

December 22–28, 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.



We will gather for four ◀ candlelight **Christmas Eve services**: Tuesday, December 24: 4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant; 6:00 p.m. Family Service; 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols. * For those worshipping at 6:00, 8:00, or 10:00, **all entry to the Sanctuary will be from Michigan Avenue entrances**; those worshippers arriving before the Sanctuary has been emptied after the previous service will be invited to join the queue that will start at the glass Loggia doors (accessible via Michigan Avenue). Once those lines have dissipated, access will be allowed via the Sanctuary entrance on Michigan Avenue. * **Discounted parking** on Christmas Eve is available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage and only for those entering the garage after 3:00 p.m. Those who enter the garage after 3:00 p.m. will be able to park for \$6 with a validation ticket that can be picked up for free that day at the church. * **Nursery care** on Christmas Eve will be available from 3:00 to 7:15 p.m. It will *not* be available during the last two services of the evening or on Christmas Day.

On **Christmas Day** we 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. Dinner reservations (*required*) can be made at the reception desk. * **Discounted parking** on Christmas Day is available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage and will be \$8 with a validation ticket that can be picked up for free that day at the church.

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

We will be **live streaming** the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service for those who are unable to be with us or who want to share the service with those who are out of town. The live stream will be available at www.bit.ly/FPCworship (and on the Fourth Church website), where it will also be available after Christmas Eve. * Beginning Sunday, December 29 we will also be **live streaming weekly** the Sunday morning 11:00 a.m. service at www.bit.ly/FPCworship and the Fourth Church website: www.fourthchurch.org

A candlelit New Year's Eve Taizé service ► will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Tuesday, December 31. This service offers space for prayer as well as meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come. * Beforehand a **New Year's Eve labyrinth walk** will be held between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall.



“Where is Christ for you?” Stop by one of the tree-topped tables in the Narthex, Commons, or Allison Library and write on a ribbon strip what prayers you are planting. These ribbons will then line the manger on Christmas Eve. * There is one week left in 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!

Today is the last day to sign up for the ► **youth ski trip to Cascade Mountain, Wisconsin**, January 17–19. Details are on the online Sign-Up Page noted at the bottom of the facing page. * On that Sign-Up Page you will also find details for registering for the **summer 2020 youth trips** to Ferncliff, Arkansas; Detroit; and Montreat, North Carolina; registrations for those trips are due in January. * There will be **no Sunday School** on December 29 and January 5; parents are encouraged to have their children worship with them those Sundays. Nursery care will be available during the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services for those three and younger.



The weekly **“Foundations of Faith” Bible study** led by pastoral staff meets today and then resumes its weekly schedule on Sunday, January 12. If you would like to view past sessions of the study, you can do so at www.bit.ly/fpcbiblefoundations * Also on January 12, at 11:00 a.m., Dr. Barbara Wilson will begin a three-week course on **“Beloved Community: Shaping Our Lives Together,”** exploring biblical and theological foundations for working toward racial healing, reconciliation, and justice.

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.



Among the opportunities to connect with others in the Fourth Church community is today's **LGBTQIA Brunch** (meet at the church reception desk at 12:30 p.m.). * **Books by Women** will discuss ◀ *The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls* by Anissa Gray on January 14. * On Wednesday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m. the **Benevolent Guild** will resume their weekly Wednesday morning gatherings to craft items for hospitalized infants and children. * **Summer 2020 mission trips** offer opportunity to travel to **Guatemala** (July 5–12) and **Colombia** (August 1–8); applications are due January 15 and May 1 respectively.

Expectations for the holidays can be different from the realities. 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. Call the Center at 312.787.8425 for details. * Our Replogle Center will also be offering several new groups and workshops in the new year, including a **Chronic Illness Support Group**, **Grief Groups**, a monthly **Men's Group**, and a "**Strengthening Communication through the Enneagram**" workshop. For details see www.fourthchurchofrc/events.html or call the Center at 312.787.8425.

We are in need of volunteers to **help with the Book Nook** during Coffee Hours following the 9:30 and 11:00 services and * **to create and manage spreadsheets** one day a week for a church program. * For details, please see the Sign-Up Page noted below, or email Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org).

Whether you give through Venmo (@Fourth-Church), online via our website, electronically via automatic debits to your bank or credit card, or through gifts of stock or make your contributions monthly, quarterly, or annually, we want you to take part in our communal offering of our gifts. If you give in one of these ways, we encourage you to use the **new "I give" cards**, which you will find in the pew racks. At the time of the offering, as others place envelopes, checks, or cash into the offering plate, we invite you to acknowledge your giving in other forms by placing one of the "I give" cards into the offering plate.

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 and welcome additional generosity where it is possible! If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Andrea Miller know (amiller@fourthchurch.org) so we might plan accordingly. Thank you! * **For information about making gifts** through stock transfers or required distributions from one's IRA or prepaying one's 2020 pledge, please contact Katy Frey Bever (kbever@fourthchurch.org).

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

Calendar for December 22–28, 2019

- Sunday, December 22 8:00 a.m. Worship • Rocky Supinger preaching. Sanctuary**
Fourth Sunday of Advent 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
 9:30 a.m. “A Year with the Bible” Room 5E
 9:30 a.m. Junior High Youth Group Bumpus Room
 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. 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. All-Youth Fellowship. Allison Library
 11:00 a.m. Confirmation and Senior High Youth Group. Room 4G
 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Tour Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Organ Tour Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal Sanctuary
 12:30 p.m. LGBTQIA Brunch Coffee Hour
 4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four • Joseph L. Morrow preaching. Buchanan Chapel
 5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper Anderson Hall
- Monday, December 23 9:00 a.m. Men’s Book Club Room 4K
 4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper *Catholic Charities*
- Tuesday, December 24 7:45 a.m. Sacred Pause Meditation. Stone Chapel**
Christmas Eve 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunches. Anderson Hall
 3:00 p.m. Children/Youth Choir Rehearsal. Bumpus Room
 3:00 p.m. Pageant Costuming Borwell Dining Room
 4:00 p.m. Children’s Christmas Pageant Sanctuary
 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service Sanctuary
 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols Sanctuary
- Wednesday, December 25 11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship. Sanctuary**
Christmas Day 12:15 p.m. Christmas Dinner. Anderson Hall
- Thursday, December 26 *Church Office Closed*
- Friday, December 27 12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert: The Second Fire, vocal quartet. Sanctuary
- Saturday, December 28 *Church Office Closed*

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