



# Fourth Presbyterian Church

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 22, 2024 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Canonic Variations on “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

### \*Call to Worship

One: *We come to worship the Creator, whose love never fails.*

All: Restore us, O God, with the light of your compassion.

One: *We come to witness the Redeemer, who dwells with us forever.*

All: Restore us, O God, with the light of your glory.

### \*Hymn 132 . . . . . “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
on and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



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*\*Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”*

**Prayer of Confession and Lighting of the Advent Wreath** *(unison)*

God of love, we know that Christ’s warm light was present in the very beginning, that from his light shines forth the Word which carries the message of abiding love for all. We are called to live as witnesses to God’s love by regarding all of creation with loving-kindness, yet too often our words, intentions, and actions reflect utter lovelessness. We can be better than this. In your mercy, help us to do better than this. Grant us the courage to feel, speak, and practice love . . .

**Declaration of Pardon**

One: *Friends, believe the good news.*  
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*  
People: And also with you.  
*We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ,” and encourage those online to text or email someone to let them know you are thinking of them.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Please take a moment to let us know you are with us today! There are information pads in the pews for those in the Sanctuary and a digital form (use the link or QR code on screen) for those online.*

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Listening for the Word

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**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading.** . . . . . Luke 1:46–55

One: *The grass withers, and the flower fades,*  
All: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

# CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**Magnificat in D Major, BWV 243** . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

The Morning Choir and Chancel Choirs  
with members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago  
*Douglas Cleveland, conductor*

1. **Chorus: Magnificat anima mea Dominum**  
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.
2. **Aria: Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo**  
And my spirit has exulted in God my Savior.  
*Emily Mwila, mezzo-soprano*
3. **Aria: Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae;**  
Because he has regarded the lowly state of his handmaiden  
**Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent**  
For look! From now on they will say that I am blessed.  
*Laura Perkett, soprano*
4. **Chorus: Omnes generations**  
Every generation.
5. **Aria: Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius**  
Because he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
*Charles Robert Stephens, baritone*
6. **Aria: (Duet) Et misericordia a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.**  
And his mercy continues from generation to generation for those who fear him.  
*Carol Carpenter, alto; Cole Seaton, tenor*
7. **Chorus: Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.**  
He has made known the power of his arm, scattered those who are arrogant  
in the thoughts of their heart.
8. **Aria: Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles.**  
He has put down the mighty from their seats and raised up those who are lowly.  
*Brett Potts, tenor*
9. **Aria: Esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.**  
The hungry he has filled with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.  
*Marianna Kulikova, alto*

10. **Aria: Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordates misericordiae suae.**

He has taken under his protection his servant Israel and remembered his mercy.

*Amanda Kohl, soprano; Joan Marie Dauber, soprano; Ruth Ginelle Heald, alto*

11. **Chorus: Sicut locutus est ad Patres nostros**

In accordance with what he said to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.

12. **Chorus: Gloria patri, gloria filio**

Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, glory also to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning and is now and always and throughout ages of ages. Amen.

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## Responding to the Word

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**\*Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) . . . . . adapted from Romans 8

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.

We are convinced that neither death,  
nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

**The Lord's Prayer** (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Offering**

**Offertory**

Orchestral Suite No. 1 . . . . . J. S. Bach

**\*Offertory Response.** . . . . . Hymn 144, verse 4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

O God, with faith and hope we offer these gifts.  
Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ,  
our coming Lord. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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**\*Hymn 134.** . . . . . “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude** :: In Dulci Jubilo . . . . . J. S. Bach



# *O Come, Let Us Adore Him!*

CHRISTMAS 2024 AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **Four Candlelight Christmas Eve Services**

**Tuesday, December 24**

**4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant**

**6:00 p.m. Family Service**

**8:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols**

*Also livestreamed at [bit.ly/fpcvideos](https://bit.ly/fpcvideos)*

**10:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols**

## **Christmas Day Worship**

**Wednesday, December 25 | 10:00 a.m. (in-person only)**

## **First Sunday of Christmas**

**Sunday, December 29 | 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship**

*Also livestreamed at [bit.ly/fpcvideos](https://bit.ly/fpcvideos)*

Please note that there will be only one worship service on Sunday, December 29.

## **New Year's Eve Taizé Service**

**Tuesday, December 31 | 6:30 p.m. (in-person only)**

*Livestreamed videos are also available for viewing later.*





## 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.

**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 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., except next Sunday, **December 29 when we worship at 10:00 a.m. only.**

### Entering the building

A half hour prior to each service the doors open for worship, with 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*) as well as at 126 E. Chestnut—where the reception desk is located—and at 115 E. Delaware.

### Sound

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

### Parking

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*) for \$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.

## Worshipping Online

We livestream the 9:30 a.m. service each Sunday on our YouTube channel: [bit.ly/fpcvideos](https://bit.ly/fpcvideos)

### Accessing the service

Worship can be viewed anytime after the service begins. For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see [fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning](https://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.

## 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.

## Christmas Cantata

We are grateful to the Morning and Chancel Choirs as well as members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago for this morning presenting this year's Christmas Cantata: Bach's *Magnificat*—a musical setting of Mary's song from Luke 1:46–55.

## Sunday Opportunities

### Sunday morning fellowship

If you are worshipping with us in person, we encourage you to stop by Anderson Hall after the service for Coffee Hour, an opportunity to greet each other and learn about ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church.

### Praying with a Deacon

If you would like to offer individual prayers with a Deacon today, you 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.

### Christmas carols and their origins

Join Kat Evans for a Christmas carol sing-along at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room as she shares the history and origins of our favorite carols.

### Organ tour

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, a tour of our pipe organ begins at the front of the Sanctuary.

### Afternoon worship service

We invite you to join us for The Gathering: Communion at 2:00, a casual, intimate service. Beena David and the Gathering Ensemble lead our music; Rocky Supinger will be preaching.



## Children and Youth

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.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day there will not be nursery care; on those days parents are encouraged to bring their children to worship in the Sanctuary.

### Sunday school

Sunday school for three-year-olds through fifth graders takes place at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. During the 11:00 a.m. hour, families are encouraged to bring their children to worship in the Sanctuary.

After today Sunday school will take a two-week break—with no classes on December 29 or January 5—and resume on January 12.

### Youth gatherings

Youth groups meet weekly, with Junior Highs gathering at 9:30 a.m. and Senior Highs meeting at 11:00 a.m., both in the Bumpus Room.

Youth groups will also take a two-week break, with no gatherings on December 29 or January 5.

## Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, please join us for Inquirers' Class either via Zoom on January 8 at 6:30 p.m. (register at [bit.ly/inquirers12025](https://bit.ly/inquirers12025)) or in person on Sunday, February 2 at 12:15 p.m. (register at [bit.ly/inquirers22025](https://bit.ly/inquirers22025)). For more information, contact Matt Helms ([mhelms@fourthchurch.org](mailto:mhelms@fourthchurch.org)).

## Christmas with Fourth Church

### Christmas Eve worship

On Tuesday, December 24, we will gather for four candlelight Christmas Eve services:

4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m. Family Service

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

10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Seating will begin at 3:00 p.m. for the Pageant; seating for the other three services will begin forty-five to thirty minutes prior to the start of each service.

### Christmas Day worship

We invite you to join us in the Sanctuary on Christmas morning for a joy-filled service of worship at 10:00 a.m.

While we will not be livestreaming the Christmas Day service, we encourage those looking for an online option on Christmas Day to view the video of the Christmas Eve service from the night before or any of our past seasonal offerings available on YouTube ([bit.ly/fpcvideos](https://bit.ly/fpcvideos)). We will also be sharing there on Christmas morning a brief Christmas "Rhythm and Word" video, offering scripture, music, and a reflection.

### Parking on Christmas Eve and Day

Christmas Pageant and Christmas Day parking validations for the 900 N. Michigan garage will be available for \$20 (cash only) outside Borwell Dining Room immediately before or after those two services. Apps such as [parking.com](https://parking.com) and [spothero](https://spothero.com) may have less expensive options in the neighborhood available for advance reservation.

Vehicles entering the 900 N. Michigan garage after 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve will be able to park (with a free validation ticket from the church) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (\$18 for up to 12 hours).

## One Service on December 29

On the First Sunday of Christmas, December 29, we will gather for just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m. The service will also be livestreamed.

## New Year's Eve Taizé

On Tuesday, December 31 we invite you to join us, our neighbors, and our friends from Holy Name Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary for a candlelit New Year's Eve Taizé service (in person only), with music, prayer, and meditative pause for reflection on the turning of the year.

## Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee is at work searching for a candidate for pastor to recommend to the congregation. To suggest possible candidates, share what you hope the PNC will consider in the search and discernment process, or ask questions, email [pnc@fourthchurch.org](mailto:pnc@fourthchurch.org)

## Fourth Church in Florida

If you live in or travel to Florida, please let us know—at [bit.ly/florida2025](https://bit.ly/florida2025) or by contacting Shawn Fiedler ([sfiedler@fourthchurch.org](mailto:sfiedler@fourthchurch.org))—so we can keep you informed about in-person gatherings with Tom Are in February.

## Caring for One Another

### Prayer requests and pastoral care

If you would like to talk to a pastor or notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths or share a prayer request, please email Gloria Fleming ([gffleming@fourthchurch.org](mailto:gffleming@fourthchurch.org)). If immediate attention is required, 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, we invite you to consider being paired with a Stephen Minister. To learn more about this resource, contact Nancy Benson-Nicol ([nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org](mailto:nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org)) or leave a confidential message for a Stephen Minister at 312.573.3365.

### Counseling and well-being

Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened at this time of year. Expectations for the holidays can be different from the realities. Fourth Church's Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Replogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit [www.reploglecenter.org](http://www.reploglecenter.org)

## Gala of Hope 2025

The 2025 Chicago Lights Gala of Hope will be held on Friday, March 7 at the Old Post Office. See [chicagolights.org/events](http://chicagolights.org/events) for tickets and ways to contribute, or email Katy Frey Bever ([kbever@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kbever@fourthchurch.org)) for more details.

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## Stay Connected!

Look for information, updates, and snapshots of life at Fourth Church in our weekly email newsletter. Subscribe at [bit.ly/newsfromfpc](https://bit.ly/newsfromfpc) and visit our news archive at [fourthchurch.org/news](http://fourthchurch.org/news)

## Calendar for December 22–29

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<b>Sunday, Dec. 22</b>	9:00 a.m. Children’s Choir . . . . .	Room 4G
	9:30 a.m. Worship . . . . .	Sanctuary / Online
	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
	10:30 a.m. Youth Choir . . . . .	Room 4G
	11:00 a.m. Worship . . . . .	Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m. Senior High Gathering. . . . .	Bumpus Room
	11:00 a.m. Christmas Carols: Origins and Sing-Along . . .	Borwell Dining Room
	12:00 p.m. A Time of Prayer . . . . .	Stone Chapel
	12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour . . . . .	Anderson Hall
	12:15 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal. . . . .	Buchanan Chapel
	2:00 p.m. The Gathering: Communion at 2:00 . . . . .	Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m. Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30). . . . .	Anderson Hall
	4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Medical Service . . . . .	Borwell Dining Room

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<b>Monday, Dec. 23</b>	9:00 a.m. Meals Ministry Egg Boiling. . . . .	Parish House Kitchen
	10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Candle Sleeving. . . . .	Parish House Dining Room
	4:15 p.m. Monday Night Supper . . . . .	Catholic Charities

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<b>Tuesday, Dec. 24</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	
	7:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study . . . . .	Zoom
	7:45 a.m. Sacred Pause . . . . .	Online
	11:30 a.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunch. . . . .	Anderson Hall
	3:00 p.m. Children/Youth Choir Rehearsal . . . . .	Room 4G
	4:00 p.m. Children’s Christmas Pageant. . . . .	Sanctuary
	6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service. . . . .	Sanctuary
	8:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols . . . . .	Sanctuary / Online
	10:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols . . . . .	Sanctuary

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<b>Wednesday, Dec. 25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship . . . . .	Sanctuary
	Church Offices and Campus Closed All Day except for Christmas Day Worship	

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**Thursday, Dec. 26** Day after Christmas • Church Offices and Campus Closed All Day

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<b>Friday, Dec. 27</b>	9:00 a.m. Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making. . . . .	Borwell Dining Room
	12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert . . . . .	Sanctuary / Online

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<b>Saturday, Dec. 28</b>	8:30 a.m. Sacred Pause. . . . .	Online
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• **Preaching on Sunday, December 29:** Nancy Benson-Nicol •

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## Worship Leaders

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Joseph L. Morrow, Racial Equity Council (9:30), LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (11:00),  
Nancy Benson-Nicol, Tom Are Jr.

## The Music Today

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The Morning and Chancel Choirs  
Members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago  
Michael Rees, Associate Organist  
Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

## Worship Notes

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OUR ANNUAL “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING 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; for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable; and for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, as it cares for communities affected by crises and catastrophic events. You can make a gift to “Light Up a Life” by indicating that designation when giving via [fourthchurch.org/give](https://fourthchurch.org/give) or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

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**Tom Are Jr.** Interim Pastor

**Rocky Supinger** Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

**Nancy Benson-Nicol** Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

**Matt Helms** Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries

**Joseph L. Morrow** Evangelism and Community Engagement

**Nanette Sawyer** Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

**Amy Pagliarella** Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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