



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 **as we live out our calling to love God and love one another.**

Guided by our Antiracism Covenant, we seek to embrace values and practices that enable us to experience Beloved Community, where **differences are seen as assets that are celebrated and experienced as strengths.**

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.”**

Worshipping in Person at Fourth Church

Each Sunday our worshipping 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. (*except Sundays December 28 and January 4, when we will worship at 10:00 a.m. only*).

Entering the building

A half hour prior to each service the doors open for worship. On Michigan Avenue, through the glass Loggia doors there is an entrance without steps that leads to the Sanctuary

There are also two fully accessible entrances via the Gratz Center: at 126 E. Chestnut and 115 E. Delaware.

Parking

Information on discounted parking is on the back cover. If you have not set up an online payment account for discounted parking at the 900 garage, ushers have information cards to help. Volunteers at the Coffee Hour Connection Corner are available to assist as well.

Sound

- Worship can be heard through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids.
- Please silence electronic devices during worship.

Worshipping Online

Livestream

We livestream the 9:30 a.m. service on our YouTube channel at bit.ly/fpcvideos, which is also accessible from the home page of our website: fourthchurch.org.

Next Sunday, and also on January 4, we will livestream the 10:00 a.m. service. We will also be livestreaming the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service.

Worship can be viewed anytime after a service has begun. 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.

Prayer

Personal Prayer with a Deacon following Worship

If you would like to meet with a Deacon to pray, you are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (through the door to the right of the pulpit) following worship.

Praying Each Week for Our Members

Fourth Church maintains a practice of praying for each member's household throughout the year.

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. you are invited to gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom to pray for members by name, all those who are in need, and mission partners around the world. (There will not be Morning Prayer on December 31.) For details, email Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org).

Requests for Prayer

If you would like to submit a prayer request for our prayer ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@fourthchurch.org).

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

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 the service.

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.

Worshipping with Us This Christmas

For the worship schedule, please see page 5.

Parking on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Discounted parking will be available on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at 900 N. Michigan (online payment only) for \$9 each day when using the discount QR code that will be printed in the bulletins those days. Please note that it will not be the same QR code used on Sundays.

Seating on Christmas Eve

Seating will begin at 3:00 p.m. for the Pageant; seating for the other three services will begin forty-five to thirty minutes prior to the start of each service.

Christmas Day worship

We encourage those looking for an online option on Christmas Day to view the video of the Christmas Eve service from the night before or any of our past seasonal offerings available at bit.ly/fpcvideos. We will also be sharing there on Christmas morning a brief Christmas "Rhythm and Word" video.

Podcasts from Fourth Church

Podcasts from Fourth Church—available on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts—include

- the Sunday worship service
- the Sunday sermon
- weekly "Rhythm and Word" reflections
- "Bible Top Ten," hosted by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger.



Connections and Belonging

Come connect with others as we foster a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone feels supported in building meaningful relationships

Coffee Hour Treats from the Schwartz Family

After the service today, all who are worshipping with us in person are invited to stop by Anderson Hall and the Commons to enjoy a spread of Wisconsin cheese and sausage with some crackers (and, of course, cookies) generously sponsored by Judith and Dennis Schwartz.

Come enjoy tasty treats while greeting each other and learning about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church.

If you would like to sponsor an upcoming Coffee Hour, fill out the form at bit.ly/fpc-coffeehour. It's a great way to help people grow in their connection to Fourth Church!

Online Coffee Hour

If you are worshipping with us via livestream, we would be delighted if you would also join us for opportunity to connect with one another in our online Coffee Hour. We gather via Zoom immediately following the livestream of worship for a time of fellowship.

Zoom link: bit.ly/coffeehourfpc

Join the Fourth Church Family

Are you interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church? If so, please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class via Zoom on Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers012026) or in person on Sunday, February 1 at 12:15 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers22026).

For more information about membership at Fourth Church, see fourthchurch.org/joining or contact Pastor Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org), who would welcome hearing from you!

Register for the CLL Winter Session

The Center for Life and Learning program for adults sixty and over will kick off its Winter Session of fitness classes as well as lectures and arts courses on Monday, January 5. Registration for the upcoming session—with its online and in-person opportunities—is now open and can be completed at fourthchurch.org/cll

Help Welcome Christmas Eve Worshipers

We are in need of additional ushers to greet and welcome worshipers to one or more of our four Christmas Eve worship services, on Wednesday, December 24.

Whether you have never ushered with us before or you have done so often, we would appreciate your help in making Christmas Eve special for those worshipping with us!

To sign up, see bit.ly/usher122425

Light Up a Life This Christmas Season

Share Christmas joy this holiday season with those in need by making a gift to our annual "Light Up a Life" offering, which is being received throughout the Christmas season.

Gifts designated to this offering provide funds for Fourth Church programs that support our neighbors and congregation and for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable.

You can make a gift to "Light Up a Life" by selecting that designation from the drop-down menu when giving via fourthchurch.org/give (*also accessible by using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin*).

If giving by check, please make the check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church and write "Light Up a Life" on the memo line. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the offering envelopes from the pew racks.

Caring for One Another

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 (gffleming@fourthchurch.org).

If the situation requires immediate attention, 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, consider being paired with a Stephen Minister. For information, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365 or contact Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org).

Opportunities to Connect

Chicago Exchange Japanese Fellowship

Chicago Exchange Japanese Fellowship meets to enjoy a Christmas meal and make gingerbread houses today at 12:00 p.m. in the Manse.

Knitting and Crocheting

Knitting and Crocheting's January gathering will take place on Tuesday, January 6 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. Those who cannot be with us that day but have completed projects to drop off can leave them—marked to the attention of Katie Patterson—at the reception desk.

For more information about this ministry supporting partner organizations throughout the city by creating handcrafted items providing warmth and comfort, contact Katie (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Books by Women

Books by Women, which invites readers into a monthly conversation about a selected work, will discuss *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

TwentiesThirties

Young adults will gather for lunch on Sunday, January 11 at Aster Hall (900 N. Michigan) following the 11:00 a.m. service. Come enjoy time with one another and opportunity to discuss topics for the next Bible study, a possible book study, and social events.

For more information about TwentiesThirties, contact Nance Bartell (nbartell@fourthchurch.org).

Fellowship Following “Longest Night”

Those attending this evening's “Longest Night” service—a worship opportunity for those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness—are invited to a reception afterwards that will be hosted in the Manse by the Spiritual Formation Council.

Connecting Online

Whether you live out of state, are traveling, are unable to be with us in person, or find online opportunities to be a meaningful complement to your in-person experiences, we invite you to explore our online opportunities for deepening your connections with your faith and with others: fourthchurch.org/online/connection

Friday Noonday Concert Series

Our free Friday Noonday Concert series takes a break this Friday, December 26, since the campus will be closed.

The series resumes with a concert by pianist Ye-Eun Hyun on January 2 at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream. See fourthchurch.org/concerts for the schedule.

Travel with the Choir in 2027

On Sunday, January 11 learn how you can join our choir in traveling to Croatia, Slovenia, and Hungary in February 2027. The information session will take place at 12:00 p.m. in Room 4G and via Zoom at bit.ly/choirtour27zoom



Community Engagements and Partnerships

Come alongside us as together, through programs and collaboration with partners, we advocate for social and community needs

Serving with Meals Ministry in 2026

Fourth Church Meals Ministry invites caring volunteers to join in helping feed our neighbors in need. Our new video—bit.ly/fpcmealsvideo—highlights the joy and impact of serving through opportunities such as assisting with meal preparation or distribution. You can help make a difference by signing up for open serving dates, including more Sunday opportunities, at bit.ly/fpcvolunteers

Make a Difference in the Life of a Child

More tutors are needed to pair with the youth who would like to participate in our Chicago Lights Tutoring program, which meets virtually on Mondays and in person at Fourth Church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. To learn more or volunteer to be a tutor, see chicagolights.org/volunteer/tutoring.



Faith Formation

Join us on our journey to grow spiritually through worship, educational opportunities, and programs that nurture faith across all ages

Children, Youth, and Family

Children in worship

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

Children from three years old to fifth grade join their parents in the Sanctuary for the beginning of 9:30 a.m. worship before departing for their classrooms on the fourth floor.

There will be no Sunday School programming next Sunday, December 28 or January 4; children are encouraged to worship with their families on those Sundays.

Youth

Today the Junior High Youth group (grades 6–8) meets in the Bumpus Room at 9:20 a.m. to go into worship together before returning to the Bumpus Room during the Welcome and Announcements.

Senior High Youth (grades 9–12) gather in the Commons at 10:50 a.m. to go into worship together before heading to the Fifth-Floor Lounge following the Passing of the Peace.

Youth groups will not meet on Sundays December 28 or January 4; they will resume on Sunday, January 11.

Zoom Bible Studies

For details about the following Zoom Bible studies, email Pastor Nanette Sawyer (nsawyer@fourthchurch.org).

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study—which focuses on scripture readings from the pulpit—gathers via Zoom weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.

Women's Bible Studies

Horizons Women's Bible Studies—"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"—will resume in January, via Zoom, on second and fourth Wednesdays with both a midday and evening study at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Poets on the Mystery of Christmas

This morning explore with John Clum how poets from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries have presented the Christian mystery at the heart of Christmas. Join him at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room. The class will also be livestreamed at bit.ly/fpconline

To watch previous Adult Education classes, see our video archive at bit.ly/adultedvideos

TwentiesThirties Advent Bible Study

Young adults are invited to a TwentiesThirties Advent Bible Study—discussing God's disruptive but transformative love for us in our world—today at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5B.

Mind, Body, and Spirit: Seeking Wholeness

To begin the new year, Pastor Nanette Sawyer will lead us in a two-week Adult Education class on "Mind, Body, and Spirit: Seeking Wholeness." Our first session, on Sunday, January 4 at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and online, will look at the practice of Christian meditation as a form of prayer. Register at bit.ly/wholeness2026

Resources for Your Personal Reflection

Daily devotions

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

Weekly "Rhythm and Word" video and podcast

Each Wednesday a Fourth Church pastor shares a brief reflection via video and podcast. Sign up online at bit.ly/fpcrandw to have new videos sent to your inbox, or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos). You can also listen to the reflections in podcast format at fourthchurch.org/podcasts and via multiple podcast platforms.

Sermon transcripts

To read the text of the previous Sunday morning sermon (or past sermons in our archives), see fourthchurch.org/sermons or, to receive the sermon by email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcsermon

Calendar for December 21–28, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:30 a.m.	Worship: Bach's <i>Magnificat</i>	Sanctuary / Online
	December 21	9:30 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room Hospitality Suite
		9:30 a.m.	Nursery Room 4A
		9:30 a.m.	Sunday School Room 4D
		9:30 a.m.	Junior High Gathering Bumpus Room
		10:30 a.m.	A Time of Prayer Stone Chapel
		10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour Anderson Hall
		10:30 a.m.	Online Coffee Hour Zoom
		11:00 a.m.	Worship: Bach's <i>Magnificat</i> Sanctuary
		11:00 a.m.	Senior High Gathering Fifth-Floor Lounge
		11:00 a.m.	Poets on the Mystery of Christmas Borwell / Online
		12:00 p.m.	A Time of Prayer Stone Chapel
		12:00 p.m.	Chicago Exchange Japanese Fellowship Manse
		12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour Anderson Hall
		12:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal Buchanan Chapel
		12:15 p.m.	Online Community Advisory Board Room 5D
		12:30 p.m.	TwentiesThirties Advent Bible Study Room 5B
		4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30) Anderson Hall
		5:30 p.m.	"Longest Night" Service Buchanan Chapel
		6:30 p.m.	"Longest Night" Fellowship Manse

Monday, December 22 10:00 a.m. Candle-Sleeving Volunteers Parish Dining Room

Tuesday 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study Zoom
 December 23 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

Christmas Eve 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Zoom
 Wednesday, December 24 11:30 a.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunch. Anderson Hall
 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant. Sanctuary
 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service. Sanctuary
 8:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols Sanctuary / Online
 10:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols Sanctuary

Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship Sanctuary
 Thursday, December 25 12:30 p.m. CLL: December Lunch Meetup Offsite

Friday, December 26 Church Offices and Campus Closed

Saturday, December 27 Church Offices and Campus Closed

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship: Joseph L. Morrow preaching. Sanctuary
 December 28 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
 11:00 a.m. Online Coffee Hour. Zoom
 4:00 p.m. Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30) Anderson Hall
 4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Medical Service. Borwell Dining Room