

You are invited!

October 8–14, 2023



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!

Welcome!

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and invite you to continue 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. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we **livestream our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can be viewed any time after the services begin. (For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning) ✨ Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (*through the glass Loggia doors between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors*); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 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. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.

Joining us with children

Children are always welcome in worship! **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During the morning services **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an information form. Those worshipping with us via livestream will find a link to the online form—which takes only 20 seconds to complete!—included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); 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 worshippers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week we make the Sunday morning **service and sermon available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

Those who would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today** are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✨ 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. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Resources for personal reflection

Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available as a resource for your **personal meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ Our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for your viewing at home. In October these videos, led by Rocky Supinger, invite us to **explore what it means to be one body in Christ**. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube, where you can also view videos from previous series. To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail; you can also **subscribe to our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)

Sunday opportunities

Those worshipping in person are encouraged to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons, where there is also opportunity to learn about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. ✨ **“Foundations of Islam: Discovering Common Ground and Debunking the Myths,”** taught by Nanette Sawyer, Arshan Khalid, and Aisha Subhan, continues this morning at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aeislam1023 ✨ **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **Youth groups** do not meet this week but resume next Sunday, with Junior High and eighth-grade Confirmation at 9:30 a.m. and Senior High at 11:00 a.m. ✨ Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ We invite you to join us this afternoon for a different worship experience, **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**. This more casual, intimate service, which takes place in the Sanctuary and is livestreamed, also features a breadth of musical expressions.

Our home. Our commitment.

Our 2024 stewardship campaign is underway, inviting us to reflect on **“How is Fourth Church home to me? To others?”** and **“What will my 2024 pledge be in support of the life-giving mission, ministry, and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights?”** Please plan to submit your 2024 pledge—which you can make using the form mailed to member homes and also available in the pew racks and online at www.bit.ly/fpcpledging—by Commitment Sunday, October 29, when we will celebrate all we are able to do together through our generous response to God’s blessings in our lives.

We’re looking for leaders

The Officer Nominating Committee needs your recommendations of individuals to serve in leadership positions opening in 2024 for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Nominating Committee, and Chicago Lights Board. If you know Fourth Church members—including yourself!—who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and ministry, please **submit your recommendations today** at www.bit.ly/nominating2024 or by using the forms in the pew racks.

Exploring the Bible

Men’s Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom this Wednesday, October 11 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger also invite you to tune in to the new season of their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). This lively, informative, and occasionally funny podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Get connected

Bible studies are but one way to build connections with others at Fourth Church. **Books by Women** will discuss *Unraveling: What I Learned about Life While Shearing Sheep, Dyeing Wool, and Making the World's Ugliest Sweater* by Peggy Orenstein this Tuesday, October 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items to care for those in need, meets on Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *No sewing experience is necessary.* ✨ On Sunday, October 22 at 12:00 p.m. **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW)** will gather for brunch. Those who would like to join in this time of fellowship are invited to meet at the reception desk that day to walk together to a nearby restaurant. ✨ For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources and opportunities**, watch our website: www.fourthchurch.org ✨ Also be sure to bookmark **our online church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar

Making music

All who enjoy singing are encouraged to join the **Fourth Church Choral Society** for their October rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. The choir is currently preparing for a November 10 **concert honoring Morgan Simmons**, former Fourth Church Organist and Choirmaster. ✨ We are looking for more individuals to **join the the Handbell Choir**, which rehearses on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft, **and Voices of Light**, our Gospel choir, which rehearses on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. in Room 4G. For more information, contact John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org). ✨ This week's free **Friday Noonday Concert**, which takes place in the Sanctuary and is also livestreamed, will feature soprano Laura Bumgardner and harpist LeAnne Bennion.

Volunteers needed

Tutors are needed on weekday evenings to partner with **Chicago Lights Tutoring** students. For details or to sign up, see www.chicagolights.org/youth-programs/#tutoring. ✨ We are also in need of **Cookie Table Hosts, Servers, and Hospitality Coordinators for Coffee Hour** to be a welcoming presence at Sunday morning fellowship gatherings. For details, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Meals Ministry** is looking for **doctors, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, and medical students** to assist with our medical services program for guests attending **Sunday Night Supper**. To learn more, contact Mike Usiak (musiak@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **To sign up** for these or the many other volunteer opportunities at Fourth Church, see **our Volunteer Ministry platform**: app.vomo.org/org/fourth-presbyterian-church

Planning for our future

We look forward to welcoming the **Reverend Tom Are Jr. as our Interim Pastor!** He will be joining us on Commitment/Reformation Sunday, October 29, when he will preach at the morning services. Read more at www.fourthchurch.org ✨ Thank you to everyone who responded to the congregational survey of the **Long-Range Planning Task Force!** Your responses, paired with the interviews, are serving as the foundational work from which the long-range plan will be developed. As the next step in this process, the task force will be presenting two town hall sessions, during which they will share the **draft strategic directives** that are coming out of the information gathered and when there will also be opportunity for you to **offer your feedback.** This will be done through a **virtual town hall on Sunday, October 15** following the 9:30 a.m. service and an **in-person town hall on Sunday, October 22** after the 11:00 a.m. service. The October 15 session will be recorded and made available for viewing. (*Watch for specific details in the coming week or email longrange@fourthchurch.org for more information.*) Please plan to join in taking the next step in developing a long-range plan for Fourth Church!

Pastoral care and a listening presence

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 requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@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.

Learn more. Stay connected.

Those who would like to **learn more about this congregation or become a member of Fourth Church** are invited to a one-session in-person Inquirers' Class next Sunday, October 15 at 11:15 a.m. (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers1023*). ✨ To help us stay connected to our college students, **if your child is attending college** this fall, please email their mailing address to Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org) by next Sunday, October 15, as our youth groups will be assembling care packages for them the following week. ✨ We invite you to follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch), **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch).

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