



LEGACY SOCIETY

Fourth Presbyterian Church | Chicago Lights

Legacy Society Newsletter October 2025

Change and Continuity

Autumn is here, bringing with it so many favorite things: fall leaves, football, pumpkin spice everything. At Fourth we are doubly blessed with the arrival of our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe, who, in her first sermon on Sunday, September 21st*, recounted the genealogical line extending from Abraham to Jesus. Building on this legacy story, Pastor Camille humbly acknowledged her place as the most recent in a line of faithful pastors at Fourth whose legacy is our fruitful harvest. We greet with joy her arrival to guide our collective work, begun by our predecessors, that ensures that our light in the city remains bright.



*To listen to Pastor Camille's first sermon, type qrco.de/Pastor_Camille into your browser or scan the orange QR code on the back page.

An Autumn Social, hosted by the Legacy Society, Saturday, October 25, 2025, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm



The Legacy Society is pleased to announce an Autumn Social, scheduled for October 25th from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm in Anderson Hall. In addition to connecting with friends over seasonal refreshments served up in a fun and festive setting, the Legacy Society is thrilled to share the fruits of archival research over the summer that we hope will inspire us anew with the power of faith in art.

Building on the enthusiastic reception of last year's presentation of the Frederick Clay Bartlett murals and their restoration, this year's program will shine a light on the Charles Jay Connick stained-glass panels that grace Anderson Hall and other locations in the church. Our presenter will be Rebecca Dixon, long-time member of Fourth Church, a member of the Adult Education Committee, and docent of the Chicago Architecture Center.

We will be sending out an invitation in the coming days with an opportunity to reserve a seat. The program will also be live streamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Leaving a Legacy Made Simple

August was national Make-a-Will Month. You would not be alone in thinking that starting the process of making a will can feel daunting, both emotionally and practically.

At the Legacy Society, we are often asked "What is the simplest way to leave a Legacy gift to Fourth Church?" For many people, one of the easiest ways to support Fourth Church or Chicago Lights is by naming them as a beneficiary of a financial account, such as an IRA, 401(k), life insurance policy, donor advised fund, or bank account. Making a change of beneficiary can be done online or with a simple signed form without the need to consult a lawyer or to make changes to your will. The additional benefit of making Fourth Church a beneficiary is that no income taxes are payable on the portion that is designated as a legacy gift to the church.

It doesn't have to be daunting and we're here to help. If you have questions about naming Fourth Church and/or Chicago Lights as a beneficiary, please contact Katie Adams, Director of Major and Planned Giving, by email or by phone 312.620.7440.

Louise D. Howe: A Life of Purpose, Curiosity, and Care

On June 19, 2025, the Fourth Church family lost a dear friend with the passing of Louise Howe. Louise lived fully the spiritual practice of giving back to God and the church by sharing one's God-given resources. When it came to sharing her time and talent, Louise was unstinting, having served in many roles at Fourth Church since she became a member in 1968: Deacon; Ruling Elder; Elder Representative to the Presbytery of Chicago; member of the Pastor Nominating Committee that called and then nominated John Buchanan as pastor (1985-2012); and representative of Fourth at the several (then annual) General Assemblies.



In her later years, Louise shared her talents, both intellectual (she was a member of MENSA) and professional (she worked for many years at Scott Foresman Publishing), as a volunteer in the Fourth Church archives. Her work continued the tradition of her predecessors in preserving the church's historical past so that future generations may learn and benefit from this legacy. We are deeply grateful for Louise's fifty-seven years of faithful stewardship during her time with us at Fourth Church.

In Memoriam

We give thanks for members of the Legacy Society who transitioned from this life to the next and now rest eternally in God's love.

- **Louise D. Howe**, member of Fourth Church since 1968 and Legacy Society member since 2020. Louise passed on June 19, 2025.
- **Karen McCracken**, member of Fourth Church from 2002-2016, and Legacy Society member with her husband Larry since 2018. Karen passed on June 20, 2025.
- **Sylvia Robertson**, member of Fourth Church since 1996 and Legacy Society member with her husband Gary Rayl since 2023. Sylvia passed April 4, 2025.
- **Mary Ann Taft**, member of Fourth Church since 2001 and member of the Legacy Society since 2019. Mary Ann passed December 1, 2024.
- **Sandra J. Wiedegreen**, member of Fourth Church member since 2012 and Legacy Society along with her husband Eric since 2018. Sandy passed April 10, 2025.

Louise, Karen, Sylvia, Mary Ann, and Sandy:

*May the angels in heaven welcome you.
May you find safe harbor, profound rest, and peace.
May you shine in heaven as you shone on earth.*

About the Legacy Society

The mission of the Legacy Society is to bring together caring people who, with an abundance of heart, sustain our light in the city for future generations through their legacy gifts.

The Legacy Society Advisory Council

The Legacy Society Advisory Council is the body that helps to promote planned giving as a way for caring people of our community to express their love for and gratitude to Fourth Church and Chicago Lights through a legacy gift.

The Legacy Society wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the time and talent of our lay leaders who serve on the Legacy Society Advisory Council: Pamela Block (Advisory Council Chair), Kathi Bates, Alan Bath, Carole Bekken, Lisa Garay (liaison to the Stewardship and Giving Committee), Terry Gubbins, Kelley Lynch, Larry Nicholson, and Roger Wilson.

Members of the Legacy Society Advisory Council passionately believe in and joyfully represent the Legacy Society. Any member of the advisory board would be happy to answer your questions about planned giving. You might find them at Sunday worship wearing their Legacy Society pins or at the Legacy Society information table in Anderson Hall at Coffee Hour on All Saints' Day, November 2, 2025, sponsored by the Legacy Society.

Learn More about Planned Giving

The Legacy Society facilitates the process of planned giving to Fourth Church and Chicago Lights. While the decision to leave a legacy gift in your estate plans is deeply personal, we have resources that can help guide you and answer some common questions. Scan the QR code to the right or visit the Legacy Society pages of the Fourth Church website **fourthchurch.org/giving/legacy/** to find more detailed information to help you get started.



Scan to learn more

If you have already remembered Fourth Church and/or Chicago Lights in your estate plans or are planning to, please complete the Confidential Bequest Intention Form available on our website (<https://fourthchurch.org/giving/legacy/gettingstarted.html>) and return your signed form by email to giving@fourthchurch.org or by mail to Fourth Presbyterian Church Attn: Resource Development, 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Submission of this form automatically confers membership in the Legacy Society.

If at any time you have questions about planned giving, please contact Katy Frey Bever, Senior Director of Development, by phone 312.981.3380 or by email kbever@fourthchurch.org, or Katie Adams, Director of Major and Planned Giving, by email kadams@fourthchurch.org or by phone 312.620.7440.



Scan to hear
Pastor Camille's Sermon

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago and Chicago Lights are charitable organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code and are exempt from federal income taxation. The tax identification number of Fourth Presbyterian Church is 36-2167080 and of Chicago Lights is 36-3786331.

Fourth Presbyterian Church and Chicago Lights
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