

News and Opportunities

February 26–March 4, 2023



We are glad to be worshipping 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.



Although wearing a mask is not required at Fourth Church, we as a community have made a commitment to be **a mask-welcoming campus**, encouraging the wearing of masks by anyone who wants or needs to wear one. As a mask-welcoming campus, we remain committed to **ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at Fourth Church.**

✳️ In the Sanctuary, the **front section on the pulpit side is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing, and everyone sitting in that section is required to wear a mask.** The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating.



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 10:00 a.m. Sunday **service and sermon available via podcast** on iTunes and Spotify (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). ✳️ You can also receive the previous Sunday's **sermon text by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons ✳️ Available by podcast as well is Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger's "**Bible Top Ten,**" a lively, informative, and occasionally funny podcast about the Bible as explored through a rotating series of top ten lists.

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

If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 4:00 p.m. for our Jazz at Four service (*with Communion*) in Buchanan Chapel. ✨ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. 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 to the Gratz Center. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) 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. ✨ **Children** are always welcome in worship. **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, located on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is available as a quiet space for families where the worship service is livestreamed. During the morning service **nursery care** is also available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



Following worship, a **pipe organ tour** begins at 11:15 a.m. at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ Also following worship, **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**. ✨ We gather on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (*nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org ✨ The Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. For details, email Rocky Supinger (*rsupinger@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and also Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).



We ask all those who are worshipping with us to **please fill out an information form so we might know you are here** and to ensure we have current contact information. Those worshipping with us online will find **a link to the online form** included in the descriptive text below the video player (*if you are viewing full screen, you will need to briefly exit full-screen view to see the description and link*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome and Announcements” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. Those worshipping with us in person are asked to use the **information pads in the pews**, passing them down the pew so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.

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.



Also during Lent our worship will include the Exchange of Peace. In the Reformed tradition this follows the Declaration of Pardon and is a response to God’s forgiveness. This exchange of signs and words of unity and of Christ’s peace is an ancient greeting of siblings in Christ. It is a time when we extend to one another what we ourselves have received from God in Christ. You might simply say “The peace of Christ be with you” or “Peace be with you,” the greeting of Jesus Christ to his disciples after his resurrection. By exchanging the Peace of Christ to one another, we witness to God’s reconciling love.



Today we begin the sermon series “I believe . . .”—an opportunity for us to take **a closer look at the Apostles’ Creed**, which we use as one of our Affirmations of Faith. If you have ever wondered why we often say this ancient creed in worship, have found yourself pausing after stating “I believe,” or maybe have at times thought that perhaps you did not believe all of the phrases, we hope you will join us in worship this Lent and Eastertide as we explore what we believe together.



Those worshipping in person are invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following the service. ✨ Those who enjoy **expressing their faith through hospitality** or are interested in being **a welcoming presence at Coffee Hour** are encouraged to sign up online at app.vomo.org/project/coffeehour to be a **Cookie Table Host, Server, or Hospitality Coordinator**. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



The annual Chicago Lights Gala of Hope takes place this Friday, March 3 at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago (160 E. Pearson). Stop by Coffee Hour today or visit one.bidpal.net/galaofhope2023 to learn how you can support the life-changing work of Chicago Lights—the nonprofit community outreach arm of Fourth Church, which includes the **Tutoring and Summer Day, Urban Farm, and Social Service Center** programs—whether by **attending** (*advance reservations required*) or **sponsoring the Gala** or by **participating in the drawing**.

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. We are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in these weeks in preparation for Holy Week and Christ’s journey to the cross. ✨ Our **daily Lenten devotions** (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions) are a resource for reflection during this season. To receive these meditations daily via email, simply subscribe online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ Also available as a resource is our **Lenten “Rhythm and Word” video series**. These brief videos (*approximately ten minutes each*) have been **created by Rocky Supinger and the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet** and weave together scripture, prayer, and music. A new video is released on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) each Lenten Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. To receive them by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail



Opportunities to engage in Bible study include **Men’s Bible Study**, which meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Women’s Bible Study**, which offers two Zoom gathering times (12:00 and 6:30 p.m.) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month and next meets on Wednesday, March 8. For Zoom details for either Bible study, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



A quiet **candlelit Lenten Taizé service**—a contemplative time of meditative song, silent reflection, and prayer for peace, reconciliation, and unity—will be held on Friday evening, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.



You are invited to **remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Easter flowers** that will decorate the Sanctuary and Buchanan Chapel. A list of individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by Sunday, March 26 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (gvicente@fourthchurch.org; 312.252.3571).



A **new one-session adult education class** takes place today following morning worship. Betsy Storm and Kat Evans will be presenting **“Faces at the Cross”** at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room (*in person only*). J. Barrie Shepherd’s book *Faces at the Cross: A Lent and Easter Collection of Poetry and Prose* regales us with clearly imagined stories in the voices of Mary, Pilate, and others. Join us as we share aloud and discuss several selected readings from Shepherd’s well-loved book.

Beginning next Sunday, **Tom Dozeman will teach a class on “The Ancestors in Genesis,”** exploring the themes of identity that emerge—both for ancient Israel and for contemporary readers—in the three cycles of stories about Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah; and Jacob, Leah, and Rachel. In looking at these stories, which are complex and hardly heroic, we will also examine the aim of the biblical authors in composing the literature and different ways in which readers have found identity in the stories. The class will meet in person only on Sundays, March 5–19 in Borwell Dining Room. To register, sign up at www.bit.ly/aegenesis323



Finding ways to care for creation. Awakenning the inner terrain of God’s Spirit. Kindling connections with others from Fourth Church. If this sounds intriguing, consider joining Nancy Benson-Nicol and Lucy Forster-Smith for a **Ghost Ranch Pilgrimage of Faith and Learning this May 15–19** in Abiquiu, New Mexico. Mornings will be spent in conversation with a speaker; there will be hiking and exploration of the area in the afternoon; and evenings will offer time together as a group with guided conversations and worship. There will also be one afternoon and evening in Santa Fe enjoying the museums, dining, and wonder of that city. To express interest and learn more, complete the simple “Expression of Interest” form at www.bit.ly/ghostranchinterest23; an application, which will be due March 15, will be available in the coming days. ✨ Those interested in taking part in the **Fourth Church Choir tour to India in February 2024** can find trip details at www.fourthchurch.org/music/india.pdf or by emailing Emily Cox (ecox@fourthchurch.org).



The **Knitting and Crocheting** group will meet this Tuesday, February 28 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). The group will also meet in person on Sunday, March 19 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ **Benevolent Guild**, which has counted among its projects making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital, meets this Wednesday, March 1 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. Sewing experience is not required. ✨ **Books by Women** will discuss ***Oh William!* by Elizabeth Strout** on Tuesday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **For additional ways to connect** with one another and Fourth Church, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources**, watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org). ✨ Events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar

The Chicago Lights Social Service Center is **in need of paper grocery bags** for use in the Food Pantry and Share Shop. Bags can be dropped off at the church reception desk (*enter at 126 E. Chestnut*) between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and Sundays. ✨ The Social Service Center is also in need of **volunteer Spanish translators**. If you can help or know someone who could, please sign up at app.vomo.org/project/spanish-translatorsalso



Those who would like to learn more about this congregation or **become a member of Fourth Church** are invited to a one-session **Inquirers' Class** on Sunday, March 19 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Room 5F (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers323*) or on Wednesday, April 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers423*). For more information, email member@fourthchurch.org



For those facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. ✨ To explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor, call our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✨ 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.