



ROAD TRIP SERMON SERIES

Take a "Flat Pastor" on your travels
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ROOTED in love **CONNECTING** people
PLANTING seeds of hope



SPREADING THE WORD

July 2023

Introducing Associate Pastor Brittney Stephan



One of the places I go when I need to be reminded of who I am and why I do what I do is to spend some time at Epworth Forest in North Webster. Epworth Forest is one of our United Methodist Church Camps in the state of Indiana and it is sacred ground for me, as it was there that I received my call to full-time ministry at 14 years of age during a week at Senior High Camp. Seventeen years ago, I arrived for the first time as a camper, and I've been back every

year since. All these years later, I still delight in the opportunity to return with a group of youth and had the chance to step in once again to chaperone a group during the last week in June.

Like a typical road trip, it should come as no surprise that the roads we've traveled and the "plans" that we thought we had continued to change and evolve as time goes on. We are constantly being changed and shaped by the experiences that we have had and the people we meet along the way. From my hometown of Huntington, Ind., to Indianapolis, Chicago, Detroit, and now in Noblesville—the calling that was placed on my life many years ago continues to evolve in beautiful ways and takes me on new adventures along the way! I am passionate about equipping, engaging, and empowering ALL people to live into the fullness of who we are and who God is calling us to be through our lifelong faith formation. I'm so excited to be joining you all at Noblesville First UMC this year and look forward to journeying together in ministry as your new Associate Pastor!



VISION

Noblesville First is an inclusive faith community that embraces all persons, with no exceptions!

ON THE CALENDAR

- JUL 13 — SQUARE Training
- JUL 14 — Ugly Quilts
- JUL 25 — Blood Drive
- AUG 5 — Widows In Grace
- AUG 10 — GriefShare
- AUG 14 — Sunshine Friends



More at NoblesvilleFirst.com/events

The Bible is our map for life. We are merely travelers ... here on Earth. — Psalm 119:19





From Pastor Nicole's desk pastor@NoblesvilleFirst.com

Celebrating New Beginnings

Dear Noblesville First Family,
As we begin a new month we are celebrating many new beginnings in our ministry!

We celebrate Vacation Bible School beginning again after a Covid hiatus and welcoming over 80 children into our church. We are especially grateful that two-thirds of those children were "new" to our congregation. I see our church beginning to connect and deepen relationships with children and their families that will expand our reach and help lay foundations of new faith. I cannot express my gratitude enough to our Family Ministries Team, Ally Hall and each volunteer. THANK YOU!

We also celebrate the new relationships being formed and needs being met through our

outreach initiative "Lunch Bunch Superstars." This ministry was started by a handful of volunteers in our congregation who learned of the food insecurity that often goes unaddressed when children are out of school for the summer. Each Monday this summer a hot meal and lunches for the entire week are packed for students as they engage in a fun activity. From this ministry we've begun to see families join us in VBS, Dinner's on Us and worship, creating wrap around services and fellowship.

Finally we celebrate the Ministry of our new associate pastor, Rev.

Brittney Stephan. Brittney's ministry will focus on our youth and family ministries, Teter Organic Farm and assisting in worship.

Her family farm upbringing, passion for youth and worship experience will contribute greatly to the momentum of growth God has already begun.

The celebration has just begun and I look forward to the many more ministry milestones we celebrate together.

Keep the Faith@First,
Pastor Nicole

Summer Worship Schedule

Early worship gathers outdoors at 8:15 am through Labor Day weekend at Teter Retreat & Farm, 10980 E. 221st Street, Noblesville. Sometimes the benches are damp in the morning. Bring a towel or blanket or your own lawn chair. If weather is threatening ... we'll move outdoor worship to the church. This will be communicated by 7:00 am on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, NoblesvilleFirst.com, and in a push notification to our



church app users. Traditional worship in the sanctuary (Door 1) continues at 9:45 am. Details at NoblesvilleFirst.com/worship.

Need Help Dealing with Grief?



Healing from loss is a journey. Everyone experiences grief differently. The next session of GriefShare begins Thursday, August 10, 6:30-8:30 pm. It will be held each Thursday evening through November 9.

On November 16, we'll host the one-night "Surviving the Holidays" event from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

SPREADING THE WORD
is a publication of Noblesville First United Methodist Church
Have a story to share?
Contact Anita Walker
awalker@noblesvillefirst.com
317-773-2500 ext. 226
Next newsletter deadline
August issue: July 21

Noblesville First Blood Drive

Summer is a particularly difficult time for blood donation. Appointments to donate often drop during the summer. Families travel and schools aren't in session to host drives. But the need for blood, however, never takes a holiday.

Sign up today for the church's blood drive on Tuesday, July 25 from 2:00 - 6:45 pm. Click the link at NoblesvilleFirst.com/BloodDrive to sign up online. Walk ins are also welcome.



Learn more about blood donation at Versiti.org.

Questions? Contact Megan Borgmann at mborgmann@versiti.org or 317-258-7603



Take Flat Pastor on the road

Take a picture of your Flat Pastor wherever your summer travels may take you, even if those travels are to your back patio or to the park down the street. Tag [NoblesvilleFirstUnitedMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NoblesvilleFirstUnitedMethodistChurch) on your Facebook or Instagram posts or email pictures to pastor@NoblesvilleFirst.com. Pick up your Flat Pastor on Sunday morning, in the church office, or download a printable copy at NoblesvilleFirst.com/worship. We can't wait to see where the road leads!

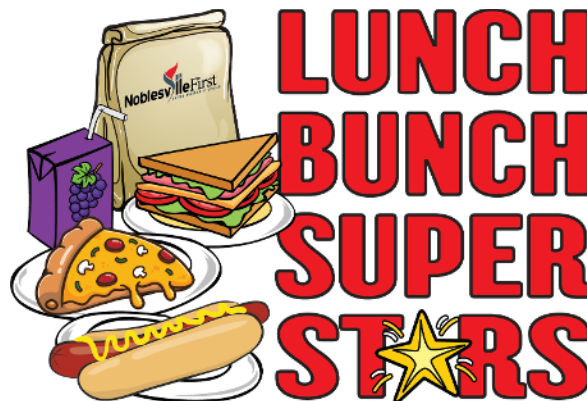
Be A Lunch Bunch Super Star

Noblesville First invites kids living in Noble Manor next door to come for a hot lunch, a fun program, and five sack lunches to take home each Monday at noon in the summer and during school breaks.

We're looking for volunteers to offer friendly hospitality in a variety of positions!

Questions?
Want to volunteer?

Contact Carol Miller
cmiller@NoblesvilleFirst.com
or call the church office at 317-773-2500.



Rummage Sale

Start the decluttering!

Collect your donations now and the United Methodist Women can store them until the Rummage Sale in October.



To make arrangement to drop off your items, contact Marianne Jacobi at 317-508-1354 or Janet Roberts at 317-900-6607.

The annual United Methodist Women's Rummage Sale funds ministries that benefit women, men, children and those with special needs here in Noblesville and around the globe!

Drop off times

We welcome furniture but it must be no larger than what two people can carry. No building materials please.

Sunday, Oct 8, 1-5 pm
Monday, Oct 9, 8 am-4 pm
Tuesday, Oct 10, 8-11 am
(No items accepted after 11)

Shopping times

Wednesday, Oct 11, 3-7 pm
Thursday, Oct 12, 10 am-4 pm
Friday, Oct 13, 8 am-12 pm
(\$5 bag day and 1/2 price jewelry & large items)

Questions?
Call the church office at 317-773-2500.

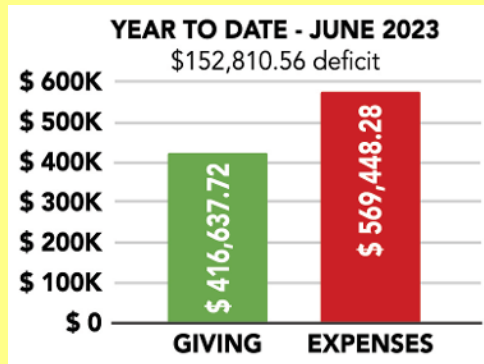
Financial Report

Matthew 10:8 " ... Freely you have received; freely give."

Noblesville First supports over 30 ministries that minister to children, individuals with special needs, feed the hungry, provide housing, education, disaster relief, clothing, medical care, furniture, grief support, prayer and spiritual direction.

In order to continue to make an impact, we need disciples who will give freely. As of May 31, we have a deficit of over \$100,000. We don't want to cut ministry support, but trust that through you, God will provide.

Please give today at NoblesvilleFirst.com/give.



Join the Sunshine Friends Team



Please join the wonderful Sunshine Friends Team at their organizational meeting on Monday, August 14 at 7:00 pm in the church library.

Sunshine Friends is a ministry sponsored by Noblesville First. It is designed to provide a monthly fellowship and fun for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

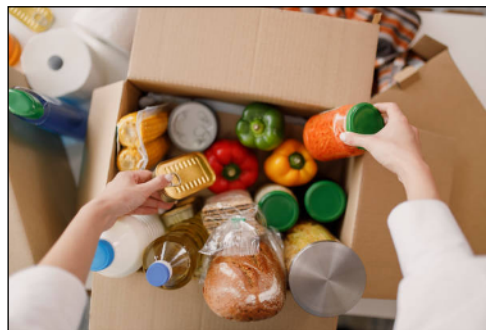
This program began in 1984 with a small group home and grew to be 60 members strong before Covid-19. We are growing again and back up to 25-30 participants.

Sunshine Friends meet on the second Monday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, usually in Celebration Hall. Our meetings consist of music, a Bible Drama, crafts, games, snacks and a program. If you know anyone who might enjoy being a part of our volunteer group, have a program idea, would like to provide snacks for one of our meetings, or could make a donation to support our program please contact Anita Beck at anitajbeck@comcast.net or call the church office at 317-773-2500. Donations should be marked Sunshine Friends.

Sunshine Friends will be the best thing you will do for yourself!

Dinner's On Us each Thursday

Our church has provided meals to the community for over 18 years. Even during the pandemic, we had a weekly food cart available. We host weekly on Thursdays from 5-6 pm, (Door 6) at the west end of the church. In addition to a delicious meal, attendees can pick up frozen Chik-fil-A, organic produce and eggs from Teter Farm, Panera breads, grocery items and frequent surprises. Everyone in the congregation and community is invited for this FREE dinner and fellowship! We appreciate the volunteers that pick up these donations and our Teter volunteers for all the hard work growing, harvesting and making fresh produce available!



To donate at the church, please use the metal shelves in the hall outside the sanctuary or outside Celebration Hall for donations. There will also be a box at Teter for donations after the Sunday worship there. We appreciate the continuing generosity of our congregation in following the command to "feed my sheep".

Momma's Got Moves!

Come shake things up this summer with a fun cardio fitness class on Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 am in Stephenson Hall (Door 1) through July. All fitness levels are welcome. The classes are designed around the music so use that motivation and make it your own. No equipment needed. Childcare is provided! Think you are not coordinated enough? Remember laughter is a great core workout! Questions? Contact April Conard at aconard@NoblesvilleFirst.com or 317-773-2500. Registration is required. Click the link at NoblesvilleFirst.com/mommias.