



## 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, next Sunday, January 5 we resume our regular schedule of worshiping at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

### 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, 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 \$10 for 6 hours (*and \$20 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

This worship service is being livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [bit.ly/fpcvideos](https://bit.ly/fpcvideos); next Sunday we resume livestreaming the 9:30 a.m. service.

### 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](https://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

### 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.

### 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 service.

### Organ tour

Following the service, a tour of our pipe organ begins at the front of the Sanctuary.

### “Christian Mysticism: Roots to Today”

“Christian Mysticism: Roots to Today” will be the topic of a three-week adult education class beginning next Sunday morning, January 5 at 11:00 a.m. Taught by Vicky Curtiss, former Fourth Church Associate Pastor and current Program Director for Siena Retreat Center, the class will meet in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For details, register at [bit.ly/mysticism202501](https://bit.ly/mysticism202501)

## New Year's Eve Taizé

This 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, Nanette Sawyer and staff from Holy Name will lead us in reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come. A time of fellowship will follow in Anderson Hall.

## 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

Sunday school for three-year-olds through fifth graders is taking a two-week break, with no classes on December 29 or January 5.

Sunday school will resume on Sunday, January 12 with classes 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.

### Youth gatherings

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

Youth groups will resume meeting weekly on Sunday, January 12, with Junior Highs gathering at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room and Senior Highs meeting at 11:00 a.m., also in Bumpus.

## Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class either via Zoom on January 8 at 6:30 p.m. (register at [bit.ly/inquirers12025](https://bit.ly/inquirers12025)) or in person on Sunday, February 2 at 12:15 p.m. (register at [bit.ly/inquirers22025](https://bit.ly/inquirers22025)). If you would like more information, please contact Matt Helms ([mhelms@fourthchurch.org](mailto:mhelms@fourthchurch.org); 312.573.3362). He would welcome the opportunity to get to know you!

## Information Sessions with Tom Are

On Friday, December 27 Interim Pastor Tom Are emailed a video message to the congregation, sharing an update on 2025 ministry and budget. If you have not yet seen that video, you can find it on our website home page: [fourthchurch.org](https://fourthchurch.org)

You are invited to join Tom for an information session expanding on that video message. The session will be offered twice: Monday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, January 7 at 6:00 p.m. Both sessions will take place in Anderson Hall and via Zoom. Please register, using the following links, for the session you plan to attend:

Monday, January 6: [bit.ly/infomeetingjan6](https://bit.ly/infomeetingjan6)

Tuesday, January 7: [bit.ly/infomeetingjan7](https://bit.ly/infomeetingjan7)

## Congregational Meeting: January 12

As Tom Are shared in the congregational video message described above, several staff positions are being eliminated in 2025 as part of the reductions made by Session and Trustees to help Fourth Church move toward a balanced budget.

Among the positions being eliminated is the Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry, which is currently filled by Nanette Sawyer.

Session has thus called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 12 at 12:00 p.m., at which time you will be asked to recommend that the Presbytery of Chicago dissolve Nanette's pastoral relationship with us.

There will also be opportunity that morning for us to express our deep gratitude to Nanette for sharing her many gifts with us over the past nine years and to wish her Godspeed in the unfolding future.

## Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee is at work searching for a candidate for pastor to recommend to the congregation. To suggest possible candidates, share what you hope the PNC will consider in the search and discernment process, or ask questions, email [pnc@fourthchurch.org](mailto:pnc@fourthchurch.org)

## Making Year-End Gifts

For those wanting to have a year-end gift applied to our 2024 budget or fulfill a 2024 Stewardship pledge by credit card, charges must be made to the card by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31 in order for those gifts to be credited as 2024 contributions.

For those wanting to make a gift or pledge fulfillment by check and have the gift recorded as a 2024 gift, those checks can be placed in today's offering. Mailed checks need to arrive in envelopes postmarked with a 2024 date.

If you have any questions about year-end giving, please email [giving@fourthchurch.org](mailto:giving@fourthchurch.org)

## Fourth Church in Florida

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

## Caring for One Another

### When the season is difficult

Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened at this time of year. Expectations for the holidays can be different from the realities. 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 [repluglecenter.org](http://repluglecenter.org)

### 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 or share a prayer request, please email Gloria Fleming ([gfleming@fourthchurch.org](mailto:gfleming@fourthchurch.org)). If immediate attention is required, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

### 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](mailto:nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org)) or leave a confidential message for a Stephen Minister at 312.573.3365.

## 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](http://chicagolights.org/events) for tickets and ways to contribute, or email Katy Frey Bever ([kbever@fourthchurch.org](mailto: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](https://bit.ly/newsfromfpc) and visit our news archive at [fourthchurch.org/news](http://fourthchurch.org/news)

# Calendar for December 29, 2024–January 4, 2025

**Sunday, Dec. 29** 10:00 a.m. Worship . . . . . Sanctuary / Online  
 10:00 a.m. Infants/Parents Comfort Room. . . . . Hospitality Suite  
 10:00 a.m. Nursery. . . . . Room 4A  
 11:00 a.m. A Time of Prayer . . . . . Stone Chapel  
 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour . . . . . Anderson Hall  
 4:00 p.m. Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30) . . . . . Anderson Hall  
 4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Medical Service . . . . . Borwell Dining Room

**Monday, Dec. 30** 4:15 p.m. Monday Night Supper . . . . . Catholic Charities

**Tuesday, Dec. 31** 7:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study . . . . . Zoom A  
 7:45 a.m. Sacred Pause . . . . . Online  
 11:30 a.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunch. . . . . Anderson Hall  
 1:00 p.m. Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) . . . . Buchanan Chapel  
 1:00 p.m. Shower Ministry. . . . . Showers  
 6:30 p.m. New Year’s Eve Taizé . . . . . Sanctuary  
 7:30 p.m. Fellowship . . . . . Anderson Hall

**Wednesday, Jan. 1** New Year’s Day • Church Offices and Campus Closed All Day

**Thursday, Jan. 2** 9:00 a.m. Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making . . . . . Borwell Dining Room  
 11:30 a.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunch. . . . . Anderson Hall  
 1:00 p.m. Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) . . . . Buchanan Chapel

**Friday, Jan. 3** 12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert . . . . . Sanctuary / Online

**Saturday, Jan. 4** Church Offices and Campus Closed All Day  
 8:30 a.m. Sacred Pause . . . . . Online

**Preaching on Sunday, January 5 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.: Matt Helms**