



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. (*On December 29 we will worship at 10:00 a.m. only.*)

Entering the building

A half hour prior to each 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.

Worshiping 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 worshiping with you today and would welcome knowing you are here. Please take a moment to fill out an information form.

In person

Those worshiping 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 worshiping 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

Cookies-and-Cocoa Coffee Hour!

Women at Fourth invite you to stop by Anderson Hall this morning for a special Cookies-and-Cocoa Coffee Hour.

If you are worshiping with us in person, this time of fellowship after the service provides an opportunity to greet each other and to learn about ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church.

A Christmas Carol, Dickens, and Christianity

Join John Clum this morning for a discussion of *A Christmas Carol* and its relationship to Dickens' view of Christianity. This adult education class meets at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom (register at bit.ly/aedickens122024).

Chicago Exchange Japanese Fellowship

All are welcome to take part in a time of fellowship with Chicago's Japanese community at 11:00 a.m. today in the Manse.

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; Matt Helms 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.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day there will not be nursery care; on those days parents are encouraged to bring their children to worship in the Sanctuary.

Sunday school

Sunday school for three-year-olds through fifth graders takes place at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. During the 11:00 a.m. hour, families are encouraged to bring their children to worship in the Sanctuary.

Sunday school classes will meet next Sunday, December 22 but then will take a two-week break, with no classes on December 29 or January 5.

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.

Youth groups will also take a two-week break, with no gatherings on December 29 or January 5.

Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, please join us for Inquirers' Class either via Zoom on 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). For more information, contact Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org).

Bible Study

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).

Women's *Horizons* Bible Study

Women's *Horizons* Bible Study, which gathers via Zoom at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m., will next meet on Wednesday, January 8. 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).

"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

This Friday, December 20 is the last day to sign up to join us in traveling to Cuba in March 2025. We will be visiting the First Presbyterian Church of Havana on March 10–17 as we continue our twenty-four-year partnership with our sister church. Register at bit.ly/cubatrip2025; for details, email 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

Books for Christmas Wishes

We still need monetary contributions toward the purchase of books for our “Christmas Wishes” gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students. To give, please note “Christmas Wishes” in the designation when giving at fourthchurch.org/give or in the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

“Longest Night” service

Our “Longest Night” service—also known as a “Blue Christmas” service—provides a worship opportunity for those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness.

The service, which will take place this Friday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel (in person only)—will be preceded by a time of fellowship at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse.

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*

Next Sunday morning, December 22 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 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship.

Christmas carols and their origins

Join Kat Evans next Sunday, December 22 for a Christmas carol sing-along at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room as she shares with us the history and origins of our favorite carols.

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), 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 for your reflection in this season. Sign up at bit.ly/rhythmandword to have them sent to your inbox or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos) to receive notice of our new videos.

Parking on Christmas Eve and Day

Christmas Pageant and Christmas Day parking validations for the 900 N. Michigan garage will be available for \$20 (cash only) outside Borwell Dining Room immediately before or after those two services. Apps such as parking.com and [spothero](http://spothero.com) may have less expensive options in the neighborhood available for advance reservation.

Vehicles entering the 900 N. Michigan garage after 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve will be able to park (with a free validation ticket from the church) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (\$18 for up to 12 hours).

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.

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

Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened at this time of year. Expectations for the holidays can be different from the realities. Such experiences need not be dealt with alone. Fourth Church's Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Replogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit www.reploglecenter.org

Prayer and Meditation

Wednesday Morning Prayer

On Wednesdays we gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. For details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). (Morning Prayer will not be held on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.)

Labyrinth Walk

The labyrinth in Buchanan Chapel will be available for walking this Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

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/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing

Fourth Church in Florida

If you live in or travel to Florida, please let us know—at bit.ly/florida2025 or by contacting Shawn Fiedler (sfiedler@fourthchurch.org)—so we can keep you informed about in-person gatherings with Tom Are in February.

Gala of Hope 2025

The 2025 Chicago Lights Gala of Hope will be held on Friday, March 7 at the Old Post Office. See chicagolights.org/events for tickets and ways to contribute, or email Katy Frey Bever (kbever@fourthchurch.org) for more details.

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 15–21

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Children’s Choir	Room 4G
December 15	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	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.	A Christmas Carol.	Borwell Dining Room
	11:00 a.m.	Chicago Exchange Japanese Fellowship	Manse
	11:00 a.m.	Senior High Gathering	Bumpus Room
	12:00 p.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	12:00 p.m.	PNC	Room 5A
	12:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal.	Buchanan Chapel
	12:15 p.m.	World Mission Social Justice	Room 5E
	12:30 p.m.	Nominating Committee.	Room 4F
	2:00 p.m.	The Gathering: Communion at 2:00	Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30).	Anderson Hall

Monday	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool	Classroom B
December 16	9:30 a.m.	Day School Twos Program	Classroom A
	4:15 p.m.	Monday Night Supper	Catholic Charities

Calendar for December 15–21

Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study.	Zoom
December 17	7:45 a.m.	Sacred Pause	Online
	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool	Classroom B
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program	Morse Lounge
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall
	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.	Shower Ministry	Showers
	1:00 p.m.	SSC: Living Room	Room 5G
	5:30 p.m.	Spiritual Formation Council	Room 4G
	6:00 p.m.	AA Meeting.	Room 4F
	7:00 p.m.	Fulcrum Point Concert	Buchanan Chapel

Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	Joint Finance Council	Zoom
December 18	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
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall
	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
	6:00 p.m.	AA: LGBTQIA+	Room 4F

Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making.	Borwell Dining Room
December 19	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool	Classroom B
	9:30 a.m.	Day School Together We Play.	Classroom A
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program	Morse Lounge
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall
	12:15 p.m.	AA Meeting.	Room 4F
	1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language	Morse Conference Room

Calendar for December 15–21

- 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. Sounds Good Choir Concert Sanctuary
- 3:30 p.m. Meals Ministry Steering Team Morse Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Board of Trustees. Room 4G

- Friday** 9:30 a.m. SSC: Drop-In Program Morse Lounge
- December 20 11:00 a.m. CLL: Advisory Committee CLL Office
- 11:30 a.m. SSC: Living Room Room 4G
- 12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert Sanctuary / Online
- 2:30 p.m. Strategic Communications Task Force. Room 4F
- 4:30 p.m. Session. Room 4G
- 5:00 p.m. Spiritual Formation Fellowship Time Manse
- 5:30 p.m. Family Night Borwell Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. Longest Night Service Buchanan Chapel

- Saturday** 8:30 a.m. Sacred Pause Online
- December 21 5:00 p.m. Christmas with Tower Brass Sanctuary / Online

Worship on Sunday, December 22

- 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. • Christmas Cantata (*see page 11*)
- 2:00 p.m. • Rocky Supinger preaching