



News & Notes

September 17, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Noblesville, IN



Message this Sunday...

“Being ----- Like God!”

Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 20:1-16

Pastor Ken Locke

[Click Here for the Live Service](#)

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

[Link to Sermon Manuscripts](#)

TOP GOLF CHARITY EVENT

When you register for the **Good Samaritan Network TopGolf Charity Outing**, you're not just signing up for a great time—you're stepping up for neighbors in need. This event directly supports Good Samaritan Network's outreach programs, including:

Food assistance for struggling families

Emergency shelter and housing resources

Holidays - helping bring hope and joy to thousands

Your participation fuels these vital programs—and it's a whole lot of fun, too!

TopGolf Charity Event

SEPT. 20, 2026 - 3pm-6pm

TopGolf | Fishers, Indiana

Sept. 16 Registration Deadline

Event Location:

TopGolf | Fishers, IN

9200 E 116 Street | Fishers, IN 46037

PLAYER OR SPONSORSHIP ONLINE REGISTRATION

Benefiting Hamilton County

Registration Information

Silent Auction Registration

Available Sponsorships

TopGolf Charity Event Flyer PDF

Sponsor Listing

Golf Donation Online Form

Golf Donation Receipt PDF

Give On-line
through Tithe.ly:



August 2026 Budget Performance Report

	2026 Actual	2025 Actual
Operating Income:	\$198,133.02	\$219,218.47
Operating Expense:	\$216,604.34	\$213,522.70
(Deficit)/Surplus:	\$ (18,471.32)	\$ 5,695.77

A Reminder About Giving

FPC family, we want to remind you of the importance of faithful giving. Our gifts help support the ministry, mission, and ongoing needs of our church and community.

We are grateful for every gift and for your continued generosity. If you haven't had an opportunity to give recently, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so.

As always, thank you for your generosity and for helping support the ministry and mission of FPC-Noblesville. **Whether you give online, by check, or Tithle.y, we are grateful for your faithful support!**

Attendance Last week: In Sanctuary— 131; Households online— 24

Remember in your Prayers...



- ♥ **Ed and Judy Adams**, on the passing of Ed's youngest son, John, from a massive heart attack.
- ♥ **Tena Nash**, on the passing of her husband, **Tim**. Celebration of Life will be on October 10 at FPC-Noblesville.
- ♥ **Judith Drysdale**, recovering from knee replacement.
- ♥ **Jason Story**, hernia repair surgery on Monday, September 14.

Continue to remember those who are at home or in health care facilities:

Wendy Bittle
Barbara Landes
Verna Merrell
Rachel Morgan

Dorothy Etchison—*Independence Village*
Joe McGinley – *Hamilton Trace*
GG Nash – *The Crossings of Noblesville*
Carol Stough—*The Crossings of Noblesville*

Events for the Upcoming Week...

September 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Sunday	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School today
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship Hour
	11:15 am	Deacon's Meeting
Monday	9:00 am	Shepherd's Center
	11:30 am	Women's Luncheon - Perkins
	6:00 pm	New Member Dinner
	7:00 pm	Session
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Westminster Circle
	6:00 pm	Great Banquet Gathering
Wednesday	8:30 am	Women's Great Banquet Reunion Group
	8:30 am	Men's Great Banquet Reunion Group
Thursday	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday		
Saturday	8:30 am	Aerobics
Sunday	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship Hour
	11:15 am	Mission Study Presentation 2

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Audio / Video Team:	Brian Wuerch & Rick Mayhew 9/27 – Clint Gingerich & Brian Wuerch
Nursery:	LeeAnn Stein & Trish Moore 9/27 – Laurie Szabo & Jennie Auble
Lay leader:	Linda Rosen 9/27 —
Fellowship hour:	Robin Rufatto & Andrea Joines 9/27 – Youth Group
In the office:	Sept—Barb Runyon & Oct – Janie Emerson secretary@fpc-noblesville.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL & FPC FAMILY EVENTS

CALENDAR

FALL & WINTER 2026

AUGUST

- ~~2~~ Recognition & Picnic
- ~~9~~ Sunday School
- ~~16~~ Sunday School
- ~~23~~ Sunday School
- ~~30~~ Sunday School

SEPTEMBER

- ~~6~~ (No Sunday School ALL AGES)
- ~~13~~ Sunday School
- 20 Sunday School
- 27 Sunday School (6-12 Hosting Fellowship Hour)

OCTOBER

- 4 (No Sunday School 6-12)
- 11 Sunday School
- 18 Sunday School
- 23 FPC Family Bonfire
- 24 Trunk or Treak
- 25 Sunday School

NOVEMBER

- 1 (No Sunday School 6-12)
- 6 FPC Family Chili Cook Off
- 8 Sunday School
- 15 Sunday School
- 22 Sunday School
- 29 Sunday School

DECEMBER

- 6 (No Sunday School 6-12)
- 13 FPC Family Silly Safari at 4pm
- 20 Sunday School
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 27 Sunday School



Prayer Blanket Ministry

Guidelines for requesting a Prayer Blanket.

Who is requesting the blanket?

Who is the prayer blanket for? (First Name, Last Name)

How do you know this person?

Why are you requesting the blanket?

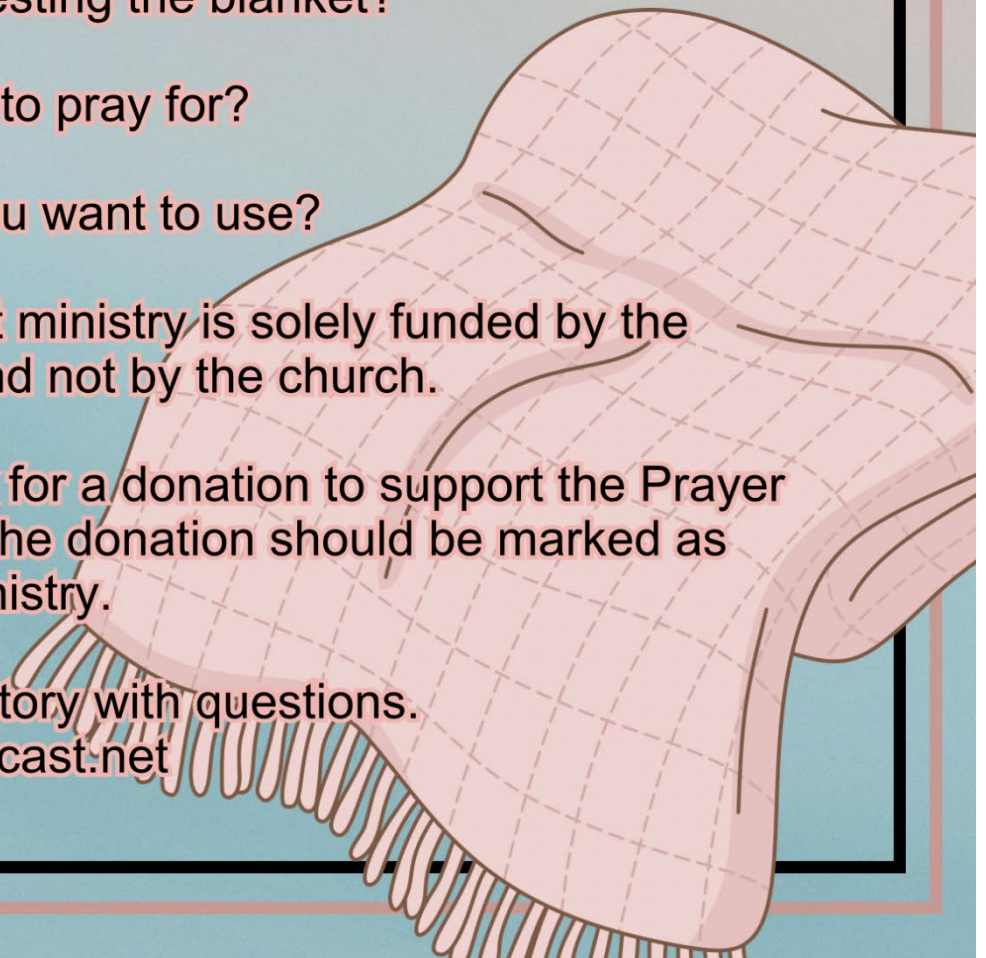
What do you want to pray for?

Any Bible verse you want to use?

The prayer blanket ministry is solely funded by the church brethren and not by the church.

If possible, we ask for a donation to support the Prayer Blanket Ministry. The donation should be marked as Prayer Blanket Ministry.

Contact Marlynn Story with questions.
jimlynnstory@comcast.net
317 431 8467



Our Church Building: A Legacy of Faith

Mission Study Presentation 1:

For **133 years**, First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville has stood at the corner of Conner and 12th Streets as a place of worship, fellowship, learning, and service. Our building is a wonderful reminder of the generations who have worshipped here and faithfully cared for this special place.



The **original church was built in 1893** and includes our sanctuary and parlor. In **1958**, an addition was built on the south side, providing additional offices, classrooms, and a nursery. In **1988**, the Fellowship Hall addition was completed after the Craig House, which stood east of the church, was moved across the street.

This addition gave us our Fellowship Hall, main kitchen, library, restrooms, storage areas, and choir room. An elevator provides access to all three levels, while “The Tunnel,” connecting the original basement to the 1958 addition, remains a favorite of our youth.



Our building also holds many treasured pieces of our church's history. The **organ, purchased in 1901**, was completely renovated in **2002–2003**, at the same time the sanctuary was renovated. Our beautiful **stained-glass windows were renovated in 2004–2005**.

The Fellowship Hall reveals the original east exterior wall of the 1893 church, along with photographs of former pastors and plaques honoring Christian service and dedication. Nearby are the **first Presbyterian pulpit used in Hamilton County**, constructed around 1800 by Phillip Stoops, and our original communion table.

Over the years, we have continued to invest in the care of our facilities. Beginning in **2017**, we remodeled the main kitchen, completely renovated the parking lot, and

tuckpointed the brick on the original church. During the **COVID-19 pandemic**, we added cameras, streaming equipment, and sound-system upgrades, allowing us to share worship online. More recently, we have replaced flooring in the Fellowship Hall and library, repaired a portion of the roof, and completed many other



We are especially grateful for the members who have given countless hours and their talents to maintain our building and grounds. Looking ahead, in **October 2026** we plan to fill cracks, sealcoat, and repaint the parking lot lines. From **late October through November 2026**, we will also create a booth in the back of the sanctuary for our video and sound equipment.

We are blessed to have been on this corner for **133 years**, and we look forward to celebrating our **150th anniversary in 2043**. May we continue to be faithful stewards of this building and all that it represents as we serve God and our community for generations to come.

If you would like to read through the entire presentation by the Mission Study team, click the link below:

[Mission Study Team Presentation 1](#)

The next presentation by the Mission Study team will be Sunday, September 27 at 11:15. Don't miss this presentation on the demographics of Noblesville. In this presentation we will learn "What is our mission setting?" and "Why would a pastor want to relocate to Noblesville?"

Then, later this fall we have two surveys, and we need everyone's participation. Your feedback is important, so please make sure to complete both surveys when they become available.

Mission Study Team: Paul Auble, Mark Boxberger, Sherry Faust, and Jake Light. The team is guided by Pastor Ken Locke.

FOUR Minutes for Mission

Flood Disaster Update

The newly formed **Hamilton County Long Term Recovery Group 2026** (LTRG) is a coalition of local nonprofits, faith-based organizations, businesses, and community volunteers working together to help Hamilton County residents recover from the 2026 flooding.

LTRG picks up where insurance, FEMA, and other assistance leave off — connecting homeowners and renters with disaster case management, volunteer labor, construction help, donated goods, and emotional and spiritual care until they're back in their homes or on stable footing.

We are community built and community driven, guided by the “4 C’s”: Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration. Local government agencies advise our work but don’t run it — the LTRG is led by the organizations and volunteers who call Hamilton County home.

To learn more about volunteering, visit <https://hcltrg26.org/> or contact Jennie Auble aublej@comcast.net



URGENT: Help Care for Our Riverwood Neighbors!

We need your help! If you would be willing to prepare meals, volunteer your time, or assist in coordinating this ministry, please contact **Leann Stein or Sue Jourdan**. **There are opportunities to furnish food for lunch next week.**

We are also collecting **\$20 gift cards to local restaurants** that can be distributed directly to Riverwood residents, giving them another option for meals while they work toward returning home.

This is an opportunity for us as a church family to put our faith into action and show the love of Christ to our neighbors when they need it most. **Every meal, gift card, and helping hand can make a difference.**

2026 “Sending Our Love” Last Bell Ministries Winter-Wear Collection

It is time to sort, pack, and ship the donated winter coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, boots, and shoes we started collecting back in May. **The mission team needs help setting up items on the balcony after church on Sunday Sept. 20th and sorting/packing items on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd or Thursday, Sept. 24th. Contact Jennie Auble at 317-696-3843 or aublej@comcast if you'd like to help.**

We also have a **“Wish List”** of items to pack with the clothing and footwear donations:

- Lip balms (They love Burt's Bees)
- Children's vitamins
- Ibuprofen (XL bottles, Costco size)
- Chewing gum (They love cinnamon!)
- Baby lotion
- Baby diaper rash cream
- Travel size toothpaste (Crest)
- Children's socks
- Girls' underwear (panties)



Last Bell Ministries – A ministry dedicated to loving and empowering orphanage graduates in Zhytomyr, Ukraine, working to end the generational orphanage cycle.

<https://lastbell.org/>

For More Information Check Out Our New Community Page



AROUND TOWN

Find out what's going on in your community. From BBQs to Community Band Concerts, you can support many charitable organizations in the Hamilton County area.

<https://fpc-noblesville.org/community>

**It's our anniversary
and you're invited!**



Date: Saturday, October 17th, 2026
Time: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Location: The Portico at College Park Church
Address: 2606 West 96th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Programming at 12:30 and 1:30

***Twenty Years of Making Safe
Places for Orphaned Youth***

RSVP:

Your RSVP helps us plan for the number of guests. Please let us know you're coming!
(But if you forget to RSVP, please come anyway.) :)

- info@lastbell.org
- (317) 524-1616
- or [click here to RSVP online](#)

PRESBYTERIAN CORNER

What Is an Elder?

When you hear the word “elder,” what comes to mind? Someone who has been around the church a long time? Someone who attends a Session meeting? Someone who helps make important decisions? While an elder may do all of those things, being an elder is much more than that!

In the Presbyterian tradition, **elders are called to be spiritual leaders and servants of the congregation.** The word “elder” comes from the biblical tradition of *presbyteros*, meaning “elder” or “presbyter”—the root of the word *Presbyterian*. Elders aren't chosen because they are perfect, have all the answers, or know the Bible from cover to cover. (Thankfully!) They are called because they are willing to **serve God and serve the people of the church.** Elders help the church discern where God is leading. They listen, pray, encourage, ask questions, and work together to care for the congregation and its ministry.

Peter reminds church leaders:

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care... not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” — 1 Peter 5:2–3

These words capture an important part of what it means to be an elder: **to shepherd, serve, and lead by example.** One of the things that makes Presbyterian churches distinctive is our belief in **shared leadership.** Ministers and elders serve together as the Session, seeking God’s guidance for the life and mission of the congregation. An elder’s role isn't simply to say, “Here’s what we're going to do.” Instead, elders listen to one another, listen to the congregation, pray, and seek to understand where the Holy Spirit is leading. Sometimes that means making difficult decisions. Sometimes it means trying something new. And sometimes it means reminding everyone that **we're all on the same team!**

A good elder is someone who is: **willing to listen, committed to prayer, ready to serve, open to God’s leading, concerned for the whole congregation, willing to work with others, and able to disagree with grace**

Most importantly, an elder understands that leadership in the church is ultimately about **following Christ and serving others.**

Being elected as an elder is both an honor and a responsibility. It is a calling to serve Christ through service to the congregation.

So the next time you see one of our elders, remember that they are more than someone who attends a Session meeting. They are people who have said **“yes” to serving God and this congregation.**

And if you are ever asked to consider becoming an elder, don't immediately think, *“Oh no, they must have the wrong person!”* Maybe they see in you something that God can use.

After all, God has a long history of calling ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

FPC HENDERSON SETTLEMENT WORK CAMP

MISSION TRIP

OCTOBER 18-22 OR OCTOBER 18-23, 2026

This is a second opportunity for any FPC fellowship persons or friends to SERVE at the Henderson Settlement this year. The HENDERSON SETTLEMENT WORK CAMP mission trip is a First Presbyterian Church sponsored **WORK TRIP, BUT THE WORKLOAD IS LIGHT FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE.**

The cost for the trip is \$257.25 (10.18-22) or \$319.75 (10.18-23), plus transportation (carpooling). Proof of personal medical insurance and trip fees are required with the application.

Henderson Settlement (Frakes, Kentucky), is a mountain outreach ministry of the Red Bird Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Settlement has a number of outreach and construction ministries where volunteers are needed.

Team member applications with housing preferences are available in the Communications Center for more information.

For more information, contact Lamar Ziegler, Trip Leader, at 317-432-4621 or laziegler48@gmail.com.

If you are interested – pick up at packet at the Welcome Center or to download the documents, click the link below:

HENDERSON WORK CAMP -2

Reservations will close October 1, 2026.

Documents included in packet: 2026-2 Henderson Work Camp Interest Survey
2026-2 Henderson Registration and Housing
2026-2 Henderson FPC Trip Logistics

Weekly Devotion...

1 Kings 18:20-40

Get Off the Fence!

September 17, 2026

My Beloved –

1 Kings 18 is the stuff of high drama and low comedy. A semi-government religion goes up against an ancestral faith. An ardent believer works subterfuge. A king meets his match in an itinerant prophet, who throws mocking taunts at the 'official' prophets. And finally, a long drought comes to an abrupt end.

But these texts have not been written down and passed on for thousands of years solely for entertainment. If so, they probably would have been forgotten long ago. Humor aside, they teach us something about God and how God wants us to live now, today.

Our text is very clear that, among other things, we are to have no other gods than our God alone. We cannot live our lives limping back and forth, going between one god and another. Our text calls us to jump off the fence and plant our feet firmly in God's camp.

Which, at first glance, seems a little odd. Yes, many faiths over the years had many gods. A few still do today. But I've never met anyone who worships in a Church on Sunday and goes to a Mosque for Friday prayers as a way of hedging their bets. The Vikings and some of the early Germanic tribes could comfortably worship their old gods and embrace Christianity at the same time. And it's still an issue for the Church in India. Hindus are happy to add Jesus to their pantheon of approved gods.

But it's not really a problem for us. We tend to have either one God or no gods.

Or do we?

Actually, lots of people worship the God of Jesus and lots of other gods on the side. They worship power. They worship prestige. They embrace their family heritage with divine zeal. (I've known more than one person who put more energy into celebrating the fact that their ancestors came over on the Mayflower than in worshiping God.) Others worship the Colts or the Pacers. Some worship their children.

All these are good and fine, don't get me wrong. But when we start putting more time, energy and resources into them than we do into God then we have crossed the line from appreciation to idolatry. Our text today is clear. Our God allows for no other allegiance. As Jesus himself tells us in Matthew 6:24, ***"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."***

Today's text is a joy to read. It's both provocative and amusing. But its message is as real for us as it was for the Israelites. We can only serve one God. All other interests, noble and worthy as they may be, must come a distant second.

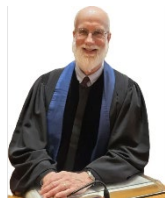
Is there a fence from which you need to climb down?
God's peace to us all,
Pastor Ken.

Do you have a question for Pastor Ken?

You can reach him by email at

ken.locke@fpc-noblesville.org

Keep up to date on the interim process at FPC.



[Click here](#)



SUNDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed for OCTOBER:

October is coming, and we need a few brave souls to host **coffee & light snacks after church!**

The job includes **setting up, keeping the coffee flowing, putting out some tasty treats, and cleaning up afterward.** In other words... a little caffeine, a little fellowship, and a little sweeping. 😊

No gourmet chef skills required—just a willing heart and a willingness to serve!

Sign up to host a Sunday in October!

Your church family (and their caffeine levels) will thank you! ☕ 🙌 ❤️

If you would like to sign up so that fellowship hours continue this fall, please see Catherine Byrnside or Sandy Pearson in the kitchen or Barb Runyon at the Welcome Center.

Calling All Lay Leaders!!!

We're looking for a few willing volunteers to help **read Scripture, prayers, and other parts of the worship service.**

No auditions. No memorization. No stage fright required! Just a willingness to serve and help lead our congregation in worship.

Come on—you know you've always wanted a microphone!

If interested, contact Susan Clark at sclark2428@yahoo.com.



Great Banquet Gathering is TUESDAY!

The Great Banquet Gathering is Tuesday, September 22 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share, meat and drinks will be provided. If you have any questions, please see Jim Story.



“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 now on Season 2. We will watch an episode and then follow with discussion. The meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm, beginning September 15th. 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.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult class will continue their series on Samuel. Everyone is welcome to join. **The class meets in the adult classroom downstairs directly under church office at 9:00 am.**

Westminster Circle

Circle is now meeting on the 2nd and the 4th Tuesdays of each month at 1:00 pm. We are studying the Hebrew names of God. If you would like to join the Circle or have questions, please contact Catherine Byrnside at nobleswynd@yahoo.com

Youth Groups Hosts Fellowship



Join us Sunday, September 27, for Fellowship Hour, hosted by **all of our youth—from our 3-year-olds through our high school students!** 🐛

Our youth are excited to welcome everyone and share a special time of fellowship together. A big thank-you to all the parents who are helping make and prepare the food to support our young hosts!

Come enjoy some good food, great fellowship, and celebrate our wonderful youth! We hope to see you there!

If the youth of our congregation can be Fellowship Hosts, so can you! Consider signing up to host a future Fellowship—we'd love for everyone to get involved! **Thank you, to the younger generation, for showing us how it's done!**

Men's Fellowship Luncheons

The FPC men's luncheons are on the 2nd Monday of each month at Perkins Restaurant. Any questions see Stephen Craig. Signup 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 on the 3rd Monday of each month at Perkins Restaurant. Any questions see Marlynn Story. Signup 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.**

Operation Christmas Child and Grab Bags

Thanks for all the wonderful donations for the month of August!

September we will keep the toys coming. Consider purchasing **grab bags of small toys from Goodwill** to donate. These bags are a great way to find several toys at a low cost while helping us fill shoeboxes with gifts that will bring joy to children around the world. Every toy donated helps us share God's love and make a child's Christmas a little brighter!



This grab bag is \$2.99 and it has supplies to make hundreds of bracelets. These supplies can be repackaged and go into many shoe boxes.



More grab bags \$3.99 or less with many plastic trucks, cars, and trains. You can also get grab bags with dolls and clothes... if you keep looking.

It's not too late to pay your Per Capita!

Although the Church has paid the \$10,446.54 Statement, we only collected \$6,135.58 from members. If you have paid your **Per Capita**, we thank you for your payment. If you have not, **individual Per Capita is \$46.02**. Please consider giving as soon as possible to help reduce the \$4,310.96 covered by the Church. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Story at robin.story@fpc-noblesville.org or 317.508.4411.

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!

Backyard BBQ, Band, and Bible

If you are interested in attending, or would like more information about this event, contact Pastor Jesse Mullins, Emmanuel United Methodist Church at 317-773-4406 or www.emmanuelumc.org.



Emmanuel United Methodist Church hosts:
BACKYARD BBQ, BAND, AND BIBLE
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH
16000 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, IN
6:30PM Gather for food and fellowship.
Music begins at 7:00PM

\$5 BBQ
Sandwiches. Any funds raised will be used for our food pantry!

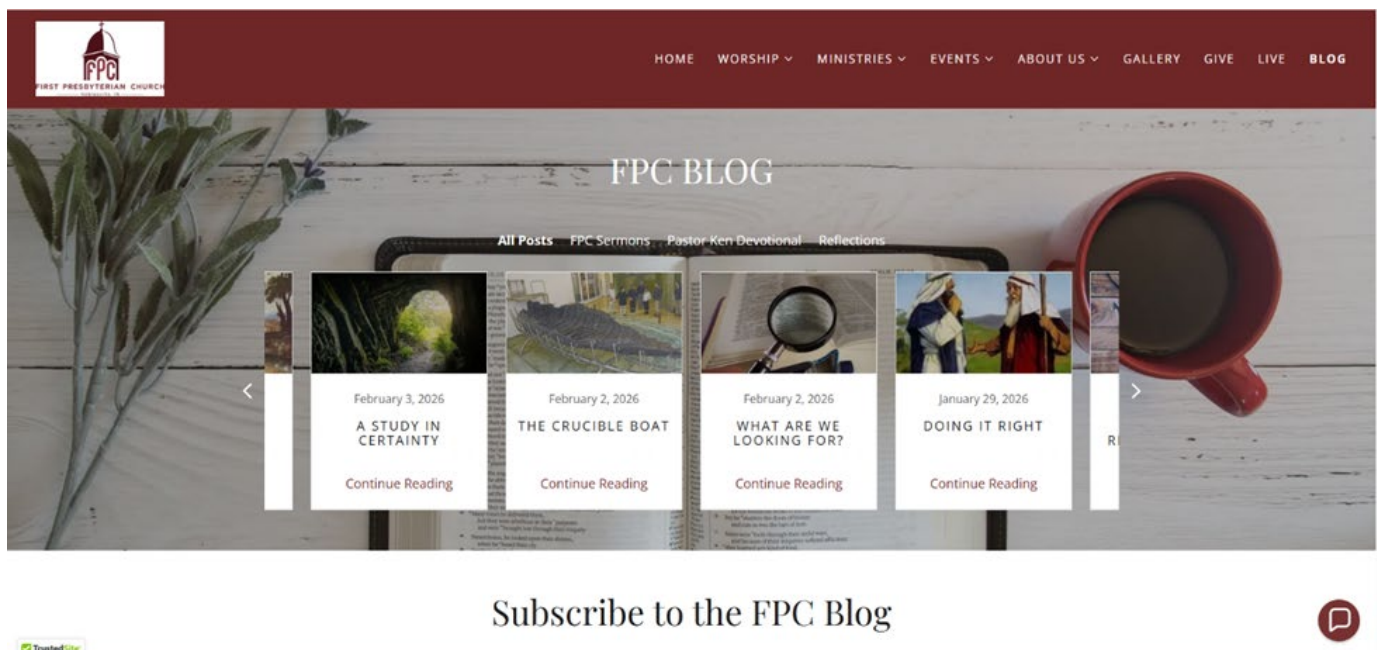
Bring your own chairs and drinks!

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!



A Note From the Church Office— BEWARE OF SCAMMERS!



Members of the congregation are continuing to receive what looks like an email from our Interim Pastor, Ken Locke.

If you look at the email this is sent from, it shows a “gmail.com” address. This is not an official FPC email. All emails from an FPC address will be from “*Person@fpc-noblesville.org*.”

Please ignore & delete any emails from bad email addresses.

Thank you!