

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.

2021 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Join IPC for Women's Connection in Montreat, NC, Aug. 12-15. Register online at ipc-usa.org by June 1 to reserve a spot with the group attending from IPC. Please contact Cathy Delozier at cathy@sowowme.com with any questions about the trip.

CIRCLE V meets tomorrow, Monday, May 17th, at 10:30 a.m. in the Garage at Highland Hall.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER: Adult volunteers are needed at this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) and Bibletimes Marketplace (BTMP). VBS will held in the Day School Classrooms May 17-20 from 9 am to noon. If you can help at VBS, please email Caroline Benefield at caroline.hughes22@gmail.com with your availability that week. BTMP will be held at the Children's Fresh Air Farm June 7-11 from 9 am to 2 pm. If you can help at BTMP, please contact Rollins Thorpe at rollinsthorpe@gmail.com. You do not need to have a child attending VBS or BTMP to serve as a volunteer; all are welcome to join us.

IPC FOUNDATION'S Summer Lunch & Learn Series kicks off in May. Invite a friend and join us each month to learn about various local organizations that are improving lives in our area. For the first event on May 27, we will hear from Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (¡HICA!) CEO Isabel Rubio in the Great Hall from 11:30 am - 1 pm. Lunch is \$10, and you can pay at the door or online. Please make a reservation or find the full calendar online at ipc-usa.org/connect.

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HELP OUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS. Highlands United Methodist Church is serving those in need in the community by providing toiletries and a sack lunch to each person who comes. IPC is helping Highland United Methodist Church to provide 50 sacked lunches every Tuesday for the homeless. Sign up to serve in May at ipc-usa.org/connect/links.html

PAY IT FORWARD through IPC's Buy a Meal, Share a Meal partnership with Rojo. To help feed people in Highland Park who are suffering from food insecurity, you can purchase a meal from Rojo for your family and purchase another for a family in need. You can also call Rojo to pay for a meal to be donated or make donations to IPC's Social Services Fund.

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. Dr. Steve Goyer
Interim Pastor
sgoyer@ipc-usa.org

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
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Kay Roller
Director of Childrens Faith Formation
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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

Beth Middleton
Assistant Director of Music and Fine Arts & Music Coordinator for 5pm Worship
bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. David J. Seamon	Associate Pastor, Faith Formation
Sarah Mason	Worship Leader
Billy Gant	Acoustic Guitar
Fred Rogan	Steel Guitar
Helen Weberpal	Violin
Annie Norris	Vocals
Nick Mathes	Sound

Cover: The Ascension of Christ stained glass window in St. Michael Church in Kalida, Ohio. This window shows what is probably the most familiar-looking depiction of the Ascension to our modern eye. All of Jesus's body is visible in the top center of the scene, and his arms are raised and outspread both in blessing and in the shape of a cross. His palms are turned to show the *stigmata*, the wounds left from the nails on the cross. The disciples cluster below in varying expressions of astonishment, fear, and amazement. The two secondmost important figures, the Virgin Mary (in blue with a fancy halo) and Peter (in red) kneel in reverence at the front bottom of the window. Mary Magdalene, identified by her pink robe and her fancy halo in the back right of the group, also gazes upward with peaceful worship. Most interestingly, Jesus is depicted as ascending amid curling branches from a central trunk, all of them ornamented with three-leaved clusters representing the Trinity and old-fashioned red roses representing the blood of Jesus. Jesus is usually depicted in art as ascending with clouds or angels, but in this case, the tree linking both earth and heaven probably represents the Tree of Jesse. *Image 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



MAY 16, 2021

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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:

What was is not.
Is not coming back.

What is
waits to be defined.

In that moment
a breath
the story takes root.

The empty tomb
now the resurrection.

Ascension
life raised up
shifts our gaze to possibility.

Breathe into the void.
Loneliness births solitude.
Chaos bears community.

What was is not.
What is
awaits breath.

– Katherine Hawker

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Easter as signified by the color white. Easter isn’t just a Sunday — it’s a season. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a “week of weeks”), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord. The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church.

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
People: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new world has broken into ours—

Leader: a world in which justice does come for the poor, freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick.

People: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new community has been formed—

Leader: a community that loves and cares for all members, a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected, a place where all find a place of belonging.

People: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new creation has begun—

Leader: all that was distorted is being restored, all that is corrupted is being renewed, all that was broken is being made whole.

People: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, God’s new world has begun.

+Hymn of Praise “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)
Living God, we confess that our faith is sometimes weak, our love for others can be faint, our prayers are often timid, and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing. When we stand looking toward heaven, yet feel far from you, you draw near in mercy to forgive us, and fill us with your power, through the grace of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.

Assurance of Grace:
One: In Jesus Christ,
All: we are forgiven!

+Gloria Patri

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Acts 1:1-11 15:9-17

Sermon

RESPONDING

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

Musical Reflection “Oceans”

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: “Our Great God”
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

+Closing Hymn #716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

+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