



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, we 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. On Michigan Avenue, through the glass Loggia doors there is an entrance without steps that leads to the Sanctuary. 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 livestream the 9:30 a.m. service on our YouTube channel 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 the sermon; weekly “Rhythm and Word” reflections; and a “Bible Top Ten” exploration of the Bible.

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

Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, join us for a one-session Inquirers’ Class next Sunday, September 21 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 5F (register at bit.ly/inquirers92025) or via Zoom on Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers102025). For more information, contact Pastor Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org).

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.

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).

In the Gallery: “Tales of Sandstone”

At 12:15 p.m. today we invite you to join photographer Terry Evans in our Loggia Gallery to talk briefly about her exhibition there, “Tales of Sandstone,” featuring images of Dakota sandstone on the Kansas prairie.

Terry and her husband, Sam Evans, are longtime members of Fourth Church.



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 worshipping 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 get connected with one another and Fourth Church!

Online Coffee Hour

If you are worshipping 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 10:30 a.m., following the livestream of worship, for a time of fellowship.

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

Connecting Online

Whether you live out of state, are unable to be with us in person, or find online opportunities to be a meaningful complement to your in-person experiences, we invite you to explore our online opportunities for deepening your connections with your faith and with others.

Learn more at fourthchurch.org/online/connections about our variety of online offerings, ranging from Zoom Coffee Hour (*see above left*), Bible studies, Small Groups (*see above*), and Morning Prayer as well as in-person classes with a Zoom component.

Autumn with the CLL

A new session of fitness classes along with lectures and arts courses for adults sixty and over kicked off this past week, when the Center for Life and Learning (CLL) began their autumn programming.

For details and to register for CLL membership, see fourthchurch.org/cll

Opportunities to Connect

Benevolent Guild

Benevolent Guild, which creates items for those in need, meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B.

Cornerstones

The Cornerstones fellowship group for those fifty and over will gather for their next monthly dinner and program on Friday, October 3 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. John Clum, Emeritus Professor of Theatre and English at Duke University, will talk about recent films that comment, directly or obliquely, on our time. Register (required) at bit.ly/cornerstones2510

Books by Women

Books by Women, which invites readers into a monthly conversation about a selected work, will discuss *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters on Tuesday, October 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Friday Noonday Concerts

This week's free Friday Noonday Concert features jazz vocalist Petra van Nuis at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary (and via livestream). To receive our weekly "Music Notes" newsletter about upcoming concerts at Fourth Church, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcmusicnotes

Dementia Horizons Academy

"Circle of Support: Dementia Horizons Academy" is an eight-week support group for caregivers of family members or friends living with dementia. Led by dementia educator and care consultant Jeannine Forrest, this supportive education program focuses on dementia skill building and self-care as well as practical tools addressing the essentials of dementia care.

Registration is required (at bit.ly/caregiving25) for this group, which will begin on Sunday, October 26 at 12:15 p.m.



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 for three-year-olds through fifth graders meets at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center.

Youth groups

Youth groups gather on Sundays, with Junior High (grades 6–8) at 9:30 a.m. and Senior High (grades 9–12) at 11:00 a.m., both in the Bumpus Room.

Confirmation

Eighth-grade Confirmation, which meets monthly, begins with a gathering on Friday, September 19. Youth can register at bit.ly/fpccconfirmation25 or contact Nance Bartell (nbartell@fourthchurch.org) for details.

Prophetic Wisdom for a Hurting World

This morning's Adult Education class, "Prophetic Wisdom for a Hurting World," meets at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and online at bit.ly/fpconline (on our YouTube channel).

Using Richard Rohr's book *The Tears of Things* and the teaching of the Hebrew prophets as a guide, our discussion will be led by Vicky Curtiss, Program Director, Siena Retreat Center. Next Sunday Amy Pagliarella, Parish Associate for Caring Ministries, will continue the conversation. (You can also hear Amy's brief "Rhythm and Word" reflections on prophetic wisdom and *The Tears of Things* via video at bit.ly/fpcvideos and podcast at fourthchurch.org/podcasts)

The video of last week's class, led by Dr. Maisha Handy, President, McCormick Theological Seminary, can be viewed at bit.ly/adultedvideos

Reading the Bible in 100 Passages

We invite you to take part in our reading, as a congregation, the Bible in 100 passages. In this series—which launches today and will take us into December—we will cover all thirty-nine books in the Old Testament through 100 key texts. Join us for the journey!

Daily readings

We are sharing the daily readings, in addition to reflections on them, as part of our Daily Devotions.

If you do not already receive them each day, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcdevotions; you can also read them online at fourthchurch.org/bible100, where you can find an overview for the week, as well.

Weekly reflections

Each week Pastor Matt Helms is offering a brief "Rhythm and Word" video and podcast reflection that focuses on these same passages.

To receive these reflections in your inbox on Wednesday evenings, sign up at bit.ly/fpcrandw; you can also view them on our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos) and listen to them via podcast at fourthchurch.org/podcasts and podcast platforms.

Monthly Bible study

A monthly in-person Bible study on these 100 passages will be led by Matt Helms the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall.

- Tuesday, October 7 on the Pentateuch/Torah
- Tuesday, November 4 on the Prophets
- Tuesday, December 2 on the Ketuvim/Writings

"Bible Top Ten" Podcast

Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to a new season of their "Bible Top Ten" podcast—a lively, informative, and often lighthearted exploration of the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Available at fourthchurch.org/podcasts and on multiple podcast platforms, the "Bible Top Ten" resumed this past week with an episode on the top ten New Testament epistles. Next will be a discussion of the top ten alleged biblical relics.

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 Nanette Sawyer (nsawyer@fourthchurch.org).

Women's Bible Studies

The fall *Horizons* Women's Bible Studies—with the theme "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"—meet via Zoom on second and fourth Wednesdays (including September 24), with a midday and evening study at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m.

For Zoom details, contact Nanette Sawyer (nsawyer@fourthchurch.org).

Reading Sermons

To read the text of the previous Sunday morning sermon (or past sermons in our archives), see fourthchurch.org/sermons or, to receive the sermon by email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcsermon

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 (gfleming@fourthchurch.org).

Monthly Spiritual Practices Gathering

Our new Monthly Spiritual Practices Gathering offers a dedicated space to learn, explore, and deepen your connection with the sacred through reflection, meditation, and meaningful conversation. Each gathering—which provides an inclusive environment for anyone regardless of experience—introduces simple yet powerful practices that nurture inner growth, support personal well-being, and foster a sense of community.

"Praying the Labyrinth" will be the first practice we explore when we come together on Sunday afternoon, September 28 at 4:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Register at bit.ly/practices2025 to join us.

For more information about these opportunities, contact Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org), who will lead each of our gatherings.

Walking the Labyrinth This Week

The labyrinth in Buchanan Chapel is open this week for a time of meditative walking on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

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 pages 14–15 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 Today

Our Volunteer Ministry Team encourages anyone who volunteers with Fourth Church to attend a one-hour emergency response training program today at 12:15 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room.

Meals Ministry Snack Drive

Our Fourth Church Meals Ministry Snack Drive begins today! Individually packaged, single-serving size snacks are needed to feed our guests every week of the year: last year, we served more than 18,000 bag lunches.

For details on how you can support this drive, stop by the Meals Ministry table in Coffee Hour or visit fourthchurch.org/meals for online shopping lists that enable ordering and shipping directly to the church.

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.

We're Looking for Church Leadership Recommendations

THE BELIEF THAT THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE CALLED TO BE LEADERS is at the heart of the Presbyterian way. In our form of government, church members choose leaders to represent them.

Thus each September our Nominating Committee invites you to give prayerful thought to those individuals—including yourself—whom you feel have demonstrated gifts and a commitment to the life and ministry of this congregation.

Specifically, we are looking for recommendations of individuals to serve in leadership positions opening in 2026 for Elder, Deacon, and Trustee.

To make your recommendations, use the online form at bit.ly/nominating2025 or stop by Anderson Hall to talk with a representative from the Nominating Committee.

Please submit your recommendations by Sunday, October 5. Names received after that date will be passed along to next year's committee to consider for 2027 officer terms.

Calendar for September 14–20, 2025

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
September 14	9:30 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room	Hospitality Suite
	9:30 a.m.	Nursery	Room 4A
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	Fourth Floor
	9:30 a.m.	Junior High Gathering	Bumpus Room
	10:30 a.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Senior High Gathering	Bumpus Room
	11:00 a.m.	Prophetic Wisdom for a Hurting World	Borwell / Online
	12:00 p.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall
	12:15 p.m.	Volunteer Training	Borwell Dining Room
	12:30 p.m.	Mission and Justice Committee	Room 4F
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper	Anderson Hall

Monday	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool Class	Classroom B
September 15	9:30 a.m.	Day School Twos Program	Classroom A
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Advanced French	Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Stronger Seniors	Zoom
	10:45 a.m.	CLL: Intermediate French	Zoom
	12:00 p.m.	CLL: Beginner French	Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Art History	Zoom / Room 4K
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Fashion Statements in Art	Room 4G / Zoom
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Yoga	Room 5G / Zoom

Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
September 16	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool Class	Classroom B
	9:00 a.m.	Lawndale Christian Health Medical Clinic	Randolph Room
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program	Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Stronger Seniors	Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Stage and Screen	Room 5G / Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Basic Spanish	Room 5D
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Improv	Room 4D

CLL = Center for Life and Learning (fourthchurch.org/cll)

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

Calendar for September 14–20, 2025

1:00 p.m.	CLL: Mahjong	Room 5D
1:00 p.m.	CLL: Watercolor.	Room 4F
1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00).	Buchanan Chapel
1:00 p.m.	Shower Ministry.	Showers
2:45 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi	Anderson Hall / Zoom
5:30 p.m.	Spiritual Formation Council.	Manse
6:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F
6:30 p.m.	Connecting Ministry Committee	Morse Conference Room

Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Faith Study	Offsite
September 17	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool Class	Classroom B
	9:30 a.m.	Day School Twos Program	Classroom A
	9:30 a.m.	Benevolent Guild	Room 5B
	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program	Morse Lounge
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Explorations with Jane Hunt	Room 5G
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Zing	Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	CLL: Midweek Meditation	Room 4D
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	12:00 p.m.	CLL: Current Events	Room 4G
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00).	Buchanan Chapel
	1:30 p.m.	CLL: Christian Roots of Antisemitism	Room 5G
	3:00 p.m.	CLL: Drawing	Zoom
	4:00 p.m.	Finance Council.	Zoom
	5:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons	Bumpus Room
	5:30 p.m.	Chicago Lights Board Meeting	Room 5G
	6:00 p.m.	AA: LGBTQIA+	Room 4F

Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making	Borwell Dining Room
September 18	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool Class	Classroom B
	9:30 a.m.	Day School Together We Play	Classroom A
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program	Morse Lounge
	10:00 a.m.	CLL: Memoir Writing	Room 5A
	10:00 a.m.	CLL: Supreme Court Decisions	Room 4D
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Golden Grooves.	Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	CLL: Art and Conversation	Room 4K
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Matters of Health.	Room 4E

Calendar for September 14–20, 2025

11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
12:15 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F
1:00 p.m.	CLL: Beyond the Headlines	Room 5G / Zoom
1:00 p.m.	CLL: Memoir Writing	Room 5A
1:00 p.m.	CLL: Music History.	Room 4E / Zoom
1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00).	Buchanan Chapel
2:30 p.m.	CLL: Get Together and Go Out!.	Fourth-Floor Lounge
2:45 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi.	Anderson Hall / Zoom
5:15 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Room 4G
6:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F
6:00 p.m.	Wisdom Pattern Small Group.	Zoom
6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal.	Buchanan Chapel

Friday	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool Class	Classroom B
September 19	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program	Morse Lounge
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Nia	Zoom
	12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert	Sanctuary / Online
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Lock-in	Bumpus Room

Saturday 9:00 a.m. Session Retreat Borwell Dining Room
No other events are scheduled for Saturday

Sunday, September 21 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. • Camille Cook Howe preaching