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SPREADING THE WORD

JANUARY 2024

Notes from Pastor Nicole

Are you ready to say yes?



Recently I read the book, *The Year of Yes* by Shonda Rhimes. In it, she wrote about a commitment she made to be open to every new opportunity that came her way. What resulted was a journey full of joy, some challenge, but ultimately one of the most rewarding years of her life.

When Rhimes wrote this book, she focused on the personal and professional transformation that happened from her commitment to saying yes. But long before she ever picked up a pen, biblical writers have

been telling the same story. Throughout scripture, we find examples of people who said yes to God, and they too embarked on life changing journeys that not only transformed them, but transformed the world.

As we move into this new year, I can't help but wonder what it would look like if we were to say yes? What adventure, joy, and unexpected possibility would we discover if our hearts were open to whatever God sent our way?

It's these questions that we'll be exploring in this month's sermon series: *The Year of Yes!* It's my prayer that this will be the year that we say yes to God and watch our faith adventure take off!



VISION

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

ON THE CALENDAR



- JAN 11 Deadline for 2023 giving
- JAN 15 MLK Day celebration
- JAN 20 Family Ministries outing to a Pacers game
- JAN 28 Snowballs of Hope
- JAN 29 Blood Drive

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





MLK Day celebration at Noblesville High School

The Noblesville community gathers each year on the 3rd Monday of January, the holiday set aside as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to reflect on, celebrate, and honor the life and legacy of this great man.

This year's celebration will take place Monday, January 15 at 6:30PM at Noblesville High School.

The keynote will be Chelsie Kupa, Director of Human Resources Diversity and Inclusion at Ivy Tech Hamilton County. Noblesville First's Dr. Jeff Wright will direct a community choir. There will also be choirs from Noblesville

West Middle School and Bethel A.M.E. Church. The celebration is a collaboration of the Noblesville Diversity Coalition, several Noblesville churches, Noblesville Schools, and the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce.



GriefShare session begins

Have you lost a loved one or know someone who finds it difficult to face each day? The winter session of GriefShare will be hosted on Sundays from 4-6PM, January 28 through April 28.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of

life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Visit or join the group at any time and attend as many meetings as you like.

Questions?

Contact Coleen Albright at coleen.albright58@gmail.com or call 317-313-3192.



Sign up for the blood drive

Giving warms the heart. Accident victims, premature babies, patients with sickle cell disease, and other patients who need blood transfusions to stay healthy are counting on kindhearted

people like you. Don't miss the church's next blood drive on Monday, January 29 from 3-6PM in Celebration Hall (Door 7). Learn more and sign up at ... NoblesvilleFirst.com/BloodDrive.

Is chancel choir calling to you?

Everyone is invited to make a joyful noise with the chancel choir! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:30-9PM in the choir room (Door 1), September through May.

The choir sings on Sundays at 9:00 and 10:30. You can sing at both or just one. "This ensemble is a wonderful community of people

who love to sing and love to create moments of transcendent beauty in our worship services," shared Music Director Dr. Jeff Wright. "We sing a variety of musical styles and no audition is required."

Questions? Contact Jeff Wright at jwright@NoblesvilleFirst.com or 317-445-4288.

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!

Sunday inclement weather plans

'Tis the season ... Yep, the season when inclement weather can interrupt Sunday morning worship plans.

Decisions to cancel one or both Sunday worship services will be made by 7AM on Sunday morning then shared at NoblesvilleFirst.com, in an [email blast](#), on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#) and in a push notification to church [mobile app](#) users.

Family ministry events will follow Noblesville Schools in dismissals and cancellations.

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
February issue: Jan 23

Guatemala mission trip

Registration will begin this spring for the church's upcoming mission trip to Guatemala, October 12-20.

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.

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

Noblesville First Kids INFANTS-5TH GRADE

Noblesville First Kids will start off the new year learning about Responsibility: Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you. We take our cue from Psalm 24:1: "The earth belongs to the Lord.

And so does everything in it." Our memory verse is taken from Luke 16:10a: "Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large." God has entrusted us to care for the whole world. This means we must take responsibility for everything we do and say to use what we have wisely. We can point others to Jesus, who took responsibility for us and shows

us how to live rightly with God.

Questions?

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

PACERS VS MAVERICKS
GRAB THE KIDS AND JOIN US FOR A GAME OF HOOPS!
25 FEB 20 24
\$35/TICKET UPPER BALCONY
• RECEIVE A FREE PACERS BRANDED HAT
• A FOOD VOUCHER FOR A HOT DOG, CHIPS, & PEPSI
• POST-GAME FAITH NIGHT EVENT!
FOR MORE INFO AND TO RSVP CONTACT PASTOR AMBER AGOOD@NOBLESVILLEFIRST.COM BY JAN 20TH

Church safety: candle precautions

Before lighting a candle, trim the wick to approximately 1/4-inch. This will keep the flame from becoming too large, which can prevent a fire.

Don't burn a candle for more than four hours. The wax pool can actually become too deep and the wicks can move or fall towards the glass. If a candle flame comes in contact with the side of the glass it

risks cracking, so you should make sure your wicks are always trimmed and standing upright. Discard the candle once there is less than 1/2-inch of wax. If there isn't enough wax to absorb the flame's heat, this can cause the glass vessel to crack.

The best way to properly extinguish a candle is to use a candle snuffer or simply put a lid on a lit candle.



Snowballs of Hope

It's time to loosen up your throwing arm and donate gloves, socks and hats for adults and children in need this winter!

Ball up those winter goodies and "deliver" them to the pastors with your best shot in worship on Sunday, January 28 (adults can get the kids do their throwing).

Donations benefit Dinners On Us guests, recipients of the church's "Ugly Quilts" and the Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County.

Noblesville First Youth 6TH-12TH GRADE

Youth Group. 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!

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

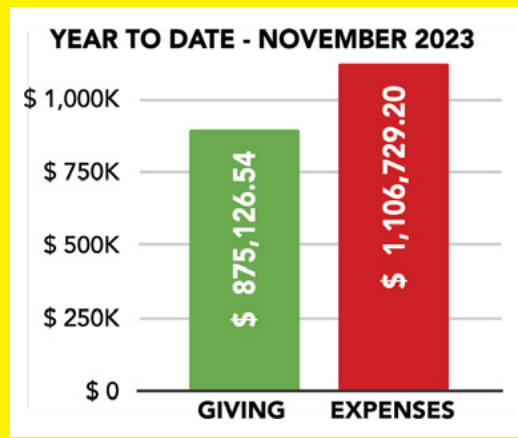
Questions?

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 on or before 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 December financial report will be available at NoblesvilleFirst.com/give on or around January 15.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women, provides a means for women to meet new friends, become involved in various mission and service projects, and encourage one another in the Christian faith.

Learn more at NoblesvilleFirst.com/UWF.

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

Teter Farm CSA fresh produce shares

Teter Organic Farm's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares for the 2024 season are available for purchase. Just click the "2024 CSA" link at TeterOrganicFarm.com.



CSA members get weekly or bi-weekly shares of the harvest that they pick up at the farm. If you partner with four neighbors or coworkers, you can get FREE delivery

within 10 miles of the farm!

Teter Organic Farm is a Noblesville First outreach ministry.

The CSA program helps to fuel the farm's mission to increase access to healthy food for the vulnerable (over 36,000 servings of produce in 2023) and provide access to greenspace and inclusive programs. Learn more at TeterOrganicFarm.com.

Need a space to host an event?

Located on the scenic White River in the heart of Hamilton County, Teter Retreat & Farm provides a rustic backdrop for weddings, corporate outings, community group meetings, retreats and family reunions, ranging from a few hours to a few days.

Facilities include: Teter Lodge with a kitchen, hearth room and meeting space; Ruth Cabin with four private units, each one sleeping seven with its own restroom, shower and

air conditioning; a working organic farm, picnic shelter, fire pits, hiking & nature trails, hayrides, sand volleyball court, outdoor basketball court and scenic river views.

The lodge and cabin units can be rented individually or as part of a package. Income from rentals helps to support the farm's mission. Learn more at TeterOrganicFarm.com/rental or email TeterRetreat@gmail.com.

CIRCLE UPDATES

Grace Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 9 at 11AM in the church parlor. This will be the Lenten Breakfast planning meeting so please try to attend.

Lydia Circle will meet at Cherish on Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30PM. And mark your calendars for the next "Steppin' Up to Help" line dancing fundraiser on February 20 from 6:30-8:30PM.

Rebekah Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 17 at 9:30AM in the church parlor. Pam Caplinger will be speaking about her work with Recovery Cafe.

Priscilla Circle will meet on Monday, January 22 at 6:30PM in the church parlor. We will be organizing all the layette donations.

SAVE THE DATE ... for the "Steppin' Up to Help" line dancing fundraiser on Tuesday, February 20 from 6:30-8:30PM in Celebration Hall (Doors 2,7). Everyone is invited and no experience is necessary. Yee-haw!