



# News & Notes

March 12, 2026

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Noblesville, IN



Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Message this Sunday...**

“Learning God’s Vision”

1 Samuel 16:1-3, 6-7, 10-13;

John 9:1-3, 6-9, 13-16, 18-21, 24-29, 34-38

**Pastor Ken Locke**

[Click Here for the Live Service](#)

[Link to last Sunday’s Service](#)

# Weekly Devotion....

## **Never Try to Stop a Blessing!**

### **Exodus 1:6-22**

Rev. Kenneth M. Locke; March 12, 2026

Last week, we read about how a small band of Israelites (aka Hebrews), probably about 70 in all, moved from Canaan to Egypt to escape a drought. With Joseph's help (he was the son of Jacob who was sold into slavery in Egypt and rose to become the de facto prime minister), they were allowed to settle down and raise their livestock as they were accustomed to do.

Eventually, of course, Joseph and that generation died. Nevertheless, God was true to God's promises. The people continued to multiply and spread across the land.

But now, a new king has risen in Egypt. This king did not know Joseph. More importantly, he did not know Joseph's God. When he saw how prosperous the Israelites had become and how they were expanding across Egypt, his first response was to oppress them.

Of course, this is what power does. Power oppresses. When power is threatened by a rising and vocal minority, power tries to suppress them. Whether it be race, language, orientation, ethnicity or national origin, power does not try to integrate, assimilate, or unify. Instead, power oppresses. Sometimes by hard labor, sometimes by creating caste systems, sometimes by discriminatory laws/hiring practices.

But this king has not reckoned with Israel's God. Israel's God is always on the side of the minority, the oppressed, the outsider. And so, the people continue to multiply.

Faced with the utter failure of his oppressive program, Pharaoh resorts to more desperate measures. He orders the midwives to kill the Hebrew male children. But the midwives had more respect and allegiance to the God of the oppressed than the human oppressor. They resisted and because they did so, they multiplied.

Eventually, Pharaoh will suffer the fate of all serial oppressors. Along with his enablers, apparatchiks, true believers and those who mindlessly follow him, he will drown in his sins in the Red Sea.

The lesson then is the same as the lesson now. If God is intent on blessing an individual, family, tribe or nation – do not resist them. Make friends and become one with them. Resistance is futile. God will bless them. Amen.

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 13<sup>th</sup> 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
* <b>(Deficit)/Surplus:</b>		\$ 17,637.11

**Attendance Last week:** In Sanctuary—130; Households online—21

### Remember in your Prayers...

- ♥ **Amanda Gore**, going through difficult times.
- ♥ **Bill Linville**, dealing with health issues.
- ♥ **The Family of Carolyn McGinley (wife of Joe McGinley)**, upon her passing. Arrangements will be forthcoming.



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.

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## 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](mailto:robin.story@fpc-noblesville.org).

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# Easter Flower Orders – due this Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>!

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 15<sup>th</sup> (this coming Sunday).** You may give your order to Jim Story or put it in the offering plate.

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto:secretary@fpc-noblesville.org). In addition, to receive important updates by text, text FPC to 317-537-0124.

**Stay connected, stay inspired!**

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## Spring Cleanup – Saturday, March 14, 2026; 9 am - Noon



Spring cleanup will be **Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 9-noon** with a sloppy joe lunch immediately following.

If you have any questions - contact Steve Runyon ([sdrunyon@yahoo.com](mailto:sdrunyon@yahoo.com))

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## Adult Sunday School...

This Sunday we will discuss Max Lucado's 4th video on "WHAT HAPPENS NEXT". This end times video covers the "Marriage Made in Heaven" after the rapture and the evil of the 7-year "Tribulation".

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## 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](mailto:bob-trishmoore@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

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## 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](mailto:bobtrishmoore@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



Nursery

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## Card Making Class

Interested in learning a new technique for card making? Join us Wednesday, **March 18th at 11:30 in fellowship hall.** You will make 3 greeting cards using decorative paper napkins. Supplies provided. **Cost of class \$10.** Pre-register at the Welcome center or contact Marlynn Story ([jimlynnstory@comcast.net](mailto:jimlynnstory@comcast.net)) or Sue Jourdan ([sjbutterflylady@gmail.com](mailto:sjbutterflylady@gmail.com))

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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 Spotlight...

## Mission Spotlight – Celebrating the Impact of Your Generosity

Our mission spotlight this week celebrates the many ways your generosity made a real difference last year. Through your faithful giving to **Special Offerings**, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville helped shine Christ's light near and far—supporting ministries that bring hope, dignity, and compassion to those in need in our community and around the world.

- **One Great Hour of Sharing** — responding to hunger, disaster, and systemic poverty across the globe.
- **U.S. Disaster Assistance** — helping families recover from storms, floods, fires, and other crises nationwide.
- **Cooper House** — offering encouragement, stability, and Christ-centered care to families in crisis.
- **Family Promise** — preventing and ending family homelessness through shelter, rental assistance, and long-term support.
- **Third Phase** — providing emergency shelter, meals, and essential resources for neighbors facing sudden hardship.

**Camp Pyoca** — creating space for children, youth, and adults to grow in faith through camps and retreats.

Your generosity reflects the heart of our congregation: compassion, kindness, and service in Christ's name. Thank you for continuing to love your neighbors so well.



# 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 1<sup>st</sup>—May 17<sup>th</sup>

# 2026 CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

REGISTER MARCH 1 - MAY 17



<https://forms.gle/iH2rSRiK4yiux2VK7>



**JUNE 1 - 5, 10AM-4PM**

**MUST HAVE COMPLETED 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE**

**\$60 PER CHILD DUE MAY 17 TO SECURE SPOT**

**MUST FILL OUT THE FORM LINKED FOR EACH CHILD**

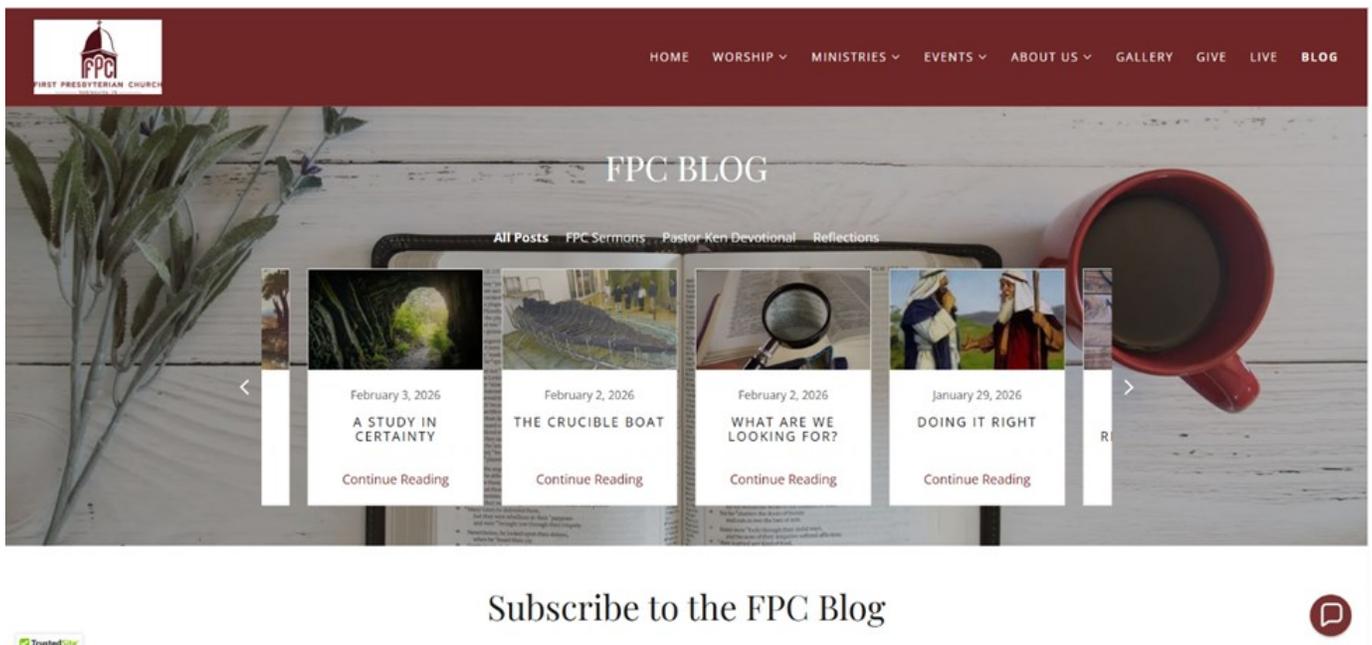
**CONTACT US AT [SUMMERCAMPFPC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUMMERCAMPFPC@GMAIL.COM)**

## 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](mailto: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 on a hill. A large five-pointed star is in the bottom left corner. Text and graphics are arranged as follows:

- SPRING '26** (Large black text)
- REVIVAL** (Large yellow text)
- MARCH** (Underlined black text)
- 27<sup>TH</sup>** | **28<sup>TH</sup>** | **29<sup>TH</sup>** (Large black text)
- FRIDAY 7PM** | **SATURDAY 7PM** | **SUNDAY 11AM** (Smaller black text)
- BRO. RANDY PHILLIPS** (Evangelist) and **BRO. RICK TOWE** (Soloist) (Portraits in circular frames)
- SISTER CHURCHES SINGING** (Group photo in a diamond frame)
- BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**11818 STATE ROAD 32 E. NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060** (Blue banner at the bottom)