

December 15–21, 2019

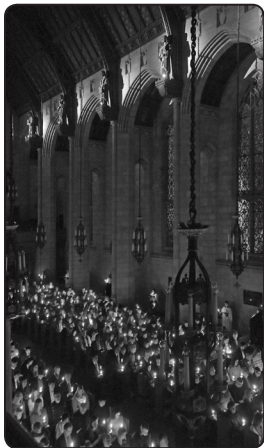
The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

News and Opportunities



We are glad to have you with us 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.

The **“Longest Night” service**, which will be held this Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes the feelings of loneliness and grief that are often present during the holiday season. * **Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. 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. Call the Center at 312.787.8425 for details. * **Stephen Ministry** also offers caring, one-to-one listening relationships for those facing life’s challenges. Learn more at the Stephen Ministry table during Coffee Hour.



We will gather for four ◀ candlelight **Christmas Eve services** on Tuesday, December 24: 4:00 p.m. Children’s Pageant; 6:00 p.m. Family Service; 8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols; and 10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols. * For those worshipping at 6:00, 8:00, or 10:00, **all entry to the Sanctuary will be from Michigan Avenue entrances**; those worshipers arriving before the Sanctuary has been emptied after the previous service will be invited to join the queue that will start at the glass Loggia doors (accessible via Michigan Avenue). Once those lines have dissipated, access will be allowed via the Sanctuary entrance on Michigan Avenue. * We will be **live streaming** the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service for those who are unable to be with us or who want to share the service with those who are out of town. The live stream will be available at www.bit.ly/FPCworship (and on the Fourth Church website), where it will also be available after Christmas Eve.

This “News and Opportunities” insert is our invitation to you to join us in taking part in the programs and resources available to you here at Fourth Church, all of which welcome newcomers. On our website you will find even more opportunities, as well as the page www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up with details about signing up for the programs listed here. To receive our weekly email newsletter, subscribe at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

On **Christmas Day** we will gather for worship at 11:00 a.m. * The Christmas Day service will be followed by a traditional **Christmas dinner** at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall as a time to share Christmas with friends new and old. Dinner reservations (*required*) can be made online www.bit.ly/cdin2019 * **A candlelit New Year's Eve Taizé service** will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Tuesday, December 31.

A **congregational meeting** will take place today in the Sanctuary following the 11:00 a.m. service. Session has called the meeting for the purpose of our acting to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Judy Watt, who is retiring today. * Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Deacons in honor of her, and a **reception for Judy** will also take place in Anderson Hall immediately following the congregational meeting.

This weekend we have three musical treats for you: our **organist John Sherer** will present the free Friday Noonday Concert this week. *

The popular **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert ► will take place this Saturday at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. * On Sunday, December 22, the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services will include this year's **Christmas Cantata: A Winter's Night** by Cecilia McDowall.



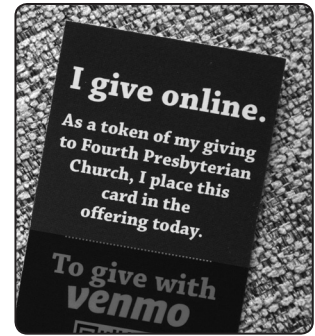
“What prayers are you planting to take root in the world?” Stop by one of the tree-topped tables in the Narthex, Commons, or Allison Library and write on a ribbon strip what prayers you are planting. These ribbons will then line the manger on Christmas Eve. * There are two weeks left in the **Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge**. Details are posted at www.fourthchurch.org/advent-photo. Search Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for #adventfpc2019 to see what others have posted!

“Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling” Family Night will be Friday evening, December 20 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room, featuring games, food, cookie decorating, ► and singing. * Next Sunday, December 22 is the last day to sign up for the **youth ski trip to Cascade Mountain, Wisconsin**, January 17–19. Details are on the online Sign-Up Page noted at the bottom of the facing page. * There will be **no Sunday School** on December 29 and January 5; parents are encouraged to have their children worship with them those Sundays. Nursery care will be available during the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services for those three and younger.



Did you know that more than 4,000 people around the world receive **devotions** from Fourth Church in their inbox every morning? To receive them by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions. They are also available at **facebook.com/fourthchurch**, **Twitter** (@FourthChicago), and www.fourthchurch.org; and in booklets in the literature racks.

Whether you give through Venmo (@Fourth-Church), online via our website, electronically via automatic debits to your bank or credit card, or through gifts of stock or make your contributions monthly, quarterly, or annually, we want you to take part in our communal offering of our gifts. If you give in one of these ways, we encourage you to use the **new “I give” cards**, which you will find in the pew racks. At the time of the offering, as others place envelopes, checks, or cash into the offering plate, we invite you to acknowledge your giving in other forms by placing one of the “I give” cards ► into the offering plate. * We are counting on **gifts pledged for 2019** to be fully fulfilled by year end to ensure the budgets



of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights can be met. If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Andrea Miller know (amiller@fourthchurch.org) so we might plan accordingly. Thank you! * **For information about making gifts** through stock transfers or required distributions from one’s IRA or prepaying one’s 2020 pledge, please contact Katy Frey Bever (kbever@fourthchurch.org).

“Jehovah’s Favorite Choir: **The Biblical Story in the Songs and Shows of the Grateful Dead**,” taught by Andy McGaan, concludes this morning at 9:30 a.m. * The weekly **“Foundations of Faith” Bible study** led by pastoral staff continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to view past sessions of the study, you can do so at www.bit.ly/fpcbiblefoundations * Applications for mission trips to **Guatemala** (July 5–12) and **Colombia** (August 1–8) are due January 15 and May 1 respectively.

Today is the last day to submit **a favorite photo of your family** along with a brief caption for the LGBTQIA Widening Our Welcome group’s celebration of the diversity of our Fourth Church families! From the submissions, several images will be selected to be displayed in a Loggia Gallery exhibit from January 6 through February 26. See www.fourthchurch.org/familyphotos for more details on how to submit a photo at as high a resolution as possible. * The monthly **LGBTQIA brunch** will be next Sunday, December 22 at 12:15 p.m. at a nearby restaurant.

We are in need of volunteers to **greet and welcome those attending the Christmas Eve services** at 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m.; * **help with the Book Nook** during Coffee Hours following the 9:30 and 11:00 services; * **create and manage spreadsheets** one day a week for a church program. * For details, please see the Sign-Up Page noted below, or email Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org). * If you have volunteered with Fourth Church previously, you will have received an email **invitation to register with our new volunteer management software, VOMO**, to make it possible for you to easily sign up for and manage your volunteer opportunities. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to register soon.

**To sign up for opportunities described in this newsletter,
please see the Sign-Up Page: www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up**

Calendar for December 15–21, 2019

- Sunday, December 15 8:00 a.m. Worship • Judith L. Watt preaching. Sanctuary**
Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal Buchanan Chapel Choir Loft
 9:00, 10:00, 10:30 a.m. Cherub/Youth/Children’s Choir Rehearsals. Room 4F
 9:00, 10:30 a.m.; 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour Anderson Hall / Commons
 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Nursery. Nursery / Day School
 9:30 a.m. “A Year with the Bible” Room 5E
 9:30 a.m. “Jehovah’s Favorite Choir” Room 5G
 9:30 a.m. Junior High Youth Group Bumpus Room
 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School. Gratz Fourth Floor
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship • Judith L. Watt preaching. Sanctuary
 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Time of Prayer with Deacons Stone Chapel
 10:30 a.m. All-Youth Fellowship Allison Library
 11:00 a.m. Confirmation with Sinai Congregation Room 4G
 11:00 a.m. “Spiritual Discernment” Room 5E
 11:00 a.m. Senior High Youth Group Bumpus Room
12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Reception for Judy Watt Coffee Hour
 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Tour Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Organ Tour Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four • Nanette Sawyer preaching Buchanan Chapel
 5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper Anderson Hall
- Monday, December 16 9:00 a.m. Day School (*also Tues.–Fri.*) Day School Classrooms
 4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper Catholic Charities
- Tuesday, December 17 7:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study. Offsite
 7:45 a.m. Sacred Pause Meditation. Stone Chapel
 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunches (*also Wed.–Thurs.*) . . . Anderson Hall
6:30 p.m. The Longest Night Service Buchanan Chapel
- Wednesday, December 18 9:00 a.m. Day School Storytime. Room 4A
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer. Stone Chapel
 9:30 a.m. Benevolent Guild Room 5B
- Thursday, December 19 7:00 a.m. Men’s Faith Discussion Group. Randolph Room
- Friday, December 20 12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert: John W. W. Sherer, organ. Sanctuary
 5:30 p.m. “Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling” Family Night. . Borwell Dining Room
- Saturday, December 21 5:00 p.m. A Tower Brass Christmas Sanctuary

See www.fourthchurch.org/calendar for a complete events calendar, including online registration links.

www.fourthchurch.org • www.facebook.com/fourthchurch • www.instagram.com/fourthchurch

News and Opportunities, which is distributed during Sunday worship, is also available in the church literature racks and at www.fourthchurch.org. The reception desk of Fourth Presbyterian Church is at 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014. Phone: 312.787.4570 | www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch