

# You are invited!

November 26–December 2, 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 viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube. 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)) ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger also invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** ([www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts](http://www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts)), which explores the Bible 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](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

## Today's 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. ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation and Junior High** (grades 6–7) meet together at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room to make Christmas cards for guests of Meals Ministry. Senior High will also make cards when they gather in the Bumpus Room at 11:00 a.m. ✨ **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. ✨ Rehearsing on Sundays are **Children's Choir** (kindergarten–grade 5) at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4G; **Cherub Choir** (ages 3 and 4) at 10:15 a.m. in 4B; and **Youth Choir** (grades 6–12) at 10:30 a.m. in 4G. 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.

## Zoom Coffee Hour with Tom Are

**If you are among those who regularly connect with us online** and thus have not yet had opportunity to meet our new Interim Pastor, the Reverend Tom Are Jr., we have a special Zoom event planned for you! **Please plan to join us and Tom Are via Zoom** ([www.bit.ly/meetandgreet1128](http://www.bit.ly/meetandgreet1128)) this **Tuesday, November 28** at 6:00 p.m. (Central) for an informal midweek “Coffee Hour” with Tom, a time when he will introduce himself to us and we will introduce ourselves to him.

## Our shared commitment. Our shared work.

**If you have not yet made your 2024 Stewardship pledge** ([www.bit.ly/fpcpledging](http://www.bit.ly/fpcpledging)), please take a moment to do so to **help us reach our congregational goals! As of this week**, 515 of our households have made a pledge to Fourth Church for next year, with those totaling \$2,076,386 toward our 2024 goal of \$3,000,000. Toward the 2024 Chicago Lights goal of \$750,000, 303 of our households have pledged, in total, \$670,072.80. Member pledging—knowing how much to expect in the coming year—enables leadership and staff to imagine what is possible for the year ahead and plan for what we can accomplish together as a church. **Every gift matters in making it possible for us to do together the work that God has called us to do!**

## Christmas flowers

We invite you to **remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Christmas flowers**, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary and Gratz Center. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online** at [www.bit.ly/fpcgift](http://www.bit.ly/fpcgift) and must be received by Sunday, December 10 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (312.252.3571; [gvicente@fourthchurch.org](mailto:gvicente@fourthchurch.org)).

## Advent reflections

The season of Advent begins next Sunday, December 3! **Daily Advent devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff will be available beginning that day as a resource for personal meditation and prayer. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) if you don't already receive our devotions*), read them online (*[www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions)*), or share them via Facebook (*[www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)*).

## Advent and Christmas worship

In addition to our Advent worship services on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., we also have some special services on the calendar that we hope you will put on yours. Our **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** service will take place on Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ✨ This year's **Christmas Cantata**, by Daniel Pinkham, will be part of the Sunday morning services on December 17. ✨ The **"Longest Night" Service**, for those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. Buchanan Chapel. On the **morning of Sunday, December 24 we will have just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m.** (*which will also be livestreamed*). Then that afternoon and evening we will gather for the **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant** at 4:00 p.m.; **Family Service** at 6:00 p.m., and **Lessons and Carols** at 8:00 p.m. (*also livestreamed*) and 10:00 p.m. On **Christmas morning** we will gather again at 10:00 a.m. (*in person only*)

## Sharing Christmas joy

Our **Christmas Wishes project to provide gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students** is collecting gift cards to Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's, along with books. If dropping off cards at the church, please do so by Wednesday, December 6, marking them to the attention of Simon Crow and designating the amount on the card(s). (*We are giving \$25 worth of gift cards to each student.*) For a list of books, contact Simon (*[scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)*). Monetary contributions for gift purchases can also be made to Fourth Church, noting "Christmas Wishes" in the online designation or the check memo line. ✨ Our **Meals Ministry Christmas Gift Bag Drive** is also underway. A list of items needed by Monday, December 4 can be found at <https://qrco.de/mealsministry>. We are also in need of McDonald's gift cards of \$10 each; cards can be dropped off or mailed to the church to the attention of Meals Ministry.

## Holiday concerts

Our holiday concert schedule kicks off next week when on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 5 and 6, a **Chanticleer Christmas** takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (*tickets are required; see [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org)*). ✨ Later that week, on Saturday, December 9, **Chicago a cappella** will perform **Holidays a cappella** at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel (*for those tickets, see [chicagoacappella.org](http://chicagoacappella.org)*). ✨ For **more holiday concerts** at Fourth Church, including the December 16 **Christmas with Tower Brass**, see [fourthchurch.org/concerts!](http://fourthchurch.org/concerts!)

## Get connected

**Knitting and Crocheting** meets via Zoom this Tuesday, November 28 at 4:00 p.m. For details, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)). ✨ **Cornerstones**, a group for those fifty and over, gathers for a **Christmas Carol Sing-Along** led by John Sherer this Friday, December 1. To sign up, register (*required*) by Monday, November 27 at [www.bit.ly/cornerstones1223](http://www.bit.ly/cornerstones1223) ✨ An in-person workshop on **“You and Your Spiritual Gifts”** will be held this Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5G. To register for this opportunity to discover your God-given gifts and find ways to **connect with the programs and ministries in the church related to them**, sign up at [www.bit.ly/spiritualgifts122](http://www.bit.ly/spiritualgifts122) ✨ A **Holiday Deep Listening Dinner** will be held Saturday evening, December 2 in Anderson Hall. Register (*required*) at [www.bit.ly/holidaylistening23](http://www.bit.ly/holidaylistening23) ✨ 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](http://fourthchurch.org)

## Nurturing our faith

**Men’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)). ✨ **“How (Not) to Build a School in Haiti: Conversation with Filmmakers”** will be the topic of an Adult Education class led by Kat Evans next Sunday, December 3 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For the link to view the documentary in advance and for the Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/aehaitidocumentary](http://www.bit.ly/aehaitidocumentary)

## Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, 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, 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. ✨ Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. To add your name to the list of upcoming groups, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker ([stucker@fourthchurch.org](mailto:stucker@fourthchurch.org)). ✨ **To explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260.

## Stay connected

To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, be sure to bookmark our **online church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at [fourthchurch.org/calendar](http://fourthchurch.org/calendar) ✨ We also invite you to follow us on **YouTube** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)), **Facebook** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and **Instagram** ([instagram.com/fourthchurch](https://instagram.com/fourthchurch)). ✨ **For snapshots of Fourth Church life as well as news and updates**, subscribe to our **weekly newsletter** at [ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)