



Today is the first day of a new church year, the **First Sunday of Advent**. Throughout this Advent season we prepare our hearts and lives to receive the gift that comes to us in the stable and we embrace what it means to travel through life guided by the Light that darkness cannot overcome. * **Daily Advent devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. You can receive them in your inbox (sign up online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), or Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago).

Throughout Advent we are receiving a **“Light Up a Life” offering**, which helps shine God’s light of love on those who need it most this season, including those in need of the warmth, clothing, and nourishment provided by our Fourth Church Meals Ministry and Chicago Lights Social Service Center programs. Gifts can be made to this offering by noting “Light Up a Life” in the comments section (*or memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church*) when giving online via Venmo or the Fourth Church website (www.fourthchurch.org/give-online).

Again this holiday season we have a variety of additional opportunities to share love and light as well. You can **honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Christmas flowers and garlands** that will decorate the Sanctuary for our online worship services. A list of those individuals remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/FPCgifts; contributions must be received by next Friday, December 11 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information about gifts toward Christmas flowers or our “Light Up a Life” offering, contact Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org). * **Fulfilling Christmas wishes for our Chicago Lights Tutoring students** continues this year, with each student receiving a gift card, a book, and a mask. The selected books can be ordered online at www.bit.ly/christmaswishes20; contributions toward gift cards can be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online (choose “Congregational Life” as your designation, and write “Christmas Wishes” in the comments). * **Christmas gift bags for guests of Sunday and Monday Night Suppers** are being prepared by Meals Ministry staff and volunteers. Donations toward purchasing the items for the bags—which will include a food gift card, gloves, hygiene items, and a mask—can be made at www.bit.ly/giftbags2020. * Although we will not have our annual Cookies-and-Cocoa reception this year, Women at Fourth is still **inviting individuals to bake cookies, brownies, and other sturdy sweets** to share with our Sunday Night Supper guests on December 20. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

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

This Saturday morning, the Spiritual Formation Council will host an online **Advent exploration of how to use ritual making as a way to reconnect us** to ourselves, our faith, and our God. Lois Snavelly, a former seminary intern at Fourth Church, will lead this workshop on “**Rites of Passage: Creating Sacred Ritual in a Time of Pandemic**” via Zoom on Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. For Zoom details, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org). * This Friday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. **Cornerstones**, a fellowship opportunity for those fifty and older, will gather via Zoom for a **Christmas concert by John Sherer and tenor Cole Seaton**. Register online by Thursday, December 3 at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1220 for Zoom details. * This year’s **Christmas with Tower Brass concert** will be online on Saturday, December 19 at 5:00 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms

The Longest Night Service, for those experiencing grief and loss this season, will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org). * **On Thursday, December 24**, we will have two online services: the **Children’s Pageant** at 4:00 p.m. and the **Christmas Eve service** at 8:00 p.m. (*with a choral prelude beginning at 7:30 p.m.*). The services will be available at www.bit.ly/FPCworship as well as via **Facebook Live** (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can also be viewed afterwards. Those without Internet access are invited to join the services by **listening to them via phone by calling 888.916.9166 (toll-free)** at the time of the service. * Our online **Christmas Day service** will be available via the same platforms, including by phone, at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 25. * Likewise our online **New Year’s Eve Taizé service** will be available at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 31.

If you would like to connect with others for a time of fellowship following worship today, please join us following the postlude for **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom at www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship** (Zoom details are posted at www.fourthchurch.org). You can also take part in Coffee Hour **by phone**: dial 312.626.6799 and enter meeting ID number 963 5583 1751#. * Another opportunity to connect with others is in our **small groups**, which meet via Zoom once a week for four to six weeks. To learn more or express interest in joining one of the groups forming in upcoming months, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Sunday School and family activities are being held online. For details, email Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * **TwentiesThirties** offers online opportunities for young adults. For details, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). * For details about the **Center for Life and Learning** lectures and exercise classes for adults sixty and over, see www.fourthchurch.org/cll or email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org).

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) for additional resources and ways to connect. Online events are posted on the church calendar at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar; we also encourage you to follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch) for updates.

It is **through the generosity of each of us** that Fourth Church is able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those God calls us to love and serve as a light in the city. You can **give online at fourthchurch.org/give-online** (or via the **"To Make a Gift"** button on our website: www.fourthchurch.org); **via Venmo** (@Fourth-Church); or by check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church (mailed to 126 E. Chestnut, Chicago, IL 60611.2014). * For the foreseeable future we are gathering online for **livestream-only worship**. * In addition to livestreaming our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service at **www.bit.ly/FPCworship** (*where the service is available throughout the week*), we make the service available via **Facebook Live** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. * Those without Internet access are invited to join the service by **listening to the service live via phone by calling 888.916.9166** (*toll-free*) at the time of the service (*the prelude typically begins around 10:45 a.m.*). * During the week we also make the service and sermon available via **podcast on iTunes and Spotify** (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast); you can also receive our sermons **by email** (www.bit.ly/fpcsermons).

On Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., David Handley is leading a class on Harry Emerson Fosdick's ***The Meaning of Prayer***. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/prayermeaning * Also meeting via Zoom are **Men's Bible Study** on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** on second and fourth Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * Resuming next Sunday, December 6, Joe Morrow will continue guiding us in a closer look at **"Scriptural Journeys: The Enduring Power of Migrations in the Bible,"** the current theme in our "Foundations of Faith: An Hour a Week with the Bible" class, which meets via Zoom on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcff20

The First Tuesday Book Club next meets this Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom discussion will again focus on the book ***The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone** and will be led by Nanette Sawyer. Register for Zoom details at www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks * **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss ***An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schoff**. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

We are looking for Fourth Church members with **gifts for compassionate listening** to become Stephen Ministers and walk alongside individuals experiencing life challenges. The next fifty-hour **training course for new Stephen Ministers** will be offered in March 2021; for information about applying for the training, see www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministers.html

If you would like to have a **one-time phone conversation with a Stephen Minister or arrange for ongoing talks**, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. * **If you have a prayer request**, Dave Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries. * **If you would like to talk to a pastor**, please call the church (312.787.4570). * **To explore options for teletherapy** with our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being, call the Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. * On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for the details.