

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Order tickets today! — page 2



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WEB & EMAIL
addresses are
hot-linked. Just
click them!

SPREADING THE WORD

DECEMBER 2023

Notes from Pastor Nicole Hope takes the spotlight



Dear Noblesville First family, In anticipation of the Advent season, a whisper of hope stirs the soul. With its flickering candles and hushed prayers, Advent becomes a sacred stage where hope takes center spotlight.

Hope in Advent is an anchor for the soul, grounding us in the certainty that the story is not yet complete. It's an invitation to embrace the mystery, to savor the joy of anticipation, and to cultivate a faith that finds

solace in the waiting. In this season of hope, we discover that the thrill lies not only in the destination but in the journey toward the light that illuminates our hearts.

It's my prayer that you'll journey with me as we share in the many opportunities to experience the thrill of hope this season. Whether it's Sunday services, Christmas concerts, Christmas tea, Preschool Christmas celebrations, the Longest Night Service, or Christmas Eve, there are many ways for hope to inhabit our hearts. I pray you'll discover the thrill of hope that makes a weary world rejoice.



VISION

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

ON THE CALENDAR



- DEC 10 Festival of Music & Art
- DEC 13 Christmas Tea
- DEC 20 Youth Group Christmas
- DEC 21 The Longest Night Service
- DEC 24 Christmas Eve worship
- DEC 25 - JAN 1 Church office closed

More at ... [NoblesvilleFirst.com/events](https://www.NoblesvilleFirst.com/events)





Festival of Music & Art holiday tradition

The Christmas Festival of Music & Art, hosted in partnership with Janus Developmental Services, is a highlight of the holiday season and will be held on Sunday, December 10.

The concert will be offered at two times this year ... 4:30PM and 7PM.

FREE tickets are required for admission to this year's concert. To order yours, click the link at NoblesvilleFirst.com/festival.

Janus clients have been

preparing wonderful art that will be available for purchase at the event. The evening also features the church's chancel choir, the Janus choir, piano, organ, orchestra, and congregational singing of familiar carols,

concluding with everyone singing together on a medley of carols.

Questions?

Contact Jeff Wright at jwright@NoblesvilleFirst.com or call the church office at 317-773-2500.



Tea, treats & fellowship

Women and men are invited for warm fellowship, delectable treats and Christmas Tea provided by the United Women in Faith's Rebekah Circle on Wednesday, December 13 at 9:30AM in Celebration Hall (Door 2,7).

collected and monetary donations for the Lucille Raines Residence, a facility owned and operated by The United Women in Faith of Indiana, serving individuals recovering from alcohol and drug addiction.

Questions?

Contact Jean Morris at mrsejmorris@sbcglobal.net or call the church office at 317-773-2500.



Poinsettias

Purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The flowers, a larger size this year, will decorate the sanctuary during the Advent season. Cost is \$15 each. Order at NoblesvilleFirst.com/advent, at church on Sunday morning, or in the church office. Orders are due by 4:30 on December 18. Plants can be picked up after 11PM worship on Christmas Eve. Limited quantity available. First come, first serve.



The Longest Night Service

The Longest Night Service is offered especially for those hurting during the holidays, held on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, Thursday, December 21 at 7PM in Whitcomb Chapel (Door 1). Some come because they are struggling with grief, illness,

addiction, loneliness or conflict. The reasons are many, but we gather in the midst of suffering to remember God is good. God is strong. God is near. We are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope. Join us for a prayerful time of music and community with one another.



Christmas Eve

The Advent season at Noblesville First culminates on Christmas Eve, and there is something for everyone, from glow sticks to the orchestra and everything in between!

accessories, the nativity story and carols in Celebration Hall (Doors 2&7).

9:00AM With Christmas Eve on Sunday this year, traditional worship will be offered once in the morning in the sanctuary (Door 1).

9:00PM This traditional candlelight worship offers carols, a brass ensemble, and a message by Pastor Nicole in the sanctuary (Door 1).

5:00PM The 30-minute family worship features glow sticks and

11:00PM This traditional candlelight worship features the chancel choir, full orchestra, and a message by Pastor Nicole in the sanctuary (Door 1). Watch the livestream on Facebook and YouTube.

SPREADING THE WORD

is a publication of Noblesville First United Methodist Church

Have a story to share?

Contact Anita Walker
awalker@NoblesvilleFirst.com
317-225-8028

Next newsletter deadline
January issue: Dec 18

Team serves non-profit in Florida

Happiness inspiring hope

A team of 19 adults shared their time and talents at Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, Fla., November 26 to December 2. The village provides wish vacations to critically ill children and their families. Volunteers donate their time and talents to help make wishes come true. To learn



more about this amazing place, visit gktw.org.

Noblesville First Kids INFANTS-5TH GRADE

DEC 10 Cookies & Comet. Meet a LIVE reindeer and enjoy a festive afternoon of holiday cheer at Teter Farm on December 10 from 1-3PM. Bring the whole family for cocoa, treats, crafts, and experience the enchantment of a real-life reindeer!

December theme. Noblesville First Kids will be celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift. Our memory verse comes from Isaiah 9:6, "A child will be born to us. A son will

be given to us." The season allows us to focus on important moments in the story of Jesus' birth. It's all because of Jesus that it's possible for us to have a relationship with God forever. Take time to remember the reason we celebrate in the first place: Jesus, the greatest gift the world has ever known.

Questions?
Contact Pastor Amber Good at agood@NoblesvilleFirst.com or call the church office at 317-773-2500.

Angel Tree & layette donations

Pick up a tag from the Angel Tree outside the sanctuary and a layette wish list at the information desk.

Angel Tree gifts are provided for the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. Each tag lists a child's name and age and a list of up to three gifts that they would like to receive. Return the unwrapped gift or gifts and the tag, preferably in a gift bag, to the Angel Tree by Sunday, December 10. Questions?

Contact Lorrie Overton at lco2may@comcast.net or call the church office at 317-773-2500.

The United Women in Faith's Priscilla Circle is collecting **layette donations** for babies and toddlers including clothing, diapers & wipes. Pick up a wish list at the information desk and return items by Christmas. Questions? Contact Phyllis Hunter seacrestway@yahoo.com or call the church office at 317-773-2500.

Noblesville First Youth 6TH-12TH GRADE



DEC 20 Progressive Christmas Dinner. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater on Wednesday, December 20, 6-8:30PM for a festive gathering that blends tradition with a modern twist. We will start in The Vine (Door 5) for appetizers and then travel to different homes for each of our remaining dinner courses! Pick-up will also be in The Vine.

Devos & Donuts. Youth in 6th-12th grades are invited to join us in the Library for Devos and Donuts! This gathering will take place on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30AM (between worship services). Participants gather together for devotions (devos), discussion about various topics related to their faith, donuts & other tasty treats!

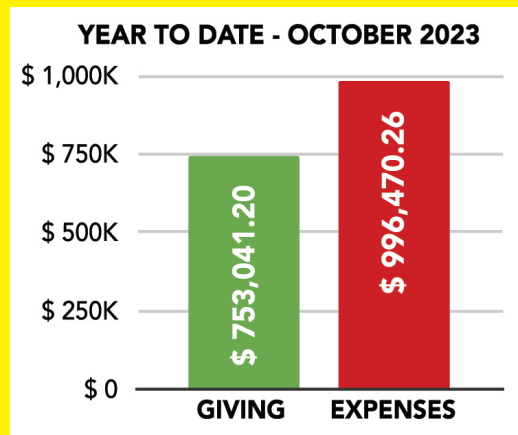
Youth Group reminder. All 6th-12th graders and their friends are invited each Wednesday, 7-8:30PM in The Vine (Door 5) for games, food & fun! The youth leaders plan engaging activities, meaningful discussions, and opportunities for personal development. Whether you're new to the group or a regular member, join us and bring a friend!

Questions?
Visit NoblesvilleFirst.com/youth or contact Pastor Brittney at bstephan@NoblesvilleFirst.com.

Financial report

Year-end giving. The church will receive 2023 contributions through January 11. Checks must be dated no later than December 31 and received in the office no later than January 11.

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 ... NoblesvilleFirst.com/give.



The November financial report will be available at NoblesvilleFirst.com/give on or around December 10.



United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith's Priscilla Circle would like to thank everyone for their support of the Bags, Baskets, and Blessings event on November 10. Around 200 people attended and enjoyed a fun evening, raising over \$11,000 for mission projects! Thanks to everyone for their generosity.

CIRCLE UPDATES

Grace Circle will not have a formal meeting in December. Please try to attend the Christmas Tea so we can sit together & celebrate. We will also transport the gifts given from the Angel Tree to the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, date to come.

Lydia Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 12 in front of the Noblesville Hobby Lobby to Ring the Bells from 6-8PM! We can warm up the next day at the Christmas Tea!

Priscilla Circle will meet on Monday, December 4 at 6:30PM in the church parlor. We will be having our Pitch-In Christmas Gathering. Congratulations on another successful Bags Baskets & Blessings!

Rebekah Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 6 at 9:30AM at the Stony Ridge Clubhouse. We will celebrate with a Breakfast Christmas Party & Auction for Christmas Giving. Then on Wednesday, December 13 we host the Christmas Tea!

Learn more about United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women, at NoblesvilleFirst.com/UWF.

Questions?

Contact Anita Beck at 317-753-3111 or anitajbeck@comcast.net.

Produce, cookbooks & honey ... oh my!

2023 has been another exciting year on the farm! Team Teter has donated over 33,000 servings to those in need and will continue our donations until mid December.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares for the 2024 season are available for purchase. Just click "Shop Now" at TeterOrganicFarm.com. The CSA program helps the farm reach as many people as possible with nourishing food, access to

greenspace, and inclusive programs. CSA shares make great gifts! And you can purchase Teter cookbooks and Teter honey in the church office to round out your holiday shopping!

Teter Organic Farm is a Noblesville First outreach ministry. Its mission is to increase access to healthy food for the vulnerable and provide ecological education while building relationships and community.

Mission Guatemala 2024

Mark your calendars now and start planning! The church will sponsor a mission trip to Guatemala, October 12-24, 2024.

In addition to working on a construction project, this trip for approximately 20 adults and youth will include cultural opportunities. Participants will experience God in

new ways as they receive and share God's love with people of a different culture. The primary requirement is to live out John Wesley's directive to "do all the good you can." Registration will begin in the spring.

Learn more at NoblesvilleFirst.com/guatemala or call the church office at 317-773-2500.

Planning meetings or an event for 2024?

Contact Anita Walker at awalker@NoblesvilleFirst.com or 317-773-2500 ext. 226 to reserve the space you'll need!