



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Folk Tune Percy Whitlock

Allegretto Arthur Foote

Introit

Praise Ye the Lord Donald Cashmore

Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord.

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.[†] Amen.

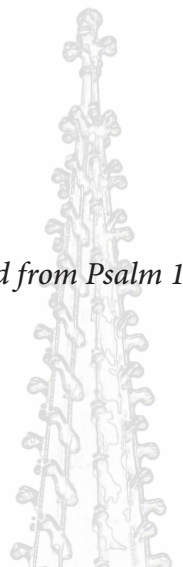
***Call to Worship** (*responsively*) *Adapted from Psalm 138*

One: *Come and worship, all you who love and serve our God,*

All: *who surrounds us with unfailing love and answers us when we call;*

One: *who cares for the humble and lowly and never abandons those in need.*

All: *This is our God, worthy of our worship and praise!*



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

***Hymn 267** “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Shepherd God, you welcome us as sheep from your fold to follow in your paths.
But too often we prefer to go our own way.
We abandon those in need to serve our own ambition.
We draw our gaze toward what flatters us and avoid challenging words that strengthen us.
Squandering our virtue in the pursuit of power and comfort,
we find ourselves at the end of our road.
Our lives and our world are suffering.
Have mercy, O Lord, and guide us back to your right way.
May we journey again together in your healing love. Amen.

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 person and a digital form (use the link or QR code on screen) for those online.

Solo

“We Are a Garden Walled Around”. Isaac Watts/arr. Robert Buckley Farlee
We are a garden walled around, chosen and made peculiar ground; a little spot enclosed by grace out of the world’s wide wilderness. Like trees of myrrh and spice we stand, planted by the creator’s hand; and all his springs in Sion flow, to make the fruitful garden grow. Let my Beloved come, and taste his pleasant fruits at his own feast. “I come, my spouse, I come,” he cries, with love and pleasure in his eyes. Our Lord into the garden comes, well pleased to smell our poorer fumes, and calls us to a feast divine, sweeter than honey, milk, or wine. Jesus, we will frequent thy board and sing the praises of our Lord: but the rich food on which we live demands more praise, demands more praise than tongues can give.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson 1 Kings 9:1–9

One: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

All: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:[†]
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson Colossians 2:6–19

One: *Lord, your Word is a lamp unto my feet,*

All: *and a light unto our path.*

Sermon

Stay Close Joseph L. Morrow

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 643** “Now Thank We All Our God”

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers’ arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God’s grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) adapted from Colossians 1

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
for in Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—
all things have been created through and for him.

Christ is before all things; in Christ all things hold together.

Christ Jesus is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God is reconciled to all things on earth or in heaven.

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.

Offertory Anthem

“Trust”. based on Psalm 31:14–15/Richard Proulx
I place my trust in you, O Lord; my soul proclaims that you are my God.

***Offertory Response.** Hymn 652, v. 1

A grateful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my offering.
Among the saints I lift my voice: in you, O God, I will rejoice.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Generous God, we depend upon your provision.
In the fruit of our labors, given this day,
may all who have need receive the care and grace you have provided for us. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

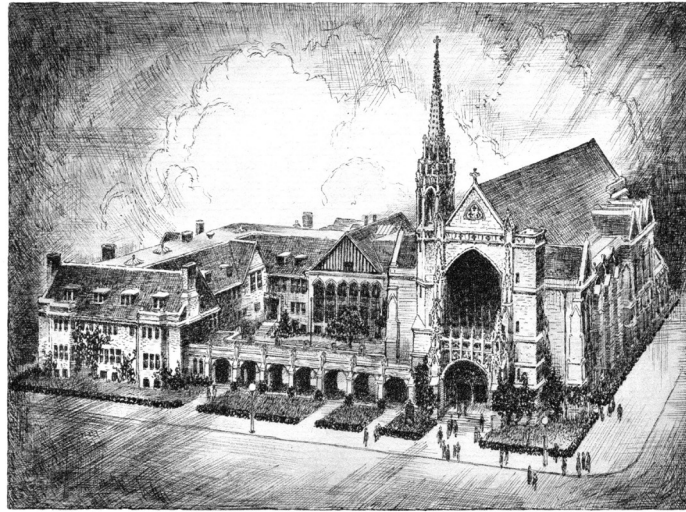
***Hymn 846** “Fight the Good Fight”

Fight the good fight with all thy might. Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally.
Run the straight race through God’s good grace; lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ’s face.
Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
Cast care aside; lean on thy guide. God’s boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
Faint not nor fear: God’s arms are near. God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude in C Major Edward Bairstow



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 summer Sunday our worshipping body—which is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews—gathers at 10:00 a.m.

Entering the building

The doors open at 9:30 a.m. There is an entrance without steps that leads to the Sanctuary on Michigan Avenue, through the glass Loggia doors (*next to the courtyard*). There are also two fully accessible entrances: one at 126 E. Chestnut—where the reception desk is located—and one 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 \$10 for 6 hours (*and \$20 for up to 12 hours*) and at the Hancock garage (*875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) for \$10 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from ushers.

Worshipping Online

Livestream

We livestream the worship service each Sunday on our YouTube channel—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.

Podcast

Podcast offerings from Fourth Church—available on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts—include the Sunday worship service and sermon; weekly “Rhythm and Word” reflections; and “Bible Top Ten.”

Welcoming Camille Cook Howe: Sept. 21

Be sure to mark Sunday, September 21 on your calendar, as that will be the day when the Reverend Dr. Camille Cook Howe, our next Pastor, preaches and leads us in worship for the first time.

Sunday, October 19 will also be a special day in our relationship with Camille: she will be officially installed as Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago during the 9:30 a.m. service that morning. Please plan to be with us to celebrate this exciting new chapter in the life of our congregation!

Restoring the 1914 Murals

The scaffolding in the South Balcony is to facilitate the restoration work on the 1914 Frederic Clay Bartlett ceiling murals. A series of the Bartlett panels can be seen on the wall at the north end of the Commons.

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.

Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class on either Wednesday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (register at bit.ly/inquirers82025) or in person on Sunday, September 21 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 5F (register at bit.ly/inquirers92025).

For more information, contact Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org), Senior Associate Pastor, who would welcome hearing from you!

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, we invite you to consider being paired with a Stephen Minister. To learn more about this resource, contact Associate Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org), or to request support from a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.



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

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

We're Having a Picnic on August 10!

We had such fun at our congregational picnic earlier this month that we're having another one!

Mark Sunday, August 10 on your calendar and plan to join us in Anderson Hall, Borwell Dining Room, and the Commons for a festive time of summer fellowship and connection over a shared meal.

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 11:00 a.m., following the livestream of worship, for a time of fellowship.

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

Fourth Church's Antiracism Covenant

In a July 18 email to the congregation, Session shared our recently approved Antiracism Covenant, which lifts up the ways in which we live into our antiracism call as individuals, as committees, and as a church. We encourage you to read it at fourthchurch.org/about/antiracism/covenant.html



Community Engagements and Partnerships

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

School Supply Drive

This week we will be giving school-supply-filled backpacks to Chicago Lights Summer Day students. Thank you to all who contributed supplies for them!

Items still needed for the Urban Farm backpacks (to be distributed in early August) and items for use at the Tutoring program are listed for online ordering at bit.ly/schoolsupplydrivefpc; you can also make a monetary gift at fourthchurch.org/give to help with our purchase of the remaining needed items (please note "School Supplies" in the giving comments section).

For more information about the drive, contact Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Peace Walks with St. Sabina

The Mission and Justice Committee invites you to join them in walking in the Friday evening St. Sabina Parish Peace Walks in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood at 7:00 p.m. this Friday, August 1 and also on August 15.

To take part, sign up at bit.ly/peacewalks2025 or, for details, email Nancy Davis (ndavis@fourthchurch.org).

Volunteering with Meals Ministry

Fourth Church Meals Ministry has openings for volunteers to serve between now and September 30. You can sign up for them at bit.ly/fpcvolunteers

For more information about how you can support this program, contact Mike Usiak (musiak@fourthchurch.org), Meals Ministry Manager.



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.

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School concludes today with a 10:00 a.m. session on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center.

Sunday School will be taking a break during August and resume on Get Connected Sunday on September 7!

Montreat Youth Conference

Yesterday eight students and two adults from Fourth Church headed to North Carolina to join youth from around the country for the weeklong Montreat Youth Conference, this year around the theme “Light My Path.” Please keep these travelers in your prayers as they journey and grow together in faith.

Daily Devotions

We invite you to use our daily devotions—written by Fourth Church members and staff—for your personal reflection. To receive them by email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcdevotions; you can also find them online at fourthchurch.org/devotions as well as on Facebook.

“Rhythm and Word” Videos and Podcast

Each week we share a five-minute video and podcast reflection by one of the pastors. This month Joe Morrow invites us into an exploration of the writings of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, and others. Sign up at bit.ly/rhythmword to have the videos sent to your inbox on Wednesdays or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos). You can also listen to these reflections via podcast (fourthchurch.org/podcasts).

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 details.

Prayer requests

If you would like to submit a prayer request to our Deacon and Morning Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@fourthchurch.org).

Bible Studies via Zoom

Men’s Bible Study

Men’s Bible Study—which focuses on recent or upcoming scripture readings from the pulpit—welcomes new participants to join them for their weekly gathering via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Women’s Summer Bible Studies

Women’s Bible Studies meet via Zoom on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, with the next study on Wednesday, August 13, at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m.

The noon gathering is studying the *Horizons* Bible Study “Dispatches to God’s Household: The General Epistles” by Associate Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol.

The evening gathering is studying the Sunday lectionary readings, including Old Testament and New Testament texts.

For Zoom details for either group, contact Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Calendar for July 27–August 2, 2025

Sunday	All day	Montreat Youth Conference.	North Carolina
July 27	10:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary / Online
	10:00 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room.	Hospitality Suite
	10:00 a.m.	Nursery.	Room 4A
	10:00 a.m.	Summer Sunday School	Room 4D
	11:00 a.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Online Coffee Hour.	Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	School Supply Backpack Assembly.	Room 4G
	12:30 p.m.	Deacon Calling Ministry	Manse
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30).	Anderson Hall
	4:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Medical Service	Borwell Dining Room

Monday	All day	Montreat Youth Conference.	North Carolina
July 28	8:30 a.m.	Summer Day.	Fifth Floor
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Stronger Seniors	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Sit Down and Tap!	Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Bridge	Room 4D
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Yoga	Room 4F / Zoom

Tuesday	All day	Montreat Youth Conference.	North Carolina
July 29	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
	8:30 a.m.	Summer Day.	Fifth Floor
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Stronger Seniors	Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	Together We Play	Classroom A
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Improv.	Room 4D
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Walk with Ease	Room 4K
	1:00 p.m.	Shower Ministry	Showers
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi.	Anderson Hall / Zoom

Wednesday	All day	Montreat Youth Conference.	North Carolina
July 30	7:30 a.m.	Men's Faith Study	Offsite
	8:30 a.m.	Summer Day.	Fifth Floor
	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Yoga for Osteoporosis	Zoom

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

Calendar for July 27–August 2, 2025

10:30 a.m. CLL: Zing Zoom
 11:00 a.m. CLL: Midweek Meditation Room 4F
 11:30 a.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunch Anderson Hall
 12:00 p.m. CLL: Current Events Room 4G
 1:00 p.m. CLL: Walk with Ease Room 4K
 2:00 p.m. CLL: Film Series Room 4G

Thursday All day Montreat Youth Conference North Carolina
 July 31 8:30 a.m. Summer Day Fifth Floor
 9:00 a.m. Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making Parish House Kitchen
 9:30 a.m. CLL: Chair-Based Ballet Zoom
 10:00 a.m. CLL: Supreme Court Decisions Room 4D
 10:30 a.m. CLL: Golden Grooves Zoom
 11:00 a.m. CLL: The Art of Conversation Room 4K
 11:30 a.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunch Anderson Hall
 12:15 p.m. AA Meeting Room 4F
 1:00 p.m. CLL: Music Therapy Room 4G
 2:30 p.m. CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi Anderson Hall / Zoom
 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting Room 4F

Friday All day Montreat Youth Conference North Carolina
 August 1 8:30 a.m. Summer Day Fifth Floor
 10:30 a.m. CLL: Nia Zoom
 12:10 p.m. Music by the Fountain Michigan Avenue Courtyard
 1:00 p.m. CLL: Walk with Ease Room 4K
 1:00 p.m. Summer Day Final Performance Buchanan Chapel
 7:00 p.m. St. Sabina Peace Walk Auburn Gresham

Saturday All day Montreat Youth Conference North Carolina
 August 2 (No other events are scheduled for Saturday)

Sunday, August 3 • 10:00 a.m. • Rocky Supinger preaching

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Louise Gram, Joseph L. Morrow

The Music Today

The Summer Choir and Quartet; Carol Carpenter, Soloist and Flutist

Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

ABOUT TODAY'S SERMON: In life we tend to choose our own adventures, especially if they involve the pursuit of comfort and control. But in passages from 1 Kings 9 and the Letter to the Colossians, we are being encouraged to choose differently and instead draw closer to God. What might that look like for people who follow Jesus? Let's figure it out together.

THE HYMN "Now Thank We All Our God" is often associated with grand and festive occasions such as Thanksgiving. However, our hymnal points out that the first two stanzas "had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648)."

GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in the plates passed during the service, or, afterwards, in an offering box at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at fourthchurch.org/give

Rocky Supinger Senior Associate Pastor

Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor

Matt Helms Associate Pastor

Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor

Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/call-to-worship-psalm-138.html>. "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press. OneLicense.net License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

www.fourthchurch.org • www.facebook.com/fourthchurch

312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729

Those attending a Fourth Church worship service in person are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of Fourth Church. By entering the worship service, you consent to the non-commercial use of the resulting visual and audio records; you waive all rights you may have to any claims of compensation for the use of these records; you release Fourth Church from any liability for the use of these records; and you waive the right to inspect or approve any of these records.