## **News and Opportunities**

remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating.

March 12-18, 2023

We are glad to be worshiping 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.



Although wearing a mask is not required at Fourth Church, we as a community have made a commitment to be a mask-welcoming campus, encouraging the wearing of masks by anyone who wants or needs to wear one. As a mask-welcoming campus, we remain committed to ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at Fourth Church.

\*\* In the Sanctuary, the front section on the pulpit side is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing, and everyone sitting in that section is required to wear a mask. The



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 to the morning service via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of 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 \*\* Available by podcast as well is Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger's "Bible Top Ten," a lively, informative, and occasionally funny podcast about the Bible as explored through a rotating series of top ten lists.

**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 those who are worshiping with us to please fill out an information form so we might know you are here and to ensure we have current contact information. Those worshiping with us online will find a link to the online form included in the descriptive text below the video (if you are viewing full screen, you will need to briefly exit full-screen view to see the description and link); 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.



If you would like to join us for in-person worship, we gather each Sunday 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 the worship service 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.



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). \*\* To submit a prayer request to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@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 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.).

**Each Sunday during Lent we are extinguishing a candle** at the front of the Sanctuary. Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion.



Also during Lent our worship includes the Exchange of Peace. In the Reformed tradition this follows the Declaration of Pardon and is a response to God's forgiveness. This exchange of signs and words of unity and of Christ's peace is an ancient greeting of siblings in Christ. It is a time when we extend to one another what we ourselves have received from God in Christ. You might simply say "The peace of Christ be with you" or "Peace be with you," the greeting of Jesus Christ to his disciples after his resurrection. By exchanging the Peace of Christ to one another, we witness to God's reconciling love.



**Today we continue the sermon series "I believe . . ."**—an opportunity for us to take **a closer look at the Apostles' Creed,** which we use as one of our Affirmations of Faith. If you have ever wondered why we often say this ancient creed in worship, have found yourself pausing after stating "I believe," or maybe have at times thought that perhaps you did not believe all of the phrases, we hope you will continue to join us in worship this Lent and Eastertide as we explore what we believe together.



Those worshiping in person are invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following the service. \*\* Those who enjoy **expressing their faith through hospitality** or are interested in being **a welcoming presence at Coffee Hour** are encouraged to sign up online at app.vomo.org/project/coffeehour to be a **Cookie Table Host, Server, or Hospitality Coordinator.** For details, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*). \*\* To receive our Jazz at Four email newsletter, with **weekly information about the afternoon service** as well as reflections from our worship leaders, subscribe at www.bit.ly/jazzatfournews



This Sunday and next **Tom Dozeman is teaching a class on "The Ancestors in Genesis,"** exploring the themes of identity that emerge—both for ancient Israel and for contemporary readers—in the three cycles of stories about Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah; and Jacob, Leah, and Rachel. In looking at these stories, which are "complex and hardly heroic," we are also examining the aim of the biblical authors in composing the literature and the different ways in which readers have found identity in the stories. The class meets in person at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room.

The season of Lent calls Christians to embrace the faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs. We are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in these weeks in preparation for Holy Week and Christ's journey to the cross. \*\* A quiet candlelit Lenten Taizé service—a contemplative time of meditative song, silent reflection, and prayer for peace, reconciliation, and unity—will be held on Friday evening, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. \*\* Our daily Lenten devotions (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions) are a resource for reflection during this season. To receive these meditations daily via email, simply subscribe online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions \*\* Also available as a resource is our Lenten "Rhythm and Word" video series. These brief videos (approximately ten minutes each) have been created by Rocky Supinger and the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet and weave together scripture, prayer, and music. A new video is released on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) each Lenten Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. To receive them by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail



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, March 22. For Zoom details for either Bible study, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*).



You are invited to **remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Easter flowers** that will decorate the Sanctuary and Buchanan Chapel. A list of individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by Sunday, March 26 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (*gvicente@fourthchurch.org*; 312.252.3571).



Nancy Benson-Nicol and Lucy Forster-Smith will lead a **Ghost Ranch Pilgrimage of Faith and Learning** on May 15–19 in Abiquiu, New Mexico. To express interest and learn more, complete the form at www.bit.ly/ghostranchinterest23 **\*\* Singers and nonsingers alike** are invited to take part in the **Fourth Church Choir tour to India** in February 2024. Applications are due April 1, 2023. For details, see www.fourthchurch.org/music/india.pdf or email Emily Cox (ecox@fourthchurch.org). **\*\*** The **Fourth Church Choral Society** will present a concert of coronation music written by Handel, Parry, and Vaughan Williams with singers from St. James Cathedral (65 E. Huron) on May 21. All who enjoy singing are invited to the first rehearsal on Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

Books by Women will discuss Oh William! by Elizabeth Strout this Tuesday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. \*\*Benevolent Guild meets Wednesday, March 15 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. Sewing experience is not required. \*\*Knitting and Crocheting meets next Sunday, March 19 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5B and on Tuesday, March 28 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). \*\*Women at Fourth will have a book swap on Thursday, March 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. Registration (www.bit.ly/fpcwaf323) is required. \*\*Cornerstones, a group for those fifty and older, meets on Friday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and a program by aquatic ecologist Timothy Hollein, who will talk about cleaning waterways contaminated with plastics. Registration (www.bit.ly/cornerstones423) is required. \*\*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



The Chicago Lights Social Service Center is **in need of paper grocery bags and** heavy plastic bags, large shopping bags, backpacks, suitcases, duffel bags, blankets, sleeping bags, athletic shoes (*sizes* 6–12), men's sweatpants (*S*, *M*, *L*), and men's pants or jeans (*sizes* 30–38). Items can be dropped off at the reception desk (*enter at* 126 *E. Chestnut*) between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and Sundays. \*\* The Michigan Avenue Forum Committee is looking for individuals to join them in **planning events featuring important religious and secular thinkers discussing current civic, ethical, and religious issues.** To express interest, email Lucy Forster-Smith (*lforster-smith@fourthchurch.org*).



Those who are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church** are invited to a one-session **Inquirers' Class** next Sunday, March 19 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Room 5F (*register online at www.bit.ly/inquirers323*). For more information, email member@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. \*\* 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 is an emergency or requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.