

This week, we begin a new sermon series entitled “Making Sense of the Old Testament”

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.

Next Week

9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Christopher J.H. Wright
Scripture: Genesis 3:1-13
Title: Paradise lost

Big Idea: Sin entered the world through the disobedience of the man and the woman. The Bible is basically the story about God’s pursuit of people who wandered from God’s plan.

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.

Highlights

Join us today after the worship service at the **First Pres Ministry Fair during Fellowship Hour in Roy Hall**. 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. Come see the many opportunities available at FPCE involvement, enrichment, and spiritual growth in 2018! There will be food, fellowship, and door prizes — including a lunch with Pastor Henry for one lucky winner!

Next week, FPCE will begin a three-week All-Church Adult Education Course, to be held between services in Roy Hall. Please join us as we study God’s word together. Children’s Education will return to its normal schedule. Please see the insert in today’s bulletin and join us in the coming weeks as we explore God’s word together.

First Presbyterian Church hosts two-weeks of overnight shelter in January. The dates are January 14-28. We are still in need of volunteers for both weeks. Please sign up at today’s Ministry Fair or online at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/events/event-registration/> . Please contact Charlene Parris via email at c.parris@comcast.net for more information.

The Women’s Ministry of FPCE will host its annual pre-Valentine Day Movie Night and Jewelry Swap on Friday, February 9, from 6:30 pm to 9 pm in the Dining Room and the Parlor. This year’s theme will be “You Are Loved.” Sign-ups begin today. The cost is \$5 per person, and proceeds will benefit Good News Partners and Emmaus Ministry.

Worth Noting

This morning, we will ordain and Install our new officers for the coming year. A list of names is included in today’s bulletin.

Book Club will meet this Tuesday, January 9, from 1:30-3 pm in the Parlor. We will be reading *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. All are welcome!

First Pres will be conducting baptisms for children and adults on Sunday, January 14 at the 9 am or 11:30 am services. A class will be offered prior to the baptism on January 11 at 7 pm. Please contact Janice at 847-864-1472, jdocschuetz@firstpresevanston.org if you are interested or would like more information.

2018 offering envelopes are 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.

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Missions

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Pray for Our

Mission Partners

Pray for our mission partner, Prof. Y, from pages 64 and 65 of 52 Weeks of Prayer for Mission. Pray for the family and teaching of Prof. Y in March 2018 in Beijing. Pray for Christian publishing in China and that God will strengthen Chinese churches in their minds and hearts, encouraging them to have global view of Christianity.

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

kmueller@firstpresevanston.org

Join us for Children’s Choir! A new semester begins this Thurs, Jan 11, and children ages pre-K through 6th grade are invited to come and sing with us! We rehearse each Thursday from 4-5, and sing in church once each month. For a full schedule, contact Kristin Mueller, or register to participate online at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/events/event-registration/>.

Our Communion Workshop will be held on Jan 21 & 28 in the 3rd & 4th grade Sunday School classroom (Room 33, below the chapel). Each year, our pastors join our children’s class and teach about the meaning of Communion. Students of any age are welcome to join us, but we do request that at least one adult per family comes along with the children. Children will then commune with us on Sunday, Feb 4. For more information contact Kristin Mueller.

Summer Save-the-Dates!

- **Church Camp, Phantom Ranch, Mukwonago, WI – June 17-22**
- **Family Camp Weekend, Stronghold Camp, Oregon, IL – July 6-8**
- **Vacation Bible School, on-site at First Pres – August 6-10**

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

lribeiro@firstpresevanston.org

PYGS meets from 4-6 pm each Sunday afternoon. Dinner is served and a \$5 donation is requested to cover costs. All high school students are welcome. *Meetings resume this afternoon!*

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.

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 Final Report

Our total pledge numbers for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign are as follows (Info from December 31, 2017):

Goal (2018 Budget): \$1,050,000
Funds pledged: \$1,068,802

Pledges: 210
Faith Commitments: 27
Total Giving Unit Commitments to date: 237
Last Year’s Total Giving Unit Commitments at year’s end: 245 (297 total)

Thank you for your support.

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