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GOD First PEOPLE First
NOBLESVILLE First



SPREADING THE WORD

APRIL 2024

Notes from Pastor Nicole A total eclipse of the heart



This month we will witness a once every 800 year phenomena: a total solar eclipse.

Thousands of people are projected to travel to Indiana, some hotels are totally booked, flights full and businesses and schools are closing for the day.

This astrological happening is literally shutting down our city and totally changing business as usual. As we witness this eclipse, I can't help but think that it sounds a lot like faith.

As followers of Jesus we can all point to a day, a time or a season where He came into our lives and totally changed everything. Jesus blocked out what used to bother us, covered in grace what we used to be ashamed of and totally transformed the way we live, serve, give and love. While businesses may not have closed for the occasion or thousands of people gathered to watch, if we let it, faith in Jesus totally eclipses our hearts.

It's this message that we'll share in what we're calling "Total Eclipse Sunday" on April 7. We hope you'll join us, invite a friend and share in the joy of a savior whose presence totally changes everything!



VISION

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

ON THE CALENDAR



- APR 7** Total Eclipse Sunday
- APR 21** Wildflower Walk at Teter
- APR 30** Grace Circle BINGO
- MAY 11-12** Teter Plant Sale
- MAY 19** Pipe Organ Dedication
- JUN 10-12** Vacation Bible School

More at ... NoblesvilleFirst.com/events





Wildflower Walk at Teter Retreat & Farm

Celebrate spring at the annual Wildflower Walk at Teter Retreat & Organic Farm on Sunday, April 21. Wander the woods on your own anytime between 1:30 and 4:00PM, with guided tours beginning at 2:00, 2:30, 3:00 and 3:30PM.

"From violets to trilliums, phlox to bluebells, trout lilies to wild geraniums, Teter Retreat & Organic Farm boasts a wonderful

display of wildflowers that you can take in on your own or with a guided tour," shared Emma St. Dennis, coordinator of the event.

"The Wildflower Walk is one of our favorite events of the year," explained Lead Pastor Nicole Caldwell-Gross at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, which owns the retreat center and farm. "Especially after a cold winter, spending an afternoon in the woods is an incredible treat."

The event is free, open to the public, and great for all ages, kids,

scout groups and adults! Although the walking path is easy, it is not wheelchair accessible. A limited number of golf cart tours are available for those with mobility challenges. To schedule, contact Amber Good at 317-379-2023.

In the event of lightning or downpours, the event will be canceled. Check the [Teter Retreat & Organic Farm Facebook page](#) for updates.

Questions? Contact Emma St. Dennis at (317) 432-7146 or threelsmom@hotmail.com.

Connect with a life group!

Jesus had 12 disciples for a reason! Take the first step towards vibrant connections and meaningful discussions. Join in building lasting relationships and growing together in faith at Noblesville First. Click the link at NoblesvilleFirst.com/LifeGroups to express your interest in Bible study, fellowship, service projects, or something different altogether! And expressing interest does not commit you to a specific group, but helps us get a better understanding of what types of Life Groups we should offer.

Shop at Kroger & earn for the church

Shop at Kroger and earn money for Noblesville First every time you shop! All you need is a Kroger Plus Card if you shop in the store or a Kroger account if you shop online. Then link your account to Noblesville First and a portion

of ALL of your purchases will go to Noblesville First! If you shop in the store, ask the cashier for a Kroger Card application. If you shop online or if you already have a card, visit NoblesvilleFirst.com/kroger to enroll.

Preschool flower sale online ordering

Spring has sprung and that means flowers! You can support the church preschool and its 260 students by purchasing from their annual fundraiser. Choose from a variety of hanging baskets, planters, 10-count 4-1/2" potted plants, 18-pack flats and 12-pack flats. Orders are due April 10.

Pick-up day is April 26 and 27. [Click here](#) to order online or scan this QR code.



Questions? Contact Preschool Director Lyndsay Sheridan at 317-773-4911 or ls Sheridan@NoblesvilleFirst.com.

Bread for the World organizing "Offering of Letters"

Food insecurity affects individuals in urban, suburban and rural areas. And only 1/6 of food assistance comes from charitable organizations. The remaining 5/6 comes from government

food programs which are voted on in the Farm Bill. Scan here to learn more and contact your elected officials.



Noblesville First Kids INFANTS-5TH GRADE

Do you remember as a kid how hard it was to wait for something to happen? We had to wait for our parents when they talked with friends after church; we had to wait in a restaurant while our food was prepared; and we had to wait for Christmas to arrive only a month after Thanksgiving.



character of Jesus. As we move into the month of April, we will be helping our kids learn that patience is waiting until later for what you want now.

Having patience can be a struggle throughout our lives. As we grow up, we find out that patience often has to do with trusting that someone won't let us down or that God really does have our best intentions in mind. We can trust that God is working to transform our unique, imperfect lives into something resembling the

Vacation Bible School registration is open! "Start the Party: Celebrate the Good News" is June 10-12 from 5:30-8:30PM for four-year-olds (fully potty trained) through 5th graders. We'll learn how to follow Jesus, help others, work together, and show grace. Visit NoblesvilleFirst.com/VBS to sign up.

Questions?

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

Lunch Bunch volunteers needed

Noblesville First will again invite elementary students to come for a hot lunch, a fun program, and five sack lunches to take home each Monday at noon this summer between June 3 and July 29.

The team is expanding its reach

beyond just Noble Manor this year. Volunteers are invited to help offer friendly hospitality in a variety of positions!

Questions? Want to volunteer? Click here to contact Cindy Ariel at ccarieltennis@gmail.com or call the church office at 317-773-2500.



Guatemala trip deadline

Registration is open until June 1 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.

The total cost of the trip is approximately \$1,700 per person. However, financial assistance is available if needed.

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

Noblesville First Youth 6TH-12TH GRADE

Church camp early bird registration ends April 20.

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. 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!

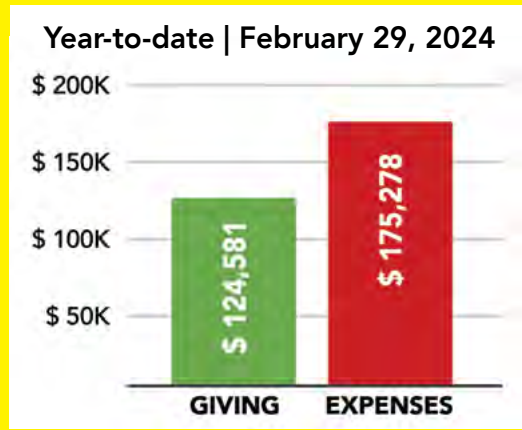
Questions?

Visit NoblesvilleFirst.com/youth or contact Pastor Brittney at 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.



The March financial report will be available at NoblesvilleFirst.com/give on or around April 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.

Questions?

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

BINGO NIGHT

Grace Circle is also hosting a Bingo Night on Tuesday, April 30 from 6:30-8PM with all monies going to Fueled for School. There will be snacks, drinks, prizes and lots of fun!

CIRCLE UPDATES

Grace Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 9 at 11AM in the church parlor. We will be making final preparations for Bingo Night which benefits Fueled for School.

Lydia Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30PM at the Cherish location for a tour & program. We will also be presenting them with a check for \$1,500 from the "Steppin' Up" line dancing fundraiser.

Priscilla Circle will meet on Monday, April 15 at 6:30PM in the church parlor. The speaker is Phyllis Hunter "It's all about Hospitality!" Be on the look-out for a list of Bags Baskets & Blessings donations.

Rebekah Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 17 at 10:00AM at the church and then travel to Lucille Raines. There will be a tour of the facility, lunch (\$10), then heading home by 1PM. Please consider bringing an item for their Country Store as a love gift.

Teter volunteering & produce shares

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! Teter Organic Farm is welcoming volunteers 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.

Learn about Teter's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) produce shares at 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 for the preschool is an important component of the church's security plans. During preschool hours, make sure unknown visitors are vetted by staff before they enter the building. Even after business hours, do not prop doors open. Some meetings held after business hours have scheduled unlocking and locking of certain doors. These times have been shortened to increase security. It is the responsibility of meeting attendees to allow for late arrivals.

Fire safety requires that fire doors should be kept closed and not propped open to prevent the spread of fires. This includes main doors into Celebration Hall, doors from the education wing leading to the Great Hall, Sanctuary, Whitcomb Chapel, Stephenson Hall and the office. If you see a safety hazard, report it to Anita Walker at awalker@NoblesvilleFirst.com or call the church office at 317-773-2500.