News and Opportunities

August 27–September 2, 2023



We are glad to be worshiping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church!
** Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. ** We invite you 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.



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning service at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel (*www.bit.ly/fpcvideos*), where the service is also available for viewing afterwards. **** Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the livestreamed service.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. ****** On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue *(through the glass Loggia doors located between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors)*; at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. **** Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan *(access from Rush or Walton)* at the rate of \$9 for hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. *(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 an usher. ****** In the Sanctuary **worship can be heard** through the "T" or "T-coil" setting of hearing aids. ****** Please silence **electronic devices** during 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. During the morning service **nursery care** for infants through two-year-olds is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. **** Sunday School** does not meet in August; we look forward to it resuming on Sunday, September 10.

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**

We ask all who are worshiping with us to **let us know you are here by filling out an information form.** Those worshiping 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 worshiping 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. ***** Following the service, those worshiping in person are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour,** which during the summer is held outdoors if weather and air conditions permit or in Anderson Hall and the Commons.



During the week we make the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service and sermon available via podcast on multiple podcast platforms and at www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts ***** You can also receive the previous Sunday's sermon text by email by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.



Following worship a pipe organ tour begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ** Also following the service
Deacons are available in Stone Chapel (through the door to the right of the pulpit) to pray with those who would like to offer prayers of praise or concern. ** We gather on Wednesdays 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). ** Our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being hosts virtually a Sacred Pause time of meditation at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and also on Saturdays (8:30 a.m.). ** Buchanan Chapel is open for opportunity to walk the labyrinth between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday.

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email caringministries@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, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org *** For those facing life's challenges,** Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. *** To explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor,** call our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. **Thank you to all who completed the survey** prepared by the Long-Range Planning Task Force and to all who added your thoughts, ideas, and comments! The survey is now closed, and as the results are compiled, the task force wants you to know how deeply grateful they are for your input, which will be invaluable in shaping together our vision for the future. If you have additional comments, please send them to longrange@fourthchurch.org



After Labor Day we will be adding a second Sunday morning worship service. Beginning September 10, we will be worshiping at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, with the Morning Choir singing at 9:30 and the Chancel Choir singing at 11:00. The 9:30 service will be livestreamed and available for viewing at 9:30 and any time afterwards. Also on September 10 our afternoon service will resume at a new time with a new name. The Gathering: 2:00 p.m. Communion will be a more casual, intimate service than worship in the morning and will also take place in the Sanctuary. The afternoon service will also be livestreamed. We hope you will come experience it!



Save the date for our Neighborhood Block Party / Get Connected Sunday, which will take place Sunday, September 10. It will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Michigan Avenue courtyard. Watch for details! For more information, contact Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*).
** On September 10 we will also kick off a new year of Sunday School, Youth gatherings, and Sunday morning Adult Education classes. The first of those classes will be "Celtic Sprituality" taught by Vicky Curtiss on Sundays, September 10–24 at 11:00 a.m., both in person and via Zoom. For details, register at www.bit.ly/aeceltic923



The Fourth Church Day School is enrolling children ages 1–4 years old for the 2023–2024 school year. More information about our part-time preschool programs can be found at www.bit.ly/ fpcdayschoolprograms ****** If you have an eighth grader interested in participating in Confirmation this year, please register at www.bit.ly/confirmation2324 by Sunday, September 10, when we will have a kickoff gathering of students and parents at 9:30 a.m. ****** Registration for the Autumn Session with the Center for Life and Learning is now open. Learn more about the classes and register for membership at www.fourthchurch.org/cll ****** Those who would like to learn more about this congregation or become a member of Fourth Church are invited to a one-session Inquirers' Class via Zoom next Wednesday, September 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers923*). For more details about the class or membership, email member@fourthchurch.org

The Chicago Lights Social Service Center has an immediate need for men's casual clothing (gently worn or new) in all sizes. ****** Fourth Church Shower Ministry is in need of unused, hotel-sized toiletries, specifically bottles of body wash, shampoo, conditioner, and deodorant; razors; toothbrushes; and lip balm. Items can be dropped off at the church reception desk seven days a week between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please mark them "Attn. Shower Ministry" or "Attn. Social Service Center." ****** The number of guests attending Fourth Church Meals Ministry Bag Lunch has increased to 80 to 90 guests per day, sometimes to as many as 121. Sunday and Monday Night Suppers are also seeing greater attendance, and thus the need for food items has grown. Food needed by Meals Ministry can be ordered and shipped directly to the church using the links onwww.fourthchurch.org/meals



Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * This week our free Friday Noonday Concerts move back indoors to the Sanctuary, from where they will also be livestreamed. See www.fourthchurch.org/concerts for details. **** Knitting and Crocheting** meets in person on Tuesday, September 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. **# Benevolent Guild**, which has counted among its projects making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital, resumes its weekly Wednesday gatherings on September 6 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. No sewing experience is necessary. * The Cornerstones fellowship group for those fifty and older will gather for dinner and a program on Friday, September 8 in Borwell Dining Room. That evening Jay Tunney will talk about his book The Prizefighter and the *Playwright* and its recounting of the close friendship between his father, boxer Gene Tunney, and the playwright George Bernard Shaw. To attend, register (required) at www.bit.ly/cornerstones923 **Books by Women** will discuss **Secret Life of Sunflowers** by Marta Molnar at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ****** A four-week **Grief Support Group** hosted by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being begins Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. To learn more or to register (required), email Sharon Crawford Tucker at stucker@fourthchurch.org, call the Center at 312.787.8425, or visit www.reploglecenter.org.

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For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources and opportunities**, watch our **website** (*www.fourthchurch.org*). ***** Events are posted online on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ***** We invite you to follow us on **Facebook** (*facebook.com/fourthchurch*) for updates, photos, and favorite quotes from recent devotions, sermons, and prayers. You can also find us on **Instagram** (*instagram.com/fourthchurch*) and **Threads** (*www.threads.net/@fourthchurch*). Our daily devotions (*fourthchurch.org/devotions*) are available by email as a resource for your personal reflection and prayer: subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ***** Also available by email (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail*) is our weekly "Rhythm and Word" video series, which offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer. New and previous videos can be viewed on our YouTube channel: www.bit.ly/fpcvideos



The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) is having conversations with candidates to consider for the role of Interim Pastor. The Interim Pastor, who will be hired by Session, will not be our next Senior Pastor. Rather they will be someone to guide us during the year or more when we are searching for the next Pastor. You can read about the IPNC work and find the latest transition updates at fourthchurch.org/transition; if you have questions or comments about the transition, please email them to transition@fourthchurch.org

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Two new 10-foot-long banners hang on the pillars in the back of the Sanctuary. Representing Illinois prairie grasses and sky, they are **part of the Ordinary Time banner collection commissioned in 2021 for our 150th anniversary.** Designed by Ellie Cotey, with additional sewing done by members of the Benevolent Guild, the collection **evokes this congregation's call to be a light in the city.** The pulpit parament, which **incorporates a map of Chicago**, is created from 150 pieces, one for each year of our sesquicentennial history. In it, the rays of light radiate from the church location and spread throughout Chicago's neighborhoods, representing an impact that stretches beyond the borders of our great city. The bright colors are **inspired by and celebrate Chicago's native landscape:** the blue of Lake Michigan and the green of prairie grasses encompass a city composed of both the colors of six native wildflowers and the colors present in Fourth Church's logo. The banners hanging from the balconies offer images of those local wildflowers.

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The **scaffolding** on the exterior of the Fourth Church campus is to enable tuckpointing, flashing, and window repair being done this summer. The scaffolding in the North Balcony of the Sanctuary is to assist in addressing the gradual delamination of a few of the Bartlett murals on the ceiling.