

9 am and 11:30 am Worship Services

NEW SERIES: Anticipation: Finding Jesus Before Christmas

Preacher: Rev. Raymond Hylton

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (*Old Testament pp. 757-758*)

Title: Tenacious Hope

9 am and 11:30 am Worship Services - December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4 (*Old Testament p. 915*)

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.

First Presbyterian Evanston

1427 Chicago Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
847-864-1472

www.firstprevevanston.org

Highlights

This morning, in addition to our regular offering, we are taking a collection for the Deacons' Fund. These donations provide for all of the outreach done by the Deacons throughout the entire year. Special envelopes are available in today's bulletins for you to make donations to this fund.

Our all-FPCE Potluck—Christmas Around the World—takes place today at 12:30 pm, following the Contemporary Service. Join us as we celebrate the season, honoring the birth of our Lord, Jesus, by embracing the diversity of our family in Christ and savoring bounteous Christmas flavors from around the globe.

Our annual Advent Lessons and Carols Worship Services will take place next Sunday morning, at 9 and 11:30 am. These joyous gatherings are an excellent opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbors to come and get to know the FPCE family while we honor God and celebrate the greatest gift ever given in His son Jesus Christ!

FPCE will host a Gingerbread House Decorating Party, Sunday, December 9, from 2-5 pm. Today is the final day to reserve a spot and purchase one or more gingerbread house kits. This fun family event is a perfect way to gather all generations to take part in this creative, relaxed, and sometimes messy craft activity. Registration is required. Each gingerbread house kit is \$10. Sign up at the front desk or visit firstprevevanston.org/gingerbread today.

Please be a part of helping to decorate our gingerbread houses (see above)! We're asking the congregation to donate different candies for families to use as they decorate. Please bring store-bought, unopened candies of all kinds to the Children's Ministry table on Sundays, or to the front desk during the week, now through December 9.

Come join us for the next Senior Varsity gathering, Thursday, December 6. The topic is: **"I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the Land of the Living"** presented by Lisa Fortini-Campbell. Lisa converted to Catholicism ten years ago at the age of 53 and will tell us about how that transformation happened through the many people God brought into her life. Registration will begin at 10:30 am, the presentation at 11, and lunch will be served at noon (cost: \$5 for lunch). Please register by December 4 at the front desk by calling (847) 864-1472. All are welcome, especially seniors.

Worth Noting

All-Church Adult Education classes begin this morning! Join us in the Dining Room at 10:30 am for this three-week series of classes as we take a look at the connection between faith and the creative arts. All FPCE adults are encouraged to participate in the all-church Adult Education classes for Advent. Each week, a guest instructor will help us explore the relationship between our faith and the enjoyment of and participation in different areas of the creative arts. See the back of today's bulletin for details.

Thank you to all of you who have taken home Angel Tree "Angel" ornaments! Be reminded that gifts need to be returned to the FPCE front desk, wrapped and labeled, by the end of the day today.

The Parish Nurse Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 11, 1:30-3 pm in room 102. We will be reading *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. According to Goodreads, it is "the story of a quirky woman whose social misunderstandings, mental health issues, and unabashed wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes that the only way to survive in the real world is to open her heart to friendship". All are welcome to join us!



Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

Pray for Our

Mission Partners

Pray for children in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) born in times of conflict and turmoil.

Some have lost parents to war or displacement, leaving them vulnerable and destitute. Some are growing up in poverty, are married off for money, and are at risk to falling victim to violence, and recruitment to fighting forces. Thirteen million children are currently out of school in MENA. Pray for the mental and physical health and healing of children. Pray that they experience God's love and comfort, as well as "a hope and a future" that scripture promises. *(This month we are praying for the concerns facing the people of the Middle East/North Africa, with guidance from Voice of the Martyrs).*

Volunteers will be needed the nights of January 27-February 9, 2019, to serve at the overnight shelter at First Presbyterian.

If you have never received training before and are interested, attend any of the following one-hour sessions on: November 6, 7, 12, or 15 at various locations in Evanston. Contact Charlene Parris for details at c.parris@comcast.net.

Do you know a disabled refugee?

If so encourage him/her to contact suzanne@syriancommunitynetwork.org for information on PRIDE, a UIC research study designed to assist disabled refugees find work. One need not be Syrian to apply.

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

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.

Children and Families

bbolsen@firstpresevanston.org

First Kids Choir meets each Thursday afternoon!

Children in 4-year-old pre-K through 5th grade meet to sing from 4 to 4:45 pm. From 4:45 to 5:15 pm, children in 2nd through 5th grades ring chimes. During the rehearsal, the Dining Room and Gym are open for parent-supervised activity for siblings.

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

Stephen Ministry training begins January 5

You are part of a caring congregation. Is God calling you to take a more active role in Christian caregiving? Then Stephen Ministry may be just what you're looking for. It is designed to expand the quality of Christian care a congregation can provide its members by equipping lay persons to make weekly, one-on-one visits to people who need Christian care and support. The training takes place twice a month from January through early June. To find out more see the insert in today's bulletin. You may also contact Mike Denesha at (847) 612-9479 or RuthAnn Ostrowski at (312) 613-0644.

Clothes Closet Seeks Cold Weather Items

The Deacons' Clothes Closet has need of your donations of cold weather items: Jeans (large sizes especially); winter shoes & boots; overcoats & jackets (larger sizes); warm socks; gloves & thick scarves; belts; towels; roller suitcases & duffel bags. Please find it in your heart to find a few of these gently-used winter "things" in your attic or closet this year. Drop-offs should be made by the front desk in the church office. Your Deacons thank you for looking and sharing.

Youth and Families

agolbek@firstpresevanston.org

High School Youth Group (PYGS) will be meeting this afternoon. We'll share a dinner together and have a discussion of Advent.

Middle School Youth Group (NUBS) meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, on the top floor in the Middle School lounge. On Friday, December 7, we'll meet and enjoy acting out the Nativity!

Register for the Middle school Winter Retreat!

All 6th-8th grade youth are invited to come along Jan. 18-20 for a weekend of wintery activities and digging deep into faith at Camp Timber-lee. Cost: \$100 (scholarships are available) Registration forms can be found at the Youth Board near the front desk or contact Pastor Amanda.

Registration deadline: Dec.16.

Register for the High school Winter Retreat!

All 9th-12th grade youth are invited to come along Jan. 25-27 for a weekend of hanging out with friends, enjoying outdoor activities and exploring God at Camp Timber-lee. Cost: \$100 (scholarships are available) Registration forms can be found at the Youth Board near the front desk or contact Pastor Amanda. **Registration deadline: Dec.16.**

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

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

Holy Land tour information available

June 3-14, 2019, Professor K.K. Yeo and FPCE Senior Pastor Ray Hylton will host a Study and Mission Tour of the Holy Land. The cost is \$3,398 per person. Those interested in learning more can pick up a brochure at the front desk, or visit firstpresevanston.org/holy-land, where online registration is also available.

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!

This month's women's basketball pick-up game will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday, December 11 in Roy Hall.

Games will return to the third Thursday of each month in January. All skill levels and abilities are welcome! Reach out to Kathy Grant, kgrant@depaul.edu with any questions.

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

2018 Giving and 2019 Pledge updates

As of Thursday, November 29, our 2018 giving totals are as follows:

Pledge Giving to date:	\$886,026
Pledge Goal 2018:	\$1,075,000
Needed to Reach Goal:	\$188,974

Faith Giving to date:	\$109,281
Faith Giving Goal 2018:	\$195,000
Needed to Reach Goal:	\$85,719

As of Thursday, November 29, our current 2019 pledge commitments are as follows:

Number of Pledges received	185
Pledges received	\$875,585
Pledge Goal	\$1,175,000
Needed to Meet Goal	\$299,415

Faith Giving Commitments Received: 29

If you haven't yet made a pledge for 2019, and wish to do so, please contact Melody Henrie at the church office, text AUTOMATIC to 847-565-2772 to set up automated giving, or fill out a pledge form at the FPCE front desk.