

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Service for the Lord's Day | February 8, 2026 | 11 a.m.



Wisdom Hath Built Her House, Novgorod, 1548.

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?**



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

“Praeludium Circulare,” from *Symphonie op. 13, no. 2*

Charles-Marie Widor

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Edward Bairstow

Jesu, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest
—St. Bernard of Clairvaux; Edward Caswall, trans.

HYMN 35

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creative and loving God,
you have searched us and known us,
and all that we are is open to you.**

We confess we have sinned:

**We have used our power to dominate
and our weakness to manipulate;
we have evaded responsibility
and failed to confront evil;
we have trusted false gods
and listened to their promises;
we have denied dignity
to ourselves and to each other;
we have fallen into deep despair.**

**In our despair we have forgotten you,
and have gone away from your path.**

**Forgive us for what we have done to hurt others
and the ways we have hurt your earth.**

Give us your blessing and help.

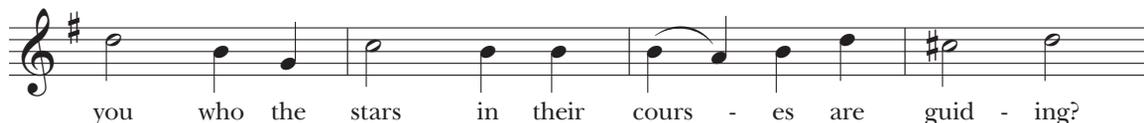
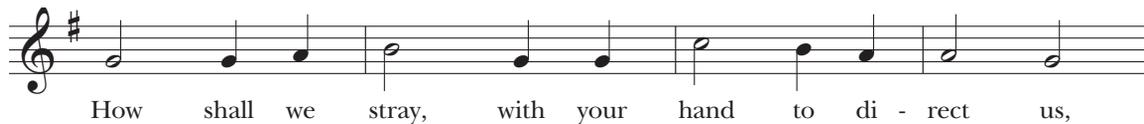
**Let us walk in your great love;
through the peacemaker, Jesus Christ.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

O QUANTA QUALIA



LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

Mark Burrows

Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the beautiful land. Little deeds of kindness, little words of love, make our earth an Eden like the heaven above. All the little moments, humble though they be, make the mighty ages of eternity. And even in the winter chill, or in the darkest night, a single little candle can fill a room with light.

—Julia A. Carney; Mark Burrows, alt.

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.

HEARING THE WORD

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

pew Bible, New Testament page 166/large print, New Testament page 202

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“What the Human Heart Conceives”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 317

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

MC KEE

Please stand in body or spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

OFFERTORY

The text may be found in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 33.

Rick Bassett

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



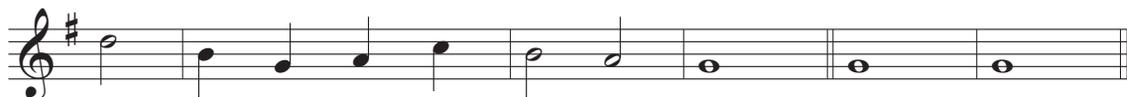
Traditional Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures

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 459

“O Word of God Incarnate”

MUNICH

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Sonata de Primo Tono”

José Lidón

The congregation is invited to continue worshiping 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*

Lara Mullarkey, *Lay Leader*

The Student Choristers

Rachel Barker-Asto, *Family Music Coordinator*

The First Church Choir

Robbie Cowan, *Assisting Conductor*

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Today

9:30 a.m. Childcare
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

Monday

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

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Facing Racism Book Discussion (virtual)

Wednesday

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

Thursday

12:30 p.m. Senior Luncheon

Saturday

10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen

Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Childcare
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theologians (hybrid)
9:30 a.m. Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers
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. Young Adults Bible Study

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

unEarthed → reRooting | Curated by Nicole Cooper and Danielle Warren

On view in the Great Hall, unEarthed → reRooting reflects on how we might begin to heal our relationship with the planet in a time of environmental crisis. **Join us today, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for the Closing Reception, which will include a live “Umbilical Walk” performance.**

LGBTQ Brunch | Today, Sunday, February 8 | 12:30 p.m.

Please join us today, for the monthly LGBTQ Action Group lunch. We'll meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Mellin Macnab lobby and head to a local restaurant. We'd love to have you and allies are very welcome!

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. Email communications@fpcnyc.org to RSVP.

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

Please mark your calendar for a special Senior Luncheon featuring soprano Margaret Tighe with pianist Michele Wong. Join us at First Church for a joyful musical program.

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.

Ash Wednesday | Wednesday, February 18

Begin the season of Lent with prayer, music, and the marking of ashes. All are welcome to join us at 12:00 p.m. for the Lent Music Meditation and at 7:00 p.m. for our Worship Service.

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** Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the library and on Zoom. This winter's study, *The World of Paul*, focuses on 1 Corinthians on **February 11**. Join us for Lenten Bible Study: *Stories of Resistance*, Thursdays, **12:30 p.m., hybrid, February 19 and 26**.
- Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. **Prayer Writing**, Encountering the Holy, meets virtually on **February 19 and 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 chapters 2 and 3 on February 15, 22. For details and Zoom links, contact the front desk.
- **Young Adults Bible Study** For adults in their 20s and 30s. **Meets February 8 and 15 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the library, led by Dr. Barbara Davis**. Attend one or both. To join the email list, 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.

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.

Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed

St. Joe's Soup Kitchen, now housed at First Church, has been serving meals to folks who need them for more than 40 years. Volunteers are needed each Saturday for 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.). No experience is necessary, but please sign up in advance to volunteer. For questions or to get involved, contact sjskvolunteer@gmail.com or go to sjsk.nyc.

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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