

You are invited!

December 24–December 30, 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 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 next Sunday, December 31, and it will be at 10:00 a.m. (and also livestreamed)**. Our 2:00 service will not be held today or on December 31 but will resume 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 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 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, **this Sunday and December 31 we will be streaming the 10:00 a.m. service** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where it can be viewed any time after the service begins. (*For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning*) We will also be streaming our **8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service** tonight. When our regular schedule resumes on January 7, we will return to livestreaming our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services. ✨ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 10:00 a.m. today and next Sunday as well as 8:00 p.m. this evening.

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 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 is nursery care this morning, there will be **no nursery care this afternoon or evening during the Christmas Eve services 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 service. ✨ On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). Our **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel will not be held this week but will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3. ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 2:00 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

Christmas Eve

We hope you will join us later today and tomorrow in celebrating the birth of Christ! We will gather for **four candlelight Christmas Eve services** this afternoon and evening: 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 Christmas Eve services, 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 each service. ✨ **Discounted parking** for today's afternoon and evening services 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

Tomorrow on **Christmas morning** we will gather again for a joyous service of worship at 10:00 a.m. ✨ Discounted **Christmas Day parking** will be available at the 900 N. Michigan garage only and will cost \$20. Parking validations can be purchased in the Commons tomorrow morning prior to returning to the garage. ✨ We will not be livestreaming the Christmas Day service. Instead we invite those looking for an **online option on Christmas Day** to view the Christmas Eve service from tonight or any of our past seasonal offerings available on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). We will also be sharing there tomorrow morning a brief **Christmas "Rhythm and Word" video**, offering a time of scripture, music, and reflection for Christmas Day.

New Year's Eve

Next **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*). This Taizé service offers moving music, space for prayer, and meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come. (*The 2:00 p.m. service will not be held today or on New Year's 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" offering** 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.

This morning's opportunities

Today **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. Sunday School will not meet next Sunday, December 31 but will resume at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on January 7. ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** and **Junior and Senior High** youth groups are on break until Sunday morning, January 7. ✨ **We will not be hosting Coffee Hour** this morning, due to Christmas Eve scheduling and Anderson Hall being used for Meals Ministry's weekly Sunday Night Supper, which today is being served earlier. On future Sundays we hope you will stay after worship to join us for Coffee Hour fellowship. ✨ On exhibition in the Loggia is "**Light in the Darkness,**" featuring the artwork of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks.

Get connected. Stay connected.

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Our free **Friday Noonday Concerts series** (*in the Sanctuary and livestreamed*) will feature **organist John Sherer** this Friday, December 29. For a schedule of concerts at Fourth Church, see www.fourthchurch.org/concerts ✨ **Center for Life and Learning** winter programming for **adults sixty and over** begins on Tuesday, January 2. See www.fourthchurch.org/cll for details. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets on Tuesday, January 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ "**Finding Faith in Hard Times: When Bad Things Happen to Good People**" is the topic of a three-week Adult Education class led by Amy Pagliarella beginning Sunday, January 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. ✨ Signups are open for 2024 **Meals Ministry volunteer opportunities**. You can find them at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers ✨ 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

Making year-end gifts

For those wanting to have a year-end gift applied to our 2023 budget or fulfill a 2023 Stewardship pledge by credit card, charges must be made to the card by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, December 31 in order for those **gifts to be credited as 2023 contributions**. For those wanting to make a gift or pledge fulfillment by check and have the gift recorded as a 2023 gift, please be sure the envelope is postmarked with a 2023 date. ✨ For information about giving through **stock transfers** or required **distributions** from one's IRA or **prepaying one's 2024 pledge**, please contact Katy Frey Bever (kbever@fourthchurch.org).

Christmas reflections

Daily 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 **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. The next video will be released on **Christmas Day** at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube. On January 3 we will return to releasing the videos on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. To receive them by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.bit.ly/fpcvideos ✨ 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, with recent topics on lesser-known figures of Advent and stories of waiting.

When the season isn't easy

Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened at this time of year. **Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. The season can be lonely, and the turning of the year can be both challenging and an opportunity when we seek someone to walk alongside us in embracing change and opportunity. Such experiences need not be dealt with alone. Fourth Church's **Reprogle 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 Reprogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit www.reproglecenter.org

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.

Campus hours this week

The Fourth Church campus will be closed on Christmas Day (*except for worship at 10:00 a.m.*); on Tuesday, December 26; and on Friday, December 29 (*except for the Friday Noonday concert*). On **Wednesday and Thursday**, December 27–28 the church offices will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The reception desk will also be staffed **Saturday**, December 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.