



# News & Notes

February 12, 2026

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Noblesville, IN



## **Message this Sunday...**

“Who Are We Following?”

Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9

**Pastor Ken Locke**

[Click Here for the Live Service](#)

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

## Weekly Devotion....

**God Doesn't Need THAT Kind Of Help!**

**Genesis 27:30-45**

February 12, 2026

When Rebekah was pregnant, she was told in a prophecy that she would give birth to twins and that the elder of the two would serve the younger. When the time came, she did indeed give birth to twins. Esau was born first but holding onto his heel was his younger brother Jacob. When they grew up, Esau became a great hunter and was beloved by his father, Isaac. But Jacob was a quiet man who preferred to stay home. He was his mother's favorite. (See **Genesis 25:19-28**)

Jacob had great aspirations. He wanted to BE somebody. And so, he cheated his elder brother out of his birthright. (See **Genesis 25:29-34**)

As if that wasn't enough, in today's lesson we read how Jacob also tricked Esau out their father's blessing. Blessings may seem commonplace to us. Something you say as a matter of course. "Have a blessed day!" But in the ancient world blessings were believed to hold real power. They could make you or break you. Clearly, Esau feels broken.

In his rage, Esau determines to bide his time so that, after their father dies, he can kill Jacob in revenge. Fearing her elder son's anger, Rebekah encourages Jacob to skip town. She tells him to go and live with her kinfolk until things cool off.

Sadly, it took decades for things to cool off. Jacob never saw his mother again and he and Esau did not really reconcile until Isaac's death.

Could this family have turned out differently? What if Rebekah had not played favorites? What if she had encouraged her younger son to apologize rather than run away? What if Isaac had treated his sons equally rather than favoring the older? What if Jacob had put his talents to good use rather than bad? What if Esau had found it in his heart to forgive? Or if he had been the one to leave until things cooled off?

When families, work teams, social groups, even churches have become a dumpster fire, often all it takes is for one person to act differently. If one person can avoid burning with anger and rage and simply act calmly, they give everyone else permission to slow down and calm down. The furnace of wrath cools down and people can work together.

But didn't all this need to happen? Rebekah had heard the prophecy that the elder would serve the younger. Wasn't she acting out God's vision?

Personally, I believe that God will accomplish God's will with or without our help. Especially this kind of help. To say that God needed Jacob to be a deceptive jerk, for Isaac and Rebekah to love one child more than the other or for Esau to make murderous threats implies God can't do anything without our help. It implies that the God who created the universe out of nothing, the God who chose to become human and die for us, the God who raised up Jesus from the dead, somehow needs our help.

Nonsense.

God will do as God wishes, without our or anyone's help. In this instance, I think God would have been just as happy if the family had each minded their own business.

Changing an organization's attitude can be a long and complicated process. But it begins with one person doing their best NOT to be infected by everyone else's anxiety. It begins with one person willing to quietly NOT act like everyone else.

And God can work through one calm person in an angry, dysfunctional family just as easily as God can work through a happy, well-adjusted family. So why not be happy?

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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## January 2026 Income/Expense Report

	<u>2026 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Actual</u>
Income Received:	\$ 27,014.14	\$ 15,018.22
Expenses:	\$ 27,014.14	\$ 18,195.21
* <b>(Deficit)/Surplus:</b>		<b>\$ (3,176.99)</b>

**Attendance Last week:** In Sanctuary—113; Households online—22

### Remember in your Prayers...



- ▼ **Paul Auble**, recuperating at home from shoulder replacement surgery.
- ▼ **Bill Linville**, will be undergoing testing to get approval for the liver transplant list. Also, will be having a biopsy on Feb. 27th to see if he has bladder cancer and he has an upcoming eye surgery.
- ▼ **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.

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

<b>Wendy Bittle</b>	<b>Dorothy Etchison</b> — <i>Independence Village</i>
<b>Ray Faust</b> — <i>Harbor Manpor</i>	<b>Barbara Landes</b>
<b>Carolyn &amp; Joe McGinley</b> — <i>Hamilton Trace</i>	
<b>Verna Merrell</b>	<b>Rachel Morgan</b>
<b>Carol Stough</b> — <i>The Crossings of Noblesville</i>	

### To Reach Pastor Ken by email...

Pastor Ken's email address is [ken.locke@fpc-noblesville.org](mailto:ken.locke@fpc-noblesville.org).

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## Easter Flower Orders – due 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 15th.** You may give your order to Jim Story or put it in the offering plate.

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## Christian Education Item Donations

Thank you so much FPC family for thinking of our program and for your generosity! We've noticed a few items being left in the CE closets and classrooms recently, and to help us stay more organized, we kindly ask that all donations are brought directly to us before being dropped off.

Thank you!

Kendall, Marlee, and Trish

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## 2026 PER CAPITA REMINDER

As members of First Presbyterian Church, we are required by the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley to pay annual per capita dues each year. **For 2026, that amount is \$46.02 per member.** This is our shared gift providing primary support of the operating ministry of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. We are required to pay these dues and it is an **expense that equates to approximately \$12,000 each year from our operating budget.** 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 Story.**

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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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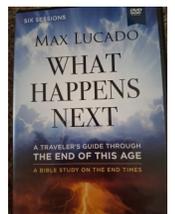
## Inquirers/New Members Meeting

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](mailto: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.

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## Adult Sunday School...

This Sunday, 2.15.26, the Adult Class will continue discussion of the Book of Daniel, Chapter 9 (the 490 end-time years) and Lamar will present notes on Chapter 6 of Max Lucado's book "*What Happens next*". This chapter describes the people of paradise-that's us. So, where do we go when we die?



We will watch Max's third video, the Rapture of the Church, on 2.22.26.

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## The Chosen Small Group

Bob and Trish Moore will be 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 will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 beginning February 24th. New members are welcome to join us at any point in the series! If you are interested in joining, please email [bobtrishmoore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobtrishmoore@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## Sunday Snuggles!



Our church family is growing, and with that comes the blessing of more little ones! We are looking for 5 volunteers 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.

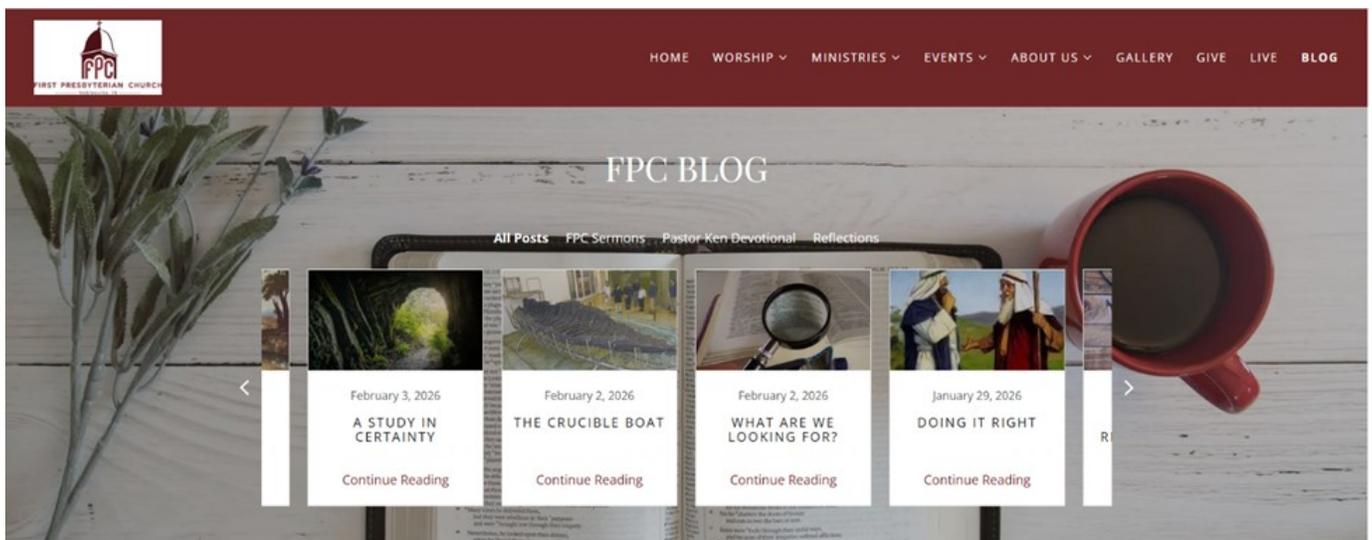
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## FPC BLOG

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!



Subscribe to the FPC Blog



# 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](mailto:aublej@comcast.net)  
Lamar: 317-432-4621 | [laziegler48@gmail.com](mailto:laziegler48@gmail.com)

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

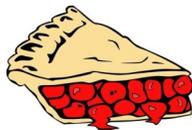
It's never too early to think, and pray for God's children!



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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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# Sunday School Calendar

Grades 6 - 8



## 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>

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](mailto: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!**