

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS! We would love to welcome you as a new member of our family of faith at IPC. Please indicate your interest by contacting Stacy Pulliam at the church office, 933-3731. "Like" us on Facebook at IPCBirmingham.

GRACE GROUPS offer a small-group Bible study for members and friends of IPC for six weeks twice a year. Starting October 8, we will study *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation* by Bruce M. Metzger and revised by David A. DeSilva. Register online at ipc-usa.org/connect, and pick up a copy of the book at Thank You Books (5502 Crestwood Blvd). Contact Cindy Shaw at cshaw@ipc-usa.org for questions.

LUNCH BUNCH meets on Tuesday, September 26. We will meet at Seasons 52 (245 Summit Blvd) at 11:30 am. This is a self-pay event, but please register at ipc-usa.org for headcount purposes. For questions, contact Cindy Shaw at cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

POVERTY AND BARRIERS TO PROSPERITY: This 3-part series sponsored by Community Ministries continues on Wednesday, September 27, at 5:30 pm - 7:15 pm in Great Hall 1. Manisha Mishra of Alabama Possible will lead us in a discussion of their recent Barriers to Prosperity: Data Sheet 2023. Michelle Farley, Executive Director of One Roof, will conclude the series on Wednesday, October 25, at 5:30pm - 7:15 pm in Great Hall 1. She will lead a more focused discussion on efforts to equip and empower our community to prevent and end homelessness through advocacy, education, and coordination of services. She will be joined by Minister Debra Blaylock, Faith Chapel Christian Center Both of these events offer the IPC Wednesday Night Dinner option (\$10 per adult plated meal). Order dinner at ipc-usa.org/connect no later than Tuesday at noon of each week.

CHORAL EVENSONG: At 4 pm on Sunday, October 8, we will offer an Evensong featuring the IPC Choir and violinist Daniel Szasz in the sanctuary. With music spanning the centuries, this is the perfect time to come, be still, and rest in the Heart of God.

KICK OFF our annual Harvest for Hunger campaign with a family-friendly Crop Drop in the IPC parking lot on Sunday, October 15. Ages 5 and up are invited to help sack potatoes for our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity. Register at ipc-usa.org/connect. For information, contact Sarah Scruggs at sscruggs@ipc-usa.org.

SAVE THE DATE for the Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF) Centennial Celebration and annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 29, at 3 pm - 6 pm. Enjoy live music by the Table worship band, fun games for kids, a hayride, and a dedication ceremony to celebrate 100 years of ministry at the Farm. Dinner will be served at 5 pm. Registration coming soon.

CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Kevin J. Long
Rev. David J. Seamon
Sarah Mason
Brett Burcham
Tommy Bowen
Fred Rogan
Jeanette Hightower
Nick Mathes

Pastor
Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
Worship Leader
Acoustic Guitar
Horns
Steel Guitar
Violin
Sound

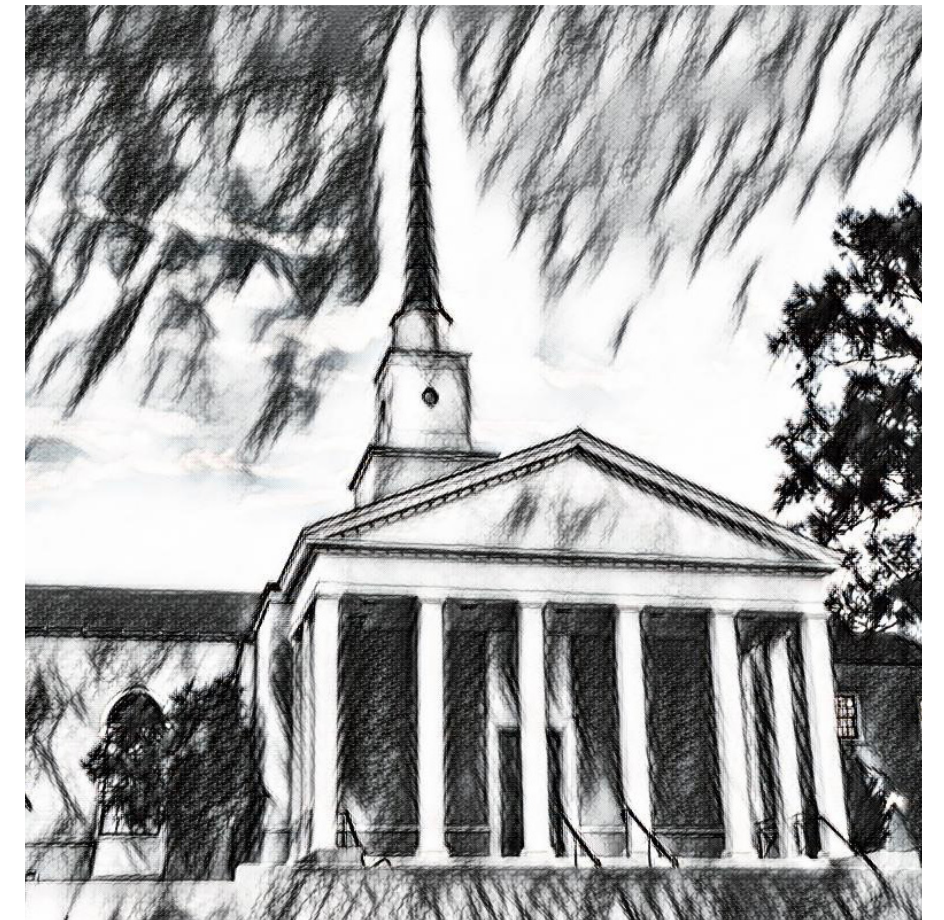


Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205
Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 | Phone: 205.933.1830
www.ipc-usa.org | www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Open · Affirming · Welcoming
Worship is at the center of the life of The Table.
As you prepare yourself for worship,
we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

*Teach me, O Lord, that only the best is good enough to be true;
that truth is not only stranger than fiction but sweeter and finer
and richer and higher. Convince me that the glories we dream and
sing of here are only vague reflections that have stolen out of the
City gates. May I dare to hope everything.*

from Beginning the Day by Henry Edmonds

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time. It is signified by the color green which represents new life and growth. Ordinary Time is observed from Pentecost until the beginning of Advent.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

E-mail or call us: We would love to say hello and welcome you to our church family. Please reach out to us by contacting Stacy Pulliam at 205.933.3690 and spulliam@ipc-usa.org or Cindy Shaw at 205.933.3696 and cshaw@ipc-usa.org.

Visit our website: ipc-usa.org/welcome

FLOWER DEDICATION

The flowers on the foyer table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark L. Miller.

GATHERING

We *gather* as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: God the Father, who has created us:
People: **We come to offer you our praise and thanksgiving.**

Leader: God the Son, who has died for us:
People: **We surrender to you our dreams, our talents, our very lives.**

Leader: God the Spirit, who dwells within us:
People: **Come and fill us with your grace.**
Leader: Let us worship the Triune God!

Gathering Songs *“King of Kings”*
“Counting Every Blessing”

LISTENING

We *listen* for the word of God through confession, passing the peace, Scripture, and preaching

Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God, forgive my fallen countenance and my soul grown dreary, as if I did not live in the mystery of thy salvation. Thou hast given so much to me, give one thing more – a grateful heart; not thankful when it pleases me, as if thy blessing had spare days, but such a heart whose pulse may be thy praise. Amen.

Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*Please exchange the peace with the words,
“The peace of Christ be with you.”*

Confessional Response *“Gloria Patri”*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Acts 2:41-47

Sermon: On Earth as It Is in Heaven

RESPONDING

We *respond* to the hearing of God's word through reflection, prayer, offering and communion

Hymn *“What a Beautiful Name”*

Sharing of Gifts

In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty.

Celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

- Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer
OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts; As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People
- Song: *“Promises”*
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

We are *sent* out into the world to love God and our neighbors

Closing Hymn *“Lead on, O King Eternal”*

Benediction

Postlude

*Our service is over, let our service begin.
fed by mystery, forgiven of sin.
Now our faith made real, when brokenness we heal.
our service is over, let our service begin.*