

## 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.

**SIGN UP TO HELP IPC COMMUNITY MINISTRIES** provide extra support for our vulnerable, food insecure, and temporarily unhoused neighbors in July. Help feed our neighbors by providing sack lunches to drop off at Highlands United Methodist Church on July 27 and August 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. Lunches are typically made at home and include a sandwich, chips, piece of fruit, small bottle of water or juice box, dessert, and peanut butter or cheese crackers as a snack for later. Learn more and sign up to serve at [ipc-usa.org/connect/links.html](http://ipc-usa.org/connect/links.html)

**SAVE THE DATE** for IPC's Fall Kick-Off. Join us for a special day of events on Sunday, August 15. At 10 am: Adults join us in the Great Hall to enjoy a light breakfast and learn about IPC's ministries, weekly and Sunday classes, congregational events, small groups, community ministries, and other faith formation opportunities with classes starting the following weekend. Children and Youth to attend Sunday School for the first day of the fall-term curriculum and Youth Confirmation. At Noon: All are invited to a multi-generational congregational event immediately following the 11 am worship service. Find food trucks, tents, live music, yard games, inflatables, door prizes, and other fun activities on 31st Street and at neighboring Rushton Park. Pre-register for lunch at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect). Morning and evening worship services to be held at regular times: 8:45 am, 11 am, and 5 pm. Casual dress for worship services.

**SIGN UP FOR DINNERS FOR EIGHT** by August 25. You are invited to join the 2021-22 Dinners for Eight. These dinners take place three times a year in members' homes. You will be asked to host a dinner once during the rotation. Couples and singles are all invited. Dinners will begin in October/November for the first rotation. The spring dinners will be February/March and April/May. Even if you have participated in the past and want to continue to participate, please send email confirmation to Fairy Sutherland at [fairysutherland@gmail.com](mailto:fairysutherland@gmail.com), and you can email or call her at 205 541-3714 with questions.

**HELP BUILD A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME.** IPC is building a Habitat for Humanity Home at 1031 Trilby Street in Pratt City alongside fellow Birmingham-area churches in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. The project for the Lane family begins on September 9 with a ground breaking ceremony, and construction will take 6-8 weeks with sign-up dates on Fridays and Saturdays starting September 10. Visit [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect) to find more about the volunteer registration information. You can also view the link with the Building Tasks Schedule to help decide which day you would like want to work.

## TALK WITH THE PREACHER

David is available for conversations by appointment. Please email [dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto:dseamon@ipc-usa.org) or call 205-933-3730 to arrange an appointment.

## CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

**Rev. Susan Clayton**  
Associate Pastor of Adult and  
Community Ministries  
[sclayton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. David Seamon**  
Associate Pastor of  
Faith Formation  
[dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto:dseamon@ipc-usa.org)

**Dr. Jeff McLelland**  
Director of Fine Arts & Music -  
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**Catherine Goudreau**  
Director of Children and Youth  
CFAF Programming Director  
[cgoudreau@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cgoudreau@ipc-usa.org)

**Kay Roller**  
Director of Childrens  
Faith Formation  
[kroller@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kroller@ipc-usa.org)

**Stacy Pulliam**  
Director of Member Engagement  
and Assimilation  
[spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org)

**Kenya Glasco**  
Nursery Coordinator-  
[kglasco@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kglasco@ipc-usa.org)

**Kathy Leaver**  
Director of IPC Day School  
[kleaver@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kleaver@ipc-usa.org)

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

<b>Rev. Susan Clayton</b>	Associate Pastor, Congr. Care & Adult Ed
<b>Beth Middleton</b>	Music Coordinator and Vocals
<b>Sarah Mason</b>	Worship Leader
<b>Billy Gant</b>	Acoustic Guitar
<b>Fred Rogan</b>	Steel Guitar
<b>Nick Mathes</b>	Sound

Cover: *Hand of God*, a relief sculpture on a church wall in Taiwan.

Image courtesy of the Vanderbilt Jean and Alexander Heard Divinity Library.



### 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](http://www.ipc-usa.org) | [www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham](https://www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham)  
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

# THE TABLE

## Independent Presbyterian Church



AUGUST 1, 2021

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

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## 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:

*“Lord, I would go deeper—deeper into Thy reserves of power, deeper into the open mysteries of Thy mind. I feel myself like a child playing along the shore. O God, bid me put out into the deep. In His name. Amen.”*

*from Beginning the Day by Henry M. Edmonds*

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## 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.

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## WORSHIP SERIES

“No Longer Strangers”. We’ll walk through Ephesians, a letter to a church in Ephesus discussing the keys to living as a community of faith. In the midst of familiar interpersonal conflicts, the writer of Ephesians reminds the members of the church that they are “now in Christ Jesus”: no longer strangers to God and, importantly, no longer alienated from each other. We thought this was fitting to our context as we are coming out of COVID, focusing our efforts, and re-gathering. So, for the next few weeks we’ll explore these two key questions: what does it look like to live rooted in reconciliation with God and with our neighbor, and how do we practice it in radical ways?

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## 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](http://ipc-usa.org/welcome)

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## GATHERING

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

### +Gathering Song

#### Welcome

##### Greeting

Leader: On this day, God has called each of us to this place. Come, for you are welcome here;

**People: In the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Leader: Here we choose to lift each other up, humbly, gently, patiently -

**People: in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Leader: Here we are a small part of one body in one Spirit, with one Lord, one faith, one baptism -

**People: in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Leader: Here we share hope in one God of all people, who is above all and through all and in all -

**People: in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Let us worship God!**

### +Hymn of Praise #300

*“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”*

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## LISTENING

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

#### Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God of unity and love, place within each of us a spirit of hope and community. Have mercy upon us when we speak without love or act without humility. Cleanse us with the living water of your grace. Create in us willing hearts to live in patience and gentleness. Raise us up to be your children, growing toward maturity in faith and love. Strengthen this church, that we may be a model of ministry and unity for all the world to see. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.**

*Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.*

#### Assurance of Grace:

One: In Jesus Christ,

All: **we are forgiven!**

#### Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

### +Gloria Patri

### Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-16**

**Sermon: No Longer Strangers: Learning How to Walk**

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## RESPONDING

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

### Musical Reflection

*“Oh, How Good It Is”*

### 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. Please place your gifts in the plate in the back as you leave.*

### Celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper

- Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer
- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People
- Song: *“Have Mercy”*
- Prayer after Communion

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## SENDING

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

### +Closing Song

*“Song of Blessing”*

### +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.*

### +Rise in Body or Spirit