

You are invited!

January 14–20, 2024



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore in the coming year the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!

Welcome!

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and invite you to continue 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. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we **livestream our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can be viewed any time after the services begin. (For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning) ✨ Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ The **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each service. There are 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*); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✨ **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 services **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship. ✨ **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*) 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 ushers.

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

Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an information form. Those worshipping 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 worshipping 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.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

Those who would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today** are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following worship. ✨ On Wednesdays we gather 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). ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. this Tuesday and Wednesday. ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Resources for personal reflection

Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available as a resource for your **personal meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ Our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for your viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube. To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail; you can also **subscribe to our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)

A farewell and a congregational meeting

Today we celebrate and give thanks for the ministry of Senior Associate Pastor **Lucy Forster-Smith!** This is Lucy's last Sunday with us before her retirement. We will hold a **congregational meeting today at 12:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary (*viewable live via Zoom at www.bit.ly/fpcmeeting114*) for the purpose of formally dissolving the pastoral relationship between Lucy and Fourth Church. Please join us for that as well as a special Coffee Hour reception in Lucy's honor at 10:30 a.m. and again following the meeting.

The Life and Legacy of Dr. King

Today we join churches and communities across the nation in **honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, who was born ninety-five years ago on January 15. Signs with Dr. King's image and words stand along Michigan Avenue as public witness for all who pass by. They are a continued expression of our commitment to embrace racial equity by purposely including all people, striving for radical hospitality, and modeling an antiracist approach in all areas. We remain steadfast in our theological conviction that the lives of our Black siblings matter to both God and to us and that their lives are sacred. We are committed to putting that theological conviction into practice and continuing to express it in a variety of ways.

Sunday opportunities

"Finding Faith in Hard Times: When Bad Things Happen to Good People" is the topic of a three-week Adult Education class led by Amy Pagliarella at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/afindingfaith * **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. * **Youth groups** do not meet this morning, as they are returning from their ski trip. * On exhibit in the Loggia is **"Light in the Darkness,"** featuring the artwork of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks. * We invite you to join us this afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**. This more casual, intimate service, which is livestreamed as well, features a breadth of musical expressions.

Get connected

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom Wednesday, January 24 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items for those in need, meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *Sewing experience is not necessary.* Knitting and Crocheting meets via Zoom on Tuesday, January 23 at 4:00 p.m. * Join us on Thursday, January 25 at 5:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel as we cohost with the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy a panel discussion on **"Chicago's Newest Neighbors: Examining the Migrant Crisis."** * **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** gathers on Sunday, January 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room for pizza and a movie. * **"The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Future of American Democracy"** will be the topic of our next **Michigan Avenue Forum**, which will be held Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our speaker will be **Robert P. Jones**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. * **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group for those fifty and over, will meet for dinner and a program on **"Do You Hear What You're Saying?: A Discussion of Microaggressions,"** led by Robert Crouch and Regan Burke, on Friday, February 2 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. Registration (www.bit.ly/cornerstones224) is required.

Long-range planning: proposed strategic directions

Your continued input is essential to the long-range planning process! Thus we encourage you to join the **Long-Range Planning Task Force** for one of their **upcoming listening sessions**—a time to hear **proposed strategic directions and goals** and **provide feedback**. There will be identical sessions this **Thursday, January 18** at 6:30 p.m. (*Zoom*); **Sunday, January 21** at 10:45 a.m. (*in person*); Sunday, January 28 at 12:30 p.m. (*in person*); Tuesday, January 30 at 8:00 p.m. (*Zoom*); and Sunday, February 4 at 12:30 p.m. (*in person*). To ensure group sizes enabling all to be heard, **registration is required**. For registration links, see www.fourthchurch.org; to learn more, email longrange@fourthchurch.org

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, hospitalizations, or deaths, email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@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, email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org) or Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ On Sunday, January 28 at the 9:30 a.m. service, we will commission **Robert Crouch** to begin service as a Stephen Leader in our congregation. Please join us as we pray for and show our support for **Stephen Ministry** and the lay Christian caregivers God has called and equipped for this important role. Following the service that day, there will be a special Coffee Hour hosted by the Stephen Ministers, when there will be opportunity to learn more about Stephen Ministry. You can also leave a confidential message for them at 312.573.3365. ✨ Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org). ✨ To **explore options for counseling**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reploglecenter.org.

Stay connected

You can find details about **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, on our website: www.fourthchurch.org, where you will also discover various **resources**. ✨ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, we encourage you to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar. ✨ The **church campus and offices will be closed** tomorrow, Monday, January 15, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. ✨ To **learn more about this congregation or become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to a one-session Inquirers' Class on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers207*). For more information about joining, contact Associate Pastor Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org). ✨ We also invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Look for information, updates, and **snapshots of life at Fourth Church** in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc