

You are invited!

December 3–December 9, 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 worshiping 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 worshiping 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 worshiping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an information form. Those worshiping 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 worshiping 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. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ✽ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Repogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/repoglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Advent reflections

The season of Advent begins today! **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 if you don't already receive our devotions*), 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 the videos 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

Sharing Christmas joy

A list of items needed by this **Monday, December 4** for our **Meals Ministry Christmas Gift Bag Drive** can be found on the church website (www.fourthchurch.org). The drive is in need of McDonald's gift cards of \$10 each as well; cards can be dropped off or mailed to the church to the attention of Meals Ministry. ☀ Also on the church website is a list of books needed by this **Wednesday, December 6** for our **Christmas Wishes project to provide gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students**. Additionally we are collecting gift cards for Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's and welcome monetary contributions (*designated "Christmas Wishes"*) towards purchase of these gifts. Books and gift cards dropped off at the church for Christmas Wishes should be marked to the attention of Simon Crow. For details, see the website. ☀ 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; 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 worshiping in the Sanctuary can also use the offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

Christmas flowers

We invite you to **remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Christmas flowers**, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary and Gratz Center. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online** at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by next Sunday, December 10 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (312.252.3571; gvicente@fourthchurch.org).

Advent and Christmas worship

In addition to our worship services on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., we have some special services on the calendar that we hope you will put on yours. Our **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** service will take place next Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ☀ On Sunday, 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 morning 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*).

Today's opportunities

"**How (Not) to Build a School in Haiti: Conversation with Filmmakers**" is the topic of today's Adult Education class taking place at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom (*for details register at www.bit.ly/aehaitidocumentary*). ☀ 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.

Coming up this week

Knitting and Crocheting meets this Tuesday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ☀ A **Chanticleer Christmas** takes place Tuesday and Wednesday, December 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (*for tickets, see www.cso.org*). ☀ **Benevolent Guild** meets Wednesday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. ☀ An opening reception for the **art exhibition "Light in the Darkness,"** featuring the work of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks, will be held this Friday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m. in the Loggia. ☀ On Friday, December 8, **Chicago a cappella** will perform **Holidays a cappella** at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel (*for tickets, see chicagoacappella.org*). ☀ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** meets for brunch and games following the 9:30 a.m. service next Sunday, December 10. ☀ **"Conserving Historic Murals by Frederic Clay Bartlett: A Primer in Art Conservation"** will be the topic of a presentation Sunday, December 10 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom (*for the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aebartlett*). ☀ 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**

Our shared commitment. Our shared work.

If you have not yet made your **2024 Stewardship pledge** (www.bit.ly/fpcpledging), please take a moment to do so to **help us reach our congregational goals!** As of this week, 562 of our households have made a pledge to Fourth Church for next year, with those totaling \$2,222,841, or **74 percent of our 2024 goal** of \$3,000,000. We are 93 percent of the way toward the 2024 Chicago Lights goal of \$750,000, with 324 of our households having pledged, in total, \$693,993.

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. ☀ **Our Repogle 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 Repogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ☀ **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.