



You belong here!

This may be your first time in worship at Fourth Presbyterian Church, or perhaps you worship here so often you call Fourth Church “home”; in either case, **we are grateful for your presence** today. Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone — without exception—into the life of this congregation. No matter where you may be in your faith journey, no matter what questions or burdens you may bring to this place, we take seriously that God loves everyone, so you belong here.

Every Sunday we read the old biblical stories and sing hymns (some of which our grandparents sang), while also engaging the world we live in this minute through liturgy, prayers, and sermons. **By connecting the story of our lives to the story of Christ’s life, we discover hope and even joy**, and are inspired to reflect the light of Christ to the city **as we live out our calling to love God and love one another.**

If you are new to us, stick around after worship. Join us for Coffee Hour, or speak to one of our pastors. We have many programs to expand your spirit and enrich your life. We would love to tell you more. **Give us a try; soon you too might be calling Fourth Church “home.”**

Worshipping in Person at Fourth Church

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. If you like to worship with us in person, beginning next Sunday we will gather weekly at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Entering the building

A half hour prior to each service the doors open for worship. There is an entrance without steps leading to the Sanctuary on Michigan Avenue, through the glass Loggia doors. There are also two fully accessible entrances: at 126 E. Chestnut and 115 E. Delaware.

Parking

Information on discounted parking is on the back cover. If you have not set up an online payment account for discounted parking at the 900 garage, ushers have information cards to help. Volunteers at the Coffee Hour Connection Corner are available to assist, as well.

Sound

- Worship can be heard through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids.
- Please silence electronic devices during worship.

Worshipping Online

Livestream

We are livestreaming this morning's service—and beginning next week will livestream our 9:30 a.m. service—at bit.ly/fpcvideos, which is also accessible from the home page of our website: fourthchurch.org

Worship can be viewed anytime after the service has begun. For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning

Online extras

Links to make an online offering gift, view or print the worship bulletin, and more can be found in the descriptive text below the worship video (*after exiting full screen*) as well as on our website.

For those without Internet

Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Podcasts

Podcast offerings from Fourth Church—available on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts—include the Sunday worship service and sermon; weekly “Rhythm and Word” reflections; and “Bible Top Ten.”

Caring for One Another

Pastoral care

If you would like to talk to a pastor or notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@fourthchurch.org). If the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

Stephen Ministry

For a one-to-one listening presence through life challenges, consider being paired with a Stephen Minister. For information, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365 or contact Associate Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org).

Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, join us for Inquirers' Class at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, September 21 (register at bit.ly/inquirers92025).

Let Us Know You're Here!

We are grateful to be worshipping with you today and would welcome knowing you are here. Please take a moment to fill out an information form.

In person

Those worshipping with us in person are asked to add their names to the pads in the pews, passing the pads to the center of the row and then back again so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following worship.

Online

Those worshipping via livestream will find a link to the online form in the text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form.

Two Worship Services Next Sunday

Beginning Sunday, September 7, we return to gathering for two Sunday worship services: 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

That Sunday will also be our annual Get Connected Sunday, when you will have opportunity to learn about the many groups and programs being offered this fall!

Welcoming Camille Cook Howe: Sept. 21

Be sure to mark Sunday, September 21 on your calendar, as that will be the day when the Reverend Dr. Camille Cook Howe, our next Pastor, preaches and leads us in worship for the first time.

Sunday, October 19 will also be a special day in our relationship with Camille: she will be officially installed as Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago during the 9:30 a.m. service that morning (we will only have one worship service that day). Please plan to be with us to celebrate this exciting new chapter in the life of our congregation!

Fourth Church's Antiracism Covenant

The Racial Equity Committee welcomes hearing from those who have questions or comments about our recently adopted Antiracism Covenant, which can be found at bit.ly/covenantfpc; the REC also invites those who would like to join them in supporting this important work to email the committee at rec@fourthchurch.org



Connections and Belonging

Come connect with others as we foster a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone feels supported in building meaningful relationships

In-Person Coffee Hour

All who are worshiping with us in person are invited to stop by Anderson Hall and the Commons after the service for our weekly Coffee Hour opportunity to greet each other and learn about ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church.

Online Coffee Hour

If you are worshiping with us via livestream, we would be delighted if you would also join us for opportunity to connect with one another in our online Coffee Hour. We gather via Zoom at 11:00 a.m., following the livestream of worship, for a time of fellowship.

Zoom link: bit.ly/coffeehourfpc; passcode: 676359

Purposeful Retirement

The “Purposeful Retirement” program, which begins Wednesday, September 10, invites you to join a new cohort of people who will collaborate and support each other in planning or retooling their retirement to combine passions and service for greater impact.

Learn more about this opportunity—and register for the series—at bit.ly/purposeful2025

Center for Life and Learning Membership

A new session of fitness classes along with lectures and arts courses for adults sixty and over kicks off Monday, September 8, when the Center for Life and Learning begins their autumn programming. For details and to register for CLL membership, see fourthchurch.org/cll

Friday Noonday Concerts

Our free Friday Noonday Concerts return to the Sanctuary (and via livestream) this Friday at 12:10 p.m. with a piano-and-flute program by Paula Gudmundson and Diana Shapiro. To receive our weekly “Music Notes” newsletter about upcoming concerts at Fourth Church, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcmusicnotes

Get Connected Sunday: September 7!

We hope you will be with us next Sunday, September 7 when we kick off a new program year with our annual Get Connected Sunday!

A new season of Sunday School classes, youth groups, and Adult Education will begin that day, and a festive Coffee Hour will offer opportunity to reconnect with one another and with Fourth Church, as our ministries highlight programs and events for you to explore this fall.

Opportunities to Connect

Knitting and Crocheting

Knitting and Crocheting, which supplies partners in the city with handcrafted items for warmth and comfort, meets Tuesday, September 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B.

Cornerstones

The Cornerstones fellowship group for those fifty and over will gather for dinner and a program featuring Joe Ferguson, President of the Civic Federation, talking about “The Case for a City Charter” on Friday, September 5 at 5:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Register (*required*) at bit.ly/cornerstones2509

Books by Women

Books by Women, which invites readers into a monthly conversation about a selected work, will discuss *The Guns of August* by Barbara W. Tuchman on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Benevolent Guild

Benevolent Guild, which creates items for those in need, resumes meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B on September 10.

New Zoom Small Group: “The Wisdom Pattern”

A new Zoom Small Group will begin on Thursday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting for six weeks, the group will discuss *The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder* by Richard Rohr while exploring the journey of embracing disruption as we move toward deeper wisdom, compassion, and a more integrated faith. For details, contact Katie (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).



Faith Formation

Join us on our journey to grow spiritually through worship, educational opportunities, and programs that nurture faith across all ages

Children, Youth, and Family

Children in worship

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.

Also during morning worship, nursery care is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

Sunday School

Sunday School resumes next Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 a.m., with classes for three-year-olds through fifth-graders meeting on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center.

To celebrate our new Sunday School year, families will also gather for “Family Donut Sunday” in the 4C Lounge following the 9:30 a.m. service next Sunday.

Youth groups

Youth groups also resume next Sunday, September 7, with Junior High (grades 6–8) at 9:30 a.m. and Senior High (grades 9–12) meeting at 11:00 a.m., both in the Bumpus Room.

Confirmation

Eighth-grade Confirmation will begin with a gathering on Friday, September 19 and meet monthly. Youth can register at bit.ly/fpcconfirmation25 or contact Nance Bartell (nbartell@fourthchurch.org) for more information.

Prophetic Wisdom for a Hurting World

Sunday morning Adult Education classes will resume next Sunday, September 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and online.

The first class of the fall will be “Prophetic Wisdom for a Hurting World.” Using Richard Rohr’s book *The Tears of Things* and the teaching of the Hebrew prophets as a guide, our discussions will be led by Dr. Maisha Handy, President, McCormick Theological Seminary (Sept. 7); Vicky Curtiss, Program Director, Siena Retreat Center (Sept. 14); and Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate (Sept. 21). Register at bit.ly/prophetic2509

The Bible in 100 Passages

On Sunday, September 14 we will launch a new devotional series: “The Bible in 100 Passages,” in which we will cover all thirty-nine books in the Old Testament through 100 key texts.

Our weekly “Rhythm and Word” video reflections will also focus on these same passages, and a monthly in-person Bible study beginning in October will be part of this congregational journey through the Old Testament books.

If you do not already receive our daily devotions, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcdevotions to join in reading the Bible “in 100 passages” beginning September 14—and watch for details about the in-person monthly study.

Bible Studies via Zoom

Men’s Bible Study

Men’s Bible Study gathers via Zoom weekly on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Women’s Bible Studies

Beginning September 10, the fall *Horizons* Women’s Bible Studies—with the theme “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ”—will meet via Zoom on second and fourth Wednesdays, with a midday and evening study at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m.

For Zoom details, contact Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

“Rhythm and Word” Videos and Podcast

Each week we share a five-minute video and podcast reflection by one of the pastors. To receive them in your inbox on Wednesday evenings, sign up at bit.ly/rhythmandword or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos).

You can also listen to these reflections via podcast: fourthchurch.org/podcasts

Beginning on Wednesday, September 17, these reflections will be offered by Matt Helms and will be part of the “Bible in 100 Passages” series (*see above*).

Prayer

Sunday Morning Prayer with Deacons

If you would like to offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon, you are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (through the door to the right of the pulpit) following worship.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

On Wednesdays we gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. to remember in prayer members of the congregation, all those who are in need, and mission partners around the world. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for Zoom details.

Prayer requests

If you would like to submit a prayer request to our Deacon and Morning Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@fourthchurch.org).

News, Views, and Updates

News @ Fourth Church

Look for information, updates, and snapshots of life at Fourth Church in our weekly email newsletter “News @ Fourth Church.” Subscribe at bit.ly/newsfromfpc, and visit our news archive at fourthchurch.org/news

Calendar

Looking for a calendar of Fourth Church events?

- See the facing page for this week’s opportunities
- Scroll to the bottom of fourthchurch.org
- Tap on the website menu option for calendar: fourthchurch.org/calendar, where you can add events to your digital calendar

YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram

We invite you to follow us on various platforms.

- YouTube: bit.ly/fpcvideos
- Facebook: facebook.com/fourthchurch
- Instagram: instagram.com/fourthchurch



Community Engagements and Partnerships

Come alongside us as together, through programs and collaboration with partners, we advocate for social and community needs

Volunteer Training

Our Volunteer Ministry Team encourages anyone who volunteers with Fourth Church—or is interested in doing so in the coming year—to attend a one-hour emergency response training program on Sunday, September 14 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 4G. Register at bit.ly/training202509

Serving with Meals Ministry

Fourth Church Meals Ministry has openings for volunteers to serve between now and September 30. You can sign up for them at bit.ly/fpcvolunteers

For more information about how you can support this program, contact Mike Usiak (musiak@fourthchurch.org), Meals Ministry Manager.

Mud Theatre Presents *Jabril's Chains*

As part of Fourth Church’s commitment to restorative justice, on Thursday, October 16, we are honored to be hosting the premiere of the play *Jabril's Chains* by Mud Theatre Project.

Mud Theatre’s nationally recognized plays are written and performed by incarcerated persons and returning citizens. Their director, Brian Beals, having served thirty-five years on a wrongful conviction, was inspired to create the project as he witnessed the power of the arts to give voice to the voiceless and empower those who have been in troubling situations.

The 6:30 p.m. performance in Buchanan Chapel will be preceded by a 5:30 p.m. reception in Anderson Hall. Tickets (*required*) are available at bit.ly/jabrilchains; a portion of the price will be donated to Restore Justice.

Calendar for August 31–September 6, 2025

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary / Online
August 31	10:00 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room.	Hospitality Suite
	10:00 a.m.	Nursery.	Room 4A
	11:00 a.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Online Coffee Hour.	Zoom
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30).	Anderson Hall

Monday, September 1 • Labor Day • Church Offices and Campus Closed

Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
September 2	9:00 a.m.	Heartland Alliance Medical Clinic.	Randolph Room
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	10:00 a.m.	Knitting and Crocheting.	Room 5B
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00)	Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Shower Ministry	Showers
	6:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F
	6:30 p.m.	Deacon Executive Committee.	Zoom

Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Faith Study	Offsite
September 3	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00)	Buchanan Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	AA: LGBTQIA+.	Room 4F

Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making	Borwell Dining Room
September 4	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	12:15 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00)	Buchanan Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Day School Parent Orientation	Anderson Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal.	Buchanan Chapel

Friday	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
September 5	12:00 p.m.	Noonday Concert	Sanctuary / Online
	5:30 p.m.	Cornerstones	Anderson Hall

No events are scheduled for Saturday, September 6.

Sunday, September 7 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. • Rocky Supinger preaching

SSC = Chicago Lights Social Service Center (chicagolights.org)