



News & Notes

March 19, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Noblesville, IN



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Message this Sunday...

“Rose-Colored Glasses!”

Ezekiel 37:1–10; John 11:1–6, 17-45

Pastor Ken Locke

[Click Here for the Live Service](#)

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

[Link to Sermon Manuscripts](#)

Weekly Devotion....

The Smell of Blood

Genesis 7:14-24

March 19, 2026

My Beloved -

In Ancient Egypt, the Nile was both the source of life and the symbol of power. (The people depended on the Nile's regular floods to irrigate their crops.) Whoever controlled the Nile had power over all the people.

But Pharaoh is indifferent to the needs of some of his people. God has told Pharaoh to release the Israelites so that they may go into the wilderness and worship. But Pharaoh insists that the Israelites do not belong to God but are enslaved to him and will not let them go. His heart is hardened against them.

And so, because Pharaoh misuses his power to oppress some of his people, the rest of his people must suffer. It is their blood that now fills the Nile and the water pots, killing the fish and other sources of food. It is the smell of their own blood that fills their nostrils as they desperately scramble and scratch for enough water to sustain life. (Do you suppose Pharaoh can smell it inside his air-conditioned palace?)

We've all heard the truism that we can never reach as high as possible when we are holding someone down. Our Scripture lesson teaches us it gets worse. If we try holding anyone down – making fun of our neighbor, sneering at those who think or act differently from us, abusing the whipping boy at our work or social group, treating them as if they were our property rather than God's beloved child – it will be our blood we will smell as we desperately dig for enough self-esteem to keep ourselves alive.

I'm pretty sure that none of us are enough of an egomaniac to think that we are Pharaoh, or that we have as much power and authority as he did. But how often do we, in our own small ways, try to assert our domination/control over someone else? A subtle putdown? Sneaking ahead of them in the grocery line? Casually directing someone to do something rather than asking them nicely?

The temptation to misuse our power is great. But if we do, don't be surprised if we end up smelling like dried blood and dead fish.

May God's peace be with us all,

Pastor Ken.

Holy Week Is Almost Upon Us!

Once again, we will celebrate Holy Week with two special services: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Maundy Thursday (April 2nd, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary) remembers the night when Jesus, to impress the importance of self-sacrifice and service, washed his disciples' feet. He then gave them "a new commandment (Latin: *mandatum*), that you love one another as I have loved you."

Our service will include hand-washing, Scripture, hymns, and an audio-visual meditation: "He Gets Us". (Not a ripoff of the Super Bowl adds. Jesus 'got us' long before the invention of television advertising.) The service will conclude with the ritual stripping of the sanctuary.

On **Good Friday (April 3rd, 7:00 pm, First Christian Church)** we will gather with other Christians in our community to celebrate the Seven Last Words of Christ. As well as a powerful service in its own right (our choir will help by providing special music and sing with the combined choir at the end), Good Friday is a strong witness to the unchurched that Christians don't all hate each other, we are not hopelessly divided, Christians have a range of views and we are all in service to the one God and Father of us all.

As its name suggests, Good Friday Worship is not a community concert. (In 13th century English, the word *good* meant *holy*.) It is a chance to engage in a genuinely communal service of worship for almighty God. Please join us as we worship God and make a powerful statement of our unity to our community.

As always, friends and relatives are invited. We hope that you will join us for one, if not both services.

God's peace to us all,
Pastor Ken.

Holy week schedule 2026...

Palm Sunday—Sunday, March 29, 2026, 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday – Thursday evening, April 2, 2026, 7 pm

Good Friday Community Service – Friday evening, April 3, 2026, 7:00 pm
First Christian Church, 16377 Herriman Boulevard, Noblesville

Easter Sunday Worship – Sunday, April 5, 2026, 10:00 am

February 2026 Income/Expense Report

	<u>2026 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Actual</u>
Income Received:	\$ 54,028.54	\$ 58,058.90
Expenses:	\$ 54,028.54	\$ 40,421.79
* <i>(Deficit)/Surplus:</i>		\$ 17,637.11

Attendance Last week: In Sanctuary—108; Households online—25

Remember in your Prayers...

- ▼ **Bill Linville**, dealing with multiple health issues.
- ▼ **The Family of Carolyn McGinley (wife of Joe McGinley)**, upon her passing. Arrangements will be forthcoming.
- ▼ **Jan McConnell**, recuperating from a fall.
- ▼ **Susan Clark**, on the passing of her mother, **Mary Clark**.



Arrangements for Mary Clark...

Visitation: Friday, April 17, 2026 from 4pm-6pm

at Parkview United Methodist Church, (1785 Indiana 19, Peru, IN 46970)

Service: Saturday, April 28th, 2026 at 11am

at 1785 Indiana 19, Peru, IN 46970

Lunch: after the service - all are welcome,

but RSVP is appreciated (sclark2428@yahoo.com)

Graveside Service for burial of both Bob and Mary: Saturday, April 28th

at 2:30pm at Mount Hope Cemetery, (411 North Grant Street, Peru, IN 46970)

A THANK YOU...

I want to thank all of the church members for the cards, letters and prayers concerning my health issues. Your thoughts and prayers are most appreciated.

~Mike Maloney

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

Wendy Bittle

Ray Faust—*Harbor Manpor*

Joe McGinley—*Hamilton Trace*

Rachel Morgan

Dorothy Etchison—*Independence Village*

Barbara Landes

Verna Merrell

Carol Stough—*The Crossings of Noblesville*

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



THINGS I WISH EVERY CONGREGATION KNEW:

- Church Sizes
- Lifecycles
- Signs of Slippage

SPECIAL CLASS FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICE ON MARCH 22

Pastor Ken Will teach a class **“Lifecycles of the Church”** in Fellowship Hall following the service on March 22, 2026. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Palm Sunday Processional



Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

All infants-teens are invited to be a part of our Palm Sunday parade to walk through the sanctuary waving palm branches ---just like the crowd that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem! Little ones are welcome to be carried/accompanied by a parent. We will gather at the back of the sanctuary at 9:50 AM to receive instructions/palms. If you have any questions, contact/see Trish Moore (bobtrishmoore@sbcglobal.net, 614-746-3987).

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.

2026 PER CAPITA REMINDER

Collected to date \$4,553.38 out of \$10,446.54

If you have already paid your portion, we **THANK YOU** for your timely payment. If you haven't, could you please kindly submit your Per Capita for 2026 portion as soon as possible, we would greatly appreciate your giving. Remember, **the Per Capita for 2026 is \$46.02 per member.**

We will be paying this invoice by the end of March and would like to decrease the difference as much as possible before then. **Regardless if the funds are received, we have to pay the full amount.**

If you have any questions regarding the Per Capita, please feel free to contact Robin at 317.508.4411.

Help Host Fellowship Hour!

We are looking for volunteers to host Fellowship Hour after church! Hosting is a simple and meaningful way to serve—just bring some light refreshments, help set up, and tidy up afterward. You can sign up individually or with a friend or group. If you're willing to help create a welcoming space for fellowship, please consider signing up today! **If you have questions please see Catherine Burnside or Sondra Pearson in the kitchen or Barb Runyon at the Welcome Center.**

Adult Sunday School...

For this Sunday the Adult Class will view video 5 of Max Lucado's "What Happens Next" series. This video covers the Second Coming of Christ, Battle of Armageddon and the Millennial Kingdom.

The Chosen Small Group

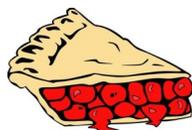
Bob and Trish Moore are hosting a Small Group in their home based on the popular television series "The Chosen". We are starting back at the beginning with Season 1. We will watch an episode, and then follow with discussion. **The meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00.** New members are welcome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

Sunday Snuggles!

Our church family is growing, and with that comes the blessing of more little ones! We would love to have 1 more volunteer 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.

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.**

Stay Informed...

Do you want to know what is happening in the life of our church? Join our email list to get weekly updates on:

- Upcoming Events
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Spiritual Encouragement/ Sermon Highlights

Send your email information to secretary@fpc-noblesville.org. In addition, to receive important updates by text, text FPC to 317-537-0124.

Stay connected, stay inspired!

Mission Minute...

Each week in March we are spotlighting the mission-based organizations supported by FPC to inform and inspire meaningful opportunities to share God's love with those in need. Last week we featured our "special offerings," and this week we highlight our five major missions supported through service, collections, and financial gifts.

Last Bell Ministries – A ministry devoted to loving and empowering orphanage graduates in Zhytomyr, Ukraine, working toward ending the generational orphanage cycle. *Watch for updates on our 2026 "Sending Our Love" collection that should start late April.*

Henderson Settlement – *Henderson Settlement is a Christ-centered mission in Appalachia focused on meeting basic needs and creating opportunities for better lives through volunteer service. Our 32-member work camp team will travel to Frakes, KY, June 22–27. Details on an upcoming fundraising project to help cover building materials and project supplies will be shared in next week's News and Notes.*

Feeding Team – A community effort providing food to hungry neighbors, especially families who fall outside traditional assistance models. FPC sponsors our own "Little Yellow Food Pantry" that is located on the parking lot. Non-perishable food donations may be placed directly into our food pantry, or you may leave them at the indoor cardboard mini-pantry or storage area behind near the coat closets in Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations may also be made in your regular giving (marked food pantry) or in the yellow envelopes found in the pews.

Prevail, Inc. – A Noblesville nonprofit offering compassionate support and advocacy for adults, teens, and children affected by domestic violence or sexual abuse.

Iglutheca – A mission in South Dakota dedicated to helping homeless Lakotas find renewal and a path out of addiction and poverty, inspired by the Lakota concept of "making yourself new."

Your generosity reflects the heart of our congregation—compassion, kindness, and service in Christ's name—turning every prayer, donation, and helping hand into a tangible expression of God's love in the world. Thank you for continuing to love your neighbors and for allowing your faith to shine through in ways that bring hope, dignity, and comfort to so many.

Sunday School Calendar

Grades 6 - 8

~~MARCH
8
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
The Story~~

~~MARCH
15
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
The Story~~

MARCH
22
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
The Story

APRIL
12
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
God in Narnia

APRIL
19
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
God in Narnia

APRIL
26
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
God in Narnia

MAY
8
FELLOWSHIP HALL
6-8PM
Cinco de Mayo Game
Night

MAY
10
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
God in Narnia

MAY
17
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
God in Narnia

MAY
24
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
God in Narnia

MAY
31
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School
God in Narnia

Creative & Performing Arts Camp...

Camp will be held June 1-5

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

2026 CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

REGISTER MARCH 1 - MAY 17



<https://forms.gle/iH2rSRiK4yiux2VK7>



JUNE 1 - 5, 10AM-4PM

MUST HAVE COMPLETED 1ST GRADE

\$60 PER CHILD DUE MAY 17 TO SECURE SPOT

MUST FILL OUT THE FORM LINKED FOR EACH CHILD

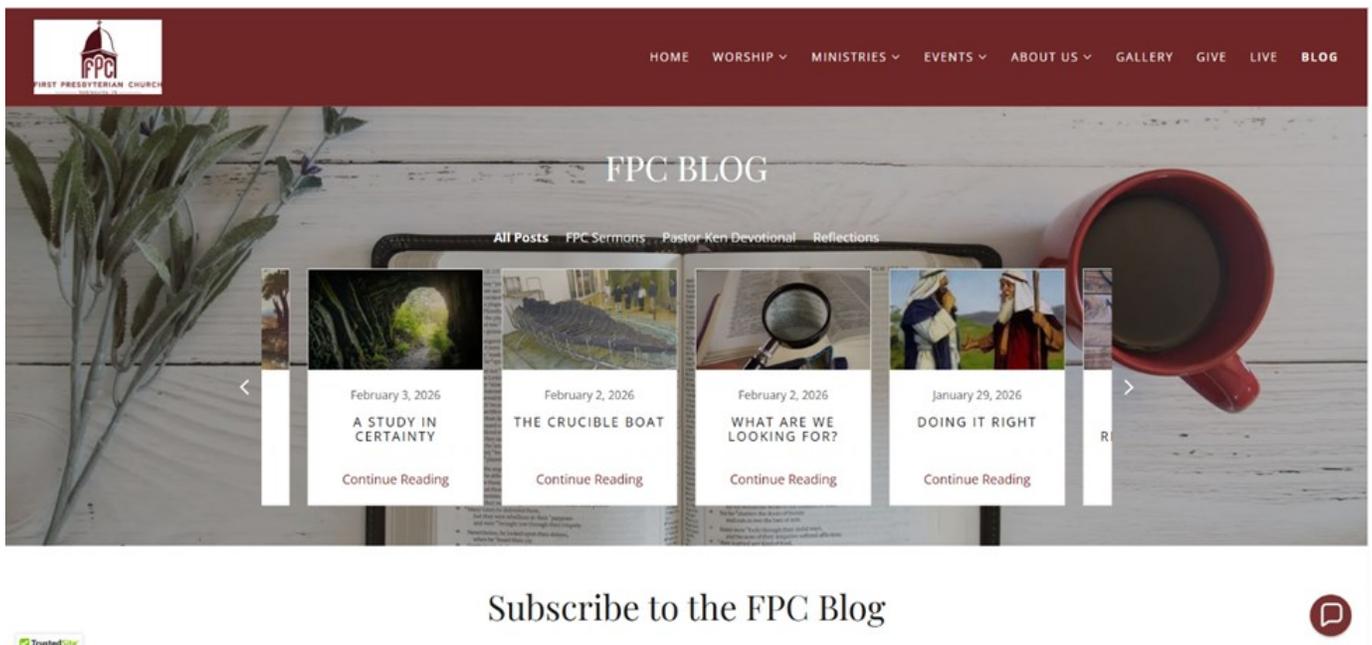
CONTACT US AT SUMMERCAMPFPC@GMAIL.COM

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!



Around our Community...

Hello Friends, Our Church, **Bethel Missionary Baptist**, would love to extend a hearty invitation for your congregation to come and worship with us at our revival services **March 27th—29th**. Please see the flier below and feel free to copy and distribute.

God's grace to you!

In the love of our Savior,

Ben Stafford, Pastor, BMBC in Noblesville



The flier features a scenic background of a mountain valley at sunset with a large wooden cross in the foreground. A large five-pointed star is visible in the bottom left corner. The text is arranged as follows:

SPRING '26
REVIVAL

MARCH

27 TH	28 TH	29 TH
FRIDAY 7PM	SATURDAY 7PM	SUNDAY 11AM

SISTER CHURCHES SINGING

BRO. RANDY PHILLIPS
EVANGELIST

BRO. RICK TOWE
SOLOIST

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
11818 STATE ROAD 32 E. NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060