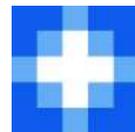


New Year's Day Sermon Notes

Guest Preacher: Rev. Robert Hecker

Title: "Traveling By GPS"

Today's Scripture: Matthew 2:1-23
(New Testament, pp. 1-2)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

First Pres at a Glance

January 1, 2017

Highlights

FPCE will hold a single Sunday worship at 11 am next Sunday, January 8, as we celebrate Confirmation for a number of our youths. We will also welcome and celebrate our 2017 Deacons, Trustees, and Session Elders as they are ordained and installed. Join us as we gather together to celebrate and give thanks. A reception will follow in Roy Hall.

Our first prayer gathering of 2017 will be held, Wednesday, January 11, at 7 pm in the Parlor. Come join us as we lift up our praises, petitions and plans to God!

Circles of Love is a program designed to help divorced parents learn how to be more effective in providing for the needs of their children. Parents will learn tools and skills for loving co-parenting, while children will explore changes in their daily lives since the divorce of their parents. Circles of Love will meet at the church every Thursday evening from 6-7:30 pm starting January 19, 2017. More information is available at <http://thecounselingcenterevanston.com/circlesoflove>.

Small Groups Leadership Training 2.0 is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 9 am to 1 pm. This is for all leaders of existing small groups and all those who took the training in July or November! Come join the Small Groups Ministry Team to share what is going on in your own groups and discuss the book "Creating Community." Lunch will be provided. Register by Jan. 19 with Katy Ingle at katymi47@gmail.com.

Worth Noting

Our guest preacher today is Rev. Bob Hecker. A long-time member at First Pres, Bob identifies himself as a cradle Presbyterian. In 1986 Bob and his wife Gayle came newly married to FPCE. Soon after becoming a member here, Bob gave his life to Christ. In 1989 Bob joined our Stephen Ministry. Over time he felt called to build on his Stephen Ministry experience which led him to enroll at McCormick Seminary in 1999. In 2003 Bob joined our church staff as Director of Pastoral Care serving here for 2½ years. He then moved on to 7 years of ministry as a hospital and hospice chaplain. Now in retirement, Bob continues to serve at First Pres as a small group leader and in prayer ministries. He and Gayle live in Evanston's Westminster Place where he is active in the spiritual life of their retirement community.

The First Presbyterian Church of Evanston building will be closed Monday, January 2, 2017, in observance of New Year's Day.

Next Week:

Confirmation/Installation Sunday (11 a.m.) - Rev. Raymond Hylton explores how the lives of those who believe in Jesus are shaped for faithful witness. His teaching comes from 2 Peter 1:3-11. *We will celebrate Confirmation for a number of our youths, as well as welcoming the installation of our 2017 Deacons, Trustees, and Session Elders.*

Listen to Sunday Sermons on the FPCE website or via the "First Presbyterian Church of Evanston" iTunes podcast. Sermons are usually uploaded by Tuesday evenings.

Pray for Our Mission Partner

Pray for our mission partners, Jay Sivits of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, from pages 40 and 41 of 52 Weeks of Prayer for Missions. Pray for her ministry to college grad students and faculty. Ask God to give her wisdom as she provides spiritual guidance and encouragement to IVF staff as well as students and faculty.

Calendar of Special Events

(For all recurring groups see preceding items)

Sunday, January 1

11 am New Years Day Worship Service
11:50 am Fellowship Time, Roy Hall

Monday, January 2

FPCE Building Closed
3:30 pm Warming Center, Room 21

Tuesday, January 3

No Special Events Scheduled

Wednesday, January 4

Prayer in the Parlor 8 am - 9:30 pm.

Thursday, January 5

No Special Events Scheduled

Friday, January 6

9 am Souper Saturday Prep, Kitchen

Saturday, January 7

8 am Men's Breakfast, Dining Room
11:30 am Souper Saturday

Resources for You

Our church offers three uniquely different types of support for all in need:

Friends In Christ (Bonnie Kath 847-507-4146) can provide short term, lay-person practical help, such as a ride to the doctor or a meal.

Stephen Ministry (RuthAnn Ostrowski 312-613-0644) offers trained lay-person support to those experiencing difficult times and needing someone to pray with them.

The Counseling Center (Charles Miyamoto 847-864-9133) provides professionally trained Christian counseling in our own facility.

Call Pastor Ray or our Parish Nurse Julie Ruchniewicz, 847-864-1472, for help discerning which ministry fills your needs.

Small Groups:

To be part of a Small Group, contact Katy Ingle at 847-724-8560 or katy-mi47@gmail.com.

Adults

Wednesday Prayer Gathering meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Parlor. All are welcome. **There is NO prayer gathering on December 28.**

Mom's R Us is on a break until Thursday, January 12, 2017. Questions? Contact Patty Bastian at RWBastian@aol.com.

The Women's Bible Study is on Christmas break and will resume on January 12, 2017. All are welcome! Contact Barbara Holm at 847-328-0049 for more information.

Friday in the "Loop" Bible Study

Fridays, 12-1 pm, Chicago's Loop. Study on Isaiah. Call Tracy at 312-726-1243 for details.

Friday/Saturday Knit, Eat, Laugh, Pray Noon-2 pm on the 1st Fridays and 3rd Saturdays in Room 206. Knit prayer shawls and scarves for those in need. All levels of experience are welcome! Contact Marge Oakley at margeoakley@gmail.com.

Saturday Men's Breakfast Saturday mornings, 8 am to 9 am in the Parlor. A guest speaker, refreshments and fellowship.

Youth

PYGS (High School)

No meetings scheduled until January 15, 2017. Meetings are 4-6 pm Sunday afternoons in the PYGS Lounge on the lower level. Dinner will be served.

NUBS (6th-8th Grade)

No meetings scheduled until January 13, 2017. Meetings are 7-9 pm Fridays in the NUBS Lounge on the third floor.

Opportunities to Serve

Interested in volunteering to work with refugees? World Relief will be holding orientations for new volunteers on four different dates in December and January. If you are interested in joining others at First Pres in attending one of these sessions, please contact Sally Ivaska at sallyivaska1@gmail.com.

The Deacons, in partnership with Institute for Therapy in the Arts, will be hosting an Art Project for the guests who attend the Saturday clothes closet. We need the help and support of the church community to make this happen. With oversight from staff from Institute for Therapy for the Arts and deacon volunteers, the guests will be creating a mosaic like mural illustrating a Psalm. We will be using previously used articles to create the art work. Upcycling describes transforming used every day articles, that might otherwise end up in landfill, into another form. We need bottle caps and magazines to upcycle into this yet to be created art piece. We appreciate your contributions. Sunday School classes are welcome to contribute as well. **A box will be opposite the church library for contributions of bottle caps and magazines.**

Stewardship Campaign

Our 2017 Stewardship Campaign continues toward its goal of \$1,125,000.

Pledges Received: \$1,011,510

Needed for goal: \$113,490

Total Giving Units: 250

If you haven't had a chance to make your commitment, pledge cards are available at the front desk.