

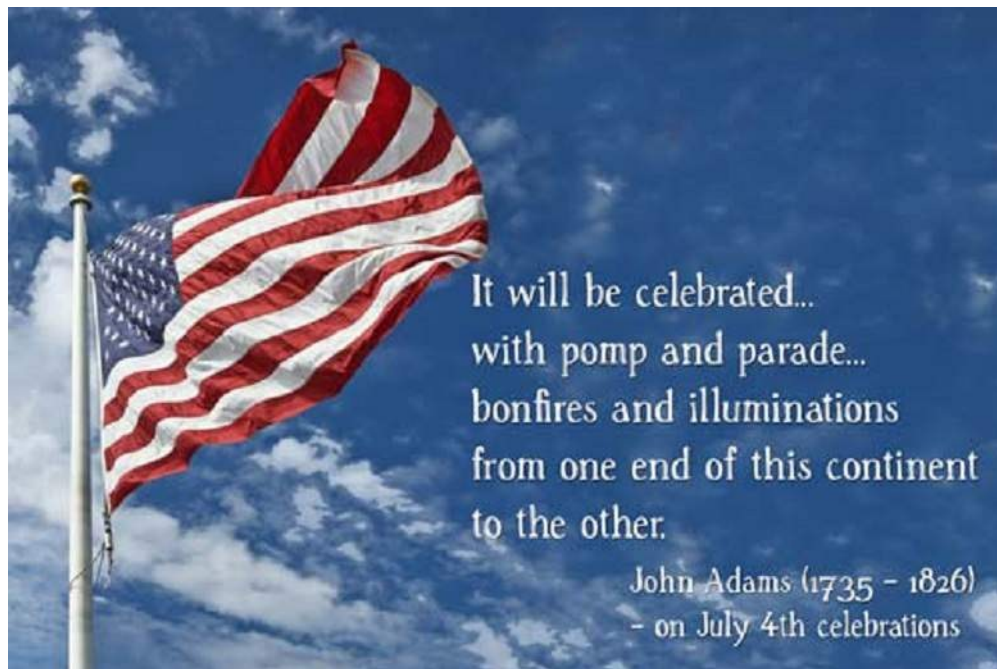


News & Notes

July 2, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Noblesville, IN



Message this Sunday...

“Patriotism, Politics and Presbyterianism”

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Romans 7:14-25

Pastor Ken Locke

[Click Here for the Live Service](#)

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

[Link to Sermon Manuscripts](#)

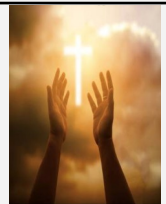
MAY 2026 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT

	<u>2026 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>
Income:	\$131,649.59	\$138,528.15
Expenses:	\$132,173.25	\$134,193.84
(Deficit)/Surplus:	\$ (523.66)	\$ 4,334.31

Attendance Last week: In Sanctuary — 122; Households online — 17

Raise The Roof Campaign— \$32,264!

Remember in your Prayers...



- ♥ **Jeri Griffith & family**, on the passing of her brother-in-law, **Jonathan Griffith**.
- ♥ **Bill McConnell, husband of Jan McConnell**, in ICU at St. Vincent Hospital after suffering a stroke.
- ♥ **Bob Zabel**, fighting sepsis and the side effects of the antibiotics.
- ♥ **Mike Maloney**, at Kindred Transitional Care & Rehab in Castleton.
- ♥ **Tom Bader**, recuperating from a recent Eye procedure and scheduling a Heart procedure.
- ♥ **Judith Drysdale**, recuperating from hip replacement.
- ♥ **Bob & Marj Bill**, Bob broke his lower leg and is in rehab.

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...

JULY 5 THROUGH JULY 12, 2026

<i>Today</i>	<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>Monday</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>	<i>Shepherd's Center</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>		
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>8:30 am</i>	<i>Women's Great Banquet Reunion Group</i>
	<i>8:30 am</i>	<i>Men's Great Banquet Reunion Group</i>
<i>Thursday</i>		
<i>Friday</i>		
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>8:30 am</i>	<i>Aerobics</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<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>

Nursery Attendants:

July 5—Nursery Closed

July 12—Nursery Closed

Audio / Video Team:

July 5—Clint Gingerich & Brian Wuerch

July 12—Nathan Roe & Clint Gingerich

Lay Leader:

July 5—Sue Jourdan

July 12—Anne Burress

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

July 5—Adult Sunday School Class

July 12—Jill Casper & Debbie Wilson

In the Office:

July—Janie Emerson

August—Barb Runyon

Give On-line through Tithe.ly:



Upcoming Changes to our Order of Worship!

Beginning Sunday, July 19, we will be making a few changes to our Order of Worship. These changes have been reviewed by the Worship Committee and the Session and have their blessing.

We are not losing anything. Nothing is going away. We will still sing the same hymns, have a sermon, time with children, prayers of the people, and all those elements of worship that are so meaningful to all of us. They will simply be in a slightly different order.

These changes will bring our services a little closer to the outline in our Book of Order and more in keeping with our Presbyterian and Reformed theology. I will be explaining the changes every Sunday between now and July 19th so if you don't get it the first time don't worry. You'll hear it again!

Our desire, of course, is that these few changes will make our services even more meaningful and help us all draw closer to God.

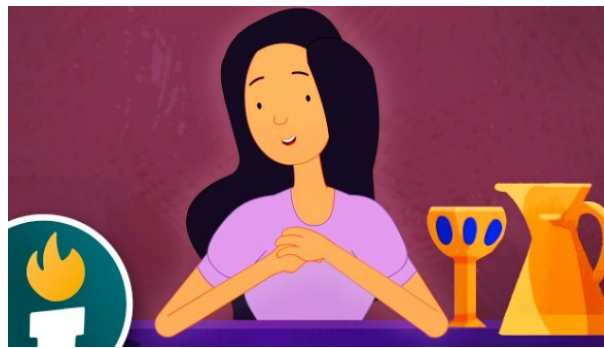
God's peace to one and all,
Pastor Ken.

Presbyterian Women's Just Desserts Party

Wednesday, 7-15-26



The women of the church are invited to attend our annual Presbyterian Woman's Just Dessert Party. Please feel free to bring a friend. Join us for fellowship and dessert.



The Story of Lydia in the Bible

What: Just Desserts

When: Wednesday, July 15th at 7pm

Where: Fellowship hall

Presentation: The Story of Lydia and how she represents a key example of female leadership, faith, and hospitality in the early church.

Please bring: Please bring an item to donate to the Malawi Mission Project. For example: baby receiving blankets, onesies, nursery hats, sanitary napkins, large garbage bags, large size Ziplock bags, quart size Ziplock bags, wrapped bar soap, wash cloths, diapers, umbilical cord clips, or an inspirational item to place in the bags for the mothers.

RSVP by 7-10-26 to Trisha McDermand at tmcdemand@comcast.net or call 317-514-8623.

Weekly Devotion....

Lift Every Voice & Sing!

July 2, 2026

My Beloved -

Some poems are better known as hymns. Some hymns achieve fame as poems. A lucky few manage to do both. One of my favorites in the latter category is “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by the great James Weldon Johnson. If you don’t know the poem/hymn, take a minute to acquaint yourself now. If you’re not familiar with James Weldon Johnson and his career, I invite you to learn more.

Poem & Information about JW Johnson: [Click Here](#)

Hymn: [Click Here](#)

In her famous autobiography, “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” the poet Maya Angelou describes spending part of her childhood in Stamps Arkansas during the height of the Great Depression. (Her parents, unable to care for her in California, put her on a train with her name and destination tied to her coat and trusted the pullman porters to get her there safely. Not an uncommon practice at the time.)

One of the highlights of her time in Stamps was her 8th graduation. This was as high as many children would go, especially girls, so it was especially significant. The entire school had practiced for the baccalaureate service held at the ‘black’ Baptist Church. At the appointed time, and wearing her nicest dress, she filed into the sanctuary with other children and waited for the joyous occasion to begin.

But what should have been a wonderful event in the life of a child was marred by the guest speaker, the white Superintendent of Schools. He and his entourage arrived late, and he marched directly to the pulpit. The minute he was done, the party left to catch a train. Angelou records the gist of what he said.

He told us of the wonderful changes we children in Stamps had in store. The Central School (naturally, the white school was Central) had already been granted improvements that would be in use in the fall. A well-known artist was coming from Little Rock to teach art to them. They were going to have the newest microscopes and chemistry equipment for their laboratory. Mr. Donleavy didn't leave us long in the dark over who made these improvements available to Central High. Nor were we to be ignored in the general betterment scheme he had in mind.

He said that he had pointed out to people at a very high level that one of the first-line football tacklers at Arkansas Agricultural and Mechanical College had graduated from good old Lafayette County Training School.

He went on to praise us. He went on to say how he had bragged that "one of the best basketball players at Fisk sank his first ball right here at Lafayette County Training School."

The white kids were going to have a chance to become [Galileos](#) and [Madame Curies](#) and [Edisons](#) and [Gauguins](#), and our boys (the girls weren't even in on it) would try to be [Jesse Owens](#) and [Joe Louises](#).

We were maids and farmers, handymen and washerwomen, and anything higher that we aspired to was farcical and presumptuous.

As you can imagine, everyone was both dumbfounded and deeply saddened by the message. The joyful day was being ruined by the callous remarks of an indifferent outsider. Why bother memorizing multiplication tables? Why practice reading? Why bother going to school at all?

Just as the congregation was about to give up on celebrating and sink into despair, the valedictorian, after making his way through his valedictory speech, turned away from the congregation and faced the graduating class. He began to sing.

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.

As one, the entire congregation stood and sang the words from

memory. The day had not been saved, but dignity and self-respect had been recovered.

I don't mean to engage in cultural appropriation. I have never been desperately poor or sent to live with relatives. I have never been part of a despised minority. About the only thing I have in common with Maya Angelou is that I have been to Stamps, Arkansas.

And yet, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" resonates with me. There have been times in my life when my feet were weary and the road was stony. I have prayed to the God of my weary years through silent tears. And there have been times when I have sung a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, sung a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

On this day, and this historic weekend, may we draw inspiration from the dedication of others. May we remember the famous quote, *"My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right."* May we remember John F. Kennedy's inaugural exhortation, *"Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."*

And may we all draw inspiration from the dedication and patriotism of the Civil Rights movement and vow to always stand true to our God and then to our native land.

May God's peace be with us all,

Pastor Ken.

Special Music...

If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with us during a Sunday service this Summer, please contact Cynthia Fremling at (847) 293-7306 or cfremling@comcast.net.

Rainbows and Shooting Stars Summer Break!



Just a reminder that the Rainbows and Shooting Stars classes will be taking a break for the month of July, so there will be no class until the Back to School Picnic. **Nursery care will be available July 19th and July 26th.** We look forward to our new classes in August!

Operation Christmas Child - "Christmas in July"



We are starting our collection of items for our shoebox ministry. The month of July we hope to concentrate on kids personal items and cleanliness. (each tag on the tree gives you ideas so take more than one tag!) Always bring what you want! These items are just ideas.

Next month, there will be other suggestions for collecting!

If everyone could pray about their commitment to making boxes! Find sales for summer, good like new items at garage sales! Kids without aren't picky.

Sunday Snuggles—Nursery Volunteer Needed!

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.



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.**

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.**

Time To Update The FPC Church Directory!

In **August** we will be updating the FPC church directory. If you have any changes in your contact information or if you would like to add a picture or even change the picture that is currently in the directory—email all changes to secretary@fpc-noblesville.org.

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!

Ask FPC?

Who are the Presbyterian Women?

Presbyterian Women (PW) is an inclusive and caring community of women, committed to working toward God's promise of wholeness for all people.

Who can belong to Presbyterian Women?

If you are a female member or a regular attender of Noblesville, First Presbyterian Church, you are a member of PW.

What is the PW Coordinating team?

The Coordinating team are the officers and committee members for our local PW.

When does the coordinating team meet?

We meet the second Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship hall at 7 pm.

Can I become a PW Coordinating team member?

Absolutely! PW is ALWAYS looking for women that want to head up committees, be an officer, or work on a project.

Who are the current PW Coordinating team members?

Officers: Moderator – Catherine Byrnside, Co-Moderator – Pam Layman, Treasurer – Barb Runyon, Secretary – Trisha McDermand

Committee Chairpersons: Giving Tree – LeeAnn Stein, Operation Christmas Child – Sue Jourdan and Ann Green, Bake Sale – Sue Jourdan, Rummage Sale – Cynthia Fremling, Outreach – Jan McConnell, Thankoffering dinner – Barb Runyon, Just Desserts – Trisha McDermand and GG Nash, Search – GG Nash, Ann Green, Marlynn Story, and Sandi Blackburn

Members at Large: Pam Wesley, Jana Zeiler, Jill Casper.

What is the “Just Desserts” event?

This is an annual event held annual in July. This year *Just Desserts* will be held on Wednesday, July 15 at 7 pm. PW will have desserts and a presentation. All women are encouraged to attend! Bring a friend!

The *Just Desserts* event asks us to bring an item to donate to the Malawi Mission Project. What is this?

PW Coordinating team collects items for the Malawi Baby Pack Project which is part of the Malawi Mission Project. This major relief group operates a nationwide distribution in Malawi and accepts assembled baby packs at its distribution centers (such as Lebanon, Indiana). The Baby Pack Project focuses on health outreach and distributes Healthy Baby Kits that include both baby clothes and nutritional support for breastfeeding mothers.

If I have more questions about PW, can I attend the next Coordinating team meeting?

Yes, you can. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 12 at 7 pm.

June Session Recap....

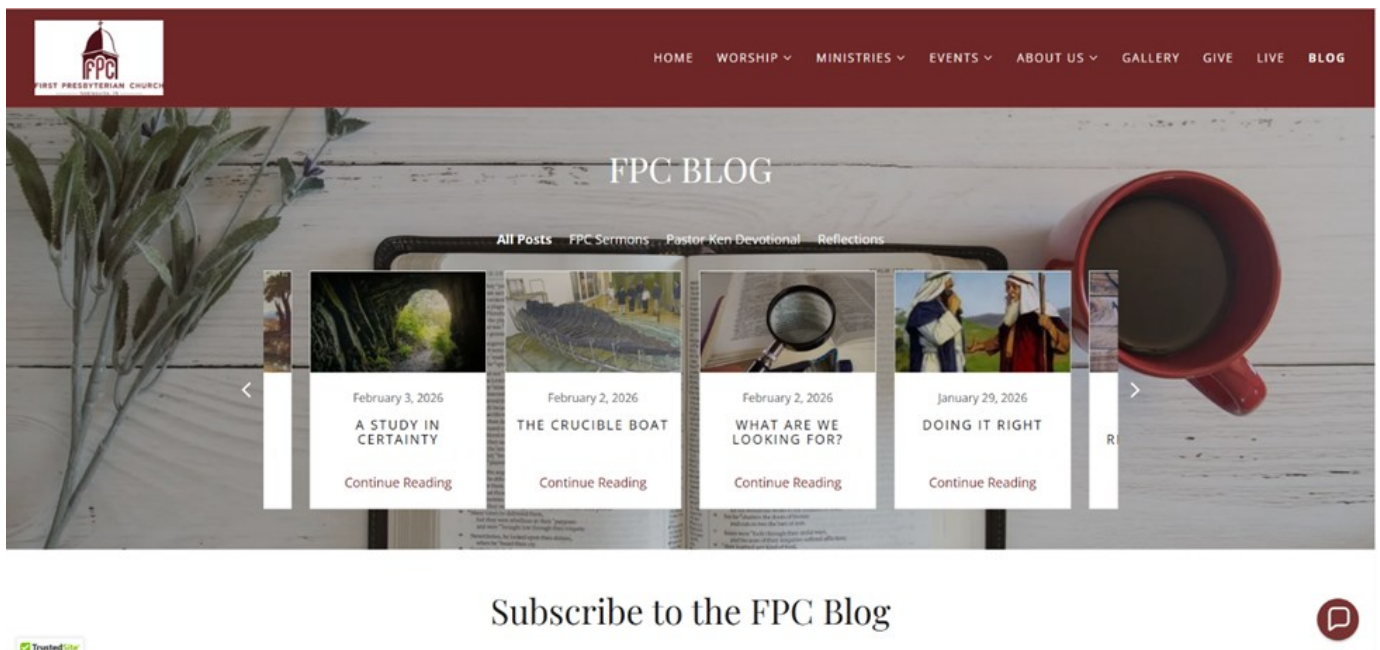
Jennie Auble opened the meeting with devotions. **Pastor Ken** lead a discussion on the Book of Order, particularly asking why we gather to worship and what are the specific duties of the Ruling Elders and the Teaching Elders. Pastor Ken also discussed with Session the current order of our Worship Service and suggested that we change the format to follow a theological structure centered on the Word of God. Session agreed to change the order of worship. This change will put the Scripture and Sermon in the middle of the Worship Service. Pastor Ken has also asked that those sitting in the Narthex (behind the Sanctuary) keep their movement and talking to a minimum during worship as it is very distracting for the congregation. **Deacons** reported that the End of Summer picnic will be August 2 immediately after the Worship service. **Presbyterian Women** reported that Just Desserts will be July 15th at 7:00 pm. All women are encouraged to attend this annual summer event. **Planning** reported that the committee has completed job descriptions and job contracts for the custodian, youth directors, and children's ministry positions. The committee will continue working on the remaining staff job descriptions and contracts over the summer. **Evangelism** reported that the committee will continue meeting to determine how our church can be used outside of worship. **Personnel** reported that performance reviews will occur this fall for all staff members. **Christian Education** reported that the Performing Arts Camp was a huge success. We had 30 volunteers with more than 650 volunteer hours during that week. Thank you to all the Performing Arts Camp Volunteers. And a HUGE thank you to our team leaders: Marlee Light (art), Kendall Mayhew (music), Claudia MacRae (drama), Jennie Auble (props), and LeeAnn Stein (food) for all their hard work. It was also reported that since January 4, 2026 we have an average of 11 students each week in Sunday School. **Worship** asked that the chairs on the pulpit used by the pastor and lay leader be repaired. They are not safe to sit on. Session agreed to having the chairs fixed and possibly reupholstered. **Mission** reported that 29 people will be headed to Henderson on Sunday. The Red Geranium Artisan Fair at FPC will be Saturday, August 15. There will be 57 Vendors. **Finance** reported that we are slightly below in our giving last month. **Properties** reported that the flat roof repair is scheduled for July 13. It will take approximately one week to complete. Under **New Business** Worship committee suggested that we organize a Safety Task Force. Session unanimously agreed that a Safety Task Force was necessary and Rick Mayhew will begin working on a team. If you are interested, please contact Rick. Under **Old Business**, Pastor Ken asked Session members to bring names of members who would be good candidates for the Mission Study Team (this is NOT the Pastoral Nominating Committee). Session came up with 5 people that Pastor Ken will contact. Pastor Ken closed the meeting with prayer. **The next Session meeting will be Monday, August 17 at 7:00 pm.**

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!