

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT & WEEKDAY PROGRAMMING returns in September. Beginning Sept. 1, adult fellowship on Wednesday nights includes: Members in the Middle, A Woman’s Heart, and Parents Date Night (the first Wednesday of the month). Children 5K – 6th grade are invited to Kids Fun Nights the first week of each month and can join us each week at Midweek Music & More for songs, activities, and Bible study. Youth Midweek Meetup is open to all 7th – 12th graders. Nursery care is available. Adults can find connect with us weekdays with classes and groups meeting Monday – Friday. Find times, locations, and detailed information for classes and groups in our Ministry Brochure. Printed copies are available in the Parlor, Narthex, and various information areas around the church, and a digital copy of is available at www.ipc-usa.org.

PLEASE HELP US STOCK ESSENTIALS for the Blessing Boxes Ministry. For August-September, we respectfully request *only* the following items: water bottles and gatorade (individual sizes), canned meats, peanut butter and jelly, fruit cups, pop-top canned fruit and soups, powdered milk, granola/snack bars, toothbrushes and tooth paste, deodorant, bar soap, toilet paper and paper towels, laundry detergent (small), dish liquid (small), and pet food (small bags & cans for dogs and cats). They can be dropped off or sent by a delivery service Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm to IPC Community Ministries’ entrance on 31st Street South.

SIGN UP FOR DINNERS FOR EIGHT by August 25. These dinners take place three times a year in members’ homes. You are asked to host a dinner once during the rotation. Couples and singles are invited. Dinners 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 email confirmation to Fairy Sutherland at fairysutherland@gmail.com, and you can email or call her at 205 541-3714 with questions.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: IPC is building a Habitat for Humanity Home at 1018 Herring Street, Midfield 35228, alongside fellow Birmingham-area churches in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. The project for the Carolyn Hamilton 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 to register as a volunteer. You can also view the link with the Building Tasks Schedule to help decide which day you would like want to work.

SAVE THE DATE! Our annual Harvest for Hunger will kick off Sunday, October 17, at 3:00 pm with a CROP DROP. All ages (Kindergarten and up) are invited to help us sack sweet potatoes to share with our neighbors who are food insecure. More info to follow.

TALK WITH THE PREACHER

David is available for conversations by appointment. Please email 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

Rev. David Seamon
Associate Pastor of Faith Formation
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Dr. Jeff McLelland
Director of Fine Arts & Music -
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Catherine Goudreau
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Kay Roller
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Stacy Pulliam
Director of Member Engagement and Assimilation
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Kenya Glasco
Nursery Coordinator-
kglasco@ipc-usa.org

Kathy Leaver
Director of IPC Day School
kleaver@ipc-usa.org

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Mr. JD Tyler	Director of Youth Faith Formation
Beth Middleton	Music Coordinator and Vocals
Sarah Mason	Worship Leader
Billy Gant	Acoustic Guitar
Helen Weberpal	Cello
Fred Rogan	Steel Guitar
Jeanette Hightower	Violin
Nick Mathes	Sound

Cover: *Praying Hands*, by Albrecht Dürer in 1508 with brush, gray and white ink, and gray wash on blue prepared paper.

“Dürer exerted a huge influence on the artists of succeeding generations, especially in print-making, the medium through which his contemporaries mostly experienced his art, as his paintings were predominantly in private collections located in only a few cities. His success in spreading his reputation across Europe through prints was undoubtedly an inspiration for major artists such as Raphael, Titian, and Parmigianino, all of whom collaborated with print-makers to promote and distribute their work.”

Image and text courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



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



AUGUST 22, 2021

THE TWENTY-FIRST 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:

“Lord, give me sympathy. Grant me understanding. May I be slow to convict, quick to help. For Thou knowest, Lord, how frail I am, how full of wrong inclinations, and how often I have fallen.”

from Beginning the Day by Henry M. 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.

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?

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

GATHERING

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

+*Gathering Song*

Welcome

Greeting

Leader:

Though storms rage outside and within these walls, let us clothe ourselves with the whole armor of God.

People:

We will fasten the belt of truth around waists.

Leader:

Let us place strength and determination as our shoes to aid us in our heavenly mission.

People:

We will take up the shield of faith to defend against the evil one.

Leader:

Let us pray diligently at all times, offering prayers and supplication to our God.

People:

The helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit will accompany us.

Leader:

Be strong in the Lord who provides for your every need.

People:

We place our confidence and trust in Jesus Christ our Lord.

+*Hymn of Praise #463*

“How Firm a Foundation”

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from this present, evil age. Give us eyes to see spiritual realities and hearts which move toward your endless grace. Let us never tire of finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.

Assurance of Grace:

Leader:

In Jesus Christ,

All:

we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace

Leader:

The peace of the Lord be with you.

All:

And also with you.

Leader:

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

+*Gloria Patri*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-20

Sermon: No Longer Strangers: Remember What’s Really Going On

RESPONDING

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

Musical Reflection

“This Is How I Fight My Battles”

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: “O Praise the Name”

- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

+*Closing Song*

“A 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*