



News & Notes

February 5, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Noblesville, IN



Message this Sunday...

“Our Counterintuitive God”

Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:8-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Pastor Ken Locke

[Click Here for the Live Service](#)

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

Weekly Devotion....

A Study in Certainty

Genesis 23:1-20

February 5, 2026

Despite its somber subject matter, I find it hard not to smile when reading today's lesson. After a long and full life, Sarah has died. Abraham wants a place to bury her remains, but not just any place. He wants her burial place to be permanent, somewhere he can go back to again and again and where other members of his family can be buried.

And so, with a certain sense of false humility, he approaches the Hittites who rule the land. *"I am a stranger and an alien residing among you."* The Hittites, of course, are not fooled. *"Hear us, my lord; you are a mighty prince among us."* (The Hebrew actually reads, *"You are a prince of God."* They may not worship Abraham's God, but they know God cares for Abraham and has blessed him.) What follows is a delightful mixture of oriental courtesy and hard-nosed bargaining. At the end of the day Abraham has what he wanted: a secure place, publicly and legally obtained for the asking price, in which to bury his dead.

The passage is a masterfully composed short, descriptive narrative. But it's also a lot more.

Bible scholars generally agree that this passage reached the form we enjoy today during the period of the Babylonian exile in the 6th century BC. For those first readers it would have been an anchor, providing them comfort and hope. *We may be in Babylon now, but we have a home in Israel. We may be in Babylon now, but we know someday we will return to the land where our ancestors are buried.* The family tomb would have been a place to hope for, to strive for.

For us as Christians, this passage reminds us that in death we are not forgotten. Our certainty is not in the place where we are buried. Our certainty is in knowing that in life and in death we belong to God.

As a gift from God, death must be respected. But we need not fear it. Our certainty is not in a plot of ground. Our certainty is not in historical memory. (Most of us will be forgotten within 4 or 5 generations of our death.) Our certainty is in the God who loves us in this life and the next.

In his death and resurrection, Jesus did not buy us a burial plot. He bought us life with God forever.

Beloved, this is how much God loves us.

God's peace to us all,

Pastor Ken

Ash Wednesday Is Coming And So Is Lent!

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Holy Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the joy and celebration of Easter. No one knows exactly when Ash Wednesday was first celebrated, but for many centuries Christians have observed the day with a special worship service culminating in the imposition of Ashes as a sign of repentance for our sins.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th. We will celebrate this holy day with a worship service at 7:00 pm, including communion by intinction and, for those who wish, the imposition of ashes on our foreheads.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is a period of 40 days that echoes the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry. It also reminds us of the 40 days and 40 nights that it rained on Noah and the Ark, as well as the 40 days that both Moses and Elijah spent praying in the wilderness. During this time, we prepare ourselves for Easter by giving up luxuries or engaging in special ministries. The object is not to imitate the sufferings of Christ; no one can do that. Rather, it is to bring us closer to Christ and the Least of These he served.

How can you celebrate Lent? Here are a few thoughts:

Things to (possibly) give up or cut back:

Sweets are a perennial favorite.

Caffeine (hard for me).

Swearing (always a good idea).

Sleeping in on Saturday. Instead, use the time to read your Bible and pray.

Your favorite TV show. Again, use the time to read your Bible and pray.

Eating out. Donate the money you saved to a favorite charity.

Things to (possibly) do:

Join a mission project.

Take a walk in the mornings and pick up the trash along the roadside. Make a list of what you pick up and pray for those disrespecting God's earth this way.

Read a chapter a day from the Gospel of Matthew, where we will spend most of our time this year. If you start on Ash Wednesday, you can almost make it through twice.

Start a regular devotional routine. There are many good ones online. I recommend 'd365'.

Begin an exercise routine. Our bodies are gifts from God. We honor God by treating them with respect.

Find times for more regular prayer.

As soon as your feet first hit the ground in the morning, sing a verse of one of your favorite hymns. Literally, begin the day by praising God.

As you walk out your front door in the morning, stop and say the Lord's Prayer. Some days it will be rushed, but some days it will be meaningful.

We generally think of Lent as a somber time, but I see it as a joyful opportunity for drawing closer to God. Praise God that we are given this opportunity to grow in faith, and self-control, so that we may better celebrate the joys of Easter!

God's peace to us all,
Pastor Ken.

Remember in your Prayers...

- ♥ **Wanda Davis, mother of Micael Davis**, in the hospital.
- ♥ **Don & Raelene Barnes, twin brother & sister-in-law of Dolores McNabb**, both have cancer and Don is in hospice.
- ♥ **Maria Wuerch (Brian & Kelly's daughter-in-law)** is 8 months pregnant with preeclampsia and will be delivering early.
- ♥ **Lindsay Westerman (Brian & Kelly Wuerch's niece)** has upcoming surgery to remove several large masses.
- ♥ **Mike Maloney, husband of Rita Popp**, recuperating at home.
- ♥ **Bill Linville**, awaiting a liver transplant.
- ♥ **Don Bellis**, receiving hospice care at home.



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—*The Crossings of Noblesville*

Update on Pastor Ken's Wife...

My Dear Congregation: Thank you for your concern for my wife, Elizabeth Lindsey. As you know, she is being treated for AML Leukemia. Though she is in remission, we know that it is important for her to have a bone marrow transplant.

We are blessed in that a suitable donor has been found and Elizabeth is well enough to undergo the procedure. Of course, none of this happens quickly. Right now, she is scheduled to enter the hospital during the first week of March to receive her new bone marrow. She will have to be in the hospital for 4-6 weeks. Afterwards, she will be able to come home but will have to have someone with her 24/7 for the next 6-8 weeks. During this time the risk of infection is very high so she will need to be fairly isolated.

Thank you for your care and concern for her. We both appreciate your prayers for grace and healing.

God's peace to us all,
Pastor Ken.

To Reach Pastor Ken by email...

Pastor Ken's email address is ken.locke@fpc-noblesville.org.

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.**

2025 Contribution Statements

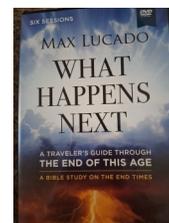
2025 Contribution Statements have been mailed. If you have not received your statement, please contact Robin Story at robin.story@fpc-noblesville.org.

Inquirers/New Members Meeting

Would you like more information about FPC-Noblesville? **The spring Inquirers/New Members class will be Sunday, March 8.** Contact Barb Runyon at bsrunyon@yahoo.com or call/text at 317-407-4170 or stop by the welcome center and signup. This is an informative class to ask questions about FPC Noblesville and to meet many of the current leaders.

Adult Sunday School...

This Sunday, the Adult Class will continue the 6 part study "What Happens Next" by Max Lucado. Max says "What happens in the later days will make more sense once you know what God promised in the early days". The class discussion will center on what early promises of God have not been fulfilled and why?



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!

The screenshot shows the FPC Blog website interface. At the top, there is a dark red navigation bar with the FPC logo on the left and a menu with items: HOME, WORSHIP, MINISTRIES, EVENTS, ABOUT US, GALLERY, GIVE, LIVE, and BLOG. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image featuring a wooden surface, a red mug, and a plant. The text "FPC BLOG" is centered in the banner. Below the banner, there is a carousel of four featured blog posts. Each post card includes a date, a title, and a "Continue Reading" link. The posts are: "A STUDY IN CERTAINTY" (February 3, 2026), "THE CRUCIBLE BOAT" (February 2, 2026), "WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?" (February 2, 2026), and "DOING IT RIGHT" (January 29, 2026). At the bottom of the page, there is a white section with the text "Subscribe to the FPC Blog" and a red speech bubble icon on the right. A small "TrustedSite" logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

Family Bingo Night...

Friday, February 20, 2026—6-9 pm

Pizza Dinner 6-7 pm

Bingo starts at 7 pm

BINGO NIGHT FOR ALL, BROUGHT TO
YOU BY YOUR FPC FAMILY.
JOIN US FOR PIZZA, BINGO, SWEET
TREATS AND FELLOWSHIP!

BINGO NIGHT

Friday, February 20, 2026 | 6 - 9 pm
Fellowship Hall, FPC

Pizza Dinner 6 - 7pm

Bingo starts at 7pm

BINGO PRIZES TO BE WON!!!



Mission Minute...



Join Our 2026 Summer Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement!

Ready for a Christ-Centered Summer Adventure?

It's time once again to gear up for our annual summer work camp mission trip to **Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky**, happening **Sunday–Thursday, June 21–25**. This all-ages trip blends hands-on service with the joy of traveling together—home repairs, community outreach, time with local families, and plenty of unexpected moments that make the week both fun and deeply fulfilling.

Our work at Henderson Settlement focuses on **creating opportunities for better lives through Christ-centered service** and helping meet **basic needs in Appalachia**. Last year, **twenty adults and children** from our FPC family joined the team, and we're excited to see who God brings along this summer.

You might find yourself repairing a porch, assisting with outreach projects, or spending time with local families who welcome volunteers with warmth and gratitude. Every day brings something new, and every task—big or small—makes a meaningful impact.

To give you a sense of the adventure ahead, longtime volunteers **Kay and Lamar**, who have served at Henderson Settlement for **42 consecutive years**, still laugh about their first trip in 1984. With no signs, no GPS, and narrow unpaved roads without guardrails, simply getting there was an adventure. They've returned every year since because the experience is that rewarding.

Whether you're drawn by the chance to serve, the joy of traveling with a great group, or the promise of an unforgettable week, we hope you'll join us. It's a trip that surprises you, stretches you, and fills you in ways you don't expect.

Register now!

If you're new to the trip, **Jennie Auble** and **Lamar Ziegler** will be available during Fellowship Hour this Sunday to answer questions and share details. Returning volunteers, please pick up a registration form at the Welcome Center in Fellowship Hall so we can reserve your housing.

Contact Information

Jennie: 317-696-3843 | aublej@comcast.net
Lamar: 317-432-4621 | laziegler48@gmail.com

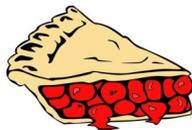
Watch for this year's information on Good Samaritan's Shoebox Ministry...

It's never too early to think, and pray for God's children!



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.**

Sunday School Calendar

Grades 6 - 8

~~JAN
11
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School~~

~~JAN
18
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School~~

~~JAN
25
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School~~

FEB
8
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School

FEB
15
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School

FEB
20
6 PM - 8 PM
Bingo Night

FEB
22
DURING SERVICE
Sunday School

Creative & Performing Arts Camp...

Camp will be held June 1-5

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

SAVE

CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

JUN 1-5
10AM - 4PM

THE

DATE

\$60 /child

Registration
March 1 - May 17

A Note From the Church Office...

Many members of the congregation have received what looks like an email from our Interim Pastor Ken Locke. It looks something like this:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Pastor Ken Locke <ken.locke.fpcnoblesville.org@gmail.com>

Date: January 20, 2026 at 12:40:41 PM EST

To: XXXXXXXXXXX

Subject: First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville

Hello XXXX, I hope you're doing well. I wanted to ask if we could continue this conversation via email. I'm currently handling a sensitive matter and would truly appreciate your guidance and discretion.

Please let me know a time that works best for you

Blessings,

Pastor Ken Locke

First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville

1207 East Conner St.

Noblesville, IN 46060

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!