

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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day | July 26, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Kelly Latimore

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

“Préambule and Réverie, Opus 31”

LOUIS VIERNE

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

KAREN LAFFERTY

The words may be found in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 175.

HYMN 35

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of new beginnings, you long for us to live
in love and justice with our neighbors, with friends
and strangers, with people everywhere.**

**Jesus was a storyteller who talked about money,
wages and taxes, who told stories about integrity
and forgiveness, who helped people who were
in trouble and listened to people who were sad.**

**Help us lean into the new beginnings
you promise to us in each conversation,
trusting in the forgiveness taught and lived out
in community surrounded by your love...**

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

ERIC NELSON

Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever; Unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers, your Protector never slumbers; at the will of your Defender every foe then must surrender.

No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

—Carolina Sandell Berg; trans. Ernst W. Olson

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

Matthew 13:31–33; 44–52

pew Bible, New Testament page 14/large print, New Testament page 17

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Hide and Seek with the Kingdom of Heaven”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 817

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

DUNLAP’S CREEK

Please stand in body or spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

Please stand in body or spirit.

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

Christ is the world’s true light, its Captain of salvation, the Daystar clear and bright of every land and nation; new life, new hope awakes, for all who own his sway: freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting, the whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting: when Christ is throned as Lord, all shall forsake their fear, to plough-share beat the sword, to pruning hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great name unite us all who own thee; cast out our pride and shame that hinder to enthrone thee; the world has waited long, has travailed long in pain; to heal its ancient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

—George W. Briggs

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 353

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

SOLID ROCK

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Praeludium, BuxWV137"

DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE

*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*
George Vauaghese, *Lay Leader*

First Church Choir Octet
Colin Fowler, *Visiting Musician*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today, July 26	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	10:00 a.m.	Summer Strummers
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, July 27	7:00 p.m.	Current Events (virtual)
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Friday, July 31	5:45 p.m.	Summer Family Music
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Saturday, August 1	10:00 a.m.	Soup Kitchen
	12:00 p.m.	RIF Asylum Support

Sunday, August 2	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 about the season will be shared in the months ahead.

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.

Summer Music and Community for All Ages

Join us this summer for music for all ages:

- **Summer Strummers** (intergenerational ukulele, select Sundays; rbarkerasto@fpcnyc.org)
- **Summer Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers** (select Sundays; jbennett@fpcnyc.org)
- **Family Summer Music** (Fridays outdoors; rbarkerasto@fpcnyc.org)

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

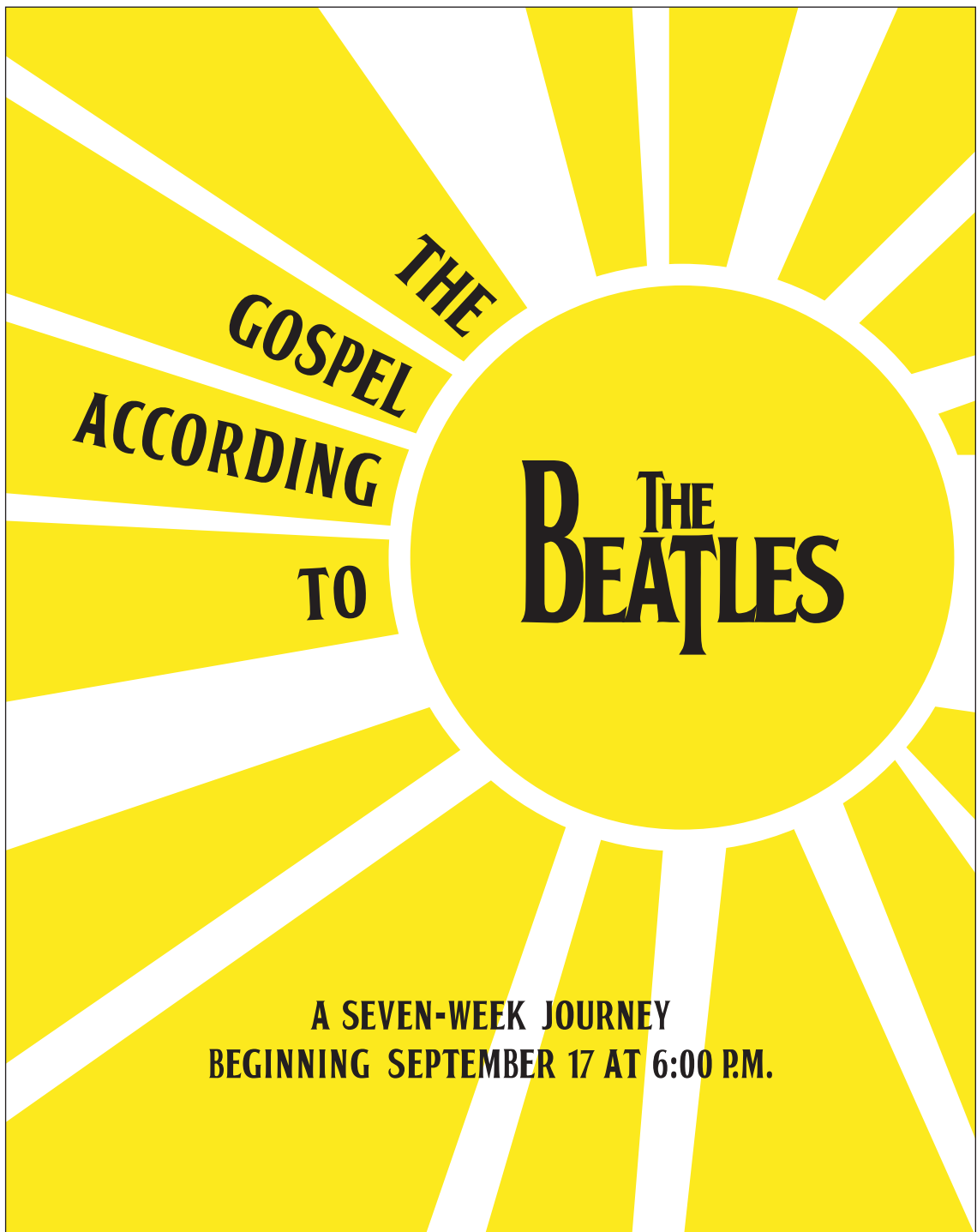
As we prepare for the Yard Sale in September, we are seeking donations of gently used, high-quality items, including children's toys and clothing, kitchen goods, housewares, electronics, jewelry, books, and home décor. We are also collecting designer handbags, scarves, wallets, sunglasses, and belts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



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