

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day | June 7, 2026 | 11:00 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.

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

“Aria, op. 51”

Flor Peeters

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 46:1-3, 8-10, adapted

Please stand in body or spirit.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations God has brought on the earth.

God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

God breaks the bow and shatters the spear;

God burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am!”

HYMN 611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful and loving God,
you have called us to be your people
and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ.**

**We confess that we have not lived up to our calling
to proclaim the good news in word and deed.**

**We are quick to speak when we ought to listen
and remain silent when it is time to speak.**

**We put too much faith in our own actions
and fail to trust the strength of your Spirit.**

Strengthen us anew to follow Christ’s way in the world.

**By your Holy Spirit, give us the grace we need
to be faithful disciples and fulfill our common calling...**

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 14:15-21

pew Bible, New Testament page 109/large print, New Testament page 133

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Advocate Within”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA), 1983

Please stand in body or spirit.

The same Spirit

**who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

In a broken and fearful world

**the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Godfrey Sampson

Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.

Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest. Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a joy as none can move; such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.
—George Herbert

HYMN 504

“We Come as Guests Invited”

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

Please stand in body or spirit.

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.

Gracious and eternal God, with joy we give you thanks and praise...

...When we were faithless and would not follow,

you forgave us and returned us to your way.

**In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, your only begotten and beloved,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.**

**By your Holy Spirit, Jesus anointed all who would follow
to live a new life in your love.**

...Therefore we praise you,

joining our voices with the choirs of heaven...

*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!

...Jesus broke open the bread of life for all who were hungry,
and upon the hurt and the lost poured out the living waters of your grace.

**Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us
and celebrate with joy the ministry we share with Jesus.**

**Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

...As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

**Build up the body of Christ in your love,
and equip the church for the work of ministry.**

**Make us one body in Christ,
where each one's gifts are honored and used for the good of all,
where all submit to one another in humility and in the bond of the Holy Spirit.**

**Send us out into the world to do justice,
to show mercy,
and to walk humbly with you in trust and faith.**

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Hear us now as we pray the words that Jesus taught all who followed, 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

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blessed is the one that trusteth in God.

Ralph Vaughan Williams

—Psalm 34:8

HYMN 317

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

MC KEE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God, you have gathered us at this table
with all the company of your people in heaven and on earth.
Like those gathered with Jesus who shared loaves and fish,
in your mercy
we have been nourished by the living bread, Jesus Christ,
and we have been refreshed by the power of your Holy Spirit.**

**May we, who have shared this meal,
go out as glad disciples,
living for love of the world. Amen.**

SENDING

HYMN 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

HYFRYDOL

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

*The congregation is invited to continue worshiping 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 Michael Clay.

LEADING THIS MORNING
Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

The Summer Choir
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

**Today,
June 7**

- 9:30 a.m. Child Care for Infants & Toddlers
- 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 12:30 p.m. Creatives Create: Open Gallery

**Monday,
June 8**

- 5:30 p.m. Qigong (virtual)
- 6:30 p.m. Earth Care Action Group (virtual)
- 7:00 p.m. Current Events (virtual)

**Wednesday,
June 10**

- 12:30 p.m. Bible Study (hybrid)

**Thursday,
June 11**

- 12:30 p.m. Senior Luncheon

**Friday,
June 12**

- 5:45 p.m. Family Summer Music

**Saturday,
June 13**

- 10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen

**Sunday,
June 14**

- 9:30 a.m. Child Care for Infants & Toddlers
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theologians (hybrid)
- 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Summer Strummers
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 12:30 p.m. LGBTQ Brunch
- 2:00 p.m. Creatives Create: Closing Reception & Performance



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. On June 14 at 2:00 p.m., join us for an engaging performance, when we hear and experience interpretations of “Deep & Wide” connections! A reception will follow.

Pride Month at First Church

Join us this June for Pride Month gatherings and events at First Church. From Bible study and shared meals to music, fellowship, and serving our neighbors during the NYC Pride Parade, we invite you to celebrate with us.

- **Sunday Brunch with Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church | Sunday, June 14 | 12:30 p.m.** Join us on Mellin-McNab 5th floor Rooftop for this special Pride Brunch in which we enjoy the sunshine (we hope!), great food and our friends from Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church! \$10 donation suggested. Please RSVP to LGBTQ.fpcnyc@gmail.com.
- **Cocktail & Jazz Party | Thursday, June 25 | 6:00–9:00 p.m.** Celebrate Pride Month with live jazz, fellowship, and summer gathering on the South Lawn.
- **Pride Parade Water Tables | Sunday, June 28 | beginning at 11:00 a.m.** Help offer water and welcome along the NYC Pride Parade route.

Questions? Contact Sally Collins at mission@fpcnyc.org.

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

The Elder Care Committee invites you to the Senior Luncheon for *Reflections on a Recent Trip to Cuba*. Members of First Church will share stories from a recent visit to our partner church in Taguasco, Cuba, where they delivered much-needed health supplies. Lunch begins at 12:30 p.m., followed by the program at 1:15 p.m. in the Second Floor Parlor. A suggested contribution of \$7 is appreciated. Please RSVP through the church front desk.

Architectural Tour of First Church | Sunday, June 21 | 12:30 p.m.

Join us for a special architectural tour of First Church led by preservation architect Eric Hilton. Beginning at 12:30 p.m., participants will explore the history, design, and significance of our church building while learning more about the beauty of this historic space. Meet in the Narthex vestibule at the Fifth Avenue entrance.

Literary Group | Sunday, June 21 | 12:30 p.m.

Join the Literary Group for upcoming discussions following worship at 12:30 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. The discussion will focus on *Travels with Herodotus* by Ryszard Kapuscinski.

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.

- **Bible Study | Wednesdays, June 10, 17 | 12:30 p.m.** 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)
- **Coffee & Theologians | Sunday, June 14 | 9:30 a.m.** *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 | Wednesday, June 17 | 7:00 p.m.** 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

- Child Care for Infants and Toddlers is available throughout the summer during worship.
- Church School (age 3–6th grade) is on summer recess and will resume in September.

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

Deacons of the Month

The June deacons of the month are **LouAnne Gilleland** and **Matthew Power**. They’ll be wearing name badges at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.

PRIDE

6.14
Rooftop
Brunch

6.25
Jazz & Cocktails
on the Lawn

6.28
Pride Parade
Water Tables

AT

FPC

NYC



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