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**GOD First PEOPLE First**  
**NOBLESVILLE First**



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addresses are  
hot-linked. Just  
click them!

# SPREADING THE WORD

**MARCH 2024**

*Notes from Pastor Nicole*  
**Saved you a seat!**



Dear Noblesville First Family,  
Can you believe it's already March? It seems as if this year is moving at lightning speed, and now we are already in the midst of Lent!

This month we are focusing on the theme: Saved You a Seat.

We're studying what it means to be hospitable and for many that's about how we treat guests. But in truth, it's so much more than that.

God's hospitality is countercultural. It imagines that people we don't know are worth our best effort and

deserve our best welcome simply because they are children of God.

In a world where wars wage, where divisions are deep, it's critical we remember the radical hospitality of God, that at Jesus' table there's a seat saved for everyone, and as his disciples we are called to join him in this work.

So church, who's seat are you saving? Who will you invite to join us over this season and on Easter Sunday?

There's room here at Noblesville First and there's always room in the kingdom of God.



## VISION

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

## ON THE CALENDAR



- MAR 10** Daylight Saving Time begins
- MAR 23** Easter Egg Hunt
- MAR 24** Palm Sunday
- MAR 28** Maundy Thursday worship
- MAR 29** Good Friday prayer vigil and worship
- MAR 31** Easter Sunday

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





# Celebrate the empty tomb on Easter Sunday!

He is risen! Celebrate the miracle of the empty tomb on Easter Sunday, March 31 at 9:00 and 10:30 in Celebration Hall (Door 2,7) with the chancel choir and orchestra. Childcare and kids classes will be available at

both 9:00 and 10:30. Parents can check their kids in for their classes at the welcome desk just outside the sanctuary (Door 1) then take their kids preschool

and younger to the nursery area. K-5th graders will begin their worship time in the sanctuary with their families then be released to their group leaders.

## Donate candy

Donations are being collected for the Easter Egg Hunt ... any individually-wrapped candies (no peanuts please but chocolate is fine) or pre-filled Easter eggs. Drop off donations in the church office on or before Sunday, March 17. Questions? Contact Pastor Brittney Stephan at [bstephan@NoblesvilleFirst.com](mailto:bstephan@NoblesvilleFirst.com) or call the church office at 317-773-2500.

## Daylight Saving Time begins

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night so you can get to church on time!



## Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 23 from 10:30AM-noon at the church. It's a great opportunity for outreach to the community. Invite friends, neighbors and family members, and your friends' neighbors and

family members! We'll host this year's hunt at the football field just south of the church. Come for a morning of games, crafts, inflatables, and LOTS of candy! In the event of rain, we'll move inside to Celebration Hall (Doors 2&7).



## Palm Sunday worship

Palm Sunday marks Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the start of Holy Week. Don't miss the children's palm-waving hosanna parade

through the sanctuary and their performance with the chancel choir on March 24 at both 9:00 and 10:30 worship in the sanctuary (Door 1).



## Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday marks the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word mandatum, or commandment, reflecting Jesus' words, "I give you a new commandment." Our pastors will lead us in an interactive

Maundy Thursday communion service on March 28 at 7PM in Celebration Hall (Doors 2&7). We will celebrate the disciples Last Supper with Jesus by sharing communion together at tables just as Jesus' disciples did some 2,000 years ago.



## Good Friday vigil & worship

Good Friday marks the crucifixion of Jesus and his death on Calvary. The church will mark this day with a **Good Friday Prayer Vigil** on March 29 from 7AM to 6:30PM in the chapel (Door 1). Sign up on the poster outside the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Carol Miller at [cmiller@NoblesvilleFirst.com](mailto:cmiller@NoblesvilleFirst.com) or call

the church office at 317-773-2500.

Then come for **Good Friday Worship** at 7PM in the sanctuary (Door 1) as we observe a contemplative service led by our clergy and chancel choir and prepare our hearts for the resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ.

**SPREADING THE WORD**  
 is a publication of  
 Noblesville First United  
 Methodist Church

**Have a story to share?**  
 Contact Anita Walker  
[awalker@NoblesvilleFirst.com](mailto:awalker@NoblesvilleFirst.com)  
 317-225-8028

**Next newsletter deadline**  
 February issue: Mar 21

# Noblesville First Kids INFANTS-5TH GRADE

In the first three Sundays of March, we'll be highlighting stories from the Bible about peace. Peace is something near to God's heart. Despite people choosing to



break their relationship with God, God has made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. Scripture shows us that because we reflect God's image, making peace with others should be a priority for us too.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at church on March 23 (see page 2).

On Palm Sunday, March 24, the brave kiddos enjoying a staycation during spring break will perform "Hosannah!" with the adult choir.

Kids can practice the song using the link at [NoblesvilleFirst.com/easter](http://NoblesvilleFirst.com/easter).

Note that while this has a download for purchase, you can still listen for free.

(And if your kids don't feel confident about the words ... no worries There will be cue cards).

Easter, on March 31, lands smack dab in the middle of Noblesville School's spring break. But wherever you find yourselves that day, you can find peace knowing that God is already there.

Questions?

Contact Pastor Amber Good at [agood@NoblesvilleFirst.com](mailto:agood@NoblesvilleFirst.com) or call the church office at 317-773-2500.

## Purchase an Easter flower

Purchase a potted spring flower (or several!) for \$10 each to celebrate your faith in resurrection! The flowers—in memory of or in honor of loved ones—will grace our worship spaces until after Easter worship when you can take them home.

Order on or before Sunday, March 24. Click the link at [NoblesvilleFirst.com/easter](http://NoblesvilleFirst.com/easter) to

order online with a credit card. Or fill out an order form in the church office and pay by cash or check, payable to Noblesville First United Methodist Church.

There will be a mix of lilies and tulips. Choose the one(s) you want after worship on Easter Sunday. Proceeds benefit the Care Ministry, which serves those in the congregation in need.



## Guatemala trip registration

Registration opens on 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.

Visit [NoblesvilleFirst.com/guatemala](http://NoblesvilleFirst.com/guatemala) to learn more or call the church office at 317-773-2500.

# Noblesville First Youth 6TH-12TH GRADE

**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](http://impact2818.org/camps) to learn more. Contact Pastor Amber (middle school) or Pastor Brittney (high school) to reserve a space for your camper. You will be given a code that will allow registration while postponing your payment so that we can use fundraising and/or scholarships to defray some or all of the camp cost.

**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!

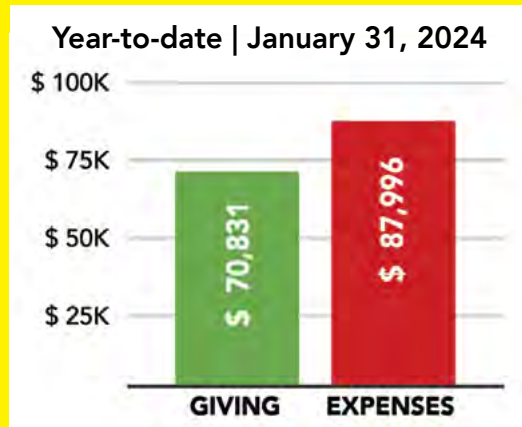
**Questions?**

Visit [NoblesvilleFirst.com/youth](http://NoblesvilleFirst.com/youth) or contact Pastor Brittney at [bstephan@NoblesvilleFirst.com](mailto:bstephan@NoblesvilleFirst.com).

# 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. We don't want to cut ministry support, but trust that through you, God will provide. Give today at [NoblesvilleFirst.com/give](https://NoblesvilleFirst.com/give).



The February financial report will be available at [NoblesvilleFirst.com/give](https://NoblesvilleFirst.com/give) on or around March 15.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith 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](https://NoblesvilleFirst.com/UWF).

Questions? Contact Anita Beck at 317-753-3111 or [anitajbeck@comcast.net](mailto:anitajbeck@comcast.net).

## FOOD DRIVE

Lydia Circle is collecting items for the Come to Me Food Pantry at Fishers United Methodist Church through March 17. They have requested: chicken broth, beef broth, taco shells, tortillas, pancake mixes, Pop-Tarts, and any soups.

## CIRCLE UPDATES

**Grace Circle** ... Thanks to all who attended and helped at the Lenten Breakfast! Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 12 at 11AM in the church parlor. We'll discuss the book "Enduring Hardships" by Joseph Chimbanda and stuff the Easter bags for the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.

**Lydia Circle** ... Thanks to all who attended our "Steppin' Up to Help" fundraiser. Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 6PM at the Come to Me Food Pantry at Fishers United Methodist Church (see Food Drive announcement above).

**Priscilla Circle** ... Our next meeting is Monday, March 18 at 6:30PM in the church parlor. The speaker is Amy Megan from Dove Recovery House for Women.

**Rebekah Circle** ... Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 20 at 9:30AM in the church parlor. The speaker will be from Agape.

# Teter volunteering & produce shares

Even on the coldest March days, the church's heated greenhouse at Teter Organic Farm is a delightful 68 degrees. Volunteer from 9-11AM on Thursdays or 6-8PM on Tuesdays & Thursdays. No experience is necessary. And kids of all ages are welcome with a supervising adult. Come and be a part of the Teter Organic Farm mission to increase access to healthy



food for the vulnerable and provide ecological education while building relationships and community!

Learn about Teter's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) produce shares at [TeterOrganicFarm.com/CSAabout](https://TeterOrganicFarm.com/CSAabout). Purchase your certified organic vegetables directly from our farm and enjoy the benefits of eating local, organic, healthy produce!

# Safety & security at Noblesville First

Safety and security are crucial for the church, while also maintaining a welcoming environment. Safety precautions include installation of additional security cameras to monitor activity in and around our church grounds, providing staff with radios to communicate suspicious activity, adding emergency alerts for preschool and church staff, and screening visitors at the door.

During the day, meeting leaders should ask participants to sign in at each meeting. Ask someone to watch doors to ensure unknown visitors are not entering without an escort. Visitors should be escorted to the office. In the evening, do not allow unexpected visitors inside without an escort. Check all doors and turn out lights before leaving and be mindful of security.

If you see a safety hazard, report it to Anita Walker at [awalker@NoblesvilleFirst.com](mailto:awalker@NoblesvilleFirst.com) or call the church office at 317-773-2500.