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## 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 [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org). "Like" us on Facebook at @IPC Birmingham.

**OFFERING OF LETTERS:** Put your faith into action by joining IPC's Bread for the World Team to write letters to our legislators in support of children's nutrition and food access. Your letter can make a difference to "Nourish Our Future." Find representatives in the foyer area this Sunday to assist in preparing these letters.

**JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH CREW** on Tuesday, February 25 for a great meal and fellowship at Bistro V. We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30. This is a self-pay event but please register at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page so we will have an accurate head count.

**JOIN US FOR AN IPC CONNECT POP-UP SOCIAL** at Magnolia Point on Thursday, February 27 at 5:00 p.m. This new Birmingham restaurant offers a wonderful atmosphere with ample indoor and outdoor seating, as well as an amazing menu. For more information, please reach out to Cindy Shaw at [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org).

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE INSTALLATION SERVICE** of our Associate Pastor of Discipleship, Reverend Nicole Newton, on Sunday, March 2, at 5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall.

**SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG** will be offered on Sunday, March 2 at 4:00 p.m. Accompanied by strings, piano and harp, the IPC Camerata will be singing a variety of gorgeous music for a time of prayer, contemplation, and renewal. Please join us for this beautiful service of worship.

**JOIN A GRACE GROUP** this Lenten Season. From March 2 to April 12, each group will study *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. Grace Group small group studies offer an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship. Whether you are new to the church or a longtime member, there is a place for you. Registration is now open in the Parlor and at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) under the Connect tab.

**JOIN US ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**, at the Noon or 6:00 pm service in the Sanctuary with the imposition of ashes and communion. Childcare is available for the 6:00 p.m. service.

**JOIN THE IPC GUILD**, a group of 70 women who work together behind the scenes to care for the sanctuary and prepare for worship and sacred services. Pick up a Guild Interest form near the elevator, or find the form and additional information online at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page. Please submit your form by March 28.

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## 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 A. Clayton**  
Associate Pastor, Congregational  
Care and Adult Ministries  
[sclayton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. D. Nicole Newton**  
Associate Pastor, Discipleship  
[nnewton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:nnewton@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. David J. Seamon**  
Associate Pastor, Mission and  
Outreach  
[dseamon@ipc-usa.org](mailto:dseamon@ipc-usa.org)

**Cammie Ashworth**  
Director of Youth Ministries  
[cashworth@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cashworth@ipc-usa.org)

**Beth Middleton**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
[bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org)

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

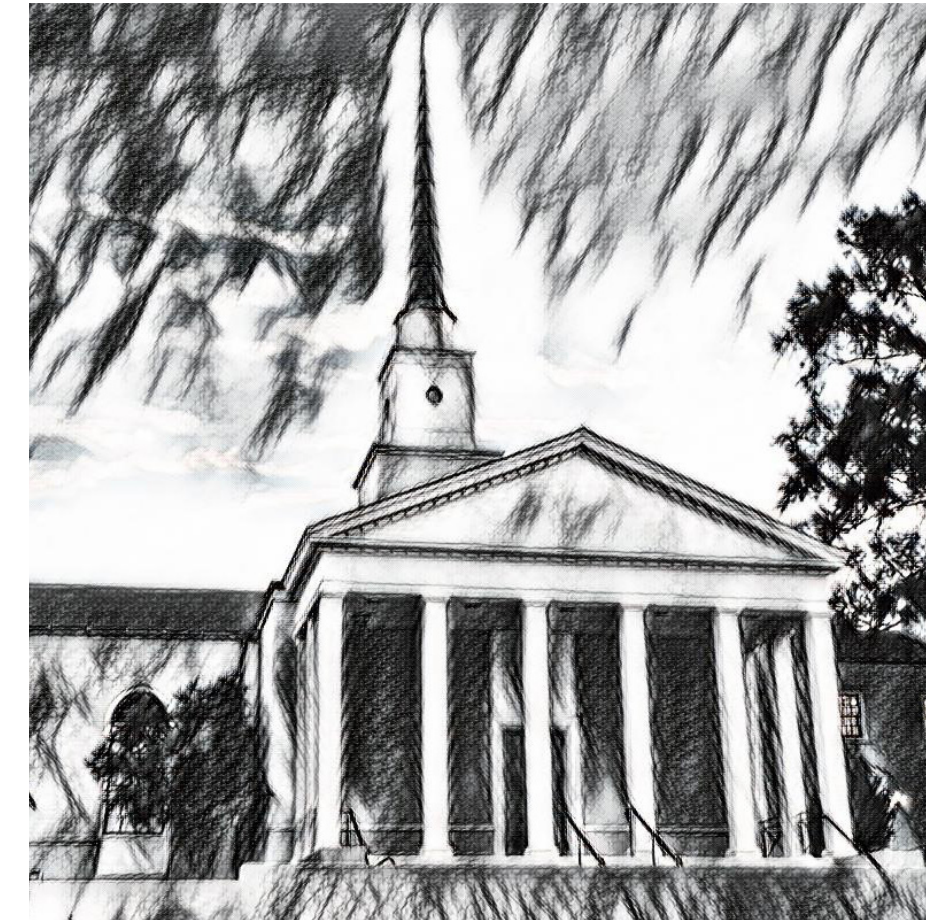
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## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

<b>Rev. D. Nicole Newton</b>	Associate Pastor, Discipleship
<b>Sarah Mason</b>	Worship Leader
<b>Brett Burcham</b>	Acoustic Guitar
<b>Eric Onimus</b>	Bass Guitar
<b>Leif Bondarenko</b>	Drums
<b>Carlos Pino</b>	Electric Guitar
<b>Jeff Lopez</b>	Horns
<b>Oliver Middleton</b>	Video & Lights
<b>Hayden Thomas</b>	Sound

# THE TABLE

## Independent Presbyterian Church



FEBRUARY 23, 2025

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME



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### 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)

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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:

*Tune my life to gratitude, O great and gracious God. May every golden day be a cathedral aisle down which I walk and sing. Let all my tasks be worshipfully done, all my relationships joyfully sustained. Amen.*

*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 Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is observed between the end of Christmas and the beginning of Lent and again between the end of Easter and the beginning of Advent. Signified by the color green for new growth, it is the season in which we celebrate the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and what it means to be his disciple. The name of this season is derived from the word ordinal, meaning "to count." We call this season Ordinary Time because we count and name the weeks in number order (i.e., Second, Third, etc.).

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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 [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@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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## GATHERING

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

### *Prelude*

### *Welcome*

### *Call to Worship*

Leader: Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord:

**All: outsiders and insiders, old-timers and newcomers, young, old and in-between.**

Leader: Come as you are, for this is God's house,

**All: a house of prayer for all people.**

Leader: All are welcome here.

### *Gathering Songs*

*"Only A Holy God"*  
*"How Great Thou Art"*

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## LISTENING

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

### *Prayer of Confession (unison)*

**Holy One, we say that we long for prosperity for all people, and yet we are afraid to speak out for the marginalized and oppressed. We want to be treated with compassion, and yet we hold grudges, spread gossip, and cling to old narratives. Forgive us, God. Break the chains of hatred and fear that bind us and free us to forgive as we have been forgiven. In the name of Christ 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:** Luke 6:27-38

**Sermon:** "The Bolt-Cutters of Bitterness"

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## RESPONDING

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

### *Hymn*

*"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*

### *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. To give online, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.*

### *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
- Communion Song: "Goodness Of God"
- Prayer after Communion

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## SENDING

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

### *Closing Hymn*

*"Amazing Grace"*

### *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.*