



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 weekly 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 (*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 \$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

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

Sunday morning fellowship

If you are worshipping with us in person, we encourage you to stop by Anderson Hall after the services 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 services.

Organ tour

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

“Christian Mysticism: Roots to Today”

“Christian Mysticism: Roots to Today” is the topic of a three-week adult education class that begins today at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Vicky Curtiss, former Fourth Church Associate Pastor and current Program Director for Siena Retreat Center, will lead our exploration. For the Zoom link, register at bit.ly/mysticism202501

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 via Zoom 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!

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 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.

Youth gatherings

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

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

Joining the Fourth Church Family

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.

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

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

Tuesday, January 7: 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 next 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.

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), Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation, or leave a confidential message for a Stephen Minister at 312.573.3365.

Counseling, well-being, and grief groups

To explore options for counseling and well-being, including grief groups, contact our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.8425 or visit reploglecenter.org

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.

Prayer, Reflection, and Meditation

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.

Daily devotions

We invite you to use our daily devotions for your personal reflection. To receive them by email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcdevotions; you can also find them daily at fourthchurch.org/devotions and on Facebook and Instagram.

Weekly “Rhythm and Word” videos

On Wednesdays we release a brief video reflection, led this month by Matt Helms. 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 new videos.

Meditation Opportunities

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

The labyrinth in Buchanan Chapel is open for walking between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Sermon podcast and text

During the week the Sunday morning service and sermon are made available via podcast on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts. To receive the text of the previous Sunday’s sermon via email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcsermons or read it online at fourthchurch.org/sermons

News, Updates, and Snapshots

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

Get Connected

Center for Life and Learning Winter Term

The winter term of fitness classes, lectures, and arts courses for adults sixty and over begins this Monday, January 6 at our Center for Life and Learning. See fourthchurch.org/cll for details and to register for CLL membership.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study, which focuses on scripture readings from the pulpit, with passages drawn from either the immediate past week's worship service or the upcoming Sunday, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Knitting and Crocheting

Both a fellowship group and a ministry of caring, Knitting and Crocheting supplies partners around the city with handcrafted items for warmth and comfort. The group will next meet this Tuesday, January 7 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B.

Stay Connected

Calendar

Looking for a calendar of Fourth Church events?

- See pages 13–15 for this week's opportunities
- Scroll to the bottom of fourthchurch.org
- Tap on the website menu option for calendar: fourthchurch.org/calendar, where you can add events to your digital calendar

YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram

We invite you to follow us on various platforms.

- YouTube: bit.ly/fpcvideos
- Facebook: facebook.com/fourthchurch
- Instagram: instagram.com/fourthchurch

Website and newsletter

For resources and information about connecting with one another and Fourth Church, see our website at fourthchurch.org and our weekly email newsletter. Subscribe at bit.ly/newsfromfpc and visit our news archive at fourthchurch.org/news

Concerts

Friday Noonday Concerts

This week's free Friday Noonday Concert, which takes place in the Sanctuary and is also livestreamed, features soprano Penelope Shumate singing "Bach to Broadway."

For a schedule of concerts at Fourth Church, see fourthchurch.org/concerts

Organ concert by Doug Cleveland

Mark your calendar for Friday, January 24, when our Interim Organist and Director of Music, Doug Cleveland, will present a delightful evening of organ music featuring our Andrew Pipe Organ.

St. Olaf College Choir in concert

The St. Olaf College Choir, hailed as one of the nation's premier *a cappella* ensembles, is returning to Fourth Church on Friday evening, January 31 at 7:00 p.m. as part of its 2025 Winter Tour. Tickets for this concert are available from St. Olaf at stolaf.edu/tickets/choir

Calendar for January 5–January 12, 2025

Sunday, Jan. 5	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary / Online
	9:30 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room	Hospitality Suite
	9:30 a.m.	Nursery.	Room 4A
	10:30 a.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Christian Mysticism: Roots to Today.	Borwell Dining Room
	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.	Pastor Nominating Committee	Room 5A
	12:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Buchanan Chapel Loft
	12:15 p.m.	Long-Range Plan Project Task Force	Room 4E
	12:30 p.m.	Nominating Committee	Room 4F
	12:30 p.m.	Racial Equity Council	Room 5G
	4:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Medical Service.	Borwell Dining Room
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper	Anderson Hall

Monday, Jan. 6	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Advanced French	Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Stronger Seniors	Zoom
	10:45 a.m.	CLL: Intermediate French	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Silver Taps	Zoom
	12:00 p.m.	CLL: Beginner French	Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Art History	Zoom
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Yoga	Room 4G / Zoom
	4:15 p.m.	Monday Night Supper	Catholic Charities
	6:00 p.m.	Congregational Information Session	Anderson Hall / Zoom

Tuesday, Jan. 7	7:30 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study	Zoom
	7:45 a.m.	Sacred Pause.	Online
	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool.	Classroom B
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Stronger Seniors	Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program	Morse Lounge
	10:00 a.m.	Knitting and Crocheting.	Room 5B
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Stage and Screen	Room 5G

Calendar for January 5–January 12, 2025

11:30 a.m.	CLL: Basic Spanish	Room 5D
11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language Class	Morse Conference
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 4G
1:00 p.m.	CLL: Foreign Perspectives	Zoom
1:00 p.m.	CLL: Improv.	Room 4D
1:00 p.m.	CLL: Watercolor and Art Concepts.	Room 4F / Zoom
2:30 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi.	Anderson Hall / Zoom
5:00 p.m.	Chicago Lights Tutoring	Fifth Floor
6:00 p.m.	Congregational Information Session	Anderson Hall / Zoom

Wednesday, Jan. 8	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. 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: Men’s “Great Ideas”.	Room 5A
	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 4G
	12:00 p.m. Horizons Women’s Bible Study	Zoom
	1:00 p.m. English as a Second Language Class	Morse Conference
	1:00 p.m. Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00).	Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m. SSC: Living Room.	Room 4G
	1:00 p.m. CLL: Art Beat with Susan Musich.	Zoom
	2:00 p.m. CLL: Film Series.	Room 4G
	3:00 p.m. CLL: Drawing	Zoom
	5:00 p.m. Chicago Lights.	Fifth Floor
	5:30 p.m. Gala of Hope Committee	Room 4G
	6:30 p.m. Horizons Women’s Bible Study	Zoom
	6:30 p.m. Inquirers’ Class	Zoom

Calendar for January 5–January 12, 2025

Thursday, Jan. 9	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making	Borwell Dining
	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
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Silver Barre	Zoom
	10:00 a.m.	CLL: Memoir Writing	Room 5A / Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Golden Grooves.	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Matters of Health.	Room 4E / Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Memoir Writing p.m.	Room 5A / Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Music History.	Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language Class	Morse Conference
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00).	Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	SSC: Living Room.	Room 5G
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi.	Anderson Hall / Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal.	Sanctuary
	8:00 p.m.	Morning Choir Rehearsal	Buchanan Chapel

Friday, Jan. 10	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool.	Classroom B
	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 4G
	12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert	Sanctuary / Online
	2:00 p.m.	CLL: Hooray for Hooks	Fourth-Floor Lounge

Saturday, Jan. 11 8:30 a.m. Sacred Pause. Online
(No other events are scheduled for Saturday)

Preaching on Sunday, January 12: Tom Are Jr.