

You are invited!

December 10–December 16, 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 6 hours (*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 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** 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.).

Advent reflections

Daily Advent devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff and **based on Advent hymn texts**, are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions*), read them online (*www.fourthchurch.org/devotions*), or share them via Facebook (*www.facebook.com/fourthchurch*). ✨ Our **Advent “Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube. To receive them by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel (*www.bit.ly/fpcvideos*)

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

Christmas flowers

Today is the last day to make Christmas flowers gift to remember or honor loved ones. A list of those individuals remembered with a contribution toward the flowers, wreaths, and garlands decorating the Sanctuary and Gratz Center will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online** at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by today (December 10) for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (312.252.3571; gvicente@fourthchurch.org).

Sharing Christmas joy

There is still time to **help fill Christmas Wishes for the nearly 200 students participating in Chicago Lights Tutoring**. Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's **gift cards**—in denominations of \$10, \$15, or \$25—can be dropped off at the church reception desk **through this Monday, December 11**, and **monetary contributions** toward book and gift card purchases can be made online or by check (*designated "Christmas Wishes"*) **through this Friday, December 15**. ✨ Our annual **"Light Up a Life"** offering is being received throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Gifts to this offering provide funds for **Fourth Church programs** that support our neighbors and congregation; for **Chicago Lights**, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable; for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**; and for the **Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering**. You can make a gift to "Light Up a Life" by indicating that designation (*when giving online via Venmo or the church website: www.fourthchurch.org/give*) or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

Advent and Christmas worship

We have some special services on the calendar in the coming days that we hope you will put on yours! **This evening our Festival of Advent Lessons and Music service** will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ✨ Next Sunday morning, December 17 the **Cookies-and-Cocoa reception** will take place during Coffee Hour, and the **Christmas Cantata**, by Daniel Pinkham, will be part of the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✨ For those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, a **"Longest Night" Service** will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, preceded by a **labyrinth walk** in Anderson Hall. ✨ On the **morning of Sunday, December 24 we will have just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m.** (*which will also be livestreamed*). Then that afternoon and evening we will gather for the **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant** at 4:00 p.m.; **Family Service** at 6:00 p.m., and **Lessons and Carols** at 8:00 p.m. (*also livestreamed*) and 10:00 p.m. ✨ On **Christmas morning** we will gather again at 10:00 a.m. (*in person only*). ✨ On **Sunday, December 31**, we will worship at 10:00 a.m. in the morning (*also livestreamed*) and at 6:30 p.m. for a candlelit **New Year's Eve Taizé service** (*in person only*). The 2:00 p.m. service will not be held on New Year's Eve or Christmas Eve but will resume on January 7.

Today's 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. ✨ On exhibit in the Loggia is **"Light in the Darkness,"** featuring the artwork of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks. ✨ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** gathers after the 9:30 a.m. service for brunch at Tempo (*meet at the church reception desk to walk there together*) and, after brunch, games and beverages at the Drake. ✨ **"Conserving Historic Murals by Frederic Clay Bartlett: A Primer in Art Conservation"** will be the topic of this morning's Adult Education presentation by Elizabeth Kendall and Peter Schoemann of Parma Conservation, who led the recent restoration process of our Sanctuary murals. The class will take place at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom (*for the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aebartlett*). ✨ **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; **Senior High** meets in the Bumpus Room at 11:00 a.m. ✨ **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. Today the 9:30 students join their parents in worship in the Sanctuary before leaving with their teachers prior to the sermon. ✨ Rehearsing on Sunday mornings are **Children's Choir** (*kindergarten–grade 5*) at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4G; **Cherub Choir** (*ages 3 and 4*) at 10:15 a.m. in 4B; and **Youth Choir** (*grades 6–12*) at 10:30 a.m. in 4G. ✨ The **Handbell Choir**, which also rehearses on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft, welcomes newcomers to join in ringing. ✨ **Voices of Light**, our gospel choir, invites singers to join them their rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. in Room 4G. ✨ 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 **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**. This more casual, intimate service, which is livestreamed, features a breadth of musical expressions.

Get Connected

Books by Women will discuss ***The Bandit Queens: A Novel*** by Parini Shroff this Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items for those in need, meets this Wednesday, December 13 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *No sewing experience is necessary*. ✨ Next Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom, Loyola Museum of Art (LUMA) museum manager and curator Kyle Mathers will present a **program on the history of the crèche** and the James and Emilia Govan collection at LUMA that contains more than 500 nativity scenes, representing more than 100 countries. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aecreche1223 ✨ **Women at Fourth will gather for a holiday party** on Tuesday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse. Register at www.bit.ly/waf1223 ✨ 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**

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, December 13 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details for these studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their "**Bible Top Ten**" podcast (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Holiday Concerts

This Friday evening, December 15 **Chicago Camerata** will perform **Handel's Messiah** at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available at cameratachicago.org, with a 25 percent discount when using code FPCC. ✨ The seasonal favorite, **A Tower Brass Christmas**, takes place this Saturday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. No tickets are required, but a \$20 donation per person is suggested at the door. ✨ For a **schedule of upcoming concerts** at Fourth Church, including our free **Friday Noonday Concerts series**, see fourthchurch.org/concerts; this Friday's performance will feature mezzo-soprano Marianna Kulikova, pianist Kenneith Smith, cellist Michael Freilich, and flutist Carol Carpenter.

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, 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, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org ✨ Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **To explore options for counseling**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reploglecenter.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.

Stay connected

To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, be sure to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✨ We also invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ For **snapshots of Fourth Church life** as well as news and updates, subscribe to our weekly newsletter at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc