

ASH WEDNESDAY

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SPREADING THE WORD

FEBRUARY 2024

Notes from Pastor Nicole

One word: HOSPITALITY



At a conference I attended, a staff person from one of the largest churches in America said, "The difference between churches who will rebound after COVID and those who will not boils down to one thing: Hospitality."

She went on to say that "in an age where people have spent years getting out of that habit, only congregations that make the experience engaging, those will be the ones that have people coming back. If you forget about hospitality, online and in-person, forget about growth."

While I am grateful for the growth we've seen in attendance, giving and family ministries, we are just getting started! From our online presence, to the parking lot and the pews, we must ask ourselves, "How do people know and feel they are welcome here?"

This is the question our staff and volunteer teams will be diligently working on this season of ministry but it's also something we will learn together in worship. Jesus gives us the ultimate blueprint on what it means to reach, engage and be hospitable to our neighbors and throughout the lenten season we'll be learning how to welcome like Jesus did. I hope you'll join us in our Lenten sermon series, "Saved You A Seat" and together we will GROW Noblesville First!



VISION

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

ON THE CALENDAR



- FEB 4 Bishop Trimble brings the message
- FEB 4 Welcoming new members
- FEB 11 Serve Sunday
- FEB 14 Ash Wednesday
- FEB 22 Lenten evening study begins

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





Bishop Trimble to visit and bring the message

Noblesville First will welcome Indiana United Methodist Church Bishop Julius Trimble as he brings the message on Sunday, February 4 at both 9:00 and 10:30 worship in the sanctuary (Door 1).

Bishop Trimble has served the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church since 2016, after serving eight years as the resident bishop of

the Iowa Conference.

A native of Chicago, Trimble is a graduate of Illinois State University and earned his Master of Divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

in Chicago and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio.

Learn more at inumc.org/bishop-trimble-bio



Welcoming new members

Noblesville First will be welcoming new members on Sunday, February 4 during worship at both 9:00 & 10:30 in the sanctuary (Door 1).

Want to be included? Let Pam Caplinger know by email pcaplinger@NoblesvilleFirst.com or 317-773-2500.

Sunday inclement weather plans

If Mother Nature interrupts Sunday morning worship plans, the 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.

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



Serve Sunday

Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Jevon Caldwell-Gross will deliver the message at both 9:00 and 10:30 worship on Sunday, February 11 in the sanctuary (Door 1). And

visit the ministry fair in the church parlor where we will be highlighting a few ministry areas. Learn about opportunities for all ages to serve and be involved!



Ash Wednesday

Begin the Lenten season on February 14 at the **Lenten Breakfast** at 9:30AM in Celebration Hall (Doors 2&7). The breakfast is FREE but please RSVP using the link at NoblesvilleFirst.com/AshWednesday or sign up in the church office. Pastor Brittney Stephan will be the guest speaker and will be sharing the imposition

of ashes. Bring individually wrapped Easter candy (no gum please) for the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.

Ash Wednesday Worship will be hosted at 7PM in the sanctuary (Door 1). Come for music, prayer, a meditation by Pastor Nicole and the imposition of ashes.



Lenten evening study begins

How can we model Jesus' radical hospitality that accepted, loved and invited all people with no exceptions? How can we cultivate a spirit of hospitality that reaches and engages people so that we make more disciples for the transformation of the world? These

are the questions we will study together as Pastor Nicole teaches the "Saved A Seat for You" Lenten Bible study on Thursday nights from 7-8:30PM, February 22 through March 21. Visit NoblesvilleFirst.com/study to register. Childcare will be available upon request.

SPREADING THE WORD

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Have a story to share?
Contact Anita Walker
awalker@NoblesvilleFirst.com
317-225-8028

Next newsletter deadline
February issue: Feb 21

Noblesville First Kids INFANTS-5TH GRADE

Each week during Sunday school, kids join together in an activity or craft. The video Bible story helps keep the message relevant. In February we will be learning how to be kind. We should take our cue from God who loves us dearly. When we show kindness to others, we are giving them a glimpse of God's love for them. Jesus showed us what it means to be kind and as Christians, it should be a hallmark of our behavior. Kindness is, after all, a fruit of the Spirit.

Continuing in February, children will

practice a traditional hymn with Kate Baker. On Palm Sunday, they will again sing along with the choir.

Being an acolyte is a great way to learn about the life of the church from a new perspective. Do you know a child in the third grade or older who would like to become an acolyte? If so, contact Pastor Amber for some light training (pun intended) and to get scheduled.

Questions?

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

Noblesville First Youth 6TH-12TH GRADE

Ash Wednesday. The Youth Group will gather on Wednesday, February 14 at 7PM in the sanctuary (Door 1) for Ash Wednesday worship with the congregation. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with peers, deepen your spirituality, and start the Lenten season with intention.

Church camp. Registration just opened for the United Methodist church camps! Noblesville First middle schoolers will attend Camp Adventure in Pierceton, Ind., June 16-21 and the high schoolers will attend camp at Epworth Forest in North Webster, Ind., June 23-28. Visit impact2818.org/camps to learn more and register.

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 bstefhan@NoblesvilleFirst.com.



Teter greenhouse opening day

It might be freezing outside, but the church's heated greenhouse at Teter Organic Farm is a delightful 68 degrees. The first seeds of the season will be planted on Tuesday, February 20 with weekly shifts on Thursdays from 9-11AM and Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6-8PM.

Be a part of the farm's mission to increase access for the most vulnerable in Hamilton County. No experience is necessary. There's a job for everyone! And kids of all ages are welcome with a supervising adult. Learn more at TeterOrganicFarm.com/volunteer.



Steppin' Up to Help fundraiser

The United Women in Faith's (UWF) Lydia Circle is hosting a Steppin' Up to Help line dancing fundraiser on Tuesday, February 20 from 6:30-8PM in Celebration Hall (Door 2,7). All are welcome! No experience necessary. Modified

dances will be included for all ages and abilities. A free will offering will be collected for Cherish, a Noblesville non-profit that serves abused children. Bring cash or checks made out to United Women in Faith the night of the event.



Guatemala mission trip

Registration will open on Monday, March 11 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.

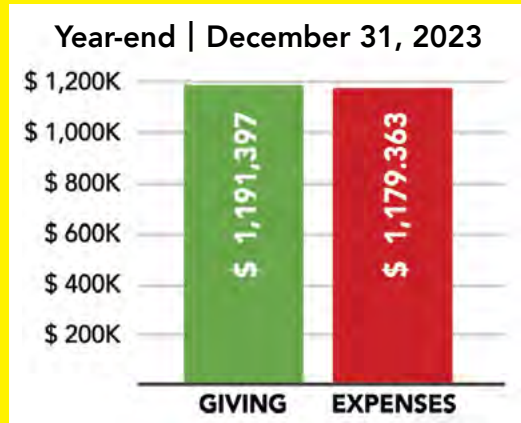
Participants will experience God in new ways as they receive and share God's love with people of a different culture. Learn more at NoblesvilleFirst.com/guatemala or call the church office at 317-773-2500.

Dear Miracles on Monument Street,

You're reading it right! Your sacrificial giving to our annual stewardship campaign has been nothing short of miraculous! Your pledges, tithes and offerings helped us meet our 2023 budget goals.

These vital resources allow us to continue our mission of embracing all people with the love of Christ with no exceptions! We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude and acknowledge the profound impact your giving makes in transforming lives, reaching our neighbors and sharing the love of Christ.

Pastor Nicole Caldwell-Gross



The January financial report will be available at NoblesvilleFirst.com/give on or around February 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.

Sunday Prayer Cards

Do you have time to sign a card? Each Sunday morning outside the sanctuary, you'll find Prayer Cards awaiting your signature and prayers for the recipients. Cards are sent to about 15 people in the

congregation, plus friends and family members who are in need of prayer. And if you know someone who would appreciate a card, email Carol Miller at cmiller@NoblesvilleFirst.com or call the church office at 317-773-2500.

Monthly Note Card Ministry

The Care Ministry is excited to reestablish the Monthly Note Card Ministry in which 22 senders share notes and/or cards to names of friends that they are given. Each sender receives about three names each month with which they are

asked to share greetings. Is there someone you know, a neighbor, friend or family member who would enjoy a card of joy in their mailbox? Send names, addresses and the type of message needed to cmiller@NoblesvilleFirst.com.

Safety tip: Avoiding slips, trips & falls

When working in and around the church, ensure that hazards are addressed that might cause slips, trips and falls. Keep door mats and rugs flat and in their places. If liquids should spill, ensure that the floor is properly cleaned and marked if it's wet. Keep objects that might cause a tripping hazard, such as cords, wires, boxes and clutter, out of walkways and hallways. If you see a safety hazard, report it to Anita Walker at awalker@NoblesvilleFirst.com or call the church office at 317-773-2500.



CIRCLE UPDATES

Grace Circle will not have a formal meeting in February but we are hosting the wonderful Lenten Breakfast on Wednesday, February 14 at 9:30AM. Donations of individually wrapped candy will be appreciated for the Easter baskets for the residents of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon.

Lydia Circle will host their Steppin' Up to Help line dancing fundraiser on Tuesday, February 20 from 6:30-8PM in Celebration Hall. Donations will benefit Cherish so come out and join the fun!

Priscilla Circle will meet on Monday, February 19 at 6:30PM in the church parlor. Pam Tharp will be presenting a program on Abraham Lincoln. Thank you to all that donated warm toddler clothing for the Life Centers.

Rebekah Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, February 21st at 9:30am in the church parlor. Phyllis Hunter will be our speaker.