

FIELD EDUCATION CHURCH ASSIGNMENT

2014 - 2015

Description of the Congregation

Church: Fourth Presbyterian Church

Address: 3016 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY, 40217

Pastor: Rev. Thomas L. Vandergriff

Phone: 502-634-8021

Fourth Presbyterian Church is a small, but active, congregation in South Central Louisville. We currently have 115 dedicated members who serve the church and the community. Here is what we affirm and what drives our ministry:

Who We Are at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Our Purpose: To help people create lives of deeper meaning and happiness.

Our Method: We believe deeper meaning and happiness are best created in relationship with God through Jesus Christ and through the study and practice of the values of our faith.

Our Values:

- 1) We believe in a God who loves all people, saves all people, and is available to all people.
- 2) We stand on the side of love, compassion, joy, forgiveness, generosity, accountability, hospitality, honesty, faith and peace.
- 3) We stand against hate, violence, indifference, oppression and judgment.
- 4) We resist within ourselves temptations toward greed, selfishness, worry, dishonesty, envy, arrogance and idolatry.
- 5) We strive to grow in these shared values through a commitment to worship, service, prayer, study and fellowship.

Our worship experience is designed to challenge the mind and nourish the heart. It is filled with wonderful music. Our choir is small, but exceptional. It is led by an extremely gifted vocalist/choir director and accompanied on piano by a pianist who has studied in Ecuador, Russia, and Louisville and frequently performs with the Ecuador National Orchestra. We also have a band that plays with the choir and congregation and often provides special musical offerings.

We strive to build our community (both within the walls of the church and outside those walls) in what it means to be people of faith. We work very closely with MUSCL (Ministries United of South Central Louisville – our area ministry) by being the host site of MUSCL’s clothes closet and participating in all of their events. We have a very close working relationship with the VOA Halfway Back program (a recovery program for men trying to move past drug and alcohol use). This relationship has been an extremely profound ministry for all involved. What we learn from each other has been truly life-transforming. We also are proud to be a part of the Exit 0 Ministry serving food to the homeless one time a month for the last 5 years. Through this ministry we have grown closer together as well as grown in our relationships with those we meet.

While the above paragraphs give you an idea of our ministries, at the heart of who we are at Fourth is the people. We have families, singles, young, and old. Some live in the area and some drive as much as 45 minutes regularly to be at activities of the church. Our members demonstrate a sincere commitment to serving God by the ways they reach out to others through our shepherding program, serve on committees, share their talents in worship and the work of the church. Fourth is blessed to be a congregation whose members have been authentically touched by the love of God as it comes to us through Christ, and they demonstrate this through their commitment to each other and to Christ’s church.