

December 8–14, 2019

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

News and Opportunities

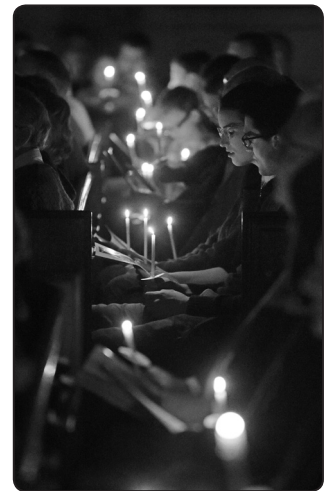


We are glad to have you with us today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church! * **Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ**, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. * **We invite you to join us** at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.



Today is the last day to make contributions toward the ◀ **Christmas flowers and garlands** that decorate the Sanctuary in honor of loved ones in whose names the gift is given. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/FPCgifts or by using the forms in the literature racks. Contributions must be received by today for names to appear in the bulletin.

This evening we will gather in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. for a favorite tradition of the season: the **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music**. A **cookies-and-cocoa reception** will follow. * The **“Longest Night” service**, which will be held Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes the feelings of loneliness and grief that are often present during the holiday season. * We will gather for four candlelight **Christmas Eve services** ▶ on Tuesday, December 24: 4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant; 6:00 p.m. Family Service; 8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols (which will be live streamed at www.bit.ly/FPCworship); and 10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols. * On **Christmas Day** we will gather for worship at 11:00 a.m. * The Christmas Day service will be followed by a traditional **Christmas dinner** at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall as a time to share Christmas with friends new and old. Reservations (*required*) can be made online www.bit.ly/cdin2019



This “News and Opportunities” insert is our invitation to you to join us in taking part in the programs and resources available to you here at Fourth Church, all of which welcome newcomers. On our website you will find even more opportunities, as well as the page www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up with details about signing up for the programs listed here. To receive our weekly email newsletter, subscribe at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

This morning's annual **Fair Trade Gift Bazaar** ► in Anderson Hall and Borwell Dining Room is an occasion to shop for a difference, with purchases helping global artisans earn a living wage, enabling them to provide food, shelter, and education for their family. * **Our Christmas Wishes** project, which collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students, concludes this week. Wish lists are available during Coffee Hour as are sign-up sheets for helping with gift wrapping and inventory. * Decorated and filled **holiday gift bags** for guests of our Sunday and Monday Night Suppers can be dropped off today during Coffee Hour.



The popular **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert will take place on Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. * This year's **Christmas Cantata** will be *A Winter's Night* by Cecilia McDowall, sung by the Morning Choir during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 22. * **A candlelit New Year's Eve Taizé service** will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Tuesday, December 31.

“What prayers are you planting to take root in the world?”

In this Advent season we invite you to stop by one of the tree-topped tables ► in the Narthex, Commons, or Allison Library.

Write on a ribbon strip what prayers you are planting, and tie the strip to the tree. These ribbons will then be used to line the manger on Christmas Eve. * Join the **Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge**.

Details are posted at www.fourthchurch.org/advent-photo. Search Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for #adventfpc2019 to see what others have posted! * **Daily Advent devotions** are available via Twitter (@FourthChicago), email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions); at facebook.com/fourthchurch, and www.fourthchurch.org as well as in the literature racks.



A **congregational meeting** will take place next Sunday, December 15 in the Sanctuary following the 11:00 a.m. service. Session has called the meeting for the purpose of our acting to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Judy Watt, who is retiring on December 15. A reception for Judy will take place in Anderson Hall following the meeting.

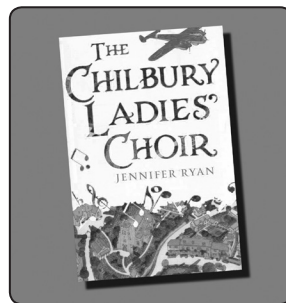
Did you know that more than 4,000 people around the world receive **devotions** from Fourth Church in their inbox every morning? To receive them by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions.

They are also available at facebook.com/fourthchurch, **Twitter** (@FourthChicago), and www.fourthchurch.org; and in booklets in the literature racks.

Our LGBTQIA Widening Our Welcome group invites you to join in celebrating the diversity of our Fourth Church families! You are invited to **submit a favorite photo of your family** along with a brief caption to be included in a video display during Coffee Hour in January. From the submissions, several images will be selected to be displayed in a Loggia Gallery exhibit from January 6 through February 26. Photos should be submitted by next Sunday, December 15 at as high a resolution as possible. See www.fourthchurch.org/familyphotos for more details.

Ushers are needed to greet and welcome those attending the Christmas Eve services at 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. * Volunteers are needed to help with the **Book Nook** during Coffee Hour following the 9:30 and 11:00 services. * A volunteer is needed to provide assistance to a church program by **creating and managing spreadsheets** one day a week. Schedule is flexible. * For details, please see the Sign-Up Page noted below, or email Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org).

A two-week class on “Jehovah’s Favorite Choir: **The Biblical Story in the Songs and Shows of the Grateful Dead**,” taught by Andy McGaan, begins this morning in Room 5G at 9:30 a.m. * The weekly “**Foundations of Faith**” Bible study led by pastoral staff continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to view past sessions of the study, you can do so at www.bit.ly/fpcbiblefoundations * **Books by Women** will meet on Tuesday, December 10 to discuss *The Chilbury Ladies Choir* ▶ by Jennifer Ryan. * Applications for mission trips to **Guatemala** (July 5–12) and **Colombia** (August 1–8) are due January 15 and May 1 respectively.



Expectations for the holidays can be different from the realities. Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened. Such experiences need not be dealt with alone. Fourth Church’s Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Counseling Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425.



Did you know that you can now make gifts to Fourth Church using **Venmo**? Scan the QR code or open the Venmo app and, after tapping the Pay button, search for Fourth Church (@Fourth-Church). Enter a gift amount, write a quick note, and tap Pay! * We are counting on **gifts pledged for 2019** to be fully fulfilled by year end to ensure the budgets of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights can be met. If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Andrea Miller know (amiller@fourthchurch.org) so we might plan accordingly. Thank you!

**To sign up for opportunities described in this newsletter,
please see the Sign-Up Page: www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up**

Calendar for December 8–14, 2019

Sunday, December 8	8:00 a.m. Worship • Matt Helms preaching	Sanctuary
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8:00 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Buchanan Chapel Choir Loft
	9:00, 10:00, 10:30 a.m. Cherub/Youth/Children’s Choir Rehearsals.	Room 4F
	9:00, 10:30 a.m.; 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall / Commons
	9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Nursery.	Nursery / Day School
	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fair Trade Bazaar	Anderson Hall/Borwell Dining Room
	9:30 a.m. “A Year with the Bible”	Room 5E
	9:30 a.m. “Jehovah’s Favorite Choir”	Room 5G
	9:30 a.m. Junior High Youth Group	Bumpus Room
	9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Children in Worship Sunday School	Gratz Fourth Floor
	9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship • Shannon J. Kershner preaching.	Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Time of Prayer with Deacons	Stone Chapel
	10:30 a.m. Parents of Youth	Bumpus Room
	10:30 a.m. All-Youth Fellowship	Allison Hall and Library
	10:45 a.m. Confirmation to Sinai Congregation.	Allison Library
	11:00 a.m. “Spiritual Discernment”	Room 5E
	11:00 a.m. Senior High Youth Group	Bumpus Room
	12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Tour	Sanctuary
	12:15 p.m. Organ Tour	Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four • Shannon J. Kershner preaching.	Buchanan Chapel
	5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper	Anderson Hall
	6:30 p.m. Festival of Advent Lessons and Music	Sanctuary
Monday, December 9	9:00 a.m. Day School (<i>also Tues.–Fri.</i>)	Day School Classrooms
	4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper	<i>Catholic Charities</i>
	5:00 p.m. Chicago Lights Tutoring (<i>also Tues.–Thurs.</i>)	Gratz Fifth Floor
Tuesday, December 10	7:45 a.m. Sacred Pause Meditation	Stone Chapel
	12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunches (<i>also Wed.–Thurs.</i>)	Anderson Hall
	6:00 p.m. Books by Women	Bumpus Room
Wednesday, December 11	9:00 a.m. Day School Storytime.	Room 4A
	9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer.	Stone Chapel
	9:30 a.m. Benevolent Guild	Room 5B
	12:00 p.m. <i>Horizons</i> Bible Study.	Room 5H
Thursday, December 12	7:00 a.m. Men’s Faith Discussion Group.	Randolph Room
Friday, December 13	12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert: David Baer, piano	Buchanan Chapel
	8:00 p.m. <i>Holidays a cappella</i>	Buchanan Chapel

See www.fourthchurch.org/calendar for a complete events calendar, including online registration links.

www.fourthchurch.org • www.facebook.com/fourthchurch • www.instagram.com/fourthchurch

News and Opportunities, which is distributed during Sunday worship, is also available in the church literature racks and at www.fourthchurch.org. The reception desk of Fourth Presbyterian Church is at 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014. Phone: 312.787.4570 | www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch