

News and Opportunities

April 30–May 6, 2023



We are glad to be worshipping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church!

✳️ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. ✳️ We invite you 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.



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning service at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where the service is also available for viewing afterwards. ✳️ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the livestreamed service.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 4:00 p.m. for our Jazz at Four service (*with Communion*) in Buchanan Chapel. ✳️ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. For the morning service, access is by the Michigan Avenue doors to the Sanctuary and the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. ✳️ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 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.



Children are always welcome in worship! **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, located on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is available as a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During the morning service **nursery care** is also available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✳️ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✳️ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.

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

We ask all who are worshipping with us to **let us know you are here by filling out an information form**, which also ensures we have current contact information for you. 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 ✨ Those worshipping in person are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following the service.



During the week we make the 10:00 a.m. Sunday **service and sermon available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at **www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts** ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday’s **sermon text by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.



Following worship, a **pipe organ tour** begins at 11:15 a.m. at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ Also following worship, **Deacons are available in Stone Chapel** (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) to pray with individuals who would like to **offer prayers of praise or concern**. ✨ We gather on Wednesdays 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). ✨ The Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. For labyrinth details, email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org). ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and also Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).



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.

Shannon Kershner's last Sunday at Fourth Church will be Sunday, May 28. She will lead us in worship at 10:00 a.m. that morning, and then immediately following the service we will hold a **congregational meeting**, which Session has called for the purpose of formally dissolving the pastoral relationship between Shannon and Fourth Church. The meeting will be both in person in the Sanctuary and livestreamed. Afterwards we will gather in Anderson Hall and the Commons for a festive **reception honoring Shannon**. We hope you will join us for this time of expressing gratitude and well wishes to her and her family as they prepare for the move to Atlanta.



Notes, letters, memories, and photos for Shannon, thanking her for her ministry among us and wishing her well in her new call to Central Presbyterian Church, are being collected through May 21. They can be mailed to the church (*Attn. Memory Box*), dropped off at the church reception desk, or emailed to memorybox@fourthchurch.org. These **private expressions of gratitude, shared memories, and well wishes will be presented to Shannon in a memory box** on May 28.



On Wednesday, the Personnel Council emailed the congregation to share that **Session has approved the recommendation to hire an intentional Interim Pastor**, with a contract for one year maximum that is renewable. *The Interim Pastor will not be our next Senior Pastor*. Rather they will be someone **to guide us during the year or more when we are searching for the next Pastor**. That Interim Pastor will help us do the kind of preparatory work that is important in advance of welcoming a new leader. **The first step in this intentional interim process will be to identify possible candidates for the Interim Pastor position**. This will be the work of an Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) made up of three members of the Personnel Council and two members selected by Session, who will work with Craig Howard, Executive Presbyter for the Chicago Presbytery. ✨ **If you did not receive the email announcement from the Personnel Council**, subscribe to the Fourth Church email newsletter to ensure you see future updates about the process of hiring an Interim Pastor. **Sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc or send your email address to news@fourthchurch.org** ✨ **If you have questions or comments about the transition**, please email them to transition@fourthchurch.org



Our **free Friday Noonday Concert series** will feature soprano Elizabeth Shuman and pianist Young jee Cho this Friday, May 5 at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). ✨ **The Fourth Church Choral Society and St. James Cathedral choirs** are joining together for a **festival choir concert** on Sunday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at St. James (*65 E. Huron*).

This morning's adult education class, "**Aging and Spirituality**," meets at 11:15 a.m. in Room 5F and via Zoom. The class is led by Annette Mileski, Director of our Center for Life and Learning—which offers weekday programming for those sixty and over—and HD Mitchell, Spiritual Director at the Clare—a continuing care senior-living community in downtown Chicago. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aeaging ✨ **Next Sunday a new class will begin** at 11:15 a.m. in Room 4G when Robert Crouch and Jeff Doane will lead us in a discussion of ***Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*** by Dr. Otis Moss III. This class will meet in person only, and participants are asked to read the book in advance. Copies can be purchased from booksellers or borrowed from libraries. Register for the class at www.bit.ly/aedancingdarkness



Opportunities to engage in Bible study include **Men's Bible Study**, which meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Women's Bible Study**, which offers two Zoom gathering times (12:00 and 6:30 p.m.) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month and next meets Wednesday, May 10. For Zoom details for either Bible study, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org) ✨ Another opportunity for biblical study is offered by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger through their "**Bible Top Ten**," a lively, informative, and occasionally funny podcast about the Bible as explored through a rotating series of top ten lists: www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts



A new ten-minute video in our "Rhythm and Word" video series led by Shannon Kershner is released on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.; to receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail ✨ 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



Would you be willing to serve as a Sunday morning **Cookie Table Host, Server, or Hospitality Coordinator**? If so, please sign up online at app.vomo.org/project/coffeehour or contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ We are also looking for individuals to serve as **Youth Ministry Leaders**. To learn more about this opportunity, indicate your interest online at www.bit.ly/youthleaders2324 ✨ You can also **explore other volunteer opportunities** by visiting VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry software platform, at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers or by contacting Director of Volunteer Ministry Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org; 312.981.3382).

Those graduating from eighth grade, high school, college, or a graduate or professional program in 2023 are asked to email their names to Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org) no later than Sunday, May 28. Graduate names received by May 28 will appear in the worship bulletin on June 4, which is **Baccalaureate Sunday** at Fourth Church.



Cornerstones is hosting an **intergenerational Deep Listening Dinner** this Friday evening, May 5 in Anderson Hall, with conversation about generations. There is no charge for the meal, to which **all are invited**; however, seating is limited to seventy-two people and thus **advance registration is required** at www.bit.ly/cornerstones523. ✨ **Benevolent Guild** meets this Wednesday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ **Books by Women** will discuss ***Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets Sunday, May 21 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW)** gathers for brunch on Sunday morning, May 21, with those joining in this time of fellowship meeting at the reception desk following worship to walk together to a nearby restaurant. ✨ For **additional ways to connect** with one another and Fourth Church, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources**, watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org). ✨ Events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar



Fourth Church Meals Ministry is grateful to all who have contributed snacks and supplies for Bag Lunch and Sunday and Monday Night Suppers this year. **Needed food items can be ordered online** and shipped directly to the church using the links at www.fourthchurch.org/meals



Borwell Dining Room and some other Gratz Center spaces are temporarily closed as we do spring refreshing of those rooms, which have seen much use since we opened the Gratz Center in 2012!



After Labor Day we will be adding a second Sunday morning worship service. Beginning Sunday, September 10, we will be worshipping at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Until then, and through the summer, we will continue to worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. ✨ In late May our 4:00 p.m. service will enter a summer sabbatical season of rest and refocusing for the future. We will continue to worship at 4:00 p.m. through and including Sunday, May 21, and then, **beginning Memorial Day weekend, we will not worship at 4:00 p.m. during the summer.** Our afternoon service will resume on Sunday, September 10.