

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS! If this is your first visit, we would love to say hello and welcome you to our church family. **Contact us:** To learn more about joining IPC, please send an email to membership@ipc-usa.org or visit the *New to IPC* page on our website.

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

GRACE GROUPS: Grow in faith and fellowship this fall by joining a Grace Group at IPC. Groups will meet Oct. 11–Nov. 21 to study “Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life’s Biggest Questions” by Timothy J. Keller. Each small group is led by IPC members and meets at different times and locations. Sign up online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH CREW for a great meal and fellowship at Magnolia Point (2234 Magnolia Ave S, 35205). We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29. This is a self-pay event, but please register on the Sign Up Links page at ipc-usa.org so we will have an accurate headcount.

456 BIBLE RETREAT: All 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are invited to join us for our annual Bible Retreat from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3 for a day of learning, fellowship, and fun at the Children’s Fresh Air Farm. Register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page. *Note: 4th graders will also receive their Bibles during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Oct. 4.*

“THE GOSPEL AT RISK? CONFESSING THE FAITH TODAY” is a four-week Sunday School series Oct. 11–Nov. 1 led by professors from Columbia Theological Seminary exploring the meaning and importance of our Creeds. Join us in room 305 at 10:00 a.m. to examine whether the gospel is at risk today and how generations of Christians dealt with that issue in their time through confessional statements.

IPC YOUTH CAMPING TRIP: Grades 7–12 are invited to an overnight camping trip at Living River, our Presbytery’s camp in Montevallo Saturday, Oct. 17–Sunday, Oct. 18. Register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

IPC CROP DROP & HARVEST FOR HUNGER KICK-OFF: All ages 5 and up are invited to this family-friendly event on Sunday, October 18 from 2:00–4:00 p.m. in the large IPC parking lot to help sack crops for our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity. Register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

WHEN THE GENERATIONS MEET: CARING FOR AGING PARENTS: Adults caring for aging parents while also supporting children, work, or other family responsibilities are invited on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 5:30 p.m. in GH1 to hear Dr. Beverly E. Thorn, Professor Emerita of Psychology at the University of Alabama, discuss aging, dementia care, end-of-life issues, and the challenges of caring across generations. Dinner and childcare are included with preregistration at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

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.

CONNECT WITH IPC’S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Kevin J. Long
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Beth Middleton
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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Rev. Susan Clayton, Assoc. Pastor
Sarah Mason, Worship Leader
Brett Burcham, Acoustic Guitar
Eric Onimus, Bass Guitar
Carlos Pino, Electric Guitar
Fred Rogan, Steel Guitar

Leif Bondarenko, Drums
Jeff Lopez, Horns
Tommy Bowen, Horns
Hayden Thomas, Sound



Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. | Phone: 205.933.1830
ipc-usa.org | facebook.com/ipcbirmingham
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Gathering Song "Honey in the Rock"

Welcome

Opening Hymn "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Verse 1: God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

Verse 2: Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

Verse 3: Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the Gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)
Holy God, we come before You in humility,
For we do not live as we ought.
We do not love You with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We do not love our neighbor as ourselves.
So we pray, in all humility,
That You will change our hearts and minds,
That You will show us again how to love others the way You love us,
That You will put power and courage in our hearts to do Your will.
This we pray in Jesus' name and for His sake. 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: "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 2:1-11

Sermon: "A High and Hard Calling"

RESPONDING

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

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.
- Offering Song: "Let This Heart Not Wander"
- 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: "Trust in God"
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Closing Hymn "I'll Fly Away"

Verse 1: Some bright morning when this life is over
I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away

Chorus: I'll fly away, oh glory
I'll fly away, in the morning
When I die, Hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

Verse 2: When the shadows of this life have gone
I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly
I'll fly away

Repeat Chorus

Verse 3: Oh, how glad and happy when we meet
I'll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet
I'll fly away

Repeat Chorus

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.*