

Lessons and Carols

Next Week - Second Week of Advent  
9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services

**Preacher:** Rev. Henry Coates  
**Scripture:** Matthew 1:18-25 (*New Testament, p. 53*)  
**Title:** Joseph - "Radical Obedience"

**Advent Series: Lessons from the Characters of Christmas**

The season of Advent and Christmas gives the church space to ponder the people whose lives intersected the miracle of Messiah's birth. Even though our culture is removed from theirs by some 2,000 years, what lessons might the lives of these people teach us?

**Big Idea:** The word decide, or decision, means to cut off or to kill. Making a decision leads one into making a choice that closes off other options. Joseph had to make a decision between socially acceptable norms (quietly divorcing his pregnant betrothed) and radically obeying God's will and risking shame from his culture.

**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.

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## First Presbyterian Evanston

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## Highlights

**Join us this afternoon as we decorate gingerbread houses at church!** Bring your neighbors and friends for a fun project that people of all ages can work on together. We'll have a decorating open house from 2-4 pm in Roy Hall. There will be a cost of \$10 for each house kit, with scholarships available. Walk-ins are welcome!

**December's lone Wednesday Prayer Gathering will be held this week, on December 13, at 7 pm in the Parlor.** Our focus will be to bless Elda, Joel and Ezra McGinty as they come to the end of their time here at FPCE. A Wednesday Night Dinner will be served at 6 pm in the Dining Room. On the menu is pozole with traditional garnishes. Cost is \$5 per person or \$12 for families of three or more. Reservations through the FPCE front desk are appreciated. All are welcome!

**Volunteers are needed Saturday, December 16, to accompany children who have a parent in prison to the holiday Zoo Lights display at Lincoln Park Zoo.** Both drivers and riders are sought for this Prison Ministry Saturday Surprise. We will leave at 3 pm and return after 7 pm. If you wish to participate, please contact Peter Steffen at [wpsteffen3@gmail.com](mailto:wpsteffen3@gmail.com) or 312-961-4176.

**FPCE will once again serve as a primary location for First Night Evanston, Evanston's New Years Eve family & community celebration.** Activities at the church include many musical and creative performances. The event is alcohol-free, and suitable for all ages. We need volunteers to welcome visitors into First Pres. Be the warm, friendly face from our church to the community for this one-night only volunteer opportunity. Volunteers receive a free pass to all performances. Sign-up at the front desk or online at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/events/event-registration/>

## Worth Noting

**We offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the friends of Frank Folkers, who passed away on December 1. A memorial service was held in Elliot Chapel December 5.**

**The Deacons would like to thank everyone who brought gifts for this year's Angel Tree Project.** The children received their gifts at a party at the church yesterday. Because of your generosity, the child of an incarcerated parent knows that he or she has not been forgotten.

**For those who got their photos taken for the church directory and did not order a package, your free 8x10 photo is available to be picked up at the front desk.**

**Altar Guild volunteers are needed for the preparation of the elements of the Lord's Supper for each of our Sunday communion services.** If you are interested in serving this way, please contact Elda McGinty at [emcginty@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:emcginty@firstpresevanston.org) for more information on this important behind-the-scenes role in the life of our church community.

**Book Club will meet again on January 9, 2018, from 1:30-3 pm in the Parlor.** We will be reading *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. According to the Amazon.com summary, "In the aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex, multilayered novel of historical fiction from the author of *Enemy Women* that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust." All are welcome!



## Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

### Pray for Our

#### Mission Partners

Pray for our mission partner, the Evangelical Theological Seminary, Cairo, Egypt (ETSC), from pages 58 and 59 of *52 Weeks of Prayer for Missions*. Pray for the institute to continue to be used in raising up and training pastors, ministers and leaders of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Egypt, the Arab world and Arab communities abroad. Pray for its leaders and their witness to Muslims and other people groups, and for God's continued guidance in the midst of persecution.

**First Friends is a ministry centered on refugees that have come to the Chicago/Skokie/Evanston in the past year.** Have an ongoing relationship with a refugee family along with others from First Presbyterian; or you can get involved with one-off events with our church and those families! All are welcome. Contact Sally Ivaska at sallyivaska1@gmail.com, or Caryl Weinberg at cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org.

**As a sequel to their previous "Repurposed Art" project, The Institute for Therapy Through the Arts and FPCE Volunteers are embarking on another art adventure created by the Saturday guests at First Pres.** The project, which is supported by the Institute for Therapy in the Arts, involves weaving with disposable plastic bags. Many colorful plastic bags will be needed for the final creation. Donations of the bags should be made in the box outside the church library. Those feeling led to support the team with your prayer or your presence are most welcome! Call Linda at 847-420-1289 for information about taking part.

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/serve/in-the-world/>

## Christmas Photo Display

**A range of photos of many past FPCE Christmas pageants are on display on the first floor (near the elevator), as well in the Dining Room.** They illustrate a variety of ways the Christmas story has been enacted. Pageant tradition has been to include a member family along with their recently newborn baby to represent the Holy Family. Installed by the Arts Ministry, the photo exhibit is part of the First Pres 150th Anniversary celebration. The exhibit will be on display through Dec. 31. Our special thanks to Bill Floyd, photographer.

## Children and Families

kmuller@firstpresevanston.org

**As part of our Christmas Pageant at First Pres, we are inviting all children in our Sunday School and Children's Worship classes to memorize Christmas carols and sing them along with our choir.** We'd like to have the children who regularly attend worship with us on Sunday morning to have a special role in the Pageant! During the 4 pm worship service on Christmas Eve, there will be different times when our younger and older Sunday morning children are invited forward. All your child needs to do is memorize the carol(s), listen for the opportunity to come forward in the service, and then join us as we sing. For specific instructions on what words to memorize, please request a letter from your child's Sunday morning teacher or pick one up on the table outside the church library.

**New sign-ups have gone out for volunteer helpers in our childcare & Children's Worship on Sunday mornings.** We ask every family who uses these rooms on a regular basis to help out once per quarter. If you don't have a child but are looking to serve, we'd love to get to know you & help you get involved! For more information contact Kristin Mueller.

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/children/>

## Employment at FPCE

**First Presbyterian Church of Evanston is looking to fill the position of Director of Youth Ministries (full-time).** For the full job description and how to apply, please go to <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/about-us/employment>.

## Youth and Families

lribeiro@firstpresevanston.org

**The next youth band rehearsal will be held Thursday, December 14, in the Sanctuary.** Band will meet at 4 pm weekly in preparation of the Christmas Pageant.

**NUBS meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, in the NUBS lounge.** Students from grades 6-8 are invited. This Friday, December 15, will be our NUBS Christmas Party. Bring a white elephant gift (preferably something preowned and silly to pass on valued at \$5 or less) for the gift exchange. Also be sure to bring your appetite. We'll be having pizza and other yummy treats!

**PYGS meets from 4-6 pm each Sunday afternoon.** Dinner is served and a \$5 donation is requested to cover costs. Today we'll be discussing the mission trip and Youth Sunday. All high school students are welcome. Next Sunday December 17 will be our PYGS Christmas Party at the Hood Family home from 5:30-8 pm. Bring a white elephant gift (preferably something preowned and silly to pass on valued at \$5 or less) for the gift exchange.

**Calling all Christian leaders! The youth ministry needs you!** Are you ready to share in the gifts that the Lord has built in you? We are looking for volunteers of all types. Please email Liz at lribeiro@firstpresevanston.org so she can take you out for coffee and chat about how you can put your gifts to work helping to grow the Youth of our community.

**T-Shirts are for sale for \$15 at the front desk. First come first served.**

**Parent Small Group** – A parent small group will be held on Sunday evenings from 4-6 pm during the high school PYGS youth group time. Focus of the scripture teaching will mirror the youth devotionals to help keep in step as a family. Please email leaders Alison Velasco alsvelasco@gmail.com and Susan Hood susan\_hood@comcast.net to join. If you are interested in joining or leading a small group on Friday nights during the NUBS youth group please email Liz at lribeiro@firstpresevanston.org. Training for leaders will be provided by the small group ministry team.

*More details about Youth events can be found in our weekly email. Text YOUTHGROUP to 42828 to subscribe!*

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/students/>

## Young Adults and Families

hcoates@firstpresevanston.org

### Family Open Gym

*Thursdays, 4-7 pm, Roy Hall*  
Open for parents and their children to come run around, shoot some baskets, play some games. No need to RSVP; just show up and have a great time!

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/adults/young-adults/>

## Prayer in the Parlor

**The Parlor on the second floor is open each Wednesday for prayer and meditation from 9 am to 9 pm. All are welcome to come and spend time in prayer and praise in the space set aside for a holy time with God.**

## 2018 Stewardship Campaign Update

Our total pledges to date (12/04/2017) for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign are as follows:

**Goal** (2018 Budget): \$1,050,000  
**Funds pledged:** \$1,026,785

**Pledges:** 199  
**Faith Commitments:** 25  
**Total Giving Unit Commitments to date:** 224  
**Last Year's Total Giving Unit Commitments:** 292

Thank you for your support.

Pledge Cards are still available in the FPCE Lobby or online at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/giving/giving-campaign/>.