

10 am Worship Service - Fourth Sunday of Advent

SERIES: Anticipation: Finding Jesus Before Christmas

Preacher: Rev. Henry Coates

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

Title: Lasting Peace

10 am Worship Service - December 30

Preacher: William Jordan, candidate for ordination; senior, Princeton Theological Seminary

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Title: Jesus and His Father's Business

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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www.firstprevevanston.org

Highlights

Our Christmas Eve worship services take place tomorrow, with the Family Christmas Service beginning at 4 pm, and our Candlelight Worship Service starting at 11 pm.

Take part in this year's Christmas Eve Pageant gift giving opportunity! During the pageant, children are invited to 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.

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 2018, followed by a brief fellowship time in Roy Hall. There will be no Adult Education classes.

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.

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.firstprevevanston.org/first-night-2018/> or at the front desk. Contact Jim Wildenradt at jim@wda25.com or Caryl Weinberg at cweinberg@firstprevevanston.org with questions! Remember, all volunteers get into the events free of charge!

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 firstprevevanston.org/warming. If you have further questions after reading the details, contact Charlene Parris for details at c.parris@comcast.net.

There will be a special Congregational Meeting on January 20, 2019 immediately following the second Worship Service (beginning at approximately 12:30 pm). The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the recommendation from Session to call Rev. Henry Coates as the Associate Pastor for Young Adults and Young Families. Childcare will be provided. We encourage all members to attend.

Worth Noting

The FPCE Warming Center will be open Christmas Eve and New Years Eve from 3:30 pm to 7 pm.

The FPCE offices and building will be closed Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25.

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.

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. Contact Mike Denesha at (847) 612-9479 or RuthAnn Ostrowski at (312) 613-0644.



Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

Pray for Our

Mission Partners

Please pray for peaceful elections taking place today in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Elections there often stir up violence. These elections are two years later than when they were originally planned. May the Lord have his way—and raise up leaders who will care for the ordinary people.

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

Christmas Eve offerings to aid refugees

For our special Christmas Eve offering your generous giving will help our local refugee families in starting over in a new country. Starting in a new country with very little is so challenging. Your donation will allow First Presbyterian Evanston help those people who are desperate in their need for housing, transportation and even just transitioning into a new language and culture. All checks should be made out to First Presbyterian Evanston and placed in the envelope or include “refugee families” in the memo line.

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

Sunday School classes for children will resume on Sunday, January 13, at 10:30.

First Kids Choir resumes on Thursday, January 10. Children in 4-year-old pre-K through 5th grade meet from 4 to 4:45 to sing. From 4:45 to 5:15, children in 2nd through 5th grades ring chimes.

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

Deacons' Clothes Closet has urgent need for men's winter wear

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.

150th Anniversary History Booklets still available!

These beautiful full-color 28-page booklets, with lovely photos and articles about our church, would make great Christmas presents for anyone who missed the celebration last July. They can be purchased at the front desk for \$10 each.

Youth and Families

agolbek@firstpresevanston.org

High School Youth Group (PYGS) meets each Sunday afternoon, from 4-6 pm, in the basement youth lounge. We are in the midst of our Christmas break. Meetings will restart Sunday, Jan. 13!

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!

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/>

Women's Bible Study resumes January 10

Thursday Night Women's Bible Study is on holiday break. It will resume at 5:45 pm, Thursday, January 10, 2019, in Room 206.

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!

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

Next Book Club meeting January 22

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!

Final 2018 Financial Gifts deadline

In order for your financial gifts to count toward your 2018 taxes, they must meet the following deadlines:

Cash or check: Postmarked or dropped off at the FPCE office by December 30.

Website: Transaction completed by 11:59 pm December 31.

Stock donations: Contact Melody Henrie ASAP. 2018 donations must be in FPCE's possession not later than December 31, 2018.

2019 Pledge updates

As of Wednesday, December 19, our current 2019 pledge commitments are as follows:

Number of Pledges received	193
Pledges received	\$960,789
Pledge Goal	\$1,175,000
Needed to Meet Goal	\$214,211

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.