



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 today and January 4, when we are worshipping 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.

Worshiping Online

Livestream

Today and next Sunday, January 4 we are livestreaming our 10:00 a.m. service on our YouTube channel, at bit.ly/fpconline, which is also accessible from the home page of our website: fourthchurch.org. On January 11 we will resume livestreaming the 9:30 a.m. service.

Worship can be viewed anytime after the 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.

While we will not gather for Morning Prayer this Wednesday, December 31, we will resume Morning Prayer via Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. beginning January 7. You are invited to join us then in praying for members by name, all those who are in need, and mission partners around the world. 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 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.

Caring for One Another

For those wanting to have a year-end gift applied to our 2025 budget or fulfill a 2025 Stewardship pledge by credit card, charges must be made to the card by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31 in order for those gifts to be credited as 2025 contributions.

For those wanting to make a gift or pledge fulfillment by check and have the gift recorded as a 2025 gift, those checks can be placed in today's offering. Mailed checks need to arrive in envelopes postmarked with a 2025 date.

If you have any questions about year-end giving, please email giving@fourthchurch.org

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," a lively, informative, and often lighthearted exploration of the Bible through a series of top ten lists—including recent episodes on "Places in the Bible," "Prophets," "Sibling Rivalries in the Bible," and "Passages on Heaven and Hell"—which is hosted by Pastors 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

A Coffee Hour Invitation

All who are worshiping with us in person are invited to stop by Anderson Hall and the Commons after the service for our weekly Coffee Hour opportunity to greet each other and learn 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 worshiping 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/ctl

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 worshiping in the Sanctuary can also use the offering envelopes from the pew racks.

Fellowship Following New Year's Eve Taizé

Those attending Wednesday evening's 6:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Taizé service are invited to a reception afterwards in Anderson Hall as we join with friends from Holy Name Cathedral along with other neighbors in celebrating the year past and looking ahead to the year to come.

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

Knitting and Crocheting

Knitting and Crocheting's January gathering will take place next 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).

Free Friday Concerts

The January 2 free Friday Noonday Concert will feature a performance by pianist Ye-Eun Hyun—in a program cosponsored by Musicians Club of Women—at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream.

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

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

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: <https://fourthchurch.org/online/connections.html>



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.

Sunday School

There is no Sunday School today or next Sunday, January 4; we encourage families to have their children worship with them on these days.

Sunday School will resume on January 11, with children three years old to fifth grade joining their parents in the Sanctuary for the beginning of 9:30 a.m. worship before departing for their classrooms on the fourth floor.

Youth

Youth groups are not meeting today or next Sunday, January 4.

They will resume their weekly gatherings on January 11, with Junior High Youth (grades 6–8) meeting in the Bumpus Room at 9:20 a.m. and Senior High Youth (grades 9–12) gathering in the Commons at 10:50 a.m.

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, with passages drawn from either the immediate past week's worship service or the upcoming Sunday—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.

New Year's Eve Taizé Service

This Wednesday, 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.

Mind, Body, 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

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

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 28–January 4

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

Monday, December 29 *No public events are scheduled*

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

Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Zoom
December 31	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00).	Buchanan Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Taizé Service	Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Taizé Fellowship	Anderson Hall

New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1 • Church Offices and Campus Closed

Friday, January 2	12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert	Sanctuary / Online
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Saturday, January 3 *Church Offices and Campus Closed*

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship: Camille Cook Howe preaching	Sanctuary / Online
January 4	10:00 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room	Hospitality Suite
	9:30 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
	11:15 a.m.	Christian Meditation as Prayer	Borwell / Online
	11:15 a.m.	Long-Range Plan Progress Task Force	Room 4E
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30)	Anderson Hall