

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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: We welcome guest speaker Betsy Holloway, IPC Member and advisor to the leadership of East African Christian College (EACC), to share about the ministry. IPC has sent three teams of members on mission trips in Rwanda engaging with EACC, and IPC Foundation has supported the construction of both an open-air chapel and, more recently, a much-needed Midwifery and Nursing Skills Lab and Classroom.

PROGRAMMING NOTES FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS: IPC Parents are invited to join us on August 25 for a Parent Panel during the 9 am Sunday School Hour in the Highland Hall Garage; our experienced panel will address the challenges of modern-day parenting in the church. We will observe our Holiday Worship Schedule on September 1 with one worship service at 10 am in Sanctuary; there will be no Sunday School or Table Worship Service. Home on Highland Sunday is September 8. IPC will return to its regular worship schedule with traditional services at 8:45 and 11 am in the Sanctuary and our Table service at 11 am in Highland Hall, kick-off Sunday School classes at 10 am, and enjoy a fellowship lunch and storytelling. Learn more and register at ipc-usa.org.

IPC PLAYGROUND RENOVATION CONTINUES: During construction, the back parking lot behind Highland Hall is closed. Thank you for your contributions to provide a beautiful and safe place for IPC children to play, learn, and grow in faith.

BEER & HYMNS: Join us tomorrow on Monday, August 19, at 7 pm at Iron City (2208 6th Ave S, 35233) for old-timey hymns, good food, and beverages.

ACOLYTE REGISTRATION: Sign up online at ipc-usa.org/connect to become an acolyte for 2024-2025 and attend training sessions. For questions, contact Grace Daniels at gdaniels@ipc-usa.org.

ORDER YOUR IPC YOUTH COOKBOOK filled with cherished recipes shared by members of our congregation. In-person sales and pick-up start today in the Parlor and run through September 15. Proceeds support IPC Youth trips and retreats. For questions, contact Grace Daniels at gdaniels@ipc-usa.org.

SUMMER SUPPER SOIRÉE FOR IPC PARENTS: Join IPC Family Ministries for a night under the stars and enjoy dinner at the Clubhouse on Highland on Wednesday, August 28, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Water and soft drinks will be provided by the Parenting Sub-Committee, but feel free to BYOB. Register for dinner and for childcare at ipc-usa.org/connect. For questions, contact Beth Middleton at bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org.

CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Kevin J. Long
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Beth Middleton
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Kenya Glasco
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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Kevin J. Long
Rev. Lucy E. Turner
Beth Middleton
Grace Daniels
Sarah Mason
Brett Burcham
Eric Onimus
Carlos Pino
Tommy Bowen
Oliver Middleton
Jason Westbrook

Pastor
Retired Associate Pastor
Director of Children's Ministries
Assistant Director of Youth Ministries
Worship Leader
Acoustic Guitar
Bass Guitar
Electric Guitar
Horns
Video & Lights
Sound

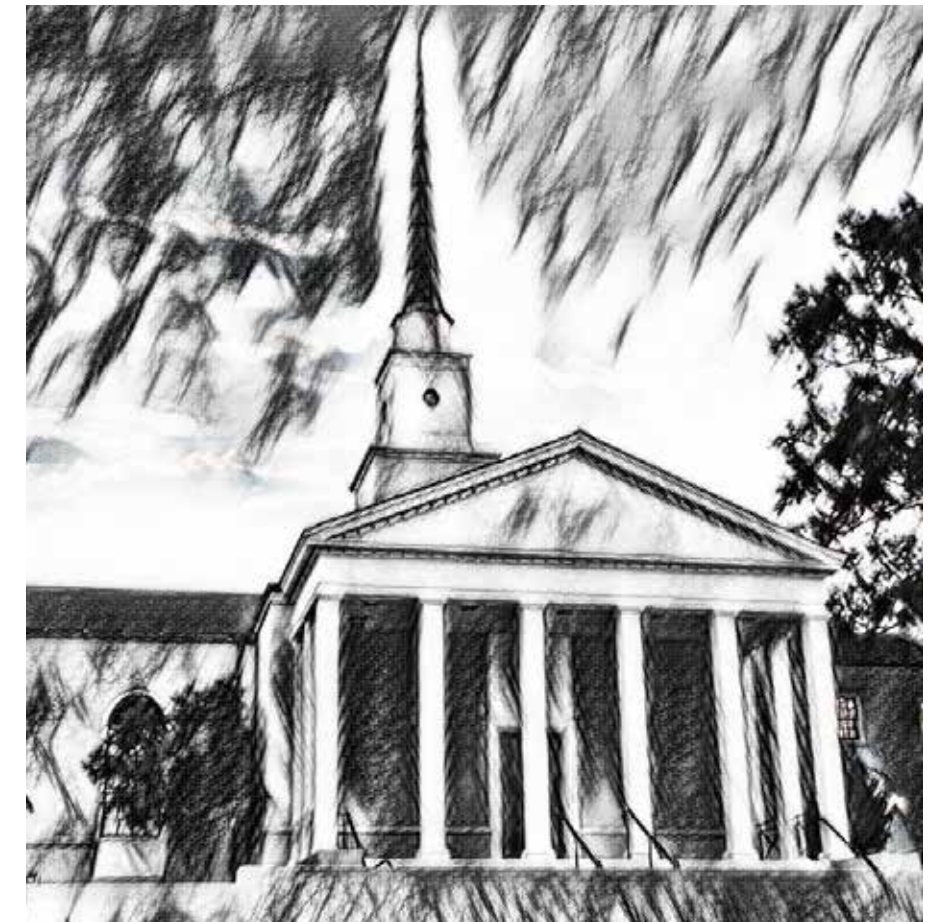


Independent Presbyterian Church

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 18, 2024

THE TWENTIETH 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:

O God, keep me faithful until the end. May I hold on even when strength is gone until the strength comes back again. May I fight even after I have lost, that defeat may be deceived and give place to victory. And when I fail altogether, may I find myself hurried forward once again by the Love that never fails.

from Beginning the Day by Henry 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.

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

FLOWER DEDICATION

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

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Calling all children of the Living God.
People: **Let us worship together, every age and every stage.**
Leader: The good news is proclaimed with crayons, pencils and keyboards.
People: **Let us worship together, every generation.**
Leader: We come together with different abilities, learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.
People: **Let us worship together, with our family of faith.**
Leader: All are welcome in the arms of Christ who proclaimed, “Let the children come!”
People: **Let us worship together, united in lifelong learning.**

Gathering Songs *“King of Kings”*
“Rising Sun”

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord Jesus, as you have come to us, let us now come to you. Our hearts are cold. Warm them with your selfless love. Our hearts are sinful. Cleanse them with your precious blood. Our hearts are weak. Strengthen them with your joyous Spirit. Our hearts are empty. Fill them with your divine presence. Lord Jesus, our hearts are yours. Possess them always and only for yourself. Amen. *St. Augustine*

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”*

Moment for Mission: East African Christian College. Betsy Holloway

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Sermon: Running the Rat Race

Blessing of the Backpacks

RESPONDING

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

Hymn *“All Creatures of Our God and King”*

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
- Song: *“Our Great God”*
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Closing Hymn *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

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.