



News & Notes

March 5, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Noblesville, IN



Third Sunday in Lent

Message this Sunday...

“Are You Thirsty?”

Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42

Pastor Ken Locke

[Click Here for the Live Service](#)

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



Daylight Savings Time Begins...

Don't forget to *set your clocks AHEAD*

1 hour on Saturday evening. We don't want you
to be Late for Church on Sunday!

Weekly Devotion....

God Never Breaks a Promise

Genesis 46:1-7

Rev. Kenneth M. Locke

March 5, 2026

Last week, we shared the story of Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt and eventually rising to be the most important person in the land, second only to Pharaoh. By God's grace, he knew about an impending famine and so began storing grain. When his father Jacob, his 11 brothers and their families began starving back in Canaan, his brothers came to Joseph to buy food.

It was very touch-and-go for a while. We weren't sure if Joseph would sell them grain, send them away hungry or let them die in prison. Eventually, though, Joseph and his brothers reconciled. He told them to pack everyone and everything and move to Egypt where they could live safely.

Now the time has come. Jacob's entire clan is moving lock, stock and barrel. Everything and everyone must go. Wives, children, cattle, spare clothes, extra shoes and anything else that could be packed into their simple wagons.

Which makes us wonder – was Jacob deserting God? Was he turning his back on God, giving up his claim to the land where he was living? God had repeatedly promised this land to Abraham and Isaac. Their small clan would become a great nation on this land. How can they possibly claim the land if they aren't there? How can they claim Canaan as a gift from God when they are living as refugees in Egypt? Is the drought the end of God's promise? Is Jacob deserting God?

While making their way to Egypt, either by luck or by design they travel to Beer-Sheba, a place where Jacob's father Isaac used to live. There, Jacob makes sacrifices to God and God speaks to Jacob in a dream.

God assures Jacob that all will be OK. God's promise is not void. God assures Jacob that his family will become a great nation and one day they will return to their land in Canaan. Furthermore, God assures them God will be with them while they are in Egypt.

Our narrator is making an important point. God remains true to God's promises. God's promises are not derailed by unforeseen circumstances. Drought, flood, war, job loss, job relocation, changes in our relationship status – none of these are enough to throw God off track. God will always be with us, even when we are in the Egypt of our day.

The good news of God's love is that just as God was with Jacob and his family, so God is with us. God does not turn God's back on us. In our baptism, God calls us as God's own. God promises to love us now and forever – even if we have to relocate to Egypt.

Beloved – this is how much God loves us. Thanks be God!
Pastor Ken.

Lent is NOW!

Lent, which began 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.

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
* (Deficit)/Surplus:		\$ 17,637.11

Attendance Last week: In Sanctuary—114; Households online—22

Remember in your Prayers...

- ♥ 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*

Congregational Meeting—Sunday, March 8, 2026...

A Congregational Meeting, to elect a new Elder is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, 2026, during the worship service.

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.

Easter Flower Orders – due March 15th!

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 15th. You may give your order to Jim Story or put it in the offering plate.

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.

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.

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)

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!

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.

Adult Sunday School...

This Sunday we will watch video 4 of Max Lucado's "WHAT HAPPENS NEXT" series. This video covers the Wedding of the Lamb and the Tribulation Period.

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 for more information.

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 for more information.



Nursery

Card Making Class

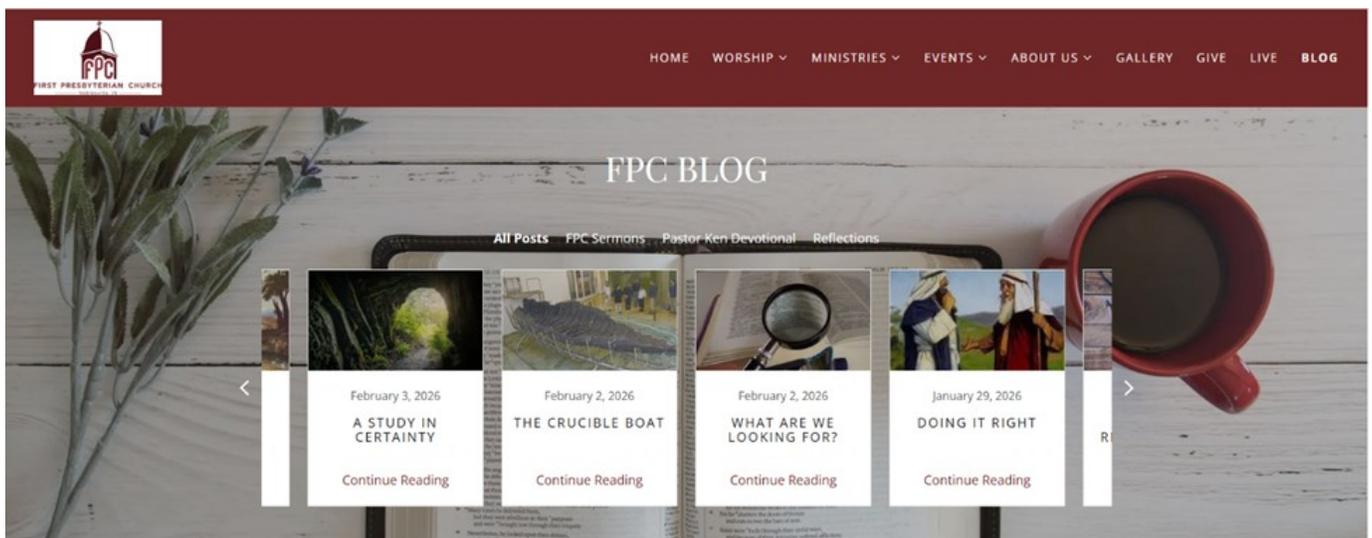
Interested in learning a new technique for card making? Join us Wednesday, **March 18th at 11:30 in fellowship hall**. You will make 3 greeting cards using decorative paper napkins. Supplies provided. **Cost of class \$10**. Pre-register at the Welcome center or contact Marlynn Story (jimlynnstory@comcast.net)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



Subscribe to the FPC Blog



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.**

Creative & Performing Arts Camp...

Camp will be held June 1-5

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

2026 CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

REGISTER MARCH 1 - MAY 17



<https://forms.gle/iH2rSRiK4yiux2VK7>



JUNE 1 - 5, 10AM-4PM

MUST HAVE COMPLETED 1ST 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