News and Resources

March 13-19, 2022

We are glad to be worshiping with you 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.



In the Sanctuary, the front section is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing.

The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating. Seating for Jazz at Four is all socially distanced. **

The congregation is invited to sing while masked. We encourage those who are concerned about being near those who are singing to consider the socially distanced seating section or join those who worship with us from home via livestream. ** On the Fourth Church campus, everyone is required to wear a mask, fully covering the nose and mouth. Anyone not wearing a mask fully covering their nose and mouth will be asked to leave, as we know that some people make the decision to worship with us in person—or participate in other in-person activities—based on the knowledge that everyone will be fully masked. This is but one of the ways we continue to live out our commitment to value the health and safety of all. ** For those worshiping with us in person, we are not checking vaccination status, but by entering the Fourth Church campus you certify that (a) you do not currently have COVID-19; (b) you are not experiencing COVID symptoms; (c) you have no reason to quarantine; and (d) you will practice social distancing during your time on the Fourth Church campus if you are not vaccinated against COVID-19.



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning service at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where the service is also available for viewing afterwards. ** Those without Internet access are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the service. ** During the week we make the service and sermon available via podcast on iTunes as well as Spotify (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast). ** You can also receive the previous Sunday's sermon text by email by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at **www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc**

In the weekly News @ Fourth Church email newsletter (subscribe at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc), we shared the following note in light of the City of Chicago lifting its mask mandate in most settings: "As Shannon Kershner wrote in her congregational email in late February, 'until you hear otherwise, please assume that we will keep doing what we are doing now—masks required, restricted campus access and hours, etc. I thank you for your patience.' The wide range of programs, activities, and participants that are part of our Fourth Church and Chicago Lights community make how we move forward around masking complex, particularly given the number of vulnerable populations we serve—from preschoolers to older adults to those with insufficient access to health care—and given the range of staff and volunteers who work with them. So while we have not yet lifted our mask mandate, please know that we are hard at work determining what our life together will look like when we do!"



If you would like to join us for in-person worship, we gather each Sunday for a 10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary and a 4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service in Buchanan Chapel. ** On Sundays the doors open for worship at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For the morning service, access is by the Michigan Avenue doors to the Sanctuary and the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors. ** Sunday parking is available at 900 N. Michigan (access from Rush or Walton) at the rate of \$9 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and at the Hancock garage (875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher. ** Nursery care* is not available at this time. ** Worship can be heard in the Sanctuary and Chapel through the "T" or "T-coil" setting of hearing aids. ** Please silence electronic devices when in the Sanctuary or Chapel.



Following the 10:00 a.m. service, Deacons are available in Stone Chapel (through the door to the right of the pulpit) to pray with individuals who would like to offer prayers of praise or concern. **

On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for Morning Prayer via Zoom and at 10:00 a.m. for in-person Morning Prayer in Buchanan Chapel. The chapel is also open for opportunity to walk the labyrinth between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. For Zoom details or information about walking the labyrinth or in-person Morning Prayer, email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org). ** A Sacred Pause time of meditation is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being on Tuesday (7:45 a.m.) and Saturday (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing

Each Sunday during Lent we are extinguishing a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion. ** The season of Lent calls Christians to embrace the faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs During this season, we are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ's journey to the cross ** In this season of self-reflection and prayer, we invite you to use our Lenten devotions as a resource for meditation and reflection. To receive the meditations daily via email, simply subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions. ** Also available for your reflection during the season is our Lenten "Rhythm and Word" video series. These brief worship experiences weaving together scripture, prayer, and blues music are released on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. To receive them by email, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail



Men's Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and Horizons Bible Study for women will host two online sessions on Wednesday, March 23, one at 12:00 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. For Zoom links or more information about either Bible study, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

** This morning we conclude a three-week class on "The Book of Job and the Invention of Faith" at 11:15 a.m. in Room 5G as well as via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/bookofjob22

** Next Sunday, March 20 we will begin a new three-week adult education class, "Israel and Palestine: How We Talk about the Conflict." The class, which will be led by Nanette Sawyer, will be held both in Room 5G and via Zoom. For Zoom details, contact Allison MacDonna (amacdonna@fourthchurch.org). ** Among the latest episodes in the "Bible Top Ten" podcast hosted by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger are "Top Ten Overrated Bible Verses" and "Top Ten Most Convicting Bible Verses." You can find the episodes at fourthchurch.org/podcast



Fourth Church offers a variety of ways to connect with one another, whether in person or online. Those worshiping with us in person are invited to **greet one another in Anderson Hall or the Commons** following the service. **** Benevolent Guild** —which has counted among its projects sewing face masks and making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital—meets in person this Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. **** Knitting and Crocheting** meets online on Tuesday afternoon, March 22 at 4:00 p.m. For details about participating in either group, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Sunday School (ages 3 through grade 5) meets via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. (email Briana Belding-Peck at bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org for details) and in person at 10:00 a m in the Gratz Center. **

Youth programs meet on Sunday mornings, with **eighth-grade Confirmation** meeting at 9:00 a m in Room 5G, **Junior High Youth** at 10:00 a m in the Bumpus Room, and **Senior High Youth** at 11:15 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. For youth group details, email Katie Patterson (*kpatterson@fourthchurch.org*).



Those who are interested in singing with our Fourth Church Gospel Choir are invited to join the choir's rehearsals, directed by Bryan Johnson, Executive Director of Music at the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. in Room 4F. ★ The Chancel Choir also welcomes those interested in singing with Fourth Church. Directed by John Sherer, this choir, which is preparing music for Maundy Thursday and other upcoming services, rehearses on Thursday evenings in Anderson Hall from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. For more information about the choirs at Fourth Church, contact John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org). All singers in Fourth Church choirs must submit proof of COVID vaccination. ★ Our Friday Noonday Concerts continue with Mike Brozik (trumpet) and Patrick Godon (piano) presenting our in-person concert at 12:10 p.m. on Friday, March 18. Our concerts are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).



For those facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence and regular spiritual support. To have a one-time phone conversation with a Stephen Minister or arrange for ongoing talks, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. ** To explore options for teletherapy, call our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ** If you would like to **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation is an emergency or requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ** If you would like to **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org.



For resources and additional ways to connect with Fourth Church and one another, watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) and **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch). ** Online events are posted on our **church calendar**, which is accessible from the home page of our website and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar ** To **receive the latest updates from Fourth Church**, including our **weekly email newsletter**, subscribe at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

The Session of Fourth Church has called a **congregational meeting for Sunday, March 27** following 10:00 a.m. worship. The purpose of the meeting is to hear a report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and to **receive and act on their recommendation of a candidate to serve this congregation as Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation.** The meeting will be held both in person and online, with Zoom details posted on the church website in the week leading up to the meeting. The candidate will be present for the meeting, and information about that person will be shared that morning, as we respect the necessary confidentiality until then, as the individual is currently employed elsewhere.



To help provide **emergency humanitarian aid** such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, and more to **those affected by the war in Ukraine**, you can **give a gift online through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** (PDA) at pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine. A portion of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that we are receiving throughout Lent will also be given to PDA.



Fourth Church Shower Ministry is in need of hygiene items, specifically unused travel-size toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, bandages, and combs. Donations can be dropped off at the church reception desk, to the attention of "Shower Ministry." ** Fourth Church Meals Ministry is in need of volunteers to help with a variety of projects—opportunities that can be done at home, behind the scenes at church, or by interacting with our guests. See Volunteer Ministry platform, VOMO (www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers), to learn more.



Women at Fourth will gather online for a program by Jeannine Forrest on "Dementia 101" on Thursday evening, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcwaf322 **

LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome will gather via Zoom on Wednesday evening, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and a discussion led by Nanette Sawyer on what the Bible really says and does not say about sexual diversity. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

** Charles Schaefer, Professor of History and International Studies at Valparaiso University, will present a program on Ukraine, Russia, and Putin at the Friday evening, April 1 Cornerstones online gathering for those fifty and over. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/cornerstones422



Interested in **learning more about Fourth Church** or **becoming a member**? Contact Joe Morrow, Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement (*jmorrow@fourthchurch.org*).