

## 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.

**REGISTRATION FOR GRACE GROUPS** opens today. 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. Each group decides on a day/time/location that best suits the group members. Register online at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://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](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org) for questions.

**BEER AND HYMNS:** Come to Iron City Grill (2208 6th Ave S) tomorrow on Monday, September 18, for some old-timey hymns. Doors open at 6 pm. Music starts at 7 pm. Limited dinner menu available.

**CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING** of the Congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church: A meeting of the Independent Presbyterian Church is hereby called for Sunday, September 24, 2023, to be convened with the opening prayer at the 11 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary. The business meeting will begin immediately following the worship service. The purposes of the meeting are: 1) To elect Elders for the class of 2026; 2) To elect Deacons for the class of 2026; 3) To elect a Youth Elder and a Youth Deacon to serve one-year terms, beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025; 4) To elect a President and Vice President of the Congregation; 5) To elect members of the IPC Foundation Board of Directors for the class of 2026; and 6) To elect members of the Representative Nominating Committee for the class of 2026. No other business may be transacted at this meeting. By order of the Session, Kevin J. Long, Moderator, and Beverley T. Krannich, Clerk.

**CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING:** This training is mandatory for all IPC Youth and IPC Kids volunteers. There are two more sessions to choose from on Sunday, September 24, at 10 am and 12 pm. You need to attend only one session. Sign up through the link in the Thursday eUpdate or the IPC Kids eUpdate.

**VOLUNTEER WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** We are helping the Presbytery build a home in Pleasant Grove. IPC volunteer days are September 22 and 30; October 21; and November 3 and 11. No construction experience necessary. Minimum age 14 years old. You must register on the Habitat website (access code presby23). Help is also needed to provide a dozen simple sack lunches for the volunteers each day. Find the Habitat link or sign up for lunches at [ipc-usa.org/connect](http://ipc-usa.org/connect). For questions, contact Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at (205) 933-3709 or [mpatrick@ipc-usa.org](mailto:mpatrick@ipc-usa.org).

## CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

**Rev. Kevin J. Long**  
Pastor  
[kevin.long@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kevin.long@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. Susan Clayton**  
Associate Pastor, Congregational  
Care and Adult Faith Formation  
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**Rev. David Seamon**  
Associate Pastor, Faith Formation  
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**Beth Middleton**  
Assistant Director of Music and  
Fine Arts  
[bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. Melissa Self Patrick**  
Director of Community Ministries  
and Outreach  
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**Cammie Coulter Ashworth**  
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**Stacy Pulliam**  
Director of Member Engagement  
and Assimilation  
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**Courtney Kraus**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
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**Kenya Glasco**  
Nursery Coordinator  
[kglasco@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kglasco@ipc-usa.org)

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

**Rev. Kevin J. Long**  
**Rev. Susan A. Clayton**  
**Sarah Mason**  
**Brett Burcham**  
**Tommy Bowen**  
**Fred Rogan**  
**Nick Mathes**

Pastor  
Associate Pastor, Congregational Care  
Worship Leader  
Acoustic Guitar  
Horns  
Steel Guitar  
Sound

# THE TABLE

## Independent Presbyterian Church



Cover: Detail from *St. Peter Preaching the Gospel in the Catacombs*, painted in Paris in 1902 by Polish artist Jan Styka. Styka was known for painting large panoramas of historical battles and sacred scenes. This painting of St. Peter is one of his most important works.

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

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

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## WELCOME TO THE TABLE

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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:

*In my extremity, O God, I come to Thee. At the last I turn again home. Everything else fails, Thou standest sure, yesterday, today and forever.*

*from Beginning the Day by Henry 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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## 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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## FLOWER DEDICATION

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

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## MOMENT FOR MISSION: STAIR

STAIR (Start The Adventure In Reading) is looking for volunteers to provide one-on-one reading tutoring to 1st and 2nd grade students at 12 Birmingham schools. Reading on grade level by the third grade is the single greatest predictor of high school graduation and career success. In just 1-2 hours a week, you could change a child's life. Visit [stairbirmingham.org](http://stairbirmingham.org) to apply.

*IPC STAIR Tutors*

Beth Adams  
Lisa Burton  
Jeff Byrne  
Susan Byrne  
Doc Feagin  
Susan Haskell  
Joann (Connie) Long

Melissa Robinett  
Jean Shanks  
Margaret Shepherd  
Lochrane Coleman Smith  
Ivy Spencer  
Tom Spencer  
Lee Walthall

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## GATHERING

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

### Prelude

### Welcome

**Moment for Mission: STAIR.....Karen Griner, CEO of STAIR**

### Call to Worship

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.  
People: **Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.**  
Leader: Say to God how awesome are your deeds!  
People: **All the earth worships you; they sing praises to your name.**  
Leader: Come and see what God has done; he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.  
People: **Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard.** *Psalm 66*

### Gathering Songs

*"Be Thou My Vision"*  
*"Amazing Grace"*

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## LISTENING

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

### Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Eternal God, you make all things new and forgive old wrongs we cannot forget. We confess that we have walked too far and for too long down the wrong paths. Forgive our past, we pray. Do not let evil cripple or shame us. Lead us into your future, free from sin, free to love and serve your Son, our Savior. In his name we pray. 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 2:29-42**

**Sermon: Make a U-Turn**

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## RESPONDING

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

### Hymn

*"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*

### 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: *"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"*  
- Prayer after Communion

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## SENDING

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

### Closing Hymn

*"Blessed Assurance"*

### 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.*