



# News & Notes

## January 15, 2026

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Noblesville, IN



**Message this Sunday...**

**“What Are You Looking For?”**

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42**

**Pastor Ken Locke**

[\*\*Click Here for the Live Service\*\*](#)

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

# A Message from our Interim Pastor, Ken Locke...

My Beloved –

In the strong name of our Risen Lord & Savior, greetings! I want you to know how happy I am to finally be here and to be serving as your Interim Pastor. I have been looking forward to this for weeks and am thrilled that the time has finally come. You have been, and will be, in my prayers every day. I ask that you will also pray for me.

As you saw from my bio that ran in the last week's News & Notes, I have been an intentional interim pastor for almost 11 years. You are the 10<sup>th</sup> congregation I have served in this capacity. I am experienced, though by no means perfect. In fact, I learn from every church I serve, and I am looking forward to learning from you.

There are many ways to describe the interim time between installed pastors. I like to think of it as a time of introspection guided by a handful of important questions: where have we been, where are we now, where do we think God wants us to go, and what skills and abilities will our next installed pastor need to lead us there?

There's more to it than that, of course. In due course, our session will be sharing the details of the process with you. In the meantime, it's reasonable to expect the process to take 18-24 months. Maybe less, we'll have to see. Much of the interim work is about making the journey from the head to the heart, which can always take longer than we think.

The biggest mistake I have seen churches make is trying to rush the process or cut it short. Like a tree growing, the process is organic. With the right conditions we may make a tree grow faster, but generally it takes as long as it takes. We can't rush it.

So instead of trying to rush the process, I encourage congregations to treat the interim time as a sacred season of thoughtful reflection; a time for getting to know ourselves and for coalescing around a shared vision of who God wants us to be.

This doesn't mean everything grinds to a halt. Of course not. We will still do ministry. We will worship God. Teachers will teach Sunday School lessons. Mission activities will continue. We will continue praying with and for each other. The life of our congregation will keep on keeping on. But we will also make a point of listening to the Holy Spirit preparing us for the next season of our ministry.

My part in all this is not to do the work. I can't. If my fingerprints are all over your vision it has no validity.

My calling is to shepherd and guide the process. And I promise you that I will do so to the best of my ability.

We are a good church. We are doing good ministry. I am excited about being with you during this holy season in your life and ministry. May God continue guiding our steps as we walk along this new path.

God's peace to one and all,  
Pastor Ken.

## A Thank You from Pastor Eric...

Dear Noblesville, First Presbyterian Church Family!

I have already said many goodbyes back in November and early December. But now it is time for several thank you's. I'm so grateful for the outpouring of love and encouragement as I embark on this new journey called "retirement." The outpouring comes through your words, prayers, greeting cards, notes, gifts, hugs, handshakes and even a few kisses (on the cheek of course).

First Presbyterian Church will always carry a familial relationship for Karen and me and our children. You watched our family grow. You watched me grow in the many roles of a pastor.

We've witnessed changes in church décor, moved around a few walls and added a few more, updated the church kitchen, and repaved the parking lot. We saw the transformation of classroom space in the basement and the sanctuary (lighting, woodwork, stain glass, organ, pews and cushions).

All of that shows how FPC cares for the building and grounds in a way that draws people to the church and brings glory to God. But most importantly we've seen our church family grow in wisdom and knowledge of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. You know and understand better now than before who you are as followers of Jesus. We grew through study of scriptures and Christian books, through our study of *The Purpose Driven Life*, *The Story*, 72-hour Great Banquet and Walk to Emmaus retreats, through serving God and others, going on mission trips, and taking on special roles as ordained elders and deacons.

Karen and I are so grateful to be along for the ride for nearly 33 years! You invited us into your homes for meals and into your hearts for love, support, and encouragement. Together we've shared the struggles and challenges of life as well as great joys and celebrations.

We will be praying for the church for many years to come, especially during this period of transition. I know you will continue to offer your time and talents to Christ and the church, and welcome Interim Pastor Ken Locke as he gets to know you all and adjust to his pastoral duties at Noblesville. His experience as an Interim Pastor will be of great assistance, guiding you through the search for a new called pastor. If the past is any indication, the future is bright for FPC Noblesville!

*"May the Blessings God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit remain with you and abide with you now and forever! Amen!"*

Faithfully yours,  
Eric R. Gale

## December 2025 Income/Expense Report

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>
Income Received:	\$322,081	\$327,254.81
Expenses:	\$322,081	\$320,436.73
* <b>(Deficit)/Surplus:</b>		\$ 6,818.08

### Remember in your Prayers...

- **Don Bellis**, receiving hospice care at home.
- **Rachel Morgan**, recuperating at home following knee replacement surgery.
- **Joni McConnell**, sister-in-law of **Jan McConnell**, recuperating from a heart catheterization.



### A THANK YOU...

Lamar and I would like to thank the congregation for all their prayers and cards as we were both recovering from surgery and health issues. May God bless you all.

Kay Ziegler

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

**Wendy Bittle**

**Dorothy Etchison**—*Independence Village*

**Ray Faust**—*Harbor Manpor*

**Barbara Landes**

**Carolyn & Joe McGinley**—*Hamilton Trace*

**Verna Merrell**

**Rachel Morgan**

**Carol Stough**—*Five Star Residences of Noblesville*

### Annual Congregational Meeting...

The Annual Congregational meeting is set for **January 25th** immediately following the worship service. Please plan to join us for this. And those reporting need to submit their reports to the office no later than **Friday, January 16th**. Thank you.

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## Fellowship Hour

This week's Fellowship Hour is hosted by the Adult Sunday School class. **Your help would be greatly appreciated in the coming weeks and months, so please sign up to take a turn.** If you have any questions, please ask Catherine Byrnside.

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## Send in your Prayer Requests

*Please send your prayer requests to the office:  
([secretary@fpc-noblesville.org](mailto:secretary@fpc-noblesville.org)) by 3:00 pm on Thursdays.*

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## 2026 PER CAPITA REMINDER

As a member of First Presbyterian Church, we are required by the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley to pay annual per capita dues each year per member. **For 2026, that amount is \$46.02 per member.** The per capita is our shared gift providing primary support of the operating ministry of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. These are dues that we are required to pay and it is an **expense that equates to approximately \$12,000 each year from our operating budget** receiving only about 25% from members. 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.

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## 2026 Giving Envelopes

The 2026 giving envelopes are now available by the back door on the table. ***Please take only one book per family.***

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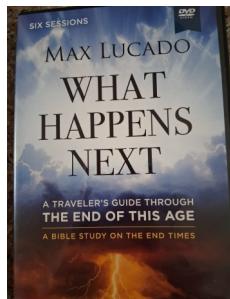
## 2025 Contribution Statements

2025 Contribution Statements are ready. If you are an Elder, Deacon or Church Staff, your statement will be in your mailbox located next to Janie's office. Additionally, Robin Story will be in Fellowship Hall before and after Sunday Service on January 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to deliver all others so please stop by and see her (if she doesn't find you first) and get yours. **Those not picked up by the 25<sup>th</sup> will be mailed.**

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## Adult Sunday School...

Next Sunday Dave McCord will complete the Bible Timeline, leading up to the End Times, that he started on 1.11.26.



Also, Lamar Ziegler will introduce Dr. Patrick Zukeran's summary of the four major approaches to interpreting the Book of Revelation and its meaning for the End Times. They are: the **Idealist**, the **Preterist**, the **Historical** and the **Futurist** viewpoints. Ever since the Apostle John wrote his Gospel circa 95 AD, Biblical Scholars have debated the interpretations of this apocalyptic Book, but all the while recognizing that God is the central mover in all of these interpretations.

The 6-part DVD series "What Happens Next, A Traveler's Guide Through the End of the Age" by Max Lucado will begin on January 25, 2026. Max Lucado describes the Book of Revelation events from the End of the Church Age to the Great White Throne Judgement.

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## Men's Fellowship Luncheons

**The FPC men's luncheons are the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

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## Mission Update....



It's time to start organizing our annual summer mission trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY! This is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love by serving the less fortunate in Appalachia. **This year's mission trip is open to all ages and abilities and will be held Sunday–Thursday, June 21–25.** Participants can take part in home repairs, community outreach, and working closely with local families—your involvement will truly make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in Appalachia.

For those interested in joining for the first time: Please reach out to Jennie Auble or Lamar Ziegler for more information about the trip.

If you have attended before and plan to join us again: Please pick up a registration form from Jennie or Lamar and return it as soon as possible so we can reserve your housing.

To help us with planning and to ensure we have enough housing for everyone, please complete and return your registration forms as soon as possible. Early **responses are greatly appreciated!**

**Jennie (317)-696-3843, [aublej@comcast.net](mailto:aublej@comcast.net) / Lamar (317) 432-4621, [lazier48@gmail.com](mailto:lazier48@gmail.com)**

# Sunday School Calendar

Grades 6 - 8

