



News & Notes

February 19, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Noblesville, IN



Message this Sunday...

“Do You Trust Me?”

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Ken Locke

[Click Here for the Live Service](#)

[Link to last Sunday's Service](#)

Weekly Devotion....

Making the Most of Privilege

Deuteronomy 7:6-11

February 19, 2026

Like many of you I'm sure, over the years I've known a handful of people who were born into privilege. It wasn't their fault; they had done nothing to deserve it. They were simply born into wealth and status. They were raised to expect their every desire to be acknowledged and catered to. From their earliest days they were taught that they were special and that nothing could take their privilege away.

In some ways, they are analogous to Christians. We Christians have done nothing to deserve our salvation. No amount of good works or righteousness could ever earn us God's love. It's a free gift from God that God invites us to seize with both hands. And it's something no one can ever take away.

The Israelites were also this way. In today's Scripture lesson, they are facing the end of their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness; preparing to enter the Promised Land. Moses reminds them they've done nothing to deserve their good fortune. They are neither more passionate nor more numerous than any other nation. God chose to make promises to their ancestors. God chose to lead them out of their enslavement in Egypt. They are God's because God chose them.

God will never grow tired, bored or exasperated with them. God will never cast them off. God loves them and that's all there is to it.

But at the same time, their good fortune is not an invitation to complacency. They do not have the right to become spoiled brats always expecting everyone else to do their bidding. God is faithful to those who love God to the 1,000th generation. But those who turn away from God, those who disregard God's commandments for living meaningful, love-filled lives, God will not ignore. God will not coverup their negligence, apathy or rebellion. God will respond to their rejection.

Moses' warning to the Israelites is also a warning to us. Just as God loved those Israelites about to enter the Promised Land, so God

loves us. But just as God's love did not grant the Israelites the license to do whatever they wanted, so God's gift of salvation doesn't mean we can do whatever crosses our mind.

God's gift of salvation does not give us the right to hate anyone. It does not give us the right to disparage anyone, to put them down, or make fun of them. God's love does not give us the right to live meaningless lives of profligacy, damaging others willy nilly, wallowing in jealousy, stinginess or narcissism. God is faithful to those who love God to the 1,000th generation. But God will respond to those who reject the gift of salvation.

Some of the privileged people I have known became stuck in it. They never realized that they were not that special. On the surface they lived full and rich lives but inside they were always insecure, jealous, scared of what others might do or say. But those who accepted their privilege as a blessing learned to use it to be a blessing to others.

May we use the gift of God's love as a chance to bless others, introducing them to the God who loves us all.

God's peace to us all,
Pastor Ken.

Ash Wednesday Is Coming And So Is Lent!

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Holy Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the joy and celebration of Easter. No one knows exactly when Ash Wednesday was first celebrated, but for many centuries Christians have observed the day with a special worship service culminating in the imposition of Ashes as a sign of repentance for our sins.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th. We will celebrate this holy day with a worship service at 7:00 pm, including communion by intinction and, for those who wish, the imposition of ashes on our foreheads.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is a period of 40 days that echoes the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry. It also reminds us of the 40 days and 40 nights that it rained on Noah and the Ark, as well as the 40 days that both Moses and Elijah spent praying in the wilderness. During this time, we prepare ourselves for Easter by giving up luxuries or engaging in special ministries. The object is not to imitate the sufferings of Christ; no one can do that. Rather, it is to bring us closer to Christ and the Least of These he served.

How can you celebrate Lent? Here are a few thoughts:

Things to (possibly) give up or cut back:

Sweets are a perennial favorite.

Caffeine (hard for me).

Swearing (always a good idea).

Sleeping in on Saturday. Instead, use the time to read your Bible and pray.

Your favorite TV show. Again, use the time to read your Bible and pray.

Eating out. Donate the money you saved to a favorite charity.

Things to (possibly) do:

Join a mission project.

Take a walk in the mornings and pick up the trash along the roadside. Make a list of what you pick up and pray for those disrespecting God's earth this way.

Read a chapter a day from the Gospel of Matthew, where we will spend most of our time this year. If you start on Ash Wednesday, you can almost make it through twice.

Start a regular devotional routine. There are many good ones online. I recommend 'd365'.

Begin an exercise routine. Our bodies are gifts from God. We honor God by treating them with respect.

Find times for more regular prayer.

As soon as your feet first hit the ground in the morning, sing a verse of one of your favorite hymns. Literally, begin the day by praising God.

As you walk out your front door in the morning, stop and say the Lord's Prayer. Some days it will be rushed, but some days it will be meaningful.

We generally think of Lent as a somber time, but I see it as a joyful opportunity for drawing closer to God. Praise God that we are given this opportunity to grow in faith, and self-control, so that we may better celebrate the joys of Easter!

God's peace to us all,
Pastor Ken.

January 2026 Income/Expense Report

	<u>2026 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Actual</u>
Income Received:	\$ 27,014.14	\$ 15,018.22
Expenses:	\$ 27,014.14	\$ 18,195.21
* (Deficit)/Surplus:		\$ (3,176.99)

Attendance Last week: In Sanctuary—99; Households online—30

Remember in your Prayers...

- ♥ **Paul Auble**, recuperating at home from shoulder replacement surgery.
- ♥ **Bill Linville**, will be undergoing testing to get approval for the liver transplant list. Also, will be having a biopsy on Feb. 27th to see if he has bladder cancer and he has an upcoming eye surgery.
- ♥ **Wanda Davis, mother of Micael Davis**, in the hospital.



Cards can be sent to:

Wanda Davis
661 Bethesda Road
Batesville AR 72501

A THANK YOU...

I appreciate the prayers, the cards and messages. Those are very uplifting. I'm also asking for prayers for good results from my bladder biopsy and whatever new treatment I will need to have to get rid of the new cancers tumors.

Thank you, Bill Linville

Remember those who are at home or in health care facilities:

Wendy Bittle	Dorothy Etchison — <i>Independence Village</i>
Ray Faust — <i>Harbor Manpor</i>	Barbara Landes
Carolyn & Joe McGinley — <i>Hamilton Trace</i>	
Verna Merrell	Rachel Morgan
Carol Stough — <i>The Crossings of Noblesville</i>	

Special Class following Worship on March 22, 2026...

Pastor Ken Will teach a class “**Lifecycles of the Church**” in Fellowship Hall following the service on March 22, 2026.

Easter Flower Orders – due March 15th!



This year we are again going to offer the option of purchasing different types of plants for Easter. We will be ordering a limited number each of **Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, and Lilies.**

These plants can be taken home and planted in your garden.

You may use the form on the table at the rear of the sanctuary to place your Easter Plant order. Please turn these in, with your check, by March 15th. You may give your order to Jim Story or put it in the offering plate.

Christian Education Item Donations

Thank you so much FPC family for thinking of our program and for your generosity! We've noticed a few items being left in the CE closets and classrooms recently, and to help us stay more organized, we kindly ask that all donations are brought directly to us before being dropped off.

Thank you!

Kendall, Marlee, and Trish

2026 PER CAPITA REMINDER

Collected to date \$3,173.14

As members of First Presbyterian Church, we are required by the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley to pay annual per capita dues each year. **For 2026, that amount is \$46.02 per member.** This is our shared gift providing primary support of the operating ministry of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. We are required to pay these dues and it is an **expense that equates to approximately \$11,000 each year from our operating budget.** We pay these dues in March whether the money has been received by our members or not. **If you could faithfully pay your portion of the per capita by March 1st, that would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Robin Story.**

2025 Contribution Statements

2025 Contribution Statements have been mailed. If you have not received your statement, please contact Robin Story at robin.story@fpc-noblesville.org.

Inquirers/New Members Meeting

Would you like more information about FPC-Noblesville? **The spring Inquirers/New Members class will be Sunday, March 8.** Contact Barb Runyon at bsrunyon@yahoo.com or call/text at 317-407-4170 or stop by the welcome center and signup. This is an informative class to ask questions about FPC Noblesville and to meet many of the current leaders.

Adult Sunday School...

The Adult Class will continue the study of "What Happens Next" by Max Lucado.

The Chosen Small Group

Bob and Trish Moore will be hosting a Small Group in their home based on the popular television series "The Chosen". We are starting back at the beginning with Season 1. We will watch an episode, and then follow with discussion. The meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 beginning February 24th. New members are welcome to join us at any point in the series! If you are interested in joining, please email bobtrishmoore@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Sunday Snuggles!



Our church family is growing, and with that comes the blessing of more little ones! We are looking for 5 volunteers to cuddle and play with our youngest visitors and members. By serving in the nursery just once a month, you can make a big impact for our families! If you have a heart for kids and baby snuggles, please see Trish Moore or send an email to :

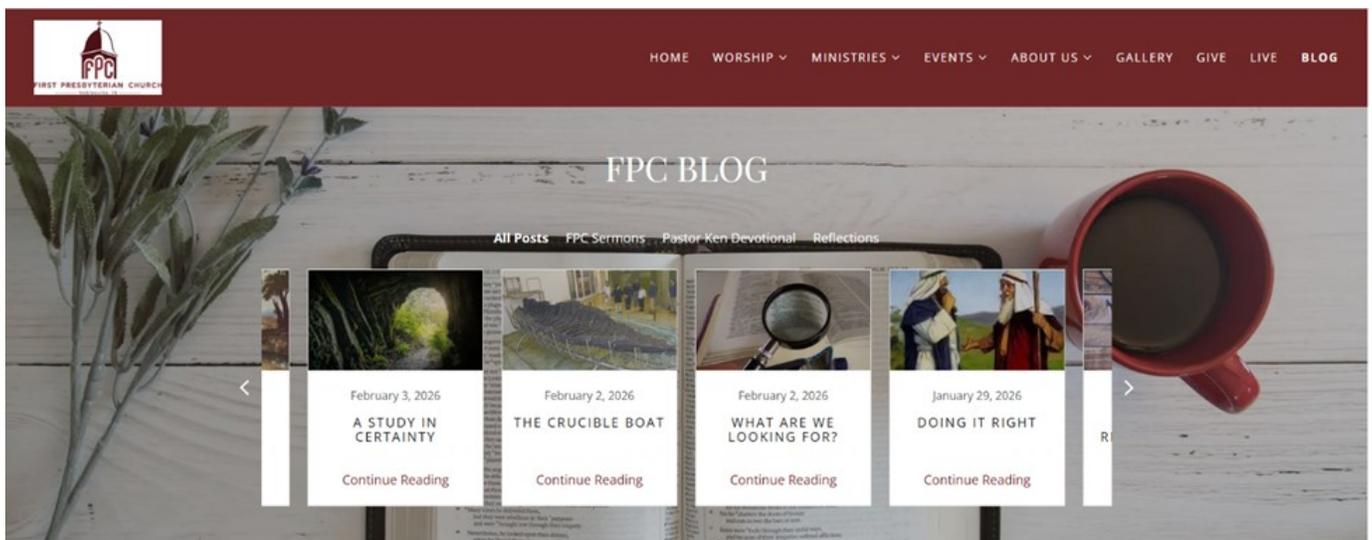
bobtrishmoore@sbcglobal.net for more information.

FPC BLOG

If you have not visited our website lately, you're missing out! Along with weekly updates, announcements, sermon teasers, and an event calendar, **we've added a blog page.** Blogs are a type of regularly updated web page that provide insight into certain topics. The word blog is short for "weblog" (a combined version of the words "web" and "log").

A link to the blog page appears in the main menu of our website. Current topics include weekly devotionals by Pastor Ken, a written version of weekly Sunday sermons, Lenten and Advent readings, and a members category called "reflections". The devotionals and sermons also provide links to scripture references through Bible Gateway.

If you enjoy writing and would like to have your reflection included in the FPC blog, submit your piece to Brian Wuerch at brian.wuerch@fpc-noblesville.org. All submissions are subject to approval. An example has already been posted, so feel free to check that out here: <https://fpc-noblesville.org/blog>. HAPPY BLOGGING!



Subscribe to the FPC Blog



Family Bingo Night...

Friday, February 20, 2026—6-9 pm

Pizza Dinner 6-7 pm

Bingo starts at 7 pm

BINGO NIGHT FOR ALL, BROUGHT TO
YOU BY YOUR FPC FAMILY.
JOIN US FOR PIZZA, BINGO, SWEET
TREATS AND FELLOWSHIP!

BINGO NIGHT

Friday, February 20, 2026 | 6 - 9 pm
Fellowship Hall, FPC

Pizza Dinner 6 - 7pm

Bingo starts at 7pm

BINGO PRIZES TO BE WON!!!



Mission Minute...



Join Our 2026 Summer Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement!

Ready for a Christ-Centered Summer Adventure?

It's time once again to gear up for our annual summer work camp mission trip to **Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky**, happening **Sunday–Thursday, June 21–25**. This all-ages trip blends hands-on service with the joy of traveling together—home repairs, community outreach, time with local families, and plenty of unexpected moments that make the week both fun and deeply fulfilling.

Our work at Henderson Settlement focuses on **creating opportunities for better lives through Christ-centered service** and helping meet **basic needs in Appalachia**. Last year, **twenty adults and children** from our FPC family joined the team, and we're excited to see who God brings along this summer.

You might find yourself repairing a porch, assisting with outreach projects, or spending time with local families who welcome volunteers with warmth and gratitude. Every day brings something new, and every task—big or small—makes a meaningful impact.

To give you a sense of the adventure ahead, longtime volunteers **Kay and Lamar**, who have served at Henderson Settlement for **42 consecutive years**, still laugh about their first trip in 1984. With no signs, no GPS, and narrow unpaved roads without guardrails, simply getting there was an adventure. They've returned every year since because the experience is that rewarding.

Whether you're drawn by the chance to serve, the joy of traveling with a great group, or the promise of an unforgettable week, we hope you'll join us. It's a trip that surprises you, stretches you, and fills you in ways you don't expect.

Register now!

If you're new to the trip, **Jennie Auble** and **Lamar Ziegler** will be available during Fellowship Hour this Sunday to answer questions and share details. Returning volunteers, please pick up a registration form at the Welcome Center in Fellowship Hall so we can reserve your housing.

Contact Information

Jennie: 317-696-3843 | aublej@comcast.net
Lamar: 317-432-4621 | laziegler48@gmail.com

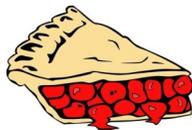
Watch for this year's information on Good Samaritan's Shoebox Ministry...

It's never too early to think, and pray for God's children!



Men's Fellowship Luncheons

The FPC men's luncheons are the 2nd Monday of each month at Perkins Restaurant. Any questions see Stephen Craig. Sign up sheet will be on a clip board at the welcome center, or you can email Stephen at sacraig071347@gmail.com. Your phone number is requested in the event the luncheon is canceled. If you bring a friend please sign them up also so we have an accurate count for the restaurant. All are welcome. **Remember it's free pie Monday.**



Ladies Luncheons

The FPC women's luncheons are the 3rd Monday of each month at Perkins Restaurant. Any questions see Marlynn Story. Sign up sheet will be on a clip board at the welcome center. Your phone number is requested in the event the luncheon is canceled. If you bring a friend please sign them up also so we have an accurate count for the restaurant. All are welcome. **Remember it's free pie Monday.**

Sunday School Calendar

Grades 6 - 8



Creative & Performing Arts Camp...

Camp will be held June 1-5

Registration is \$60 per child and will be open March 1st—May 17th

SAVE

CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

JUN 1-5
10AM - 4PM

THE

DATE

\$60 /child

Registration
March 1 - May 17