

## 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.

Guided by our Antiracism Covenant, we seek to embrace values and practices that enable us to experience Beloved Community, where **differences are seen as** assets that are celebrated and experienced as strengths.

**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."** 

## **Worshiping in Person at Fourth Church**

Each Sunday our worshiping 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. (except Sundays December 28 and January 4, when we will worship at 10:00 a.m. only).

#### **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 via the Gratz Center: 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.

## **Worshiping 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.

## **Prayer**

#### Personal Prayer with a Deacon following Worship

If you would like to meet with a Deacon to pray, you are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (through the door to the right of the pulpit) following worship.

## **Praying Each Week for Our Members**

Fourth Church maintains a practice of praying for each member's household throughout the year.

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. you are invited to gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom to pray for members by name, all those who are in need, and mission partners around the world. For details, email Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org).

#### **Requests for Prayer**

If you would like to submit a prayer request for our prayer ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org).

## News, Updates, and Snapshots

Look for information, updates, and snapshots of life at Fourth Church in our weekly email newsletter:

Subscribe at bit.ly/newsfromfpc and visit our news archive at fourthchurch.org/news

For a calendar of Fourth Church events, see pages 13–15; scroll to the bottom of fourthchurch.org; or tap on the website menu option for calendar: fourthchurch.org/calendar

## Let Us Know You're Here!

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

#### In person

Those worshiping 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 worshiping 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 (gfleming@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 Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org).

#### **Podcasts from Fourth Church**

Podcasts from Fourth Church—available on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts—include

- the Sunday worship service
- the Sunday sermon
- weekly "Rhythm and Word" reflections
- "Bible Top Ten," a lively, informative, and often lighthearted exploration of the Bible through a series of top ten lists—including recent episodes on "Prophets," "Sibling Rivalries in the Bible," and "Passages on Heaven and Hell"—which is hosted by Pastors Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger.



## **Connections and Belonging**

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

## Today: "Cookies-and-Cocoa" Coffee Hour!

After the service today, all who are worshiping with us in person are invited to stop by Anderson Hall and the Commons for a festive Advent "Cookies-and-Cocoa" Coffee Hour hosted by Women at Fourth.

Come enjoy treats of the season while greeting each other and learning about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. There will also be information on hand about how you can help fill Christmas Wishes for Chicago Lights Tutoring students (see story at right).

## **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 immediately following the livestream of worship for a time of fellowship.

Zoom link: bit.ly/coffeehourfpc

## **Join the Fourth Church Family**

Are you interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church? If so, please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class via Zoom on Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers012026) or in person on Sunday, February 1 at 12:15 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers22026).

For more information about membership at Fourth Church, see fourthchurch.org/joining or contact Pastor Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org), who would welcome hearing from you!

## **Register for the CLL Winter Session**

The Center for Life and Learning program for adults sixty and over will kick off its Winter Session of fitness classes as well as lectures and arts courses on Monday, January 5. Registration for the upcoming session—with its online and in-person opportunities—is now open and can be completed at fourthchurch.org/cll

## **Help Fill Christmas Wishes**

We still have more Christmas Wishes to fill before this week's Chicago Lights Tutoring holiday parties.

Through this project, organized annually by Women at Fourth, we will be be provding a gift card and two books to each Tutoring student. During Coffee Hour today we invite you to browse the books on our gift list and learn more about how to purchase them for students.

Monetary contributions for the purchase of those books as well as the gift cards can also be made by noting "Christmas Wishes" in the designation of an online gift at fourthchurch.org/give or in the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

## **Light Up a Life This Christmas Season**

You can share Christmas joy this holiday season with a gift to our annual "Light Up a Life" offering, which is being received throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Gifts designated to this offering provide funds for Fourth Church programs that support our neighbors and congregation and for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable.

You can make a gift to "Light Up a Life" by selecting that designation from the drop-down menu when giving via fourthchurch.org/give (also accessible by using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin).

If giving by check, please make the check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church and write "Light Up a Life" on the memo line. Those worshiping in the Sanctuary can also use the offering envelopes from the pew racks.

## **Help Welcome Christmas Eve Worshipers**

We are in need of additional ushers to greet and welcome worshipers to one or more of our four Christmas Eve worship services, on Wednesday, December 24.

Whether you have never ushered with us before or you have done so often, we would appreciate your help in making Christmas Eve special for those worshiping with us!

To sign up, see bit.ly/usher122425

## **Opportunities to Connect**

#### **Artist Talk Today: Nora Moore Lloyd**

Artist Nora Moore Lloyd, whose exhibition "Native Legacies: Past Present Future" is currently on display in our Loggia Gallery, will talk about her art today at 12:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room and also online via Zoom at bit.ly/artistzoom202512

#### **TwentiesThirties Holiday Party**

Young adults are invited to a TwentiesThirties Holiday Party—complete with a gingerbread house decorating contest—this Tuesday, December 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Manse.

Register at bit.ly/2030christmas25

## **Books by Women**

Books by Women, which invites readers into a monthly conversation about a selected work, will discuss *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

## **Connecting Online**

Whether you live out of state, are traveling, 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: fourthchurch.org/online/connection

## **Christmas with Tower Brass This Saturday**

Join us this Saturday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. for the music of the season when our brass ensemble presents their festive "Christmas with Tower Brass" concert in the Sanctuary and via livestream.

## Next Sunday: Bach's Magnificat

Next Sunday morning, December 21 the magnificent strains of Bach's *Magnificat*—a musical setting of Mary's song, as recorded in Luke 1:46–55—will be presented by the Morning Choir and members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship. The 9:30 cantata will also be livestreamed.

## **Bach Marathon Finale**

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago will be presenting the *Brandenburg Concertos* as their Bach Marathon Finale this Monday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Tickets are required and are available from cso.org

## **Free Friday Concerts**

The December 19 free Friday Noonday Concert will feature organist Sharon Peterson at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream: fourthchurch.org/concerts

There will be no concert on Friday, December 26, as the campus will be closed. The Noonday series will resume on January 2 with a performance by pianist Ye-Eun Hyun.



Thanks to the generosity of 645 households, we have reached 91 percent of our combined 2026 pledge goal for Fourth Church and Chicago Lights.

As we continue to be "Rooted in Faith and Grow in Love" as a community, your pledge—at any level—helps sustain the ministries and outreach that shape lives every day.

If you have not yet made your 2026 pledge, please consider doing so today at bit.ly/fpcpledging

#### 2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

2026 Pledge Commitments as of December 10, 2025

	Amount	Goal	% to Goal
Fourth Church:	2,979,114.51	\$3,300,000	90%
Chicago Lights:	\$800,712.98	\$850,000	94%
Total:	\$3,779,827.49	\$4,150,000	91%



## **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**

Children from three years old to fifth grade join their parents in the Sanctuary for the beginning of 9:30 a.m. worship before departing for their classrooms on the fourth floor.

There will be no Sunday School on December 28 or January 4; children are encouraged to worship with their families on those Sundays.

#### Youth

On Sundays the Junior High Youth group (grades 6–8) meets in the Bumpus Room at 9:20 a.m. to go into worship together before returning to the Bumpus Room during the Welcome and Announcements.

Senior High Youth (grades 9–12) gather in the Commons at 10:50 a.m. to go into worship together before heading to the Fifth-Floor Lounge during the Welcome and Announcements.

#### **Zoom Bible Studies**

For details about the following Zoom Bible studies, email Pastor Nanette Sawyer (nsawyer@fourthchurch.org).

#### **Men's Bible Study**

Men's Bible Study—which focuses on scripture readings from the pulpit, with passages drawn from either the immediate past week's worship service or the upcoming Sunday—gathers via Zoom weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.

#### **Women's Bible Studies**

Horizons Women's Bible Studies—"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"—will resume in January, via Zoom, on second and fourth Wednesdays with both a midday and evening study at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m.

## **Christmas Carol History and Sing-Along**

This morning come learn about the historical background of four Christmas carols when Kat Evans also leads us in a carol sing-along at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and online at bit.ly/fpconline

## Poets on the Mystery of Christmas

Next Sunday Adult Education continues its seasonal theme with John Clum talking about how poets from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries have presented the Christian mystery at the heart of Christmas. Join him on December 21 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and online. Register at bit.ly/poets202512

## TwentiesThirties Advent Bible Study

Young adults are invited to a TwentiesThirties Advent Bible Study that takes place on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5B through next Sunday, December 21. Together we will experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us in our world as we dig into Tracy Daub's *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark.* 

## **Resources for Your Personal Reflection**

#### **Daily devotions**

We invite you to use our daily devotions for your personal reflection. To receive them by email, subscribe online at bit.ly/fpcdevotions; you can also find them on our website at fourthchurch.org/devotions and on Facebook.

## Weekly "Rhythm and Word" video and podcast

Each Wednesday a Fourth Church pastor shares a brief reflection via video and podcast. Sign up online at bit.ly/ fpcrandw to have new videos sent to your inbox, or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos). You can also listen to the reflections in podcast format at fourthchurch. org/podcasts and via multiple podcast platforms.

#### Sermon transcripts

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

December 14–21, 2025 5



# **Community Engagements and Partnerships**

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

## **Micah 6:8 Small Group**

The Micah 6:8 Small Group—which offers opportunity to discuss our monthly highs and lows in justice seeking through church activities and in our personal lives—meets on Thursday, December 18 at 7:40 p.m via Zoom. For details, including the Zoom link, contact Pastor Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

## Make a Difference in the Life of a Child

More tutors are needed to pair with the youth who would like to participate in our Chicago Lights Tutoring program, which meets virtually on Mondays and in person at Fourth Church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. To learn more or volunteer to be a tutor, see chicagolights.org/volunteer/tutoring.

# "O Come, Let Us Adore Him!"

## Christmas at Fourth Presbyterian Church

## Bach's Magnificat in Worship

Sunday, December 21 | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

The Morning Choir with members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago perform Bach's *Magnificat* during worship; the 9:30 service will be livestreamed

## "Longest Night" Service

Sunday, December 21 | 5:30 p.m.

in Buchanan Chapel (in person only)

A service for those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness; a reception will follow

## **Four Candlelight Christmas Eve Services**

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant (in person only)

6:00 p.m. Family Service (in person only)

8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols (also livestreamed)

10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols (in person only)

#### **Christmas Day Worship**

Thursday, December 25 | 10:00 a.m. (in person only)

## **First Sunday after Christmas**

Sunday, December 28 | 10:00 a.m. (also livestreamed)

#### New Year's Eve Taizé Service

Wednesday, December 31 | 6:30 p.m. (in person only)

## **Epiphany Sunday**

Sunday, January 4 | 10:00 a.m. (also livestreamed)

Please note that there will be only one worship service on Sundays December 28 and January 4.

# Calendar for December 14-21, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent	9:30 a.m.	Worship • Camille Cook Howe preaching	Sanctuary / Online	
December 14	9:30 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room	•	
	9:30 a.m.	Nursery	• •	
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School		
	9:30 a.m.	Junior High Gathering		
	10:15 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making	•	
		A Time of Prayer		
		"Cookies-and-Cocoa" Coffee Hour	-	
		Online Coffee Hour		
		Worship • Camille Cook Howe preaching		
		Senior High Gathering	•	
		Christmas Carol History and Sing-Along	•	
		A Time of Prayer	_	
	_	"Cookies-and-Cocoa" Coffee Hour	-	
	_	Handbell Choir Rehearsal		
	_	Caregiver Circle: Dementia Horizons	-	
	12:30 p.m.	TwentiesThirties Advent Bible Study	Room 5B	
	12:30 p.m.	Meet the Artist	Borwell / Zoom	
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30)	Anderson Hall	
	4:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Medical Service	Borwell Dining Room	
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool	Classroom B	
December 15	9:30 a.m.	Day School Twos	Classroom A	
	7:00 p.m.	Civic Bach Marathon Finale	Sanctuary	
Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	Zoom	
December 16	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool	Classroom B	
	9:00 a.m.	Lawndale Christian Health Medical Clinic	Randolph Room	
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Services	Anderson Hall	
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall	
	12:00 p.m.	SSC: Living Room	Borwell Dining Room	
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) $ \ldots $	Buchanan Chapel	
	1:00 p.m.	Shower Ministry	Showers	
	CLL = Center for Life and Learning (fourthchurch.org/cll)			
	SSC = Chicago Lights Social Service Center (chicagolights.org)			

# Calendar for December 14–21, 2025

	3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Paul Gignillat Memorial	Fifth Floor Zoom
Wednesday December 17	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Finance Council	Offsite Classroom B Classroom A Room 5B Zoom Anderson Hall Anderson Hall Borwell Dining Room Buchanan Chapel Fifth Floor Room 4G
Thursday December 18	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:15 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Day School Preschool	Classroom A Anderson Hall Borwell Dining Room Anderson Hall Borwell Dining Room Room 4F Buchanan Chapel Sanctuary Buchanan Chapel Room 4F
•		SSC: Living Room	•
Saturday, December 20	5:00 p.m.	Christmas with Tower Brass	Sanctuary / Online

# Calendar for December 14–21, 2025

<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>	9:30 a.m.	Worship: Bach's Magnificat Sanctuary / Online
December 21	9:30 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room Hospitality Suite
	9:30 a.m.	Junior High Gathering Bumpus Room
	9:30 a.m.	Kindergarten/1st Grade Sunday School Room 4D
	9:30 a.m.	Nursery Room 4A
	9:30 a.m.	Pre-K Sunday School Room 4B
	10:00 a.m.	Youth Choir Room 4G
	10:15 a.m.	Cherub Choir Room 4B
	10:30 a.m.	A Time of Prayer Stone Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	10:30 a.m.	Online Coffee Hour Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Bach's Magnificat Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Senior High Gathering Fifth-Floor Lounge
	11:00 a.m.	"Poets on the Mystery of Christmas" Borwell / Online
	12:00 p.m.	A Time of Prayer Stone Chapel
	12:00 p.m.	Chicago Exchange Japanese Fellowship Manse
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour
	12:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal Buchanan Chapel
	12:15 p.m.	Online Advisory Board Room 5D
	12:30 p.m.	TwentiesThirties Advent Bible Study Room 5B
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30) Anderson Hall
	5:30 p.m.	"Longest Night" Service Buchanan Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	"Longest Night" Fellowship Manse

The Fourth Church calendar is also available online at **fourthchurch.org/calendar** or by scrolling to the bottom of **fourthchurch.org**