

December 1, 2019 – 9 and 11:30 am Worship Services

Preacher: Rev. Henry Coates

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44 (*New Testament p. 26*)

Title: Advent Insomniacs

December 8, 2019 – 9 and 11:30 am Worship Services

Advent Lessons and Carols

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](http://www.firstpresevanston.org)

---

## Highlights

Today marks the 10th anniversary of Pastor Ray’s ministry as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston. All are invited to a celebration honoring Pastor Ray and his wife, Judith, during an extended fellowship hour between the two services.

Senior Varsity will meet on Thursday, December 5. The topic is: “The Power of Your Story” presented by FPCE Parish Nurse Julie Ruchniewicz. Sharing our own stories has the power to help us to see the world, ourselves and each other in a different way. Join us and bring an object, a picture or a memory of Christmas or Advent and share a story of how this time of the year has impacted your life. Let’s inspire each other. Registration will begin at 10:30 am, the presentation begins at 11, and lunch will be served at noon (cost: \$5 for lunch). Please register by December 3 at the front desk by calling (847) 864-1472.

A special congregational meeting will be held next Sunday, December 8, following the 9 am worship service to elect officers for Elder and Trustee.

Our all-FPCE Potluck—Christmas Around the World—returns on Sunday, December 8, at 12:30 pm, following the Contemporary Service. Bring a Christmas dish to share from your country of origin or a country of your heart. We celebrate the season, honoring the birth of our Lord, Jesus, by embracing the diversity of our family in Christ. Visit [firstpresevanston.org/christmaspotluck/](http://firstpresevanston.org/christmaspotluck/) to sign up to bring a dish, and/or to help set-up or clean-up. For more information, contact Gina at [ginachang888@gmail.com](mailto:ginachang888@gmail.com).

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.

## Worth Noting

The next Parish Nurse Book Club will take place Tuesday, December 3, from 1:30-3 in Room 102. We will be reading *Daughter of Moloka’i* by Alan Brennert. Please join us, all are welcome!

The Deacons wish to thank all who are participating in Angel Tree this year. Please remember that these gifts are due back in the church office by Sunday, December 8.

FPCE will host a Gingerbread House Decorating Party, Sunday, December 15, from 2-4 pm. 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, online at <https://firstpresevanston.org/gingerbread/> or with Pastor Amanda by Dec. 9 to save a spot and order your gingerbread house kit.

The Overnight Shelter will be hosted at FPCE December 29 through January 19. If you’ve never volunteered before and are interested, contact Charlene Parris at [c.parris@comcast.net](mailto:c.parris@comcast.net) and we’ll work with you to get you trained. Visit [firstpresevanston.org/overnight/](http://firstpresevanston.org/overnight/) to sign up for volunteer opportunities.

Take part in these “hands-on” ways to help our church! The Deacons are welcoming volunteers to assist us in ministries of hospitality and serving the truly needy. We would love assistance on Sunday mornings preparing and serving food and drinks during Fellowship Hour, and on occasional Saturday mornings helping to distribute clothing, bed linens & toiletries to guests at our bi-weekly Deacons’ Closet. No long-term commitment needed — any assistance you can offer would be greatly appreciated. (This is a great way for high-schoolers to earn community service hours.) We are also asking church members ordained as former Deacons or Elders to consider joining us to serve home communion to members who are not able to join us in worship at church. If you can see this kind of God’s work fitting into your schedule from time to time, please contact Deacon Moderators Cynthia Bridges, [cbridges1345@gmail.com](mailto:cbridges1345@gmail.com), or Kim Langlois, [aklanglois@gmail.com](mailto:aklanglois@gmail.com).



## Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

### Mission Prayer

**Pray for our mission partners Robert and Laurie who work through Overseas Missionary Fellowship focusing on outreach to Chinese International Students in the Chicago area.** Pray for those Christians they have met who are ready to stand firm amid the challenges of living in China. Ask God to bless the regular student gatherings in their home. Pray, too, for Laurie's health and the eye surgery she will be needing in the coming year.

**Start or finish your Christmas shopping at Ten Thousand Villages Evanston, 915 Chicago Avenue, on Thursday, December 12, 5-8 pm.** A percentage of every item purchased at that time will go to support scholarships for Dar al Kalima University of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem, our partner with Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. The store is located at 915 Chicago Avenue. See [www.tenthousandvillages.com/evanston](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/evanston) for shopping ideas!

**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](mailto:spetersmcs@aol.com) or 708-987-7278.

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

### Winter clothes needed

**The Deacons' Closet now has a great need for men's and women's winter season clothing, especially sweaters, sweatshirts, hoodies, turtlenecks and warm flannel shirts.** As is always the case in winter, there is a crying need for overcoats and warm jackets. Please search both your heart and closet for these items, along with shoes, boots, scarves, and larger-sized jeans, khakis, and corduroy trousers. Also bedsheets, towels & toiletries, backpacks and rolling suitcases. Your cleaner closet could be a life-or-death proposition for someone living out in the killing cold.

### 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, Youth and Families

agolbek@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!

### CHILDREN -

**It's almost that most wonderful time of the year again: Christmas Pageant time!** All children and youth (3 years old through high school) are invited to participate in the FPCE Christmas Pageant. This year, we will be rehearsing and preparing for the pageant in Sunday school on Dec. 8 and 15, with one dress rehearsal Saturday, December 21 from 9:00-11:00 am. We then will be sharing the pageant during worship at the 9 am service on Sunday, December 22. We will still be having a family interactive service at 4 pm on Christmas Eve.

### YOUTH -

**High School Youth Group (PYGS) normally meets each Sunday afternoon, from 4-6 pm, in the basement youth lounge. This afternoon, we will NOT be meeting. Enjoy celebrating Thanksgiving with family!**

**Middle School Youth Group (NUBS) meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, on the top floor in the Middle School lounge. Friday, Dec. 6 we will play games, enjoy snacks, and explore the meaning of Christmas.**

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

### Grief support group meets December 10

**A support group for those grieving the loss of a spouse will meet at FPCE on December 10, from 1-2 pm. For more information, contact Parish Nurse Julie Ruchniewicz at [jruchniewicz@firstpresevanston.org](mailto: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](mailto:sallyivaska1@gmail.com) for questions and to sign up.

## 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.** In December, however, they will be meeting instead on the second Thursday of the month (December 12). 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/young-adults/>

### Join a Small Group at FPCE

**Join others and grow spiritually together in a small group.** There are many kinds of groups available, meeting at various times throughout the week. To get connected, find a list of the current open small groups in the literature rack near the front desk or contact Pastor Henry Coates at [hcoates@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:hcoates@firstpresevanston.org).

### Singles Movie Night December 6

Welcome all singles! Please join us in the church Parlor Room (2nd Floor) on Friday, December 6 at 7 pm to watch "The Case for Christ" (2017) - a movie based on the true story of Lee Strobel, a former Chicago Tribune investigative journalist, and his incredible faith journey as an atheist converting to Christianity. Contact Karen Shaw at [karenaliciashaw@yahoo.com](mailto:karenaliciashaw@yahoo.com) if you are interested in attending.

### Men's Breakfast schedule

**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!

### Upcoming speakers and topics:

Nov. 30 - Dr. Neil Kelleher - Research beyond the genome project (DNA) with potential medical benefits  
Dec. 7 - Terry Halliday - legal travels to Hong Kong & China  
Dec. 14 - David Greising - President & CEO of the Better Government Association & columnist for *Crain's Chicago Business* and *Chicago Tribune*

## 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](mailto:agolbek@firstpresevanston.org)

### Mission and Outreach:

Mission Director Caryl Weinberg

[cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org)

### Prayer & Leadership:

Rev. Raymond Hylton

[rhylton@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:rhylton@firstpresevanston.org)

### Worship and Music:

Worship & Music Director Hannah McConnell

[hmconnell@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:hmconnell@firstpresevanston.org)

### Young Adults and Adult Education:

Rev. Henry Coates

[hcoates@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:hcoates@firstpresevanston.org)