

**December 31 Sermon Notes**  
**10 a.m. Worship Service**

**Preacher:** Dr. John Ng  
**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-8 (*New Testament, pp. 1-2*)  
**Title:** Herod: Poisoned by Fear

**Big Idea:** Fear shrinks the capacity of the heart to rejoice and be glad. The inquiry of the Magi provoked fear and deceit in the heart of King Herod. Instead of rejoicing in the birth of the child, his poisoned, sinful heart led him to commit atrocious acts.

**Next Week**  
**10 a.m. Worship Service**

**Preacher:** Dr. Raymond Hylton  
**Scripture:** Genesis 1:1-5; 31  
**Title:** Light in a Dark World

**Big Idea:** While the bible does not say how everything was created, it does say why God created everything.

**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

**Our guest preacher, this morning, is Dr. John Ng.** He serves as Chief Passionary Officer of Meta Consulting, a leadership development and hospitality consultancy to top international corporations. He is the Founder of EMCC (Eagles Mediation & Counseling Centre). John received his Ph.D. in Interpersonal Communication from Northwestern University.

**Tonight, 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. Tickets are available at the door or online at [firstnightevanston.org](http://firstnightevanston.org). **Volunteers are still needed at the 9 pm to - Midnight shift. Sign up at the front desk before leaving today! (All volunteers can participate at all events free of charge.)**

**Today is the last day to view our photo exhibit of many past FPCE Christmas pageants. They are located on the first floor (near the elevator), as well in the Dining Room.** The photos 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. Our special thanks to Bill Floyd, photographer.

**Sunday Worship services will be held at 10 a.m. on January 7. There will be no Adult or Children's Education Classes.** Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on January 14.

**Next Sunday, January 7, First Pres will be holding a Ministry Fair during Fellowship Hour in Roy Hall, following the worship service.** The Ministry Fair promises to be an exciting and informative event with various representatives from the church's service, discipleship, mission, worship, pastoral care, and fellowship groups gathered in one place and at one time. This event will let our congregation see the many opportunities available to them for their involvement, enrichment, and spiritual growth. Plan to attend and see what our church may have to offer you in the new year! There will be food, fellowship, and door prizes — including a lunch with Pastor Henry for one lucky winner!

## Worth Noting

**Today is our last Sunday with Elda McGinty serving as our director of Music and Worship. She, her husband Joel and their son Ezra are moving to southern California. The staff and leadership of FPCE offer our heartfelt thanks to Elda and Joel for their faithful service during their time here and pray God's blessing and guidance over them in the years to come.**

**The church building will be closed on January 1, except for the Warming Center.**

**2018 offering envelopes will be available for pick-up this morning through January 14 across from the library.**

**If you would like to participate in the preparation of the elements of the Lord's Supper for each of our Sunday communion services, please contact Hannah Dixon McConnell at [hmccConnell@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:hmccConnell@firstpresevanston.org).**

**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. All are welcome!

**The Women's Ministry of FPCE will host its annual pre-Valentine Day Movie Night and Jewelry Swap on Friday, February 9, from 7 pm to 9 pm in the Dining Room and the Parlor.** Sign-ups will begin January 7. More details to come!



## Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

### Pray for Our Mission Partners

**Pray for our mission partner, Jeff and Christi Boyd of Presbyterian World Mission, from pages 62 and 63 of 52 Weeks of Prayer for Mission.**

Pray for their work throughout Central Africa, with their home base in Kinshasa, DRC. Lift up their work with global partners as they work to remedy marginalization of women and children. Ask God to bless their efforts to create partnerships between African and PCUSA churches. Pray for their role as mentors to other mission personnel and families.

**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.

## Children and Families

kmuller@firstpresevanston.org

**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>.

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

## Youth and Families

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**NUBS meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, in the NUBS lounge.** Students from grades 6-8 are invited. NUBS is on break until January 12.

**PYGS meets from 4-6 pm each Sunday afternoon.** *We are on break until after the New Year.*

**January 26-28 the High School will be traveling to Phantom Ranch to participate in their winter camp.** The cost is \$150 for the weekend. Scholarships are available. Registration details can be found on the Sunday School table, in email, or online.

**Summer 2018 we’re heading to The Great Escape.** Rising 7th graders through graduating 8th graders are invited to go to the longest running middle school conference in the country July 9-14th. It’s a huge high energy Jesus filled week of fun! Registration is \$475. Scholarships are available. Registration details can be found on the Sunday School table, in email, or online.

**High School Mission Trip will be July 22-27 in Benton Harbor Michigan.** We will be serving the communities youngest and oldest residents alongside other churches. Registration fee is \$450 with an early registration discount of \$25 for participants registered before February 14th. Part of our preparation will involve fundraising to defray costs and raise scholarships. Registration details can be found on the Sunday School table, in email, or online.

**Our next service Saturday will be held January 13th from 10-noon. We will be assisting the deacons in organizing the clothes closet. Service Saturdays are on the second Saturday of every month.**

*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

**Save the date for our Super Bowl Sunday Chili Cookoff, to be held February 4 after the second service! More info to come!**

### 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:** \$1,058,662

**Pledges:** 206  
**Faith Commitments:** 26  
**Total Giving Unit Commitments to date:** 232  
**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/>.