

You are invited!

January 21–27, 2024



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore in the coming year 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), 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) ✨ 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 on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ 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. ✨ **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. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship. ✨ **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 ushers.

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

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 ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **by email** by subscribing at 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). ✨ 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 on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Resources for personal reflection

Tom Are invites us to reflect on joy as he leads our new “**Rhythm and Word**” video series, ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer created for your viewing at home. In the first video we ask, “**What can we learn about joy in a letter written from Caesar’s prison?**” You can find the video and future ones in this winter series—released on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.—**on our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel. ✨ Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are also available as a resource for your personal **meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions

Annual meeting

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held in person and via Zoom following the 11:00 a.m. service on **Sunday, February 11**. Posted on the website closer to the date of the meeting will be the Zoom link and recommended slate of officers that will be presented by the Nominating Committee.

Sunday opportunities

“**Finding Faith in Hard Times: When Bad Things Happen to Good People,**” an Adult Education class led by Amy Pagliarella, concludes today at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. You need not have attended the first two sessions in order to join today’s class. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aefindingfaith ✨ **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. ✨ **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; **Senior High** meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ On exhibit in the Loggia is “**Light in the Darkness,**” featuring the artwork of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks. ✨ We invite you to join us this afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**. Today the Reverend Izett Sama Hernandez from Cuba will preach at this more casual, intimate service, which is livestreamed as well, and features a breadth of musical expressions.

Long-range planning: proposed strategic directions

Your continued input is essential to the long-range planning process! Thus we encourage you to join the **Long-Range Planning Task Force** for one of their **upcoming listening sessions**—a time to hear **proposed strategic directions and goals** and **provide feedback**. There will be identical sessions held **today** at 10:45 a.m. (*in person, although if you did not preregister for this session, please know that space for walk-ins is limited*); next **Sunday, January 28** at 12:30 p.m. (*in person*); **Tuesday, January 30** at 8:00 p.m. (*Zoom*); and **Sunday, February 4** at 12:30 p.m. (*in person*). To ensure group sizes enabling all to be heard, **registration is required**. To register and to **read the strategic plan summary in advance**, see www.fourthchurch.org; to learn more, email longrange@fourthchurch.org

Get connected

Zoom Small Groups are starting again! These groups of six to ten people meet via Zoom for four to six weeks to discuss various topics. One group will discuss Robert P. Jones’ *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy* following his presentation at the January 31 Michigan Avenue Forum. Different groups will start after Easter. To learn more or express interest in joining a group, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets via Zoom this Tuesday, January 23 at 4:00 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow. ✨ **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items for those in need, meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *Sewing experience is not necessary*. ✨ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** gathers next Sunday, January 28 at 12:15 p.m. in the Bumpus Room for pizza and a movie: **State of Pride**. ✨ **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group for those fifty and over, will meet for dinner and a program on “**Do You Hear What You’re Saying?: A Discussion of Microaggressions,**” led by Robert Crouch and Regan Burke, on Friday, February 2 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. Registration (www.bit.ly/cornerstones224) is required. ✨ **Books by Women** will discuss **West with Giraffes: A Novel** by Lynda Rutledge on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Exploring the Bible

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom this Wednesday, January 24 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger also invite you to tune in to their **"Bible Top Ten" podcast** (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Learn with us

Join us on Thursday, January 25 at 5:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel as we cohost with the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy a panel discussion on **"Chicago's Newest Neighbors: Examining the Migrant Crisis."** RSVP at har.rs/3SaE5Y9 (*link also on the home page of the church website*). ✨ **"Christians' Role in Combating Antisemitism"** is the topic of a three-week Adult Education class beginning next Sunday, January 28 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Register at www.bit.ly/aeantisemitism ✨ **"The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Future of American Democracy"** will be the topic of our next **Michigan Avenue Forum**, which will be held Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our speaker will be **Robert P. Jones**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. A **book signing** with Robert Jones will also be held that evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Commons.

Walk the Camino de Santiago

This June an intergenerational group of members and friends of Fourth Church will **spend six days walking a portion of the Camino de Santiago**, following the Portuguese pilgrimage route to the historic Christian site in northwestern Spain. To learn more about participating in this opportunity, attend an information session this Wednesday, January 24 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom (*register at www.bit.ly/caminoinfo124*) or in person next Sunday, January 28 at 12:00 p.m. in Room 5F (*register at www.bit.ly/camino128*) or contact Associate Pastor Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

Joining Fourth Church

To **learn more about this congregation or become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to a one-session Inquirers' Class via Zoom on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. (*for the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/inquirers207*) or in person on Sunday, March 17 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 5F (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers324*). For more information about joining, contact Associate Pastor Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org).

Making Music

Our **Friday Noonday Concert Series** this Friday, January 26 (*in person and livestreamed*) features our **Organ Scholar Michael Rees**. For a listing of concerts at Fourth Church, see fourthchurch.org/concerts

Gala of Hope

This year the annual **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope** will be held on Friday, March 1, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at a fun new venue—the **Old Post Office** (433 W Van Buren)! This annual event supports the life-changing work of Chicago Lights, the nonprofit community outreach arm of Fourth Church, which includes the **Tutoring and Summer Day, Urban Farm, and Social Service Center** programs. To **reserve tickets** for this evening of dinner, dancing, and silent and live auctions or to become an event sponsor, stop by Coffee Hour today or visit one.bidpal.net/galaofhope2024 by February 24. For more information, contact Caryn Blomquist (cblomquist@chicagolights.org)

Stephen Ministry

Next Sunday, January 28 at the 9:30 a.m. service, we will commission **Robert Crouch** to begin service as a Stephen Leader in our congregation. Please join us as we pray for and show our support for **Stephen Ministry** and the lay Christian caregivers God has called and equipped for this important role. Following the service that day, there will be a special Coffee Hour hosted by the Stephen Ministers, when there will be opportunity to learn more about Stephen Ministry. You can also leave a confidential message for them at 312.573.3365.

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 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. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org) or Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ To **explore options for counseling**, call our **Reprogle Center Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reproglecenter.org. ✨ The Repogle Center also facilitates **grief groups**. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org).

Stay connected

You can find details about **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, on our website: www.fourthchurch.org, where you will also discover various **resources and opportunities**. ✨ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, we encourage you to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✨ We also invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Look for information, updates, and **snapshots of life at Fourth Church** in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc