

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

DAY OF PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day | May 24, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



Pentecost, mid 13th century German

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.

We are an open and inclusive community, gathered by God's grace and shaped by many cultures, identities, and experiences.

Together, we are a tapestry of God's children, seeking to respond to God's call in our lives and to witness to God's love, grace, and justice in the world.

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, we pray today's service will be a blessing to you. If this is your first time here, a member of the pastoral staff would be glad to greet you and answer any questions 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 after worship for Coffee Fellowship in the Lobby or on the North Lawn, weather permitting, 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 on the south side. Additional restrooms are located in the lobby on the north side.

GET INVOLVED

STAY CONNECTED



Scan to receive our weekly newsletter, *First Matters*.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?



Learn more about becoming part of our community.

GIVE



Support the life and ministries of the church.

If you are in need of care, such as prayer, a call from a pastor, or a ride to the church, 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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Come, God Creator, Holy Spirit, BWV 631”
“Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire”

J.S. Bach
Libby Larsen

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Mary Jane Hammond

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us, revive your church with life and power; O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us, and fit your church to meet this hour. O Wind of God, come bend us, till humbly we confess our need; then in your tenderness remake us, revive, restore, for this we plead. O Breath of love, come breathe within us, renewing thought and will and heart; come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us, revive your church in every part. —Bessie Porter Head

HYMN 282

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

DOWN AMPNEY

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God,
you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples
creating bold tongues, open ears,
and 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

JULION



Though the shad - ows dim our vi - sion, hope is dawn - ing like the sun.



Give us strength to tend the wound - ed, till your new world has be - gun.



Word of Jus - tice, Liv - ing Prom - ise, be our life, O Ris - en One!

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:1–21

pew Bible, New Testament page 119/large print, New Testament page 144

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Morten Lauridsen

Veni, Sancte Spiritus et emitte caelitus lucis tuae radium. Veni, pater pauperum, veni, dator munerum, veni, lumen cordium.

Come, Holy Spirit, and send from heaven your ray of light. Come, Father of the poor; come, giver of gifts; come, light of hearts.

Consolator optime, dulcis hospes animae, dulce refrigerium. In labore requies, in aestu temperies, in fletu solatium.

The best of Consolers; sweet guest of the soul; sweet refreshment. In labor, thou art rest; in heat, thou art the tempering; in grief, thou art the consolation.

O lux beatissima, reple cordis intima tuorum fidelium. Sine tuo numine, nihil est in homine, nihil est innocuum.

O light most blessed, fill the inmost heart of all thy faithful. Without your grace, there is nothing in us; nothing that is not harmful.

Lava quod est sordidum, riga quod est aridum, sana quod est saucium. Flecte quod est rigidum, fove quod est frigidum, reg quod est devium.

Cleanse what is dirty, moisten what is dry, heal what is hurt. Flex what is rigid, heat what is frigid, correct what goes astray.

Da tuis fidelibus, in te confidentibus, sacrum septenarium. Da virtutis meritum, da salutis exitum, da perenne gaudium.

Grant to thy faithful, those that trust in thee, thy sacred seven-fold gifts. Grant the reward of virtue; grant the deliverance of salvation; grant joy everlasting.

—12th century Latin hymn

SECOND LESSON

Numbers 11:24–30

pew Bible, Old Testament page 129/large print, Old Testament page 162

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“What the Spirit Does”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 286

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

TRENTHAM

Please stand in body or spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Please stand in body or spirit.

**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.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

William L. Dawson

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray. Yes, every time I feel the spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray. Upon the mountain my Lord spoke, out of his mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all around me, it looked so fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine. *Ev'ry time...* Jordan River, is chilly and cold, it chills the body but not the soul. There ain't but one train upon this track. It runs to heaven and right back. *Ev'ry time...* —19th century African-American spiritual

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 AND THE LORD'S 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.**

SENDING

HYMN 280

“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”

EBENEZER

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Fanfares to the Tongues of Fire”

Larry King

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

LEADING THIS MORNING
Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

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

MUSIC NOTES In response to our corporate and personal confession, following the Assurance of Pardon we respond with a song of praise. Beginning today through the summer, we sing a stanza from the hymn, “Holy One, You Hear Our Longings,” by the Rev. Chris Shelton, pastor of Broadway Presbyterian Church (USA). Shelton’s hymn writing comes from a belief that “shaping the emotional arc of the liturgy is the same as shaping the arc of a play. The performance of worship ought to have the same thoughtful, artful development as any performance in the theatre or recital hall.” (from his preface to *Sing No Empty Alleluias*) His hymns have been included in the Mennonite hymnal, *Voices Together*; The Hymn Society collection, *Songs for the Holy Other*; and the worship resource of the Presbyterian Church (USA), *Call to Worship*.

The words are paired to a flowing tune, JULION, by Dr. David Hurd, a composer of dozens of hymns, choral works, settings of the liturgy, and organ works. A member of the faculty of The General Theological Seminary for nearly four decades, he is Organist and Music Director of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Times Square.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today, May 24	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	12:30 p.m.	Creatives Create: Open Gallery

Monday, May 25	Church Office Closed for Memorial Day	
	5:30 p.m.	Qigong (virtual)
	7:00 p.m.	Current Events (virtual)

Wednesday, May 27	12:30 p.m.	Bible Study (hybrid)
	5:30 p.m.	Conversational Spanish (virtual)

Thursday, May 28	8:30 a.m.	Prayer Writing (virtual)
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Saturday, May 30	10:00 a.m.	Inquirers Class
	10:00 a.m.	Soup Kitchen

Sunday, May 31	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee & Theologians (hybrid)
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	12:30 p.m.	Creatives Create: Open Gallery
	12:30 p.m.	Literary Group (hybrid)



Stay connected with all that’s
happening at First Church.
Scan to receive our weekly
newsletter, *First Matters*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray for Our Members Traveling to Cuba

Join us in praying for the members of First Church traveling this week to Taguasco, Cuba, to visit our partner church, the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba. May their journey be filled with safe travels, meaningful fellowship, and God's presence.

Creatives Create Open Gallery | Open until June 14

Join us after worship in the Great Hall for "Deep & WIDE," a creative exhibition on partnerships around the world. What do deep and wide partnerships mean to YOU? Discover diverse interpretations of partnership, reflecting on the rich tapestry of connections that inspire thought and conversation.

Inquirers Class | Saturday, May 30 | 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Interested in joining the church? Join us for an Inquirers Class to learn more about who we are, what we believe, and how to get involved. To reserve a spot, please email Aileen Caba at acaba@fpcnyc.org.

Lunch with Gethsemane Congregation Volunteers Needed | Sunday, May 31 | 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Every few months, First Church members worship and share lunch with the Church of Gethsemane, our partner congregation in Brooklyn. Volunteers prepare or purchase a portion of the meal independently, then attend Worship, and serve lunch. Those attending should anticipate being at Gethsemane, which is in Park Slope, from 10:30 a.m. to about 1:00 p.m. Please contact Suzanne Mecs at sdhmecs@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Senior Luncheon | Thursday, June 11 | 12:30 p.m.

The Elder Care Committee invites you to attend the Senior Luncheon in the Parlor. Barbara Sherman, a member of the church, artist, and Chair of the Art at First program, will present "The Artist at Work."

Summer Music and Community for All Ages | June and July

Join us this summer for music for all ages:

- **Summer Choir** (high school and up, Sundays in June; mshake@fpcnyc.org)
- **Summer Strummers** (intergenerational ukulele, select Sundays in June and July; rbarkerasto@fpcnyc.org)
- **Summer Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers** (select Sundays in June and July; jbennett@fpcnyc.org)
- **Family Summer Music** (Fridays outdoors in June and July; rbarkerasto@fpcnyc.org)

Adult Education

This season, our hybrid adult education offerings explore hope through ancient and contemporary voices. All are welcome.

- **Bible Study | Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. | May 27; June 10, 17** Join us as we explore the Gospel of John, engaging themes from Dorothy A. Lee's commentary. Together, we will reflect on ideas central to this late first-century community, including wisdom, glory, light, and revelation. (Hybrid)
- **Virtual Prayer Writing | Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. | May 28** A quiet, reflective space to explore prayer through writing and shared practice.
- **Coffee & Theologians | Sundays at 9:30 a.m. | May 31; June 14** *The Work of Discipleship in Today's World*. Gather for thoughtful conversation as we consider what it means to live out our faith today. (Hybrid)
- **Virtual LGBTQ Bible Study | Every Other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. | June 3, 17** This series will engage in conversations around biblical stories and the book *Queer Virtue* by the Reverend Elizabeth M. Edman. Considering stories of Mary meeting Jesus in the garden outside the tomb and the wedding at Cana, Edman's book explores the "inherent queerness of Christianity" and how reading our sacred stories from this point of view can help us energize our faith beyond the often considered binaries.

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

Youth & Family Ministries

- Church School (age 3–6th grade) is on summer recess and will resume in September.
- Child care for infants and toddlers is available throughout the summer during worship.
- Additional summer programming for children and families will be announced throughout the season.

For more information, contact Jenny, Director of Youth & Family Ministries at jbennett@fpcnyc.org.

Deacons of the Month

The May deacons of the month are **Caroline Fjeldheim, Aurora Jones, and Matthew Power**. They'll be wearing name badges 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 (10:30–1:00 p.m.) and afternoon food service (1:00–3:30 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.



SUMMER MUSIC at First Church

MUSIC AND COMMUNITY
FOR ALL AGES

Summer Choir

High school and up | Sundays in June



Summer Strummers

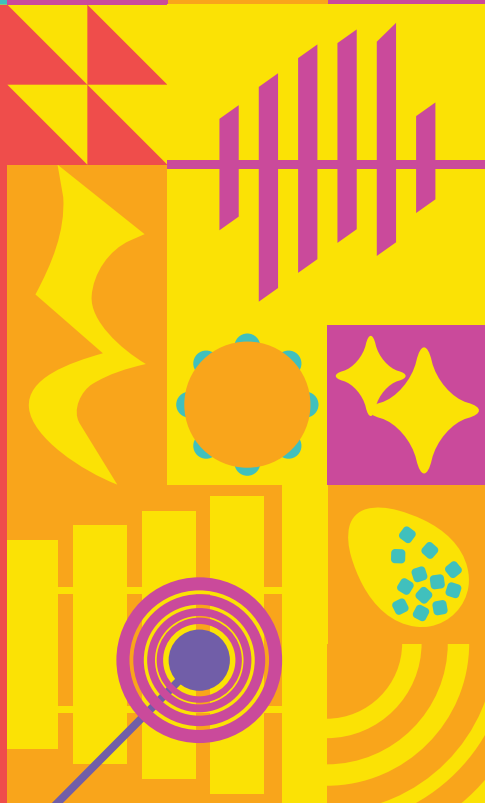
Intergenerational ukulele | Select Sundays in June & July

Summer Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers

Select Sundays in June & July

Family Summer Music

Fridays outdoors | June & July



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