

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day | August 9, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



Navicella, Antoniazzo Romano, 1485

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 Walkway, 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

From "Sonata IV," opus 65
Andante religioso; Allegretto

MENDELSSOHN

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 105

Please stand in body or spirit.

O give thanks to the Holy One; call on God's name.

Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing of the Holy One's abiding love, grace, compassion, and justice.

Rejoice in God's redemptive power.

Seek the Holy One's presence, strength, and wisdom.

Remember God's wondrous works!

HYMN 645

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

LOBE DEN HERREN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we strive to be your people and reflect

your goodness in the world. Yet, we fall short.

Fortify us in your love and drench us with your compassion

so that we may find the courage to repent and repair.

Help us acknowledge the harm we have allowed and the pain we have caused.

Empower us to make things right with our neighbors and with ourselves.

Let your grace and mercy liberate us to be agents of reconciliation

and restoration in our families, communities, and world...

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

SCHUBERT

How lovely is your world, Father, in its golden radiance when your glory descends and paints the dust with glitter; when the red light that shines from the clouds falls silently upon my window.

Could I complain? Could I be apprehensive? Could I lose faith in you and in myself? No, I already bear your heaven here within my heart. And this heart, before it breaks, still drinks in the fire and savors the light.

—Karl Lappe, English translation by Richard Wigmore

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

Matthew 14:22–33

pew Bible, New Testament page 17/large print, New Testament page 19

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

SERMON

“Out of the Boat”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 721

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

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

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laude. Make it up as you go along: Lauda, Laude.

Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things, for God is the simplest of all.

I will sing the Lord a new song to praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord. I will sing His praises while I live all of my days. Blessed is the man who loves the Lord. Blessed is the man who praises Him. Lauda, Lauda, Laude, and walks in His ways.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help. I will lift up my voice to the Lord singing Lauda, Laude. For the Lord is my shade upon my right hand. And the sun shall not smite me by day, nor the moon by night.

—Stephen Schwartz

DOXOLOGY

Please stand in body or spirit.

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 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 833

Please stand in body or spirit.

"O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go"

ST. MARGARET

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Nachspiel" (Postlude), opus 55

JOHANN CHRISTIAN HEINRICH RINCK

*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*
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
Sorrel Ann Alburger, *Lay Leader*

Margaret Tigue, *Soprano*
John Stansell, *Guest Musician*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

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

Thursday, August 13	12:30 p.m.	Senior Luncheon
--------------------------------	------------	-----------------

Saturday, August 15	10:00 a.m.	Soup Kitchen
--------------------------------	------------	--------------

Sunday, August 16	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

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 this fall 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.

Music at First Church: 2026–27 Season

Join us for another inspiring year of music at First Church! The 2026–27 season features cherished traditional services, beloved choral masterworks, and special musical offerings throughout the year. Whether you have attended these events for years or are experiencing them for the first time, we hope you will join us. More details can be found on the back cover of your bulletin.

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.

Senior Luncheon | Thursday, August 13 | 12:30 p.m.

Join us for a summer picnic on the lawn (weather permitting), or in the Parlor if needed.

Donations Needed for the Yard Sale & Tartan Fair

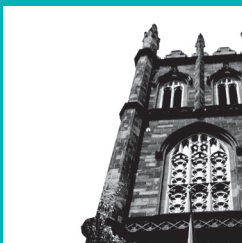
As we prepare for the Yard Sale in September, we are seeking donations of gently used, high-quality items, including children's toys and clothing, kitchen goods, housewares, electronics, jewelry, books, and home décor. We are also collecting designer handbags, scarves, wallets, sunglasses, and belts 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

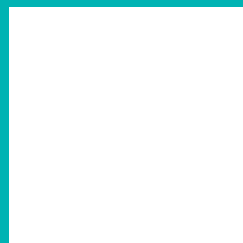
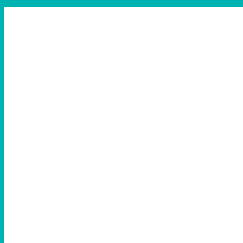
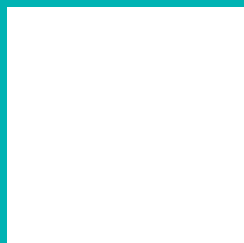
The August deacons of the month are **Bob Reiter** and **LouAnne Gilleland**. They'll be wearing name badges at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.

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

PERMISSIONS All public domain except: *Response*. JULION; David Hurd, 1974. Words: Chris Shelton, 2019. Music ©1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. Words ©2021 GIA Publications, Inc. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Doxology*. Genevan Psalter, 1551. Words: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709 (Traditional); Neil Weatherhogg, 1988 (Inclusive). Inclusive Words ©1990 Neil Weatherhogg. *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*. Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES; Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987. Words: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979; English trans. Gertrude Suppe, George Lockwood, and Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1988, alt. Music ©1979, 1987, 1989 Cesáreo Gabaráin (Published by OCP). Music Harm. ©1987 OCP. English Trans. © 1979, 1987, 1989 Cesáreo Gabaráin (Published by OCP). Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A.



This paper contains 100% post-consumer waste content, is made with windpower and made carbon neutral.

Neenah Paper is certified by Preferred by Nature for FSC® standards and Green Seal Certified. 3-05077-F