

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day | June 21, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.

List of Colored Members.		
Abraham, Christopher	as at above and dis. by Mr. G. by his sustained interce	
Lawson, Priscilla	No. 8	do do
Murray, Peter & Jud.	do	do do
Ann, Eliza Ann	do	dismissed
Archer, Henrietta	No. 4	bona vacant, in whom
Layton, Elizabeth (wife of Charles H.	do	bona vacant, on her own profession, reference.
Vanoyes, E. Luschen	do	bona fide & baptized Church
Parshall, Chambers	do	deced.
Long, Louisa	do	dismissed
Wood, Maria	No. 2	bona vacant, in whom
Kennedy, Dinah	do	dismissed
Wood, Sydney	do	do
Vanoyes, Susanna	do	do
Parker, Susan	No. 3	bona vacant, her testimonial
Spencer, Fanny	No. 7	bona vacant, in whom
Jones, Freeman	do	
Vanoyes, Emma	No. 5	bona vacant, in whom
Purdy, Rachel	do	do
Ann, Maria	No. 8	do
Wilson, Patty	do	do

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

“Prayer”
“Variations on NETTLETON”

George Walker
Undine Smith Moore

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God. Through it all, I've learned to depend upon His word.

Andraé Crouch
—Andraé Crouch

HYMN 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you called all that is into being
and offered humanity life in all its fullness.
Yet we have allowed good relationships to be broken.
We have become distant from you and our neighbor.
Lord, have mercy.**

**At times we have failed to speak out for justice,
leaving the voiceless without an advocate.
Christ, have mercy.**

**And yet we know this to be true,
to all who fall short of your glory you offer pardon and peace.
Lord, have mercy.
Cleanse us. Renew us.
Hear our prayers...**

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.

ANTHEM

B. E. Boykin

Music is in all growing things; and underneath the silky wings of smallest insects there is stirred a pulse of air that must be heard. Earth's silence lives, and throbs, and sings.

If poet from the vibrant strings of his poor heart a measure flings, laugh not, that he no trumpet blows: it may be that Heaven hears and knows his language of low listenings.
—George Parsons Lathrop

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

pew Bible, New Testament page 249/large print, New Testament page 303

SECOND LESSON

Malachi 4:5-6

pew Bible, Old Testament page 890/large print, Old Testament page 1089

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

SERMON

“What Freedom Was For”

Rev. Dr. Derrick McQueen

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

Please stand in body or spirit.

READING OF THE NAMES

We honor Juneteenth by naming some 19th-century Black Old First Members. We celebrate their lives as part of the communion of saints who have gone before us.

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

Mark Miller

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I don't feel it. I believe in God even when God is silent.
—anonymous Jewish poem

DOXOLOGY



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 740

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”

Fela Sowande

*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 Ann Meredith.

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Derrick W. McQueen, *Guest Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*

The Summer Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

Today we welcome to the pulpit Rev. Dr. Derrick McQueen, Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church in Harlem, Associate Director of Columbia University's Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics and Social Justice, and former Moderator of the Presbytery of New York City. A preacher, scholar, artist, and consultant, Dr. McQueen holds Ph.D. degrees in Homiletics and New Testament from Union Theological Seminary and is widely recognized for his leadership in preaching, congregational transformation, and public theology. His work explores questions of faith, justice, community, and belonging through the lenses of Scripture, worship, and the Black church tradition.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

**Today,
June 21**

- 9:30 a.m. Child Care
- 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 12:30 p.m. Architectural Tour of First Church
- 12:30 p.m. Literary Group (hybrid)

**Monday,
June 22**

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

**Thursday,
June 25**

- 6:00 p.m. Pride Jazz & Cocktails on the Lawn

**Friday,
June 26**

- 5:45 p.m. Summer Family Music

**Saturday,
June 27**

- 10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen

**Sunday,
June 28**

- 9:30 a.m. Child Care
- 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Summer Strummers
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 12:00 p.m. Pride Parade Water Tables



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

- **Jazz & Cocktails on the Lawn | 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 11:00 a.m.** Help offer water and welcome along the NYC Pride Parade route.

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

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

Join us for a special architectural tour of First Church led by preservation architect Eric Hilton. 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 | Today, June 21 | 12:30 p.m.

Join the Literary Group today following worship in the Library and via Zoom. The discussion will focus on *Travels with Herodotus* by Ryszard Kapuscinski.

Senior Luncheon | Thursday, July 9 | 12:30 p.m.

The Elder Care Committee welcomes Irenka Jakubiak, a member of the church, who will present “An Afternoon of Song.”

Cuba Partners Presentation | Sunday, July 12 | 12:30 p.m.

Hear from our Global Mission Action Group leaders about their recent trip to our partner church in Taguasco, Cuba. Chair Sorrel Alburger, LouAnne Gilleland and Barron Flood will share their experiences, describe the current conditions, and offer ways in which we can participate and help.

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)

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 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.

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.

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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