

The First Presbyterian Church *in the City of New York*

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day | August 16, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



Crumbs of Love, Michael Cook

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 “Larghetto and Polonaise from Concerto Grosso op 6, no. 3, HMV 321” G.F. HANDEL

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

inspired by Psalm 133

Please stand in body or spirit.

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together!

We gather together to worship the Holy One!

How very good and powerful it is

when we commit to the commonwealth of God!

We gather together to discern God's will

and to call on God's presence in our lives.

How very good and hopeful it is when we reconcile

and repair our brokenness and bless one another.

We gather together to love and to serve, let us worship God.

HYMN 756

“O God of Every Nation”

LLANGLOFFAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of abundance, forgive us for living

as if scarcity is an unavoidable reality.

Forgive us for allowing siblings in our neighborhoods,

communities, and world to live in poverty

as an unending condition.

Forgive us for not trusting in your abundance,

and propel us to defy the temptation

to adopt a scarcity mindset.

Empower us to have a heart for abundance for all your creation...

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

CHARLES GOUNOD

Ah, turn me not away, receive me though unworthy. Hear Thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress! Answer me from Thy throne, Haste Thee, Lord, to mine aid! Thy pity show in my deep anguish. Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, Though righteous Thine anger, O Lord!

Shield me in danger, O regard me! On Thee, Lord, alone will I call!

O divine Redeemer, O divine Redeemer! I pray thee grant me pardon, And remember not my sins! Forgive me!

O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon And remember not, remember not, O Lord, my sins!

Night gathers round my soul Fearful, I cry to Thee, Come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me!

Hear my cry, hear my cry Save me, Lord in Thy mercy; Come and save me, O Lord!

Save in the day of retribution From death shield Thou me, O my God! O divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me Savior!

—Charles Gounod

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

Matthew 15:21–28

pew Bible, New Testament page 17/large print, New Testament page 20

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Crumbs of Faith”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 435

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

IN BABILONE

Please stand in body or spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

ADAM GUETTEL

We sail above the weather
We search the ocean floor
We rival our creation
Still yearning for more
But can we fly together
A migratory V?
How wonderful if that’s what God could see

A single voice in whispered prayer
Can only pray to travel there
But all as one
We sound the everlasting sound
And sing our salvation
Aloft and in formation
A migratory V
How wonderful if that’s what God could see

—Adam Guettel

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 301

"Let Us Build a House"

TWO OAKS

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Allegro from Concerto Grosso op 6, no. 1, HMV 319"

G.F. HANDEL

*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."

LEADING THIS MORNING
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Nadya Minott, *Lay Leader*

Ryan Bauer-Walsh, *Tenor*
Colin Fowler, *Visiting Musician*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today, August 16	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship

Friday, August 21	5:00 p.m.	Burgers on the Lawn
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Saturday, August 22	10:00 a.m.	Soup Kitchen
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Sunday, August 23	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship



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

The Voices Project

A City Church



Sunday, September 27 | 12:20 p.m.
Cinema Village
22 East 12th Street

Join us for the final screening of this 80-minute oral history of First Church
created by the Elder Care Committee and directed by Steve Umberger.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Burgers on the Lawn | Friday, August 21 | 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun, informal afternoon of burgers (vegetarian options available!) and hanging out. All are welcome, but if possible, please RSVP at the link in First Matters so we have an idea of how much food to order.

Homecoming 2026 | Sunday, September 13

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for Homecoming Sunday on September 13 as we begin a new program year at First Church. This year's theme, The God of Small Things, celebrates the ways God works through faithfulness in ordinary things, quietly shaping our lives and the life of our church. We look forward to beginning this new season together!

New Mission Review Committee

A new Mission Review Committee was nominated and approved by Session in June and is now charged with creating a new mission review study; the next step established by the Commission on Ministry as we move toward calling a new associate pastor. Committee members are: Doug Krehbiel (chair), Sorrel Ann Alburger, Suzanne Mecs, Jeff Metzler, and George Varughese, with Rev. Greg Stovell serving as moderator (non-voting). Look for updates over the next few weeks as the committee's work progresses.

2026 Mission & Social Justice Grants

First Church is now accepting applications for the 2026 Grant Program. Grants support PC(USA)-related agencies and New York City nonprofit organizations working in areas such as environmental stewardship, food insecurity, immigration & refugee support, interfaith dialogue, LGBTQ advocacy, poverty relief, racial equity, and special needs populations. Know an organization that could benefit? Applications are open through September 30, 2026. You can find the application on our website at fpcnyc.org/serve/grants. Questions? Contact mission@fpcnyc.org.

Coming This Fall: The Gospel According to the Beatles

Join Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell on Thursday nights beginning September 17 at 6:00 p.m. for a seven-week journey through the music of the Beatles and the enduring themes of faith, love, hope, loneliness, memory, and resurrection. Through song, scripture, and conversation, we'll explore how some of the most beloved music of the twentieth century continues to speak to the deepest questions of our lives.

Coming This Fall: the Bible, Theology, and The New Yorker

This past spring, The New Yorker published two fascinating theological articles: *How Did American Christianity End Up Like This?* and *St. Paul Remade Human History. How Did He Do It?* Join us in Coffee and Theology (Sundays at 9:30 a.m.) and Bible Study (Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.) as we explore these articles in more depth.

Children & Youth Registration

This year, children, youth, and families will explore faith through stories, music, community, and wonder. From Church School and Worship Circle to new opportunities throughout the year, there is a place for every age to belong. Registration for the 2026–27 program year is now open. Please complete one registration form per family. You can find the registration page under Connect → Children & Youth on our website.

Donations Needed for the Yard Sale & Tartan Fair

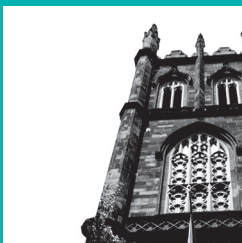
As we prepare for the Yard Sale in September, we are seeking donations of gently used, high-quality items, including children's toys and clothing, kitchen goods, housewares, electronics, jewelry, books, and home décor. We are also collecting designer handbags, scarves, wallets, sunglasses, and belts for this year's Accessories Boutique. Donations may be dropped off in the lobby on weekdays from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. To make other arrangements, call the Front Desk or email tartanfair@fpcnyc.org. Volunteers are also needed to help sort and price items on Sundays from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Deacons of the Month

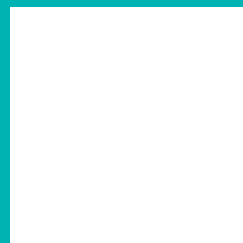
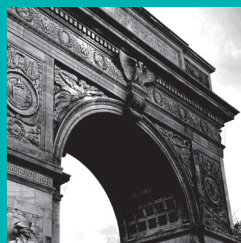
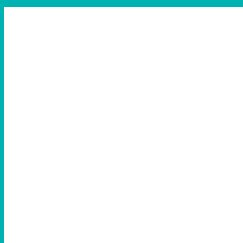
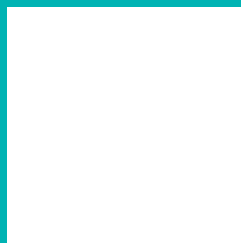
The August deacons of the month are **Bob Reiter** and **LouAnne Gilleland**. They'll be wearing name badges at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.

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.



2026–27 MUSIC AT FIRST CHURCH



11/1	All Saints' Day: Requiem
12/6	Vespers Festival: Welcome All Wonders
12/20	Candlelight Carols
2/9	Beer, Beverages & Hymns
2/10–3/17	Wednesday Lenten Music Meditations
3/26	Good Friday Seven Last Words of Christ
4/25	Vespers Festival: Rejoice in the Lamb
5/16	Music Ministry Celebration

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