

You are invited!

October 22–28, 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 worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **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** this week between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. ✨ 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. This month 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)

About Fourth Church

To **learn more about this congregation or become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to the online Inquirers' Class on November 8 at 6:30 p.m. For details, register at www.bit.ly/inquirers1123

Sunday opportunities

Those worshipping in person are encouraged to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following worship, where there is also opportunity to learn about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. ✨ A new three-week class, **“Stop the Shooting,”** begins today at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Today’s speaker from **Live Free Illinois** will talk about **“The Spiritual Imperative to Work against Gun Violence”**; **Arne Duncan** will join us next week to speak about the work of **Chicago CRED**. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aestoptheshooting ✨ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW)** meets for brunch at 12:00 p.m. today. To join in this time of fellowship, please meet at the reception desk to walk together to a nearby restaurant. ✨ At 12:00 p.m. there will be a **Long-Range Planning Town Hall** in Borwell Dining Room. *See below for details.* ✨ **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. ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G. **Junior High (grades 6–7)** gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room, and at 11:00 a.m. **Senior High** also meets in the Bumpus Room. ✨ 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.

Planning for our future

Today the Long-Range Planning Task Force is hosting a town hall at 12:00 p.m in Borwell Dining Room. During that time, the task force will be sharing the **draft strategic directives**, which are coming out of the information gathered from your responses to the congregational survey, and receiving **your feedback**. In the coming days, the task force will also be making available the **recording of last week’s virtual town hall**. There will be **two town halls in November** to take a more in-depth look at the long-range planning work: in person on Sunday, November 5 at 12:30 p.m. and virtually on Sunday, November 12 at 10:45 a.m. (*Email longrange@fourthchurch.org for details.*) Please plan to join in taking the next step in developing a long-range plan for Fourth Church!

We’re looking for leaders

We need 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.

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

Our home. Our commitment.

“What will my pledge be in support of the life-giving mission, ministry, and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights in 2024?” Next Sunday, October 29, everyone will be invited to bring forward their answer to that question and place it—their 2024 pledge—on the Communion Table. As we do so, we will celebrate all that we are able to do together through our pledged commitment to Fourth Church and Chicago Lights—a commitment that is **our generous response to God’s blessings in our lives.** *(If you have already submitted your pledge, there will be “I pledged” cards available to bring forward.)* **You can make your pledge** on our website at www.bit.ly/fpcpledging or by using the pledge cards found in the Sanctuary pew racks, mailed to homes, and downloadable online.

Welcoming Our Interim Pastor!

Not only is October 29 **Commitment Sunday**, but it is also **Reformation Sunday**, the day when we recall the heritage of the Protestant tradition, a favorite observance for many that includes the annual bagpipe recessional. Tripling the reason for celebration, it is also the day that the Reverend **Tom Are Jr. joins us as our Interim Pastor**, preaching at both morning services. We hope you will be with us next Sunday morning to extend a warm Fourth Church welcome to Tom and his wife, Carol, as we look forward to our season of ministry together!

A Michigan Avenue Forum

“Understanding Antisemitism” is the topic of this year’s **Michigan Avenue Forum**, to be held Thursday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed. A panel of Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg; Becca Lubow, community organizer at Jewish Council on Urban Affairs; and Fourth Church Associate Pastor Nanette Sawyer will discuss the history of antisemitism, including the Christian church’s role in its promotion and perpetuation; the rise in violent episodes and hate crimes; and concrete strategies for non-Jewish houses of worship to dismantle antisemitism and pursue reconciliation and healing.

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 on Wednesday, October 25 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 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.

Honoring Morgan Simmons

The **Fourth Church Choral Society** will present a **concert honoring Morgan Simmons**, former Fourth Church Organist and Choirmaster, on Friday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online.

Get connected

Benevolent Guild, which creates items to care for those in need, meets on Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *No sewing experience is necessary.* ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets via Zoom this Tuesday, October 24 at 4:00 p.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Women at Fourth** will gather in person this Thursday, October 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse for fellowship and **Halloween-themed trivia**. RSVP at www.bit.ly/waf1023 ✨ Enjoy a free Halloween-themed **Friday Noonday Concert by John Sherer**, Organist and Director of Music, this Friday, October 27 at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and livestreamed. ✨ **Cornerstones**, a group for those fifty and over, will meet on Friday, November 3 for dinner and a program by Armedia Houston, Director of the Chicago Lights Tutoring and Summer Day Programs. Register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1123 for this 5:30 p.m. event that will be held in Borwell Dining Room. ✨ 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: **fourthchurch.org** ✨ We invite you to follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch), **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Be sure to bookmark our **online church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar

Volunteers needed

We have a waitlist of Chicago Lights Tutoring students in need of tutors on weekday evenings (for ninety minutes)—in person (*Tuesdays and Wednesdays*) or online (*Mondays*). For details or to sign up, see www.chicagolights.org/tutoring. ✨ **Meals Ministry** is looking for **doctors, physician 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). ✨ **Communion Servers** are needed for our Sunday, November 5 celebration of the Lord's Supper during morning worship. If you are interested in serving, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

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. ✨ During **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** the **purple ribbons** along Michigan Avenue are our public witness to all affected by domestic violence.