



September 2, 2020

Dear IPC Atrium Parents,

**We miss you all so much! Sunday morning Virtual Atrium zoom meetings for children begin Sunday, September 13 (Sunday after Labor Day).** This is the time of year when we look forward to the Back to School routine and reconnecting with our IPC friends on Sunday morning. Until we can be together again in person, you can register through our weekly family email or online at [www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org) and you will receive a reminder with the Zoom link information.

**In your back to school bag, you will find Atrium information in the folder that describes in more detail the why and how of what we do in Children's Ministry – all focused on deepening our relationship with God through prayer, worship, faith practices, Bible study, fellowship, and service.** We hope when you wear your IPC t-shirt you feel as loved as you are and a part of a larger church family. Place the IPC stickers on a water bottle and keychain on a backpack to remind you we are connected. We invite you to turn on your battery tealight candle when you read from the Bible or set it on your home prayer table. Plant the enclosed seeds, water, and watch them grow, remembering how your faith and God's love is alive and growing! And there's a special music activity kit with songs from Miss Beth, who you will continue to see on Sunday mornings and at the Bucket Blast on Wednesday nights (register online at [www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org) or through the weekly family email.)

**IPC Children's Ministry's mission is to create a loving and nurturing environment for children from birth to Sixth Grade, and for their families to learn and grow in their faith as they become active participants in the church community.** We do this through engaging the whole child – head, heart, and body. It begins in the nursery and Twos Sunday School class on the Ground Floor, where we introduce God's love. It then moves upstairs to the First Floor to a prepared tranquil space of prayer called the Atrium, where adults AND children age 3 and up gather together on Sunday mornings to share their faith, celebrate the Christian year, ponder Bible stories, learn about prayer, worship, and loving our neighbors, and enjoy God's great love for us using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method (see attached detail on the three Atrium levels.)

**We strongly believe parents are a child's primary faith formation leader and it is our goal in Children's Ministry to help support you in this important work.** We encourage parents to begin getting involved at IPC with your child at an early age – whether in the Atrium or in another program such as Worship Care, Wednesday Night Musical Events, or Advent Workshop. This year may look a little different at first, but we invite you to grow your child's faith:

- **Sit and Listen** with your child each week in our Virtual Atrium beginning Sunday, September 13 (register online at [www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org) or through the weekly family email)
- **Ask** a few wondering questions about the Atrium message; explore the activities and resources we email you each week
- **Share a Bible story** with your child during the week
- Continue an evening routine of nighttime **prayers**.

These faith practices show your children the value of practicing your faith together in simple ways each day. Please reach out to us if you have questions and we look forward to seeing you soon!

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