



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.

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.”**

Worshiping in Person at Fourth Church

Each Sunday our worshiping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. If you like to worship with us in person, we gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Entering the building

A half hour prior to each Sunday service the doors open for worship, with 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*) as well as at 126 E. Chestnut—where the reception desk is located—and 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 \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) and at the Hancock garage (875 N. Michigan, *enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) for \$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.

Worshipping Online

We livestream the 9:30 a.m. service each Sunday on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/fpcvideos

Accessing the service

Worship can be viewed anytime after the service begins. 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.

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.

Sunday Opportunities

Faces at the Manger

Poet, author, and pastor J. Barrie Shepherd will be joining us via Zoom at 11:00 a.m. today, when we gather in Borwell Dining Room to hear Adult Education Council members read passages from his book *Faces at the Manger*, portraying characters present at Jesus’ birth. To be with us via Zoom, register at bit.ly/faces122024

Sunday morning fellowship

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

Today’s Coffee Hour is sponsored by Reb Banker in celebration of his fiftieth anniversary. On December 8, 1974, Reb came out of the closet and began an open life based in faith and self-acceptance. He is grateful for his sons, partner, friends, and his Fourth Church family for being an important part of it. *For information about sponsoring Coffee Hour, contact Simon Crow* (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Praying with a Deacon

If you would like to offer individual prayers with a Deacon today, you are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Organ tour

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, a tour of our pipe organ begins at the front of the Sanctuary.

Afternoon worship service

We invite you to join us for The Gathering: Communion at 2:00, a casual, intimate service. Beena David and the Gathering Ensemble lead our music; Rocky Supinger will be preaching.

Children and Youth

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.

Sunday school

Today—and on the second Sunday of each month—Sunday school children from three years old to fifth grade join their parents in the Sanctuary for the beginning of 9:30 a.m. worship. They then depart to their classrooms with their teachers. At 11:00 a.m., families are encouraged to bring their children to worship in the Sanctuary.

Youth gatherings

Youth groups meet weekly, with Junior Highs gathering at 9:30 a.m. and Senior Highs meeting at 11:00 a.m., both in the Bumpus Room.

Today eighth-grade Confirmation also meets at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5G.

Joining the Fourth Church Family

Are you interested in learning more about or becoming a member of Fourth Church? Please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class via Zoom on Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers12025) or in person on Sunday, February 2 at 12:15 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers22025).

If you would like more information, please contact Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org; 312.573.3362). He would welcome the opportunity to get to know you!

Bible Study

Women's *Horizons* Bible Study

Women's *Horizons* Bible Study, which gathers via Zoom at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m., meets this Wednesday, December 11. The theme this year is "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation." For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

"Bible Top Ten" podcast

Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their "Bible Top Ten" podcast at fourthchurch.org/podcasts and on multiple podcast platforms as they explore the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Visit Cuba with Us

Join us in traveling to Cuba in March 2025, when we will visit the First Presbyterian Church of Havana, continuing our twenty-four-year partnership with our sister church. The deadline for registering for this March 10–17 trip has been extended to Friday, December 20. Register online at bit.ly/cubatrip2025; for details, contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

Mens' Clothing Needed

The Chicago Lights Social Service Center is in need of new or gently used men's clothing as well as men's shoes. Items can be dropped off at the church reception desk (enter at 126 E. Chestnut) between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Advent and Christmas

Christmas Flowers deadline today

We invite you to remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward this year's Christmas flowers, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

Contributions can be made at bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by the end of today, Sunday, December 8 for names to appear in the bulletin.

Cookies-and-Cocoa volunteers needed

Next Sunday morning, December 15 Women at Fourth will host "Cookies and Cocoa" during Coffee Hour!

In preparation, bakers are needed to make a minimum of two dozen holiday cookies each. Volunteers to set up and serve that day are also needed.

If you can help with baking, setting up, or serving or would like to learn more, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Christmas with Tower Brass

Join us Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. for the music of the season when our brass octet presents their festive "Christmas with Tower Brass" concert! For holiday concert details, see fourthchurch.org/concerts

Christmas Cantata: Bach's *Magnificat*

The magnificent strains of Bach's *Magnificat*—a musical setting of Mary's song, as recorded in Luke 1:46–55—will be presented by the Morning Choir and members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago during worship on Sunday morning, December 22 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Seasonal Adult Education classes

Next Sunday, December 15 John Clum will lead us in a discussion of *A Christmas Carol* and its relationship to Dickens' view of Christianity. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom (register at bit.ly/aedickens122024).

On Sunday, December 22 at 11:00 a.m. we will gather for a sing-along of Christmas carols as Kat Evans shares with us their origins. This class will meet in person only in Borwell Dining Room.

Advent reflections

Daily Advent devotions written by Fourth Church members and staff are available as a resource for your personal meditation and prayer this season.

We invite you to receive them in your inbox (subscribe at bit.ly/fpcdevotions if you don't already receive our devotions), read them online (fourthchurch.org/devotions), or share them via Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch) or Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch)

Advent "Rhythm and Word" videos

On Wednesdays in Advent we are releasing a brief video of music, scripture, and prayer led by Matt Helms and offered for your reflection in this season. Sign up at bit.ly/rhythmmandword to have them sent to your inbox or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos) to receive notice of our new videos.

One service on Sunday, December 29

On the First Sunday of Christmas, December 29, we will gather for just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m. The service will also be livestreamed.

New Year's Eve Taizé service

On Tuesday, December 31 we invite you to join us, our neighbors, and our friends from Holy Name Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary for a candlelit New Year's Eve Taizé service (in person only), with music, prayer, and meditative pause for reflection on the turning of the year.

Caring for One Another

Prayer requests and 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 (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.

Also email Gloria if you would like to submit a prayer request to our Deacon and Morning Prayer Ministries.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

On Wednesdays we gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for details.

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 Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) or leave a confidential message for a Stephen Minister at 312.573.3365.

Counseling and well-being

To explore options for counseling and well-being, contact our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being (312.787.8425; visit reproglecenter.org).

Grief groups

Our Replogle Center also facilitates four-week grief groups via Zoom. To learn more, contact the group facilitator, Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org; 312.787.8425)

Fellowship Opportunities

Books by Women

The Books by Women book group will discuss *Almond* by Won-Pyung Sohn this Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Benevolent Guild

Benevolent Guild meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B to create sewn and crafted items for those in need. Sewing experience is not necessary.

Women at Fourth holiday celebration

“La La Ladies: A Women at Fourth Holiday Celebration” will be held in the Manse this Thursday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m. For details and to RSVP, register at bit.ly/waf122024

Chicago Exchange Japanese Fellowship

All are invited to a time of fellowship with Chicago’s Japanese community next Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the Manse.

Meditation Opportunities

Sacred Pause

You are invited to a Sacred Pause time of meditation offered on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/reproglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing

Labyrinth Walk

If you would like to walk the labyrinth, Buchanan Chapel is open for that opportunity this week between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

Stay Connected!

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 December 8–14

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Children’s Choir.	Room 4G
December 8	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary / Online
	9:30 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room.	Hospitality Suite
	9:30 a.m.	Nursery.	Room 4A
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School (begins in worship: see p. 10) . . .	Fourth Floor
	9:30 a.m.	Junior High Gathering	Bumpus Room
	10:15 a.m.	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Room 4B
	10:30 a.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall
	10:30 a.m.	Youth Choir	Room 4G
	11:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Confirmation Gathering.	Room 5G
	11:00 a.m.	Confirmation Parent Gathering	Room 4C
	11:00 a.m.	Senior High Gathering.	Bumpus Room
	11:00 a.m.	Faces at the Manger.	Borwell Dining Room / Zoom
	12:00 p.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Cornerstones Steering Team	Room 4K
	12:00 p.m.	Stewardship and Giving Council	Room 4F
	12:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Buchanan Chapel Loft
	12:15 p.m.	Long-Range Plan Project Task Force.	Room 5E
	12:15 p.m.	Voices of Light Rehearsal	Room 4G
	12:30 p.m.	Racial Equity Council	Room 5D
	2:00 p.m.	The Gathering: Communion at 2:00	Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30).	Anderson Hall
	4:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Medical Service	Borwell Dining Room

Monday	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool.	Classroom B
December 9	9:30 a.m.	Day School Twos Program.	Classroom A
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Silver Taps.	Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Bridge	Room 5B
	2:00 p.m.	CLL: Mosaic Class	Parish Dining Room
	4:15 p.m.	Monday Night Supper	Catholic Charities

Calendar for December 8–14

Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
December 10	7:45 a.m.	Sacred Pause	Online
	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool.	Classroom B
	9:00 a.m.	Heartland Alliance Medical Clinic.	Randolph Room
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Stronger Seniors Tuesday	Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Basic Spanish	Room 5D
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	12:15 p.m.	Good Memories Choir Concert.	Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language.	Morse Conference Room
	1:00 p.m.	Shower Ministry.	Showers
	1:00 p.m.	SSC: Living Room.	Room 5G
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Book Club	Zoom
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi.	Anderson Hall / Zoom
	5:00 p.m.	Tutoring	Fifth Floor

Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	Joint Finance.	Room 5F
December 11	9:00 a.m.	Day School Parent Meeting	Fourth-Floor Lounge
	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool.	Classroom B
	9:30 a.m.	Day School Twos Program.	Classroom A
	9:30 a.m.	Benevolent Guild	Room 5B
	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Tap	Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Zing	Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	CLL: Midweek Meditation	Room 4D
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	12:00 p.m.	CLL: Current Events	Room 5G
	12:00 p.m.	Horizons Women's Bible Study	Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language.	Morse Conference Room
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00)	Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	SSC: Living Room.	Room 5G
	2:00 p.m.	CLL: Film Series.	Room 4G
	3:00 p.m.	CLL: Drawing Fundamentals and Beyond. . . .	Zoom
	5:00 p.m.	Tutoring	Fifth Floor
	6:00 p.m.	AA: LGBTQIA+.	Room 4F
	6:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministers' Christmas Party	Manse
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Horizons</i> Women's Bible Study	Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	World Mission Social Justice Council	Zoom

Calendar for December 8–14

Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool.	Classroom B
December 12	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making	Borwell Dining Room
	9:30 a.m.	Day School Together We Play	Classroom A
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Silver Barre	Zoom
	10:00 a.m.	CLL: Intro to the Legal System	Room 4D
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Range of Motion	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	12:15 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Music History.	Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language.	Morse Conference Room
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00)	Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	SSC: Living Room.	Room 5G
	1:30 p.m.	CLL: Nonfiction Book Study	Room 4E
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi.	Anderson Hall / Zoom
	5:30 p.m.	Women at Fourth Holiday Celebration	Manse
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal.	Buchanan Chapel
	8:00 p.m.	Morning Choir Rehearsal	Buchanan Chapel

Friday	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool.	Classroom B
December 13	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Nia	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	SSC: Living Room.	Room 5G
	12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert	Sanctuary / Online
	2:00 p.m.	CLL: Hooray for Hooks	Fourth-Floor Lounge
	7:30 p.m.	Chicago a Capella Holiday Concert	Buchanan Chapel

Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Sacred Pause	Online
December 14		<i>(No other events are scheduled for Saturday)</i>	

Preaching on Sunday, December 15

9:30 and 11:00 a.m. • Tom Are Jr.

2:00 p.m. • Matt Helms