

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

SERIES: Anticipation: Finding Jesus Before Christmas

Preacher: Rev. Raymond Hylton

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

Title: Unsinkable Joy

10 am Worship Service - December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preacher: Rev. Henry Coates

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5 (*Old Testament p. 890*)

Title: Lasting Peace

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.firstpresevanston.org

Highlights

All-Church Advent Adult Education classes conclude this morning! Join us in the Dining Room at 10:30 am for the final week of this three-week series of classes as we take a look at the connection between faith and the creative arts. See the back of today's 9 a.m. bulletin for details.

Remember that next Sunday's worship will take place at one service only at 10 am. Join us as we celebrate the final Sunday of Advent with special instrumentalists and Christmas carols, followed by a brief fellowship time in Roy Hall. There will be no Adult Education classes.

Take part in this year's Christmas Eve Pageant gift giving opportunity! During the pageant, children will bring forward love gifts wrapped in white tissue paper. Label the gift ("boy", "girl", "either", and an appropriate age range). School supplies, creative toys, books, or clothing are most appreciated (please, no toy weapons or action figures of a violent nature). Gifts will be given to children served by the ministries of Good News Partners in Chicago.

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 Julie Stamos, on the death of her husband, Dr. Tom Stamos, who passed away December 7. A memorial service will be held 3:30 pm Monday, December 17, in the FPCE Sanctuary.

It's a wonderful afternoon for a Classic Christmas Movie on the 80" screen in Walker Chapel, Saturday, December 29, at 3 pm. Snacks will be provided. Friends and family of all ages are invited.

If you know a current member of the armed services who would be blessed by a care package this year, please drop off their names and current mail addresses at the church office. This outreach has been underway since 2004 as part of the FPCE Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast. For more information, see Pastor Ray Hylton at the church office or Larry Holm at 847-328-0049.

First Night is happening at First Presbyterian Evanston again this New Year's Eve and, as always, we are looking for volunteers to welcome our fellow Evanstonians of all ages into our midst. FPCE is the only venue this year, so we will be hosts from 6 pm to 11:50 pm! Please sign up at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/first-night-2018/> or at the front desk. Contact Jim Wildenradt at jim@wda25.com or Caryl Weinberg at cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org with questions! Remember, all volunteers get into the events free of charge!

The next FPCE Parish Nurse Book Club meeting will take place January 22, 2019, from 1:30 to 3 pm in room 102. We will be reading *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. All are invited to take part!



Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

Pray for Our

Mission Partners

Please be in prayer for the country of Yemen, its people, our partners, and for those who are serving there in the midst of war and famine.

Pray for those agencies and care organizations serving the tremendous human need there, and for the safety of their personnel. Pray, too, that God would guide all of the leaders involved in ending the crisis there, that they would have wisdom in their minds and compassion in their hearts.

Volunteers will be needed the nights of January 27-February 9, 2019, to serve at the overnight shelter at First Presbyterian. We are looking for both new and long-time volunteers. You can help set up, spend the full night serving or come and help clean up in the mornings as people are leaving. For more details and to sign up go to firstpresevanston.org/warming. If you have further questions after reading the details, 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, 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.

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

Youth and Families

agolbek@firstpresevanston.org

High School Youth Group (PYGS) will be meeting Tonight, from 6-8 pm. We will be meeting at the Hood's home as we celebrate with our annual Christmas party. Please bring a salad, side, or dessert. A main dish will be provided. Please also bring a wrapped, found gift for the "White Elephant" gift exchange. Rides from the church are available.

Middle School Youth Group (NUBS) meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, on the top floor in the Middle School lounge. We are in the midst of our Christmas break. Meetings will restart Friday, Jan. 11!

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: TODAY, 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: TODAY, Dec. 16.**

The Winter/Spring Youth Calendar is now available! Check the Youth Board near the Front Desk or contact Pastor Amanda to pick up a calendar.

<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 was played December 11. 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/>

2019 Pledge updates

As of Wednesday, December 12, our current 2019 pledge commitments are as follows:

Number of Pledges received	188
Pledges received	\$946,849
Pledge Goal	\$1,175,000
Needed to Meet Goal	\$228,151

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.