



# News & Notes

May 7, 2026

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Noblesville, IN



## Message this Sunday...

“Tough Hope For Tough Times”

Isaiah 43:2; 1 Peter 3:13-22

**Pastor Ken Locke**

[Click Here for the Live Service](#)

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

[Link to Sermon Manuscripts](#)

# Weekly Devotion....

## **A Matter of Spirit!**

### **Leviticus 19:26-37**

May 7, 2026

Rev. Kenneth M. Locke

My Beloved -

The Old Testament book of Leviticus often gets a bad rap. It's laboriously full of laws that are hard to read and often make no sense in today's context.

At the same time, by zooming out a bit we can discern important information for living our lives today. By backing up and squinting at today's passage, it's soon obvious that holiness is not an option. It's not something we choose or not, taking up and putting down as our interests and abilities change.

Rather, holiness is a lifelong undertaking. Not because it's good for us, though it is, but because God is holy. In our awe and respect for God, we are to live as God lives: lives of holiness. That is, lives of justice.

Furthermore, our justice is not just personal. Our justice is social. God is deeply, deeply concerned for the powerless. In the Old Testament, God warns us no less than 36 times that we are to care for the aliens, the widows and the orphans. That is, the powerless, the oppressed, and the marginalized. God in God's holiness is deeply concerned for these people. God demands that they receive God's justice. We, intently following God's commandment to be holy, must also be concerned for them. The justice they receive must not be human justice, but the justice of God's divine grace.

And so we can conclude that, though the specific circumstances have changed over the centuries, the **spirit** of these laws lives and is in full force today. Below is today's passage with my understanding of what the laws meant in their day and how their spirit is still guiding us now.

### **Leviticus 19:26-37**

#### **26 You shall not eat anything with its blood.**

*Blood is the stuff of life and life belongs to God. To eat something with its life blood still in it is to claim what is God's. We don't need to eat our steaks well-done, but we do need to remember that the animal killed for our food ultimately belongs to God. We must honor God in how we treat the animal both before and after its death.*

#### **You shall not practice augury (omens) or witchcraft.**

*God is the only true power in all the cosmos. To practice reading signs or the power of witchcraft is to circumvent God. But do we try circumventing God in other ways? Do we play the lottery and pray to lady luck? Do we take too many chemical supplements to try and unnaturally prolong our lives?*

**27You shall not round off the hair on your temples or mar the edges of your beard. 28You shall not make any gashes in your flesh for the dead or tattoo any marks upon you: I am the Lord.**

*The Israelites' pagan neighbors would cut their hair, gash their flesh, and mark themselves with tattoos as both a sign of mourning and to appease the evil spirits tormenting the dead. Today, we do not cut ourselves, but does our mourning witness to the resurrection? Plenty of people fall into a dark of hole of depression at the thought of a loved one being gone forever, or else they treat death too lightly, as if were **only** the end of a natural process. Do we, in our grief, witness to another option?*

*We know that in death we experience resurrection and so, though our grief is genuine, it is also muted by our hope in the resurrection.*

**29 Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, so that the land may not become prostituted and full of depravity.**

*The Canaanite peoples, among whom the Israelites lived, practiced cultic prostitution. Women would be sent to serve as prostitutes in the local temple, thereby assuring the fertility of the land, animals, and even people. Of course, the women had little to no recourse when their patriarch told them to report for duty.*

*No such beliefs exist today, but how often are the powerless among us forced against their will into positions of servitude and/or degradation? How often do we use people for our own purposes with no considerations for their feelings?*

**30You shall keep my sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord.**

*If we are busy observing God's directives and worshiping in God's house, we will be less tempted to look for signs and omens or to oppress the powerless and use them for our own ends.*

**31Do not turn to mediums or wizards; do not seek them out, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.**

*This law applies to necromancy, the practice of consulting the dead for advice about living. As with the injunction above, those who engage in such practices are trying to circumvent God. God is the only one to be consulted about living a meaningful life.*

**32You shall rise before the aged, and defer to the old; and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.**

*With age comes wisdom. Older Israelites would commonly have a parental type of relationship with the young. Honoring the elderly among us is in line with the commandment to honor our parents.*

*But what about the elderly? Today, people routinely live longer than an Israelite in 1000 BC could expect. Are the elderly among us showing a parent's love to the younger generation? By their behavior and wise counsel, do they deserve great respect and deference? Or are they simply tyrants with a silver crown?*

**<sup>33</sup>When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. <sup>34</sup>The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.**

*It is impossible to overstress how much God cares for aliens and outsiders. It is impossible to overstress how important it was for the Israelites to see themselves, aliens first in Egypt, then aliens in the wilderness, then aliens in the Promised Land, in the aliens around them.*

*This is particularly true for us today. Yes, the times are different and we have different laws. Yes, we need to protect our borders and our citizens. But I know that many of my ancestors came to this country not speaking a word of English. And none of them came here because life was too good at home. They came to this alien land because they were desperate. When I see aliens in our midst today, I can't help but see my Kleinert ancestors. And so, I want to treat the aliens I see as well as I would have wanted my Kleinert ancestors treated. Not with harassment but with compassion.*

**<sup>35</sup>You shall not cheat in measuring length, weight, or quantity. <sup>36</sup>You shall have honest balances, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.**

*There is no division between holiness in our personal lives and holiness in our work lives. Honest weights and measures, honest accounting and financial practices, matter to God. Holiness does not allow for dishonesty at home or in the marketplace. Shoddy merchants selling outdated goods, crafty loan officers swindling gullible applicants, giant corporations mislabeling and misrepresenting their products – all are abhorrent to God. We who want to be holy cannot engage in such practices. We must be holy in every area of our lives, even at our work.*

**<sup>37</sup>You shall keep all my statutes and all my ordinances, and observe them: I am the Lord.**

*One more time we are reminded that these are not human decrees, or even human good ideas. This is the way God wants us to live. We live this way not out of fear but out of love. In Jesus, God has given us lives of meaning and purpose and has promised to love us for eternity. We show our thanks by doing our best to be holy.*

Yes, Leviticus can be a little hard to follow. And certainly, the times have changed. But it's worth the time and energy to do a little research and see how those old laws still apply to us today. The specifics may have changed, but the **spirit** of these laws is as relevant as ever.

God's peace to us all,  
Pastor Ken.



FAMILY CINCO DE MAYO GAME NIGHT  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

WE ARE PROVIDING CHIPS AND SALSA BUT  
WOULD LIKE YOU TO BRING YOUR FAVORITE  
CHIPS AND DIP TO SHARE.

# CINCO DE MAYO GAME NIGHT

Friday, May 8, 2026 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm |  
Fellowship Hall, FPC

BRING YOUR FAVORITE BOARD GAME TO PLAY  
AND JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AT OUR FPC  
FAMILY GAME NIGHT.

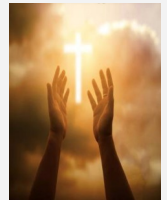
## April 2026 Income/Expense Report

	<u>2026 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Actual</u>
Income Received:	\$107,330.26	\$121,497.06
Expenses:	\$102,315.37	\$104,384.09
* <i>(Deficit)/Surplus:</i>		\$ 17,112.97

**Attendance Last week:** In Sanctuary — 125; Households online — 23

### Remember in your Prayers...

- ▼ Ray Faust, at home under hospice care.
- ▼ Karen McCord, shoulder/arm injury.
- ▼ Julia Keller-Welter, broken arm and in a cast.



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

Wendy Bittle

Joe McGinley—*Hamilton Trace*

Rachel Morgan

Dorothy Etchison—*Independence Village*

Verna Merrell

Carol Stough—*The Crossings of Noblesville*

**Keep up to date on the interim process at FPC.**



[Click here](#)

## Events for the Upcoming Week...



### ***MAY 10 THROUGH MAY 17, 2026***

<b><i>Sunday</i></b>	<i>9:00 am</i>	<i>Adult Sunday School</i>
	<i>10:00 am</i>	<i>Worship</i>
	<i>11:15 am</i>	<i>Fellowship Hour</i>
	<i>11:15 am</i>	<i>Deacon's Meeting</i>
<b><i>Monday</i></b>	<i>9:00 am</i>	<i>Shepherd's Center</i>
	<i>11:30 am</i>	<i>Men's Luncheon—Perkins</i>
	<i>1:30 pm</i>	<i>Newcomer's Club</i>
<b><i>Tuesday</i></b>	<i>6:30 pm</i>	<i>Tri-Kappa</i>
<b><i>Wednesday</i></b>	<i>8:30 am</i>	<i>Men's Great Banquet Reunion Group</i>
	<i>8:30 am</i>	<i>Women's Great Banquet Reunion Group</i>
	<i>7:00 pm</i>	<i>Presbyterian Women Meeting</i>
<b><i>Thursday</i></b>	<i>7:00 pm</i>	<i>Choir Rehearsal</i>
<b><i>Friday</i></b>		
<b><i>Saturday</i></b>	<i>8:30 am</i>	<i>Aerobics</i>
<b><i>Sunday</i></b>	<i>9:00 am</i>	<i>Adult Sunday School</i>
	<i>10:00 am</i>	<i>Worship</i>
	<i>11:15 am</i>	<i>Fellowship Hour</i>
	<i>11:15 am</i>	<i>Pastor Ken's Class 2</i>

**Things I Wish All Congregations Knew,  
Part II: Leadership, Change, Bowling & Canoeing the Rockies!**

In this class we will talk about the role of leadership in organizational change, what 1950s bowling says about contemporary social cohesion, and how the Lewis & Clark expedition is a perfect paradigm for our time.

**May 17th, Fellowship Hall, shortly after worship.**  
Looking forward to seeing everyone! Pastor Ken.



**Thank you!**

Thank you to our dedicated 2026 Lenten readers for bringing the Word to life and guiding our congregation through this season of reflection, prayer, and renewal: Kiersten Clifford, Jake Light, Mark Wisely, Azenwi Ndofor, Lum Ndofor, and David McCord

## Raise The Roof Campaign!

A capital campaign for a new \$60,000 (plus) roof has started. Your help is very important in order to preserve the integrity of our beloved church. **We need to raise \$35,000 and to date we have collected \$6,600.** Please consider how you may be able to financially help with this expense. If you have any questions concerning the roof or the capital campaign talk to Steve Runyon, Property Elder or Mark Wisely, Finance Elder.



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## Spirit Wear Sale!

Thanks to all who purchased a T-shirt or Quarter-Zip to support the Henderson Mission Trip. With 88 shirts ordered, FPC will have plenty of sharp-dressed folks here at FPC! We'll update you soon on when your spirit wear will be delivered.

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## Adult Sunday School...

For the next 2 Sundays, the Adult Class will continue discussion on Lee Stroble's book, "The Case for Easter". Did Jesus REALLY die on the cross? Did Jesus REALLY rise from the tomb? What are the medical, historical and cultural truths revealed in the scriptures. Come and see!



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## Annual Outdoor Service—June 7, 2026 at Forest Park

Our annual outdoor service will be at **Forest Park (Shelter #3)**, this year. **The service is on June 7, 2026 and will begin at 10 am, with a pitch-in lunch to follow.** Bring a dish to share and your table setting. Dress casually! **Meat and drinks will be provided.** Forest Park is located at 701 Cicero Rd. (S.R. 19), Noblesville.

## Office News

Have you noticed anyone new in the office? Barb Runyon and Janie Emerson will be job sharing the secretary duties each month. Nothing will change except the person at the desk and the voice on the phone. May secretary—Barb Runyon and June secretary—Janie Emerson

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## It's not too late to pay your 2026 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 portion, 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 paid by the Church. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Story at [robin.story@fpc-noblesville.org](mailto:robin.story@fpc-noblesville.org) or 317.508.4411.

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## 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.**

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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

## 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 clipboard 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 clipboard 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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## 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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## Purchases & Reimbursements...

If you make a purchase for the church, please turn in your receipts. Put them in an envelope and include your name & the purpose of the purchase. Place them in Robin's mailbox. If you want to be reimbursed for the purchase, use the forms in the payment voucher mailbox (top row, second from the right).

PAYMENT VOUCHER	
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1207 Corner St., Noblesville, IN 46060	
Date:	_____
Made Payable to:	_____
Invoice or Statement No.:	_____
Description of Purchase or Need:	_____
Total Amount Due: \$	_____
Category:	_____ Account: _____
Approved By:	_____ Amount: _____
<small>Only authorized Elders or Moderators may sign vouchers. Please attach to the original bill or invoice for processing and place in the Business Manager's mailbox.</small>	

## Welcome our New Members to FPC Noblesville

### Anne Fowler

10206 Adler Ct  
Noblesville, IN 46060  
(432) 557-6541  
jimoranne@sbcglobal.net

### Tanner and Kelsey McCaw

317-879-6241 is Tanner's cell  
574-261-6238 is Kelsey's cell  
Tanner.mccaw@gmail.com  
Jackson (age 3)  
Brooks (age 1)

### Bob and Susie Zabel

1405 Cottonwood Cir.  
Noblesville, IN 46062  
317-489-2501 is Bob's cell  
317-413-4726 is Susie's cell  
thezabels@msn.com

### Jon and Maureen Schreibfeder

11715 Flynn Place  
Noblesville, IN 4060  
214-695-4367 is Jon's cell  
214-668-4261 is Maureen's cell  
jonsintx@aol.com



*Welcome to  
your new  
church home!*

**Welcome!**

# 2026 CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Camp is coming up, and we need some awesome humans to help make it a success!

You can **sign up for a shift** (because we respect your need for snacks, naps, and normal life), or go **full camp legend and stay all day**—your choice!

If you're willing to lend a hand, bring the energy, and maybe embrace a little organized chaos, we'd love to have you.

Reach out to Marlee for Volunteer Interest!



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

## Mission Minute...

### A Decade of Faithful Support for Last Bell Ministries



For over ten years, our congregation has supported Last Bell Ministries through financial gifts, donations of winter coats, clothing and basic needs, and two mission trips to Ukraine for English Camp. Most importantly, FPC has faithfully prayed for Last Bell Ministries and the people of Ukraine and continues to do so.

#### **2026 has two great opportunities for you to continue to help our friends at Last Bell**

The **“Sharing Our Love”** donation drive will focus on teens and young adult orphans and their families.

- Gently used or new, warm winter coats, shoes, and clothing.
- They love American fashions, especially hoodies and T-shirts with logos.
- There is also a love of baseball and softball, but no athletic equipment for those sports is sold in Ukraine.
- More info and a collection zone will be set up in Fellowship Hall early May. Items will be shipped to Ukraine in early fall.

#### **Free Concert to Benefit Last Bell Ministries**

Dr. Warren Fremling will be hosting a concert on **Sunday, June 14 at 4:00 in the FPC Sanctuary**

Mark your calendars for this wonderful benefit. Ask Warren or a mission team member how you can help with this special event.

**FREE CONCERT**  
TO BENEFIT  
 **UKRAINE**  **LAST BELL**  
MINISTRIES  
**SUNDAY JUNE 14 4:00**  
Dr. Warren Fremling, Baritone and Philip Orem, Piano

For more information about Last Bell Ministries visit <https://lastbell.org/>

## 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!



## A Note From the Church Office— The Scammers are back!



Members of the congregation have received 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!**