

You are invited!

February 4–February 10, 2024



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 on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ 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. ✨ **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. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship. ✨ **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 ushers.

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

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** 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.).

Resources for personal reflection

Tom Are invites us to reflect on joy as he leads our current “Rhythm and Word” video series, ten to fifteen minutes of music, scripture, and prayer created for your viewing at home. In the most recent video we look at Paul's letter to the church in Philippi and **what it means to rejoice and experience joy**. You can find the videos—released on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.—**on our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel. ✨ Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are also available as a resource for your personal **meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions

Joining Fourth Church

To **become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to a one-session Inquirers' Class via Zoom this Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. (*for the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/inquirers207*). For more information about joining, contact Associate Pastor Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org).

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. ✨ **“Christians’ Role in Combating Antisemitism”** is the topic of today’s Adult Education class at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aeantisemitism ✨ A **long-range planning feedback session** will be held at 12:30 p.m. today in Borwell Dining Room. *See below for details.* ✨ 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**, a casual, intimate service both in person and livestreamed.

Long-range planning: proposed strategic directions

If you have not yet taken part in a **Long-Range Planning Task Force feedback session**—a time to review **proposed strategic directions and goals** and **provide feedback**—please join us today for **the final session** at 12:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room (*in person; if you did not preregister for this session, please know that space for walk-ins may be limited*). Those who have been unable to participate in a session are asked to **read the strategic plan summary** at fourthchurch.org/about/long-range.html and then please **email your responses** to longrange@fourthchurch.org by Tuesday, February 6.

Annual meeting

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held in the Sanctuary and via Zoom next **Sunday, February 11 at 12:15 p.m.** The Zoom link is posted on our website, as are the minutes from the 2023 meeting and **three proposed amendments to the bylaws** regarding the number of youth Elders and extending tenured officers past their full term to fulfill an unexpired term created by the early withdrawal of an officer in a different class. The congregation will be voting on those amendments as well as the **recommended slate of officers** that will be presented by the Nominating Committee. That slate will be posted online closer to the meeting date.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Next Sunday, February 11 is also the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, when our youth will be in Coffee Hour to collect your contributions of cans of soup, nonperishable food items, or monetary contributions to **support Fourth Church Meals Ministry and the Chicago Lights Social Service Center Food Pantry**. You can also **make a Souper Bowl of Caring gift online** at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online

Gala of Hope

The annual **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope** will be held on Friday evening, March 1. To **reserve tickets** for this evening of dinner, dancing, and silent and live auctions **in support of Chicago Lights programs** or to become an event sponsor, stop by Coffee Hour today or visit one.bidpal.net/galaofhope2024

Observing Lent

This year Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14, when we will gather for **Ash Wednesday services at 12:10 and 6:30 p.m.** Both services will include Communion and the imposition of ashes, and the 6:30 service will also be livestreamed. ✨ If you would like to **volunteer to impose ashes outside the Sanctuary and greet passersby** on Michigan Avenue between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, please sign up at app.vomo.org/opportunity/aotg ✨ Our annual **Path of Discipleship** is an invitation to six weeks of **spiritual growth in Lent**. This year our time will be grounded in **James Martin's book *Jesus: A Pilgrimage***; we will gather on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning February 20. Registration required at www.bit.ly/fpcpod24 ✨ We also invite you to use our **Lenten devotions** as a resource for **personal reflection** during the upcoming season. To receive those meditations daily via email beginning on Ash Wednesday, simply subscribe online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions (*if you already receive our daily devotions, you will be sent the Lenten ones automatically*)

Black History Month

An **opening reception for a new art exhibition** in observance of Black History Month—“The Boldness of Being: The work of Natalie Jackson and Natasha Giles Somerville”—takes place this Friday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Loggia. The exhibit will remain up through Women's History Month.

Get connected

A new Zoom Small Group will discuss Robert P. Jones' *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy*. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Men's Bible Study** meets via Zoom at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. For details, email Simon Crow. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets this Tuesday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ **Books by Women** will discuss *West with Giraffes: A Novel* next Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ This June a group from Fourth Church will spend **six days walking a portion of the Camino de Santiago**, one of Christianity's oldest and most popular pilgrimage routes. To learn more about this pilgrimage in Spain, contact Associate Pastor Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). Registration is due by February 14 at www.bit.ly/caminotrip24

Pastoral care and a listening presence

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@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 Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org) or Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ To **explore options for counseling**, call our **Reprogle Center Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reproglecenter.org. ✨ The Repogle Center facilitates **grief groups**; a **new group** will start in March. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org).