organ Department Students:
Cecily Demarco, Aletheia Teague, and Alex Leonardi

MARCH 11 String Trio: Edson Scheid, *violin*; Alissa Smith, *viola*;
and Nathan Whittaker, *cello*

MARCH 18 Piano Trio: Adrienne Kim, *piano*; Jorge Avila, *violin*;
and Robert Burkhart, *cello*

MARCH 25 Riverside Brass Quintet



The First Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York

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