

FIRST PRESS

January 2019



Explore God

Sundays, January 13 – February 24

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship

Join us for this new 7-week sermon series where we will explore the big questions of life and faith along with nearly 1,000 churches around Chicago. A great opportunity to invite others to explore God with us at First Pres.

Adult Education

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Be a part of discussion groups to explore the seven big questions. Whether you're a skeptic or a saint, at some point everyone asks these questions:

- *Does life have purpose?* • *Is there a God?*
- *Why does God allow pain and suffering?* • *Is Christianity too narrow?*
- *Is Jesus really God?* • *Is the Bible reliable?* • *Can I know God Personally?*

Transitional Housing

Transitional housing at First Presbyterian Church began in 1995, as the result of a special mission task force set up to identify specific areas of interest for "hands on" ministry. The goal of this ministry is to provide support and counsel to help families (often single mothers) progress from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Using funds from the church's annual mission budget, the transitional team provides financial resources for housing, furnishings, transportation, education (if necessary) and mentoring for each of our clients. We currently have seven active mentors. Bridge Communities is our partner in this endeavor. They work with over 60 churches in the area to provide assistance in housing, mentor training, tutors for children, job opportunities, and case workers.

To date, we have worked with 40 families. Transitional Housing uses two apartments in Glen Ellyn, as well as the Little Manse (the house on Madison Street owned by First Presbyterian). The program incurs few costs for household furnishings and automobiles thanks to the generosity of our members.

More than 100 donors have responded to requests for these needed items over the years. To date, more than 30 used cars have been donated.

We are currently in need of a used car, if you might have one you are replacing. If you have interest in serving as a mentor, we would be delighted to have you join in this "hands on" ministry.

If you have questions, call Gwen Henry at (630) 665-4230.



Newsletter Update

This is an abbreviated issue of our newsletter. Watch for our new seasonal newsletter to come this spring.

Announcements

Israel 2020: Info Class

Sunday, January 6

9:45 a.m.

Stewart Hall 102-103

Join Pastor Kellen at

this informational meeting for an opportunity to learn more about a spiritual journey to the Holy Land for First Pres members and friends March 20-30, 2020. Email office@firstpreswheaton.org to sign up for trip updates.



FPC Book Club

Thursday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Our January book is *The Great Alone*, by Kristin Hannah. It's about Ernt Allbright, who returns from Vietnam and moves his family to Alaska, where he, Cora and their 13-year old daughter have to learn how to survive in their new home. At first it is a welcome change, but as winter approaches and Ernt's mental state deteriorates, the family finds themselves in an increasingly precarious position. As in her book *The Nightingale*, Kristin Hannah highlights the heroics of everyday people, the importance of a close-knit community, and a forbidden romance, all among the beauty of Alaska. Join us for good discussion and great fellowship. Questions? Please contact Mary Kinsey at marykinsey79@gmail.com or 630-462-1294.

Valentine Craft

Sunday, February 3 from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Join the women of First Pres for some creative fun, fellowship and a light lunch.

Laura Barto from Stampin' UP will bring all the supplies and direct us in creating a Valentine "exploding box". Click [here](#) to register online, or sign up in the church office. Cost is \$10 per person due at time of registration. Deadline for registration is January 25.



The Chix with Sticks Want Your Yarn!

The Chix now meet on

Thursdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Living Room. We welcome all those with a passion to knit or crochet to join us whenever they can. This year we contributed 400 pairs of mittens to Christmas Sharing and Miss Pearl at Roseland "Good News" Daycare Center, and are now looking to the needs for 2019. For those unavailable on Thursday afternoons, here are other ways you can help keep deserving children warm with mittens and scarves, and an occasional afghan.



- If you can knit at home, we have plenty of donated washable yarn or you can use your own. We have patterns you can use, or feel free to "freelance" with your own design.
- If you have extra or unused washable yarn, we would be happy to use it for our projects.

To donate your time and/or yarn, please contact Monica Wylie at 630-520-0403.

First Light Men's Group

Saturdays at 7:00 a.m. in Stewart Hall

We are currently studying *Man of God* by Charles Stanley.

Dr. Stanley asks and answers questions such as: What does it take to be a "real" man? What can we learn about manhood from Jesus's example? Please join us.

Food Pantry

Our food pantries are in need of canned goods, whole grains, personal items: shaving creams, disposable razors, feminine hygiene products, bar soap, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent and diapers, especially sizes 4, 5 & 6. PRC and the Interfaith Food Pantry are always grateful for our donations.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 27

One worship service at 10:00 a.m

Annual Meeting/WF Lunch from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Plan to join your church family for a special Sunday as we reflect on what God has done through the ministries of First Pres in the past year. Enjoy a fantastic lunch prepared, served and cleaned up by our high school youth and adult leaders before the Annual Meeting. Donations will be accepted to help meet the goal of building homes and hope for two families in Guatemala.

Not to be missed, during the gathering we'll unveil the new church logo. We will also look ahead to all that is in store for 2019.

Stephen Ministry

Benefits of a solid foundation as a distinctively christian caregiver:

- You have a clearer sense of identity as a caregiver and realize you are an extension of Christ's ministry.
- You are provided with an attitude of humility and servanthood.
- You gain assurance of strength and confidence through your faith and Christ's love.
- You receive a new perspective on caring.
- Sharing your faith is a wonderful gift!

Your Stephen Ministry Team: Pastor Kyle, Diane Easter, Henrieta Ribeiro and Bob Young

Abraham's Children Summary

2018 has proven to be another busy year for our mission to the Holy Land – supporting endangered Christians and those of other faiths. It started with Jon Wylie's visit to Israel/Palestine in February and was punctuated by Susan and Greg Drinan's trip in October (accompanied by a delegation from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet). These were opportunities to renew past friendships and make new acquaintances and discern new ways we can help.

During the October trip, our group visited Abuna Chacour and presented him with a check for Mar Elias Schools. Christian schools (top-rated) have had a difficult time financially since 2015 when the government tried to put them under its control by cutting their funding. This led to a strike and a partial reinstatement of funds. This situation is still in the process of resolution and there is a lot of catch-up the schools need to do.

A full recap and look to 2019 can be found at:

<https://goo.gl/oFwB8y>



The Festival of Lessons & Carols was an inspiring highlight of our holiday season.

For more news and information, visit our website at www.firstpreswheaton.org.

Preschool

This month, all of our classrooms will begin new units of learning and new skills will be emphasized. January begins a shift in our classrooms to higher levels of learning and content, along with higher expectations and goals for the children. Our two year olds will be learning about winter and beginning their transportation unit. The three year olds will begin using scissors for the first time in the classroom as they have fun exploring the season of winter through some great children's literature. The four year olds will be embarking on their phonics unit and the Pre-K class will begin a unit on Antarctica.

First Pres Preschool is now in open enrollment for the 2019-20 school year. We have openings in our Terrific Twos and Pre-K program. If you know of any friends or neighbors who are interested in our preschool, please have them email Chandra Gravit at preschool@firstpreswheaton.org.

Children

Pajama Movie Night

Friday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Put on your PJ's, gather the family and join us to watch a movie together. Refreshments provided! RSVP Lynn Nuzzo so we have enough popcorn on hand.



LOGOS News

The second semester of LOGOS begins January 9. Join us! Perhaps you know a family who you want to invite? Cost is \$70 for the remainder of the year. Contact [Lynn Nuzzo](#) (K-5th) or [Laurie Meissner](#) (6-8th) for more information.

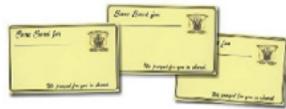
Genesis

The Middle School kids had a busy December participating in worship at Lessons and Carols, lighting the Advent Wreath, and joining the K-5th graders in leading the Christmas Eve FamilyService. In LOGOS they were thrilled to serve God through many projects including: visiting senior members, delivering poinsettias and advent flyers to neighbors, assembling luminaria, helping with Christmas Sharing and helping out around church. In January, they are going to have some fun roller skating at Lombard Roller rink on January 2. The whole family will be joining together for fellowship at Family Night on January 11. Pray for these wonderful kids as they continue to grow in their faith in 2019!

WF High School News

Happy New Year! There is so much to be grateful for in the high school program area! We have a wonderfully active group of high school students attending regularly and bringing friends to join in the fun. This fall, we have been very busy with our fundraising for the Guatemala mission trip, along with all of our regular Sunday morning and evening lessons and shenanigans. In December, our annual Progressive Dinner was a fantastic celebration to finish out the year! Thank you to all the drivers, host homes and chefs/bakers that made it so special! We are looking forward to 2019 with anticipation and hope for all that God has in store for us. Blessings and Peace to you all in the New Year!

Care Cards



Care Cards are powerful little yellow pieces of paper that provide comfort, strength, and support to others in need of prayers. They are available in the pews at each service for quick little notes to let one another know that we are thinking about them and praying for them. They can be dropped off in the offering plate during services.

They can also be sent [online](#) from this page. The church office forwards online and handwritten care cards to the recipients.

Monthly Calendar



Click calendar to view.

*If you have news you'd like to share with the church, please email candrews@firstpreswheaton.org.
If you move, please call the church office with your new address.*

Church Office: 630-668-5147 www.firstpreswheaton.org

First Pres Welcomes Immanuel Myanmar Church

After the Zomi Congregation moved to their new church last year, Pastor Kellen was contacted by Reverend Manar Chai, pastor of the Immanuel Myanmar Congregation. They previously worshipped at the Wheaton Free Evangelical Church since 2010 and were seeking a new location for their services.

Pastor Manar came to the United States in September of 2007 and started the Chin Christian Fellowship in Aurora. After a period of time serving there, Pastor Manar became aware of the need for tribal groups from Myanmar to gather. He began a new fellowship in the Burmese language, which resulted in the creation of the Immanuel Myanmar Church. Pastor Manar's very successful ministry now touches thousands of Burmese all over the world through sermons on Facebook live, and daily posts.

The Myanmar Congregation of about 80 worshipers gather at First Pres each Sunday afternoon from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. for worship and Sunday school. Their praise and worship band also rehearses here on Saturday afternoons.



Please join us in warmly welcoming the Immanuel Myanmar Church family to First Pres, especially if you are here on a Saturday or Sunday during their worship or practice times. As we offer the hospitality of the church facility, our value of joyful generosity is expressed.