

9 am and 11:30 am Worship Services

**SERIES: Anticipation: Finding Jesus Before Christmas**

**ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE**

9 am and 11:30 am Worship Services - December 16 - Third Sunday of Advent

**Preacher:** Rev. Raymond Hylton

**Scripture:** Zephaniah 3:14-20 (*Old Testament pp. 902-903*)

**Title:** Unsinkable Joy

[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

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## Highlights

**All-Church Adult Education classes continue 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.

**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!

**Come join us this Wednesday for our bi-monthly Prayer Gathering (this will be our only one in the month of December).** We will gather in the Parlor at 7 pm. All are invited to come join us as we seek the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bringing our burdens and opening our hearts to hear.

**Deacons' Closet has urgent need of Men's winter wear.** Good, warm coats and jackets are in very short supply for our male visitors —larger sizes are especially helpful for purposes of layering. Also need for sweaters, sweat shirts, large-size pants and sweat pants, and sturdy shoes and boots. As the cold winds blow and temperatures plummet, please look through your closets, drawers, and storerooms to help our friends survive the season in some warmth and comfort. God bless you in this Season of Giving. Items turned in by December 31 can qualify for 2018 tax deduction; ask for tax forms at the church office front desk.

## Worth Noting

**We offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the friends and the FPCE family of Sarah Filler for her passing on December 3. Details for a memorial service, which will take place in January, are still to be determined.**

**We offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of Rita Virginia Newman, a longtime FPCE member, who passed away on December 4. Services will be private.**

**Please help support the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Presbyterian schools at Fellowship hour this morning. Hand-knitted and crocheted scarves, hats, and necklaces made by First Pres Congo team members will be offered for sale, with proceeds going toward Build Congo Schools. A wide variety of colors and styles will be available.**

**Come to Nourish Women's fellowship Christmas brunch for fellowship and fun. The event will take place Thursday, December 13, at 9:30 am in the Dining Room.** If your last name begins with A-L, bring fruit; those whose last names begin with M-Z are asked to bring bread products. Bring a white elephant gift for more fun! Questions? Contact Patty Bastian at [RWBastian@aol.com](mailto:RWBastian@aol.com).

**We offer a special thanks to the following people who made the Christmas Around the World Potluck a wonderful time for our entire FPCE family:** Sally and Dave Ivaska, Alison Velasco, Ruby Singh, Amanda Jenta, Nikki's mom Rita, Allun Ren, Bob Bastian, and Judith Hylton.



## Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

### Pray for Our

#### Mission Partners

**Pray for the youth living in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region—which is in the midst of continuing turmoil, hardship and pain—who live with uncertainty about the future.** Pray that those struggling with depression and substance abuse will break free and experience God's peace in their lives. Pray that the younger generation will find hope and identity in Christ. Pray for peace and stability throughout the region. *(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 received training before and are interested, contact Charlene Parris for details at c.parris@comcast.net.

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

### 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](http://firstpresevanston.org/holy-land), where online registration is also available.

### 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.

**Christmas Pageant rehearsals are continuing!** They take place each Thursday from 5:15 to 6 pm in the Choir Room and Sanctuary. If you are interested in helping, contact Bev Bolsen at [bbolsen@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:bbolsen@firstpresevanston.org).

<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.

## Youth and Families

agolbek@firstpresevanston.org

**High School Youth Group (PYGS) will be meeting this afternoon, from 4-6 pm.** We will be enjoying snacks, talking about the Nativity story and having a gingerbread house decorating contest!

**Middle School Youth Group (NUBS) meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, on the top floor in the Middle School lounge.** On Friday, December 14, we'll meet and enjoy our Christmas Party! Please bring a found gift for the White Elephant gift exchange.

**Register for the Middle school Winter Retreat!** All 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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/>

### Registration for High school Mission Trip 2019 now open!

**All current 9th graders through 12th graders are invited to join us for a fun week of service and faith building!** We will be going to New Orleans, Louisiana, July 28 -August 3. We will work with a local organization called RHINO. Cost is \$250 (scholarships are available). Registration forms can be found on the website, at the Youth Board near the Front Desk, or by contacting Pastor Amanda. **Registration deadline: January 6.**

## 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](mailto:kgrant@depaul.edu) with any questions.

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

### 2018 Giving and 2019 Pledge updates

**As of Wednesday, December 5, our 2018 giving totals are as follows:**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Pledge Giving to date: | \$902,021   |
| Pledge Goal 2018:      | \$1,075,000 |
| Needed to Reach Goal:  | \$172,980   |

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Faith Giving to date:   | \$114,151 |
| Faith Giving Goal 2018: | \$195,000 |
| Needed to Reach Goal:   | \$80,849  |

**As of Wednesday, December 5, our current 2019 pledge commitments are as follows:**

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Number of Pledges received | 186         |
| Pledges received           | \$946,609   |
| Pledge Goal                | \$1,175,000 |
| Needed to Meet Goal        | \$228,391   |

Faith Giving Commitments Received: 30

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.