

# First Friday Club *of* Chicago

[www.firstfridayclubchicago.org](http://www.firstfridayclubchicago.org)

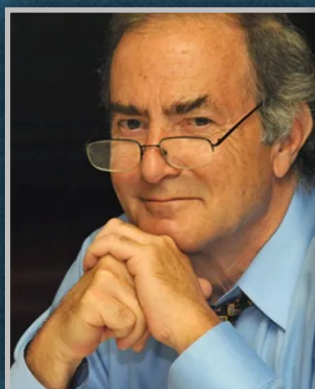


*Please Join Us*

2023-2024 Season October 6, 2023 - May 3, 2024



Fr. Michael Pfleger  
October 6, 2023



Rick Kogan & Barbara Gaines  
November 3, 2023



Howard Reich  
December 1, 2023

# Welcome!



**MAUREEN MURPHY**

Board President  
First Friday Club of Chicago

Hello Friends of First Friday,

Since 1986, the First Friday Club of Chicago has been hosting guest speakers to inform, challenge and inspire our members regarding ethics, faith, work and issues of the day.

As I begin this new year as President of the Board of Directors of the First Friday Club of Chicago, I am filled with gratitude for your stalwart support. You continued to participate, and contribute financially, throughout the months of our virtual presentations. And as we planned our return to the Union League Club last October, we were not certain that you would join us - but you did! I will never forget our first post pandemic luncheon last October when, together, we welcomed Father Greg Boyle! Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your support.

Father Boyle kicked off our 37th season which was, again, exceptional! Please take a moment to read this report which includes the current list of speakers from the 2022-23 season and highlights from a few of their presentations. And rest assured that we are hard at work putting together another outstanding group of speakers

to inform and challenge each of us throughout our upcoming 38th season.

The Board of Directors of the First Friday Club of Chicago meets on a monthly basis and dedicates a portion of each and every meeting to a discussion of speaker recruitment. Our chaplain and founder, Father John Cusick, describes our process as “organic.” We always strive to bring you great speakers who we ask to present a topic that is aligned with our mission. Sometimes we are surprised by a presentation. We are sorry if one of our speakers falls short of your expectations and we hope that more often our speakers exceed your expectations!

Please continue to connect with our organization. Join us for lunch at the Union League Club and continue to engage virtually via the First Friday Club of Chicago podcasts. And I humbly ask that you consider supporting this organization with a financial gift. You may do so online. Go to the website, choose the amount of your gift and complete your transaction in minutes.

Thank you again for your part in the great success of the First Friday Club of Chicago. I look forward to being with each of you over the course of the next year.

Sincerely,

*Maureen Murphy*

**Board President  
First Friday Club of Chicago**

# A Note from the First Friday Club Chaplain



## Greetings!

As the board and I entered into the “dance” of securing speakers for the 2023-2024 season, I was asked several times “how long has First Friday been around?” Well, to answer that question, the First Friday Club of Chicago started back in June of 1986. That’s a long time!

Looking back on all those years, First Friday has added a number of feathers to its cap with some incredible speakers. But let it be said, bringing some of our speakers to the podium hasn’t always been an easy task. Finding and making connections to a speaker requires lots of persistence, patience, calls and more calls or emails. And yes, at times, this “courting” seems a bit like a dance until we get an answer!

The abundance of wisdom our speakers have shared from the podium on the First Friday of the month is a treasure that I will carry with me forever. I hope you feel the same way! And I hope this is what keeps you coming back for more. Connecting with a speaker’s message and breaking bread with friends and strangers provides a priceless gift to be cherished.

The pandemic was a big challenge to First Friday’s luncheon model and initially, seemed like a tall mountain to climb. But as I’ve noted before, we learned how to adapt and stay connected to everyone. First Friday survived Covid with flying colors, never missing a meeting with the help of live-streaming via computers and phones.

Increasing costs will always be a challenge for the First Friday Club of Chicago, a nonprofit organization. But as you’ve shown us over the years, your support has been integral in keeping this organization alive.

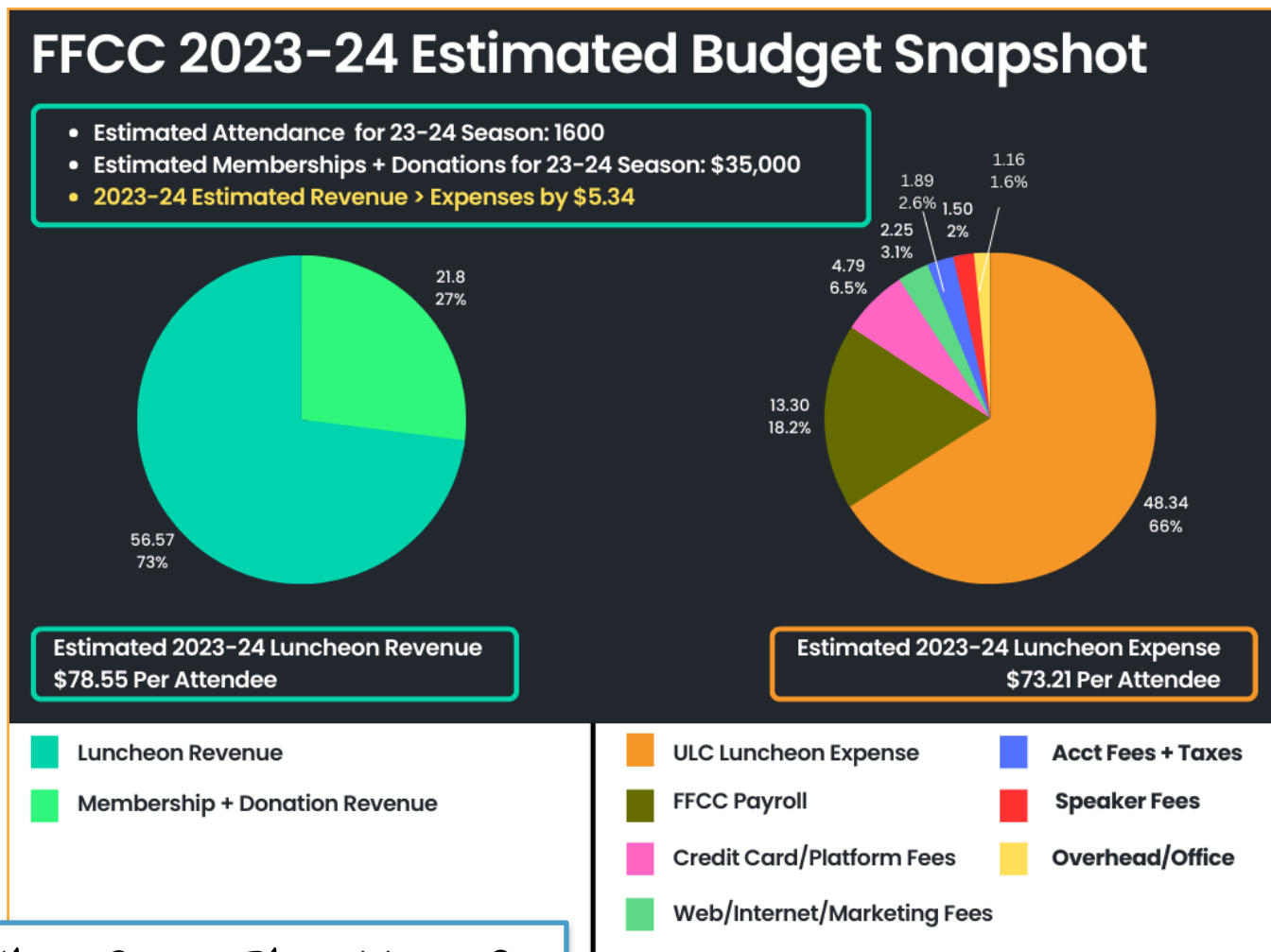
And here we are: season number 38, in person, at the Union League Club with the one and only, Fr. Michael Pfleger as our opening speaker. What a gift to be kicking off another year and a privilege to welcome you, to our 2023-24 speaker luncheon series.

Thank you for your support and we hope you’ll consider another donation for another season with the First Friday Club of Chicago! Stay well and God Bless!

*Fr. John Cusick*  
**Chaplain**  
**First Friday Club of Chicago**

# 2023-2024 Budget Snapshot

## FFCC Revenue v. Cost Projection



### What Does This Mean?

**Defining Success:** Based on historical data from last season, attendees are ready to be engaged at any of our 8 speaker luncheons and are generous in their support through memberships and donations. With that said, we predict an average overall attendance this season to be at 1600.

**Revenue:** With a projected attendance of 1600 for the 2023-24 season, overall luncheon revenue will rely on tickets sales (73%) and annual Memberships which are projected at 27% of the total.

**Expenses:** Luncheon Costs which include the ULC charge plus administrative expenses typically escalate every year with this season being no exception. Fortunately, First Friday has also seen an escalation in donations and memberships, allowing First Friday to project a positive cash flow for the 2023-24 season.

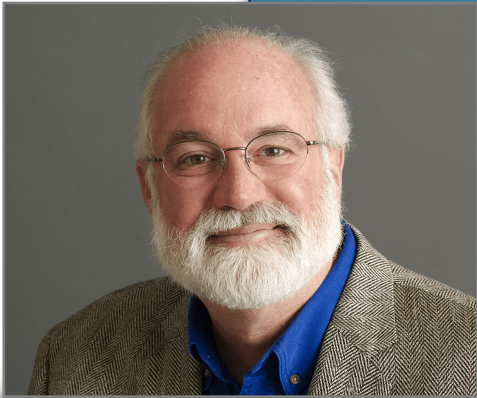
**Mind the Gap:** The ticket price for a luncheon does not cover First Friday's total cost per event. To cover this **gap**, we need your continued support through memberships and donations in order keep moving forward!

2022-2023

## Highlights from the 37th Season

**Fr. Greg Boyle | October 7, 2022**

Recorded at the Union League Club, Chicago, IL



### The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness

From the desk of Maureen Murphy,  
president of the First Friday Executive Board

***I will never forget** welcoming nearly 400 people to the Union League Club of Chicago for the first post pandemic luncheon meeting of the First Friday Club of Chicago! The energy in the room was palpable as we celebrated being together for the first time in over two years. And how fitting that our speaker was Father Greg Boyle who inspired and challenged each of us to do our part to help create a world defined by more compassion and fewer barriers. **I hope that you will choose to listen again or if you missed the luncheon, listen for the first time.***

First Friday Club of Chicago

**Podcast**



**Listen**

*For the First time  
Or Hear It Again*

**Fr. Gregory Boyle**

Click **HERE** to Listen

# 2022-2023

## Highlights continued

### Dr. John Duffy | November 4, 2022

Recorded at the Union League Club, Chicago, IL



**It's a Whole New Ballgame:  
Guiding Our Next Generation Through  
Anxious Times**

**From the desk of Fr. John Cusick, founder &  
chaplain of the First Friday Club of Chicago**

***Covid Changed nearly everything** in life as we have known it. Some of its harshest changes have been within the lives of our young people, especially adolescents. Last season, Dr. John Duffy discussed these "changes" at our speaker luncheon, focusing on the complexities surrounding mental health struggles. He also shared some amazing insights and strategies to help us all deal with this critical topic in the lives of our own adolescent family members and friends. I am proud to say that I have known John Duffy prior to his own adolescent years. **I hope you find this First Friday Podcast rewarding and extremely helpful.***

First Friday Club of Chicago

# Podcast



## Listen

**For the First time  
Or Hear It Again**

**Dr. John Duffy**

**Click [HERE](#) to Listen**

# 2022-2023

## Highlights continued

### Pastor Corey B. Brooks | February 3, 2023

Recorded at the Union League Club, Chicago, IL



**Breaking the Cycle of Violence,  
Poverty and Racism in Woodlawn**

**From the desk of Roseanne Rosenthal,  
member of the First Friday Executive Board &  
president of VanderCook College of Music**

***Do miracles really happen?** Put your inner Doubting Thomas to the test and listen to this Podcast by Pastor Corey Brooks (aka The Rooftop Pastor). In it, Pastor Brooks tells the story that led to his sojourn atop a motel that was to become the future home of the Leadership & Economic Opportunity Center at 66th and King Drive. Is his story one of commonplace coincidences or is it a modern-day miracle? **Listen to this Podcast and you decide.***

First Friday Club of Chicago

# Podcast



## Listen

*For the First time  
Or Hear It Again*

## Pastor Brooks

Click [HERE](#) to Listen

# Meet the 2023-2024 Board

## First Friday Club of Chicago 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **PRESIDENT**

Maureen Murphy

### **CHAPLAIN**

Rev. John C. Cusick

### **ADMINISTRATOR**

Judy Murphy

### **TREASURER**

Richard Beddome

### **DIRECTORS**

Dr. Rose Ann Anschuetz

John Benz

Catherine Brokenshire

Michael Cahill

Catherine O'Connell-Cahill

David Dault

Mary Jo Graf

Joe Harzich

Michael Kennedy

Chuck Murphy

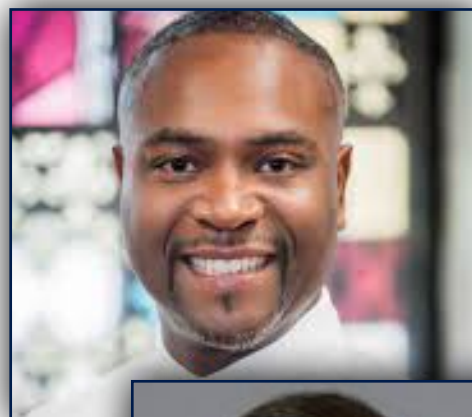
Lisa Parker

Shaka Rawls

Carrie Roca-Dawson

Dr. Roseanne Rosenthal

Dr. Terrill L. Stumpf



First Friday Club of Chicago

# Podcast

## **Listen**

***For the First time Or Hear Again***

Get Reacquainted with

## **Past Speakers**

From FFCC Luncheons

***Go To***

***[firstfridayclubchicago.org/podcast](https://firstfridayclubchicago.org/podcast)***

## **Tune In!**

# Membership List | 2022-2023

## FR. CUSICK'S FOUNDERS CIRCLE

### *Donation of \$1000 +*

Thomas & Carole Ahern  
Catherine Brokenshire  
Nancy Gillis  
Joseph Harzich  
Judy Josephs  
Mary Josephs  
Kathleen Juckniess  
David S. Mann  
Chuck & Judy Murphy  
Maureen Murphy  
Catherine & Michael  
O'Connell-Cahill  
David Pham  
Charles Shriver  
James Viola  
Linda Weaver

## PLATINUM

### *Donation of \$500 - \$999*

Judith Aiello  
Mary Aronin  
Jean Carey  
John Fontana  
Jim & Linda Glasgow  
Gert Johnson  
Patricia Kremin  
Lisa Parker  
John Weiss  
Robert M. Fitzgerald  
Roseanne Rosenthal  
Lisa Sullivan  
Joan Thompson

## GOLD

### *Donation of \$250 - \$499*

Rose Ann & Ned Anschuetz  
Tianne Bataille  
Rich & Marianne Beddome  
Anne M. Burke  
Marilyn Cahill  
Richard Carr  
Anonymous  
Frederick P. & Julie Engler  
Judy Erwin  
Victoria Fahey  
Dr. Karen E. Farrell  
Mary Jo Graf  
Judith Hamilton-Godfrey  
Michael Heaton  
Mary Herman  
Thomas Humes  
Ernest Kaminski

Mary Clare Loftus  
Lisa & Michael LoVallo  
William T. Lynch  
William F. Marutzky  
Leslie Morse  
Ed Mueller  
Connie Murphy-Adler  
Shaka Rawls  
Jennifer Rhoades  
John E. & Mary J. Scully  
Anne & Jack Shea  
James Stoik  
Terrill L. Stumpf  
Denise Szabla  
Dee Tevonian  
Lawton Warzala  
Paula S. Waters  
Henry Wisniewski  
Kevin Zoeller

## SILVER

### *Donation of \$150 - \$249*

John Ambrogi  
Elizabeth Arts  
Melissa M. Babcock  
John Benz  
Barbara Shea Collins  
Terry Conroy  
Barbara Coy  
David Dault  
Christina Douglas  
Dan Durkin  
Anne Durkin  
MaryClare Fitzgerald  
Martha Forsyth  
Madelyn Gawne  
Susan Gordon  
Judith Graf  
Loyanna Grierson  
Carmen Gross  
Sylvia Hourihane  
Nancy Hunter  
John & Lisa Iberle  
Empower Illinois  
Frank Kiley  
Nancy Kreminski  
John T. Lynch  
Robert & Judith Macnamara  
Margaret McLaren  
Gerald & Mary Ann Moriarty  
Brian & Barbara Morrow  
Teresa Neufeld  
Barbara Nourish  
Dorothy I. O'Reilly  
Mary Pat Raleigh  
Carrie Roca-Dawson  
Kenneth Simpson  
Mary Trantowski

Mary Ulinski  
Erick & Kristina Mayer Wayne  
Kathleen Westberg  
John Yast

## BRONZE

### *Donation of \$75 - \$149*

Jacqueline Brennan  
Patrick Canning  
Susan Ciucci  
Charlene Conarty  
AnnJoyce Crement  
Thomas Cunningham  
Marilyn Curran  
Rick Danaher  
Margaret DiMatteo  
Jim Doyle  
Diane Dunne  
Earl Frye  
John Gavin  
Suzanne Geraty  
Eileen Harakal  
Kathleen Hart  
Laura Havel  
Gary Heitsch  
John Jenkins  
Chad Kalecki  
Susan Koranda  
Eileen Lyons  
Carolynn McNally  
Steve Millies  
Margaret Munaretto  
Margaret Palmasani  
Mary Jo Rice  
Mary D. Shaughnessy  
Patrick S. Sheerin  
Dolores Simon  
Jean Simpson  
John Somerville  
Marjorie Stephan  
Nancy Stern  
Thomas Stokes  
Janette Strzalka  
Peggy Thordarson  
Kay E. Thurn  
Walter Trnka  
Peggy Walden  
Roxanne Wallace  
Mary Watson  
Jill Wordekemper

## FRIENDS

### *Donation Less Than \$75*

Bernice Brand  
Patricia A. Bringaze  
John Dore  
Patricia Pankus

**Thank You For Your Generous Support!**

# Membership List | 2023-2024 *(it's not too late to donate!)*

## FR. CUSICK'S FOUNDERS CIRCLE

### *Donation of \$1000 +*

Catherine Brokenshire  
Victoria Fahey  
Kenneth & Nancy Gillis  
Judy Josephs  
Connie Murphy-Adler  
Mike & Catherine O'Connell-Cahill  
Charles Shriver  
Linda Weaver

## PLATINUM

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Judith Aiello  
Mary Aronin  
Joseph Harzich  
Patricia & Michael Kremin  
Chuck & Judy Murphy  
Roseanne Rosenthal  
Susan Suchy  
Lisa Sullivan  
John Weiss

## GOLD

### *Donation of \$250 - \$499*

Bob Adams  
Tom & Carole Ahern  
Ned & Rose Ann Anschuetz  
Marianne & Rich Beddome  
Marilyn Cahill  
Richard Carr  
Robert Fitzgerald  
Jim & Linda Glasgow  
James Glasgow  
Mary Jo Graf  
M. Judith Hamilton-Godfrey  
Lisa & John Iberle  
Ernest Kaminski  
Lisa & Michael LoVallo  
Ed Mueller  
Lisa Parker  
Kathleen & Norman Pater  
Joan Powers  
John E. Scully  
Anne & Jack Shea  
Terrill L. Stumpf  
Denise Szabla  
Dee Tevonian  
Lawton Warzala

## SILVER

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John Ambrogi  
Sarah Anderson  
Melissa Babcock  
John Benz  
John Conway  
Barbara Coy  
Darin Daniels  
Joane Driscoll  
Frederick P. Engler  
Mark Flessner  
Martha Forsyth  
Judith Graf  
Kathleen Hart  
Thomas Humes  
John Lillig  
Judith & Robert Macnamara  
Debbie Mellinger  
Barbara Norrish  
Dorothy I. O'Reilly  
Marianne O'Shaughnessy  
Mary T. Schneider  
Mary D. Shaughnessy  
Kenneth Simpson  
Joanne P. Starzec  
Thomas Stokes  
Janette Strzalka  
Laura West  
Kathleen Westberg  
Theodore Whapham  
Henry Wisniewski

## BRONZE

### *Donation of \$75 - \$149*

Elizabeth Arts  
Kurt Austin  
Virginia Benen  
Margaret Benson  
Eva Bernacki  
Vanice Billups  
Geraldine Soat Brown  
Fr. Mark J. Brummel  
Mary Ellen Busch  
David Caldwell  
Patrick Canning  
AnnJoyce Crement  
Thomas Cunningham  
Marilyn Curran  
Rick Danaher  
Mike Dessimoz  
Joan Domanico  
John J. Dore  
Jerome L. Duffey  
Eileen Durkin

Julie Fabre  
Maryann Fitzpatrick  
Patrick Foley  
Earl Frye  
Kathy Gaber  
Paula Galbraith  
John Gavin  
Madelyn Gawne  
Mary Pat Hamilton  
Eileen Harakal  
Mike Heaton  
Jane Herron  
Sylvia Hourihane  
John Jenkins  
Mary Johnson  
Susan Keegan  
Michael Kennedy  
Frank & Donna Kiley  
Eileen Lyons  
Mary Majewski  
Maureen White Matthews  
Peggy McCarthy  
Molly McCarthy  
Robin McGinnity Connelly  
Alyce A. Miller  
Eve Moran  
Corinne Morrissey  
Margaret Munaretto  
Mary Ellen O'Donnell  
James O'Donnell  
Margaret Palmasani  
Brian Regan  
Richard Rundle  
Sarah Russell  
Nancy Seever Hunter  
Patrick Sheerin  
Melanie Sikorski  
Jean Simpson  
Mary C. Ulinski  
Roxanne Wallace  
Steve Watson  
Sophia Watson  
Mary Jo Weis  
John Yast

## FRIENDS

### *Donation Less Than \$75*

Claudia Crilly Bellucci  
Bernice Brand  
Nancy Donatelli  
John T. Lynch

# Get Connected &

# Stay Connected with the First Friday Club of Chicago

The 2023-2024 season kicks off with Fr. Michael Pflieger at the Union League Club on Friday, October 6th followed by another great line-up of speakers. This 38th season will continue to provide a forum for men and women to make face-to-face connections between work, faith, values, and issues that affect their daily lives.

As our history states, we've been making connections for many years! FFCC was founded in 1986 by Father John Cusick, and today he continues his service as Club Chaplain. Joseph Cardinal Bernardin was FFCC's first speaker.

Our members and friends of First Friday Club will continue to receive all communications via e-blasts which contain information on and links to our speaker registrations, along with information and links on how one can donate to the First Friday Club of Chicago.

For additional information on the First Friday Club, go to FFCC's website at [firstfriday-clubchicago.org](http://firstfriday-clubchicago.org) to view previous Annual Reports, a current list of Board members, contact information, and links to all podcasts and video conversations.

You can also stay connected with FFCC on Facebook. FFCC's Facebook account has photos, announcements, quotes from luncheon speakers, links, and comments. Go to [facebook.com/FirstFridayClubChicago](https://facebook.com/FirstFridayClubChicago) to view and post your own comments.

***Last but not least, please consider becoming a member of First Friday Club.***

We run on a tight budget and rely heavily on memberships and donations to help underwrite our rising administrative and luncheon expenses, which are not covered by the ticket price

The following are **MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & DONATION OPTIONS:**

- **BRONZE: \$75**
- **SILVER: \$150**
- **GOLD: \$250**
- **PLATINUM: \$500**
- **FR. CUSICK'S FOUNDERS CIRCLE: \$1,000**
- **DONATION - YOU CHOOSE AMOUNT: An option to choose your donation amount and/or donate in honor of or in memory of an individual or organization.**

Each membership is good for one season and starting at \$75, one can purchase at least one discounted luncheon ticket per event.

To learn more about memberships and how to donate, go to the FFCC website at [firstfriday-clubchicago.org/become-a-member](http://firstfriday-clubchicago.org/become-a-member) and click on **Membership**, then click on **Become a Member/Make a Donation**. Follow the prompts to complete payment online.

Through the support of individuals like you, the club will continue to thrive.

**THE MISSION OF  
THE FIRST  
FRIDAY CLUB  
OF CHICAGO**



To Provide a Forum for Men & Women to Make Connections between Work, Faith, Values, and Issues that Affect Their Daily Lives

# Membership | 2023-2024



*Choose Your Level of Support & Join Today\**

**\*Memberships are good for one season**

## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

**Fr. Cusick's Founders Circle:** \$1000

**Platinum:** \$500

**Gold:** \$250

**Silver:** \$150

**Bronze:** \$75

**You Choose Amount:** *Can be made in honor of or in memory of an individual or organization*

## PAY ONLINE

**GO TO:**

[www.firstfriday-clubchicago.org/become-a-member](http://www.firstfriday-clubchicago.org/become-a-member)

**Choose Your Level of Support, Pay by Credit Card**

## PAY BY MAIL

**SEND CHECK TO:**

First Friday Club of Chicago  
711 W. Monroe, 3rd floor  
Chicago, IL 60661

**Payable To:** First Friday Club of Chicago

*Thank You!*

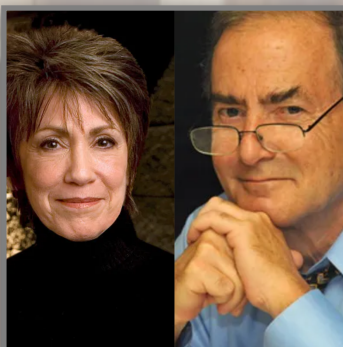
The First Friday Club of Chicago | **2023-2024 Season**

# First Friday Speakers | 2023-2024 Season

## *The 38th Season of Great Speakers*



**Fr. Pflieger**  
**October 6, 2023**



**Barbara Gaines &  
Rick Kogan**  
**November 3, 2023**



**Howard Reich**  
**December 1, 2023**



**Kwame Raoul**  
**January 5, 2024**



**Shermann 'Dilla'  
Thomas**  
**February 2, 2024**



**Rev. Dr. Otis  
Moss III**  
**March 1, 2024**



**Mary Meg  
McCarthy**  
**April 5, 2024**

**Speaker for May 3, 2024 TBA**

**312-466-9610 | [ffcc@firstfridayclubchicago.org](mailto:ffcc@firstfridayclubchicago.org) | [www.firstfridayclubchicago.org](http://www.firstfridayclubchicago.org)**

# First Friday Club *of* Chicago



## Speaker Luncheon Dates 2023-2024

October 6 2023	February 2 2024
November 3 2023	March 1 2024
December 1 2023	April 5 2024
January 5 2024	May 3 2024

*Mark your Calendar & Join Us  
for the 2023-2024 Season*

**Every First Friday of the Month,  
October through May**

