

# You are invited!

October 29–November 4, 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 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](http://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](http://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 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](http://fourthchurch.org/podcasts) ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** ([fourthchurch.org/sermons](http://fourthchurch.org/sermons)) **by email** by subscribing at [www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://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](mailto: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 Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing) on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

## Resources for personal reflection

Our **daily devotions** ([fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://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](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) ✨ Our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for your viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube, where you can also view videos from previous series. To receive the videos by email, sign up at [www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail](http://www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail); you can also **subscribe to our YouTube channel** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos))

## About Fourth Church

To **learn more about this congregation or become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to the online Inquirers' Class on November 8 at 6:30 p.m. For details, register at [www.bit.ly/inquirers1123](http://www.bit.ly/inquirers1123)

## Today is Commitment Sunday!

Today is Commitment Sunday, the day we lift up our pledges to our 2024 stewardship campaign for Fourth Church and Chicago Lights. Following the sermon we will bring forward our pledges and dedicate them to the work of God's kingdom, as **we each answer the invitation to join in God's re-creating and reconciling work in this world through our financial support.** If you have not already made your pledge for 2024 indicating your support for and investment in the work of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights, we encourage you to take this opportunity to do so by filling out the form at [www.bit.ly/fpcclpledge](http://www.bit.ly/fpcclpledge) or by using the pledge cards found in the pew racks. *(If you have already submitted your pledge, in the pew racks there are blue "I pledged" cards to bring forward.)*

## Today is also Reformation Sunday

Today is also Reformation Sunday, a day when we recall **the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition.** The Presbyterian Church (USA) grew out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century under leaders such as John Calvin and John Knox. The last Sunday in October has been chosen as Reformation Sunday because it was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, the watershed event sparking the Reformation. Today we remember and give thanks for Reformation leaders and all others who have kept the faith. As part of our observance, Pat Higgins will play a **bagpipe recessional**, reminding us of the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian church. ✨ Next Sunday, November 5 is **All Saints' Sunday**, a day when we lift up those whose baptism is new and those whose baptism is now complete. As part of our remembrance of the faithful who have gone before us and our honoring of departed loved ones, the names of all Fourth Church members who have entered the Church Triumphant in the past year will be read during worship. During the morning services that day we will celebrate Communion, and the Morning Choir will sing the twenty-five-minute **A New England Requiem by Scott Perkins.** *(And don't forget: Daylight Saving Time ends next Sunday, November 5; be sure to set your clocks back an hour!)*

## Today we also welcome our Interim Pastor!

Tripling the reason for celebration on this Commitment and Reformation Sunday, today we also **welcome the Reverend Tom Are Jr. as our Interim Pastor!** Tom will be preaching this morning and also this afternoon at The Gathering: Communion at 2:00, and we will have a Coffee Hour reception following each service. We are delighted to have Tom and his wife, Carol, with us as we look forward to our season of ministry together. Please join us in extending to them a very warm Fourth Church welcome in the days ahead.

**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](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

## 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. ✨ **Arne Duncan**, former US Secretary of Education and a former CEO of Chicago Public Schools, will talk about the work of **Chicago CRED** (“Create Real Economic Destiny”) during today’s **“Stop the Shooting”** class, which meets at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/aestoptheshooting](http://www.bit.ly/aestoptheshooting) ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G. **Junior High** (grades 6–7) gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room, and at 11:00 a.m. **Senior High** also meets in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ 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 as well, features a breadth of musical expressions.

## This Thursday: A Michigan Avenue Forum

This Thursday, November 2 the **Michigan Avenue Forum “Understanding Antisemitism”** will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed at [www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). A panel of Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg; Becca Lubow, community organizer at Jewish Council on Urban Affairs; and Associate Pastor Nanette Sawyer will discuss the history of antisemitism, including the Christian church’s role in its promotion and perpetuation; the rise in violent episodes and hate crimes; and concrete strategies for non-Jewish houses of worship to dismantle antisemitism and pursue reconciliation and healing.

## Planning for our future

Please plan to join the Long-Range Planning Task Force for one of **two additional town halls** scheduled for November to provide an in-depth look at the long-range planning work. The first will be held in person next Sunday, November 5 at 12:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. The second will be via Zoom on Sunday, November 12 at 10:45 a.m. (*Details will be available prior to each session.*) A **recording of the town hall on October 15** as well as a link to **the October presentation slides** can be found at [www.fourthchurch.org/about/long-range.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/about/long-range.html); for details email [longrange@fourthchurch.org](mailto:longrange@fourthchurch.org)

## Exploring the Bible

**Men’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Wednesday, November 8 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)). ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger also invite you to tune in to the their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** ([www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts](http://www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts)). This lively, informative, and occasionally funny podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

## Get connected

**Cornerstones**, a group for those fifty and over, will meet this Friday, November 3 for dinner and a program by Armedia Houston, Director of the Chicago Lights Tutoring and Summer Day Programs. Register (*required by October 30*) at [www.bit.ly/cornerstones1123](http://www.bit.ly/cornerstones1123) for this 5:30 p.m. event that will be held in Borwell Dining Room. ✿ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets on Tuesday, November 7 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✿ The **Fourth Church Choral Society** will present a **concert honoring Morgan Simmons**, former Fourth Church Organist and Choirmaster, on Friday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online. ✿ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW)** will meet for pizza and games at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 12 in the Manse. ✿ The **Spiritual Formation fall workshop “Pilgrimage”** on Saturday, November 18 will provide opportunity to learn how a pilgrimage can deepen your faith and prepare the way to step out of the busyness of life; come find the sacred within while building community. This 10:00 a.m. workshop will be held in Buchanan Chapel as well as via Zoom ([www.bit.ly/pilgrimage1123](http://www.bit.ly/pilgrimage1123)). ✿ 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** ✿ We invite you to follow us on **Facebook** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), **YouTube** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)), and **Instagram** ([instagram.com/fourthchurch](https://instagram.com/fourthchurch)). ✿ Be sure to bookmark our **online church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at **fourthchurch.org/calendar**

## Volunteers needed

**Communion Servers** are needed on Sunday morning, November 5. If you are interested in serving, email Katie Patterson ([kpatterson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kpatterson@fourthchurch.org)). ✿ **We have a waitlist of Chicago Lights Tutoring students in need of tutors** on weekday evenings (for ninety minutes)—in person (*Tuesdays and Wednesdays*) or online (*Mondays*). For details or to sign up, see [www.chicagolights.org/tutoring](http://www.chicagolights.org/tutoring). ✿ We are in need of **doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and medical students** to assist with medical services at **Sunday Night Supper**. To learn more, email Mike Usiak ([musiak@fourthchurch.org](mailto:musiak@fourthchurch.org)).

## Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email [caringministries@fourthchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto: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. ✿ During **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** the **purple ribbons** along Michigan Avenue are our public witness to all affected by domestic violence.