

You are invited!

December 17–December 23, 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 typically gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. However, please note that we will have **only one morning service on Sundays, December 24 and 31, and it will be at 10:00 a.m.** *(and also livestreamed)*. We will gather for worship at 2:00 p.m. today, and then that service will take a break, resuming on Sunday, January 7. ✨ 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 Sunday morning services **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds. ✨ Please note that while there will be nursery care for the morning service on December 24, there will be **no nursery care on Christmas Eve afternoon or evening or on Christmas Day**. Children are invited to be with their parents in worship for those services.

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. (*On Wednesday, December 27 we will have Morning Prayer via Zoom only.*) 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. this 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.).

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

Today's opportunities

Women at Fourth is hosting a special **Cookies-and-Cocoa Coffee Hour** this morning. Those worshipping in person are encouraged to **greet one another** 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. ✨ This morning 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**. This presentation will take place at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aecreche1223 ✨ On exhibition in the Loggia is "**Light in the Darkness,**" featuring the artwork of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks. ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets today 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. These youth groups will then take a break until Sunday, January 7. ✨ **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. (*Sunday School will not meet on Sunday, December 31.*) ✨ 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; **Voices of Light**, our gospel choir, at 12:00 p.m.; and the **Handbell Choir** at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft. ✨ 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.

Exploring the Bible

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For Zoom details, 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.

Advent and Christmas reflections

Daily Advent and Christmas devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff and based on **favorite hymn texts of the season**, 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/rhythmwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)

“Longest Night” Service

For those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, this Wednesday, December 20, a **“Longest Night” Service** will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, preceded by a **labyrinth walk** in Anderson Hall between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. ✨ **Feelings of grief** over losses can be heightened at this time of year. **Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. Such experiences need not be dealt with alone. Fourth Church’s **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Replogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit www.reploglecenter.org

Christmas Eve

On the **morning of Sunday, December 24 we will have just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m.** That service will also be livestreamed. ✨ That afternoon and evening we will gather for **four candlelight Christmas Eve services**: 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. ✨ For services on Christmas Eve, entry will be through the glass Loggia doors next to the courtyard on Michigan Avenue. **Seating will begin** at 3:15 p.m. for the Pageant; seating for the other three services will begin forty-five to thirty minutes prior to the start of the service. ✨ **Discounted parking** on the evening of Christmas Eve will be available at the 900 N. Michigan garage only, at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*).

Christmas Day

On **Christmas morning** we will gather again at 10:00 a.m. (*in person only*). ✨ For those looking for an online option on Christmas Day, we invite you to view the Christmas Eve service from the evening before or any of our past offerings available on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). We will also be sharing there a brief **Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video** time of scripture, music, and reflection that morning. ✨ **Christmas Day parking** validations for the 900 N. Michigan garage (*only*) will be available for \$20 and can be purchased in the Commons that morning prior to returning to the garage.

New Year’s Eve

On **Sunday, December 31**, we will have **just one morning worship service, at 10:00 a.m.** (*also livestreamed*). We will then gather in our Sanctuary with neighbors and our friends from Holy Name Cathedral 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. Our schedule of two morning worship services will resume on January 7 as well.*)

Sharing Christmas joy

Our annual “**Light Up a Life**” provides 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. ✨ Thank you to all who helped collect items and build **holiday gift bags for adults and children!** We will be handing out 275 bags this Sunday at Sunday Night Supper and 200 bags at Monday Night Supper at Catholic Charities. ✨ Signups are open for **Meals Ministry volunteer opportunities** in 2024. You can find them at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers.

Get connected. Stay connected.

Woman at Fourth will gather for a holiday party this Tuesday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse. Register at www.bit.ly/waf1223 ✨ Our free **Friday Noonday Concerts series** (*in the Sanctuary and livestreamed*) will feature **classical guitarist Brian Riggs** on Friday, December 22 and **organist John Sherer** on Friday, December 29. ✨ 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** ✨ 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 life at Fourth Church** as well as news and updates, subscribe to our weekly newsletter at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Open Sanctuary

Beginning this Monday, **the Fourth Church Sanctuary will be open on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** on days when the church office is open. We look forward to welcoming to our space our guests, neighbors, visitors, tourists, and any who seek a midday place of rest, prayer, and beauty.

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 ✨ **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.