

Teaching Series: Life Together in God's Kingdom

The Beatitudes come like a bolt out of the blue for any who think of religion as a sad and miserable affair. Maybe 'religion' is. But the kingdom of God is quite different. In participating, we are the way God meant us to be, and so it is inevitably the happy life. And that is what *Blessed* means: *made happy by God*. It is as if Jesus is saying that life in the kingdom with him is a life of profound joy, a joy that no person and no circumstance can take away. The Sermon on the Mount does not point to an otherworldly future; rather, it calls for a radical way of life here and now before a skeptical world.

February 9, 2020

9 am - Blended Worship Service

11:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service

Preacher: Rev. Raymond Hylton

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20 (New Testament p. 4)

Title: Let Your Light Shine

February 16, 2020

9 am - Blended Worship Service

11:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service

Preacher: Rev. Henry Coates

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-37 (New Testament pp. 4-5)

Title: How to Form a Moral Compass

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

Our next Wednesday Prayer Gathering will take place February 12 at 7 pm in the Parlor. All are invited to come join us as we seek God with our hopes and concerns, offering our praise and prayers.

All are encouraged to attend the 152nd Annual Meeting of the Congregation: Sunday, February 23, 2020, at 12:30 pm in the FPCE Dining Room. Please plan to attend to hear about the highlights of our church during 2019, as well as the vision for our church in 2020. The 2020 Budget will be among the items presented and the printed 2019 Annual Reports will be distributed. A quorum of our members is needed.

Our all-church retreat will be held March 13-14 here at FPCE. Rev. Dr. Andy Root of Luther Seminary will be our guest teacher. The theme of our retreat is "Anxious Church: Being Disciples in a Secular Age." The cost is \$15 per adult. Registration is available online at firstpresevanston.org/2020retreat/. Childcare will be provided by reservation. Scholarships are available. Contact Rev. Henry Coates for more information.

The Children's Ministry is seeking donations of Duplo Legos for a new activity station in the Crib room. Please make sure they are specifically Duplo brand and design. Gently used or new are greatly appreciated. Donations or questions can be directed to Pastor Amanda.

Worth Noting

Our annual Ash Wednesday service will be held February 26 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

A Pancake Supper Fundraiser will take place February 26 (Ash Wednesday) at 5:30 pm in the FPCE Dining Room. Support the youth and enjoy yummy pancakes (including a gluten free choice), bacon, and sausage before attending the Ash Wednesday service. Cost: \$5 per person, \$20 per family. Proceeds go towards the high school summer mission trip.

The FPCE Library is no longer accepting book donations but...
Donations are being sought for a church wide book sale which will take place March 20-22. Donations can be dropped off in the Choir Room (no CDs, DVDs, VHS, encyclopedias or textbooks, please). Proceeds from the book sale will go towards supporting future book acquisitions for the library and enabling the children and youth to participate in summer camp and trips.

FPCE is seeking volunteers to serve as hosts to our Warming Center guests every Monday afternoon through March. If you're interested in volunteering please contact: Sherin Peters at spetersmcs@aol.com or 708-987-7278.

Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

Mission Prayer

Take a few moments this week to pray for our ministry partner **Learn to Earn**. With their “hand up not hand out” approach they work to eradicate unemployment and injustice in South Africa. Pray that the people they work with excel in the skill sets they are being taught and that their lives are not only changed financially but more importantly, in their relationship towards our Savior.

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/missions/>
<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/serving/>

Children, Youth and Families

agolbek@firstpresevanston.org

Registration for Church Camp at Timber-lee now open!

All 2nd-5th graders (Fall 2020) are encouraged to grab a friend and sign up to spend a week growing in Christ in God's creation at Camp Timber-lee. We will be going July 12-18. **The registration deadline is March 4**. Registration details and instructions can be found on the Children's table near the Front Desk, on the Children's page of the website, or by contacting Pastor Amanda.

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!

Great Escape Middle School Summer Conference

July 6-11 Registration NOW open! All 6th-8th graders are invited to come along for a fun week of exploring their faith and meeting youth from around the region at the Great Escape Conference in Green Lake, WI. Registration forms can be found on the website Youth page or from Pastor Amanda. Cost: \$250 (scholarships are available). **Registration Deadline: February 23**.

High School Youth Group (PYGS) normally meets each Sunday afternoon. This Sunday, we will NOT be meeting. We will be returning from our Winter Retreat.

Middle School Youth Group (NUBS) meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, on the top floor in the Middle School lounge. Friday, February 14, we will enjoy snacks, play some games and share the love by making cards for homebound members.

CHILDREN - <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/children/>
YOUTH - <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/youth/>

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast group - Weekly, Saturday morning gatherings from 8-9 am for Scripture, prayer, and speakers, with coffee, tea, donuts and bananas. Please join us!

Feb. 15 - Rev. James Singh, speaking on “Gentiles Jews and Jesus”

Feb. 22 - Mark Toledo, CFA and Partner with Chicago Partners Wealth Advisors

Feb. 29 - Victoria Davila of Northwestern University Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences

Mar. 7 - Rev. Dr. Michael Nabors, Senior Pastor of Second Baptist Church

An exhibit celebrating 25 years of Men's Breakfast gatherings is on display in the Dining Room. Stop by and see it when you get the chance!

Young Adults

hcoates@firstpresevanston.org

The 20s/30s Small Group will be meeting every second and fourth Sunday of the month. Reach out to Pastor Henry for details.

A women's basketball pick-up game is held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month in Roy Hall. All skill levels and abilities are welcome! Reach out to Kathy Grant, kgrant@depaul.edu with any questions.

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

Ways to Give at FPCE

Online giving—one-time or recurring—is made easy through our website. Once set up, it's quick to make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts to support the general ministry or specific needs of the church. Click on “Give” at the top of our homepage or visit <https://firstpresevanston.org/giving> to get to the giving portal. You can also set-up a monthly credit card contribution through the church office.

Automatic monthly withdrawal is a convenient and faith-filled way to support ministry at First Pres. You designate the amount, and your gift is made hassle free straight from your checking account on the 18th of the month. Best of all, when automatic withdrawal is set up through the church office, there are no bank transfer fees, which makes it more cost effective than other online options.

Traditional offering envelopes are available for cash and check contributions only upon request.

TAX-ADVANTAGED GIVING

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD): If you are 70 1/2 or older, you may be interested in IRA QCD as a way to support ministry while saving on taxes. Find out more by contacting the church office or talk with your financial planner.

GIVING YOUR TIME

There are many opportunities to give of your time and talents at FPCE. If you're looking to get plugged in to one or more ministry areas, contact one of the program staff to express your interest.

Children, Youth & Families:

Rev. Amanda Golbek

agolbek@firstpresevanston.org

Mission and Outreach:

Mission Director Caryl Weinberg

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

Prayer & Leadership:

Rev. Raymond Hylton

rhyton@firstpresevanston.org

Worship and Music:

Worship & Music Director Hannah McConnell

hmcconnell@firstpresevanston.org

Young Adults and Adult Education:

Rev. Henry Coates

hcoates@firstpresevanston.org

Pastoral Care:

Julie Ruchniewicz

jruchniewicz@firstpresevanston.org

Family Small Group

If you've got kids at home and are looking for a way to connect with other families and study scripture together, consider joining a Family Small Group for the rest of the school year. We meet one Sunday a month, 4-6:30 pm at the church for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Childcare and dinner are provided. Please contact Sally Ivaska at sallyivaska1@gmail.com for questions and to sign up.