

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OCTOBER 18, 2026 | 8:45 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to IPC!



FOUNDED IN 1915, Independent Presbyterian Church has long held a commitment to glorifying the triune God through worship, the use of beauty and the arts, and serving our community in Jesus' name. From the beginning, our founders sought to establish a church reflecting God's love for humanity and humanity's love for God.

Today, we continue this legacy by cultivating meaningful worship, nurturing our congregation to grow as disciples of Jesus, and engaging in acts of service that reflect Christ's command to love God and love our neighbors. Whether you are a life-long follower of Jesus, a new believer, or still curious, know that all are welcome here.

If this is your first visit, we look forward to meeting you and sharing more about the life of our church. All are invited to the Welcome Table in the Parlor following the service. To learn more about IPC or membership, please email us at membership@ipc-usa.org or visit the New to IPC page on our website.

Children are always welcome to worship with us in the Sanctuary. Materials to build a Worship Bag are in the Parlor before each service. Please replace the items when the service ends.

We are so grateful that you are here. Please sign the friendship pad located in the pew racks, so we know you are worshipping with us today.

*THE COVER features a 2018 acrylic painting of IPC's exterior by
McKenzie Kirk Brannon (1960–2025), a beloved friend of IPC whose spirit and
art touched the heart of Community Ministries for many years.*

The Gathering for Worship

We gather as a Family of Faith and prepare our hearts to worship God.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God, help me to control my thoughts. Fill my mind with high respondent things that the unclean and the unkind may find no place. Come, O Christ, take possession of Thy throne. Drive out the enemies of my soul. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE

"Choral Prelude on *Horbury*"

Alec Rowley

(Nearer, My God, to Thee)

The service of worship begins with the music of the organ. Through its power and brilliance may you feel the majesty and glory of God; in its quietness, His peace.

INTROIT

"*Draw Nigh to God*"

George Thalben-Ball

Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 63

Rev. Seamon

Minister: O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you, my soul thirsts for you.

People: My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Minister: So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

People: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

Minister: So, I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

People: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips; in the shadow of your wings, I will sing for joy.

❖ HYMN 463

"*How Firm a Foundation*"

FOUNDATION

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive my sins, O Lord. Forgive the sins of my youth and the sins of my age; the sins of my soul and the sins of my body; my secret and whispering sins; my presumptuous and crying sins; the sins I have done to please myself, and the sins I have done to please others. Forgive the sins which I know, and the sins which I know not. Forgive them, Lord. Forgive them all in your goodness and mercy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

❖ KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

❖ DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

❖ THE PEACE

Minister: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you."

❖ GLORIA PATRI (HYMN 581) "Glory Be to the Father" GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Long

MOMENT FOR MISSION: HARVEST FOR HUNGER

Fielder Hagan & Katherine Smith,
Crop Drop Co-Chairs

The Word

We listen for the word of God through scripture, music, and preaching.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:27-30

Pew Bible, N.T. pg. 5

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One”

Healey Willan

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear upon the earth. The time of singing of birds is come. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Song of Solomon 2:10-12

During the singing of this anthem, children kindergarten age and younger may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to the Ground Floor for childcare.

SERMON

“Seven Deadly Sins: Lust”

Rev. Long

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

The Response to the Word

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

❖ HYMN 707

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

HALL

❖ APOSTLES' CREED

Rev. Clayton

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

❖ PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

❖ THE DOXOLOGY (HYMN 606)

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

❖ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“O for a Closer Walk with God”

Grayston Ives

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav’nly frame; a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb. Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of rest, I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast. The dearest idol I have known, whate’er that idol be, help me to tear it from thy throne, and worship only thee. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame, so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

The Sending

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

❖ HYMN 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

William Mathias

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **Matthew Piers Ferriter.**

.....

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **1st Lt. Samuel J. Fisher, Jr.,**
B-17 Pilot, U.S. Army Air Corps; KIA July 8, 1944, over France.

Announcements

Special Sunday School Series

TODAY | *Sunday Mornings through Nov. 1 | 10:00 a.m. | Room 305*

Join us this morning for “The Gospel at Risk? Confessing the Faith Today,” a four-week series led by professors from Columbia Theological Seminary exploring the meaning and importance of our Creeds. We will examine whether the gospel is at risk today and how generations of Christians dealt with that issue in their time through confessional statements.

Harvest for Hunger Kick-Off

TODAY | *Sunday, Oct. 18–Sunday, Nov. 22*

Harvest for Hunger is IPC’s annual campaign to fill every available shelf in our Blessing Boxes and Weekend Buddy Bags room with food and hygiene items. Beginning this morning, you can pick up a Harvest for Hunger grocery bag at IPC. The list of needed items will be printed on the bag and available at ipc-usa.org. Please return filled bags by Sunday, Nov. 22, which is Harvest for Hunger Dedication Day.

IPC Crop Drop + Family Fun Finale

TODAY | *2:00 p.m. | IPC Parking Lot*

Kick off our annual Harvest for Hunger campaign and help bag sweet potatoes for neighbors facing food insecurity at IPC’s Annual Crop Drop from 2:00–4:00 p.m. Ages 5 and up are invited to serve, with preschool childcare provided. Families are invited to stay for our NEW! Family Fun Finale, featuring inflatables, Son’s Donuts, face painting, and more, which begins once all the potatoes are bagged. It’s also “Nice to Have You in Highland Park Day,” and we hope to welcome our Highland Park neighbors.

Following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we ask everyone to move vehicles from the large parking lot so we can prepare for this afternoon’s event. Parking will be available on the streets around the church and in the lot behind Highland Hall. Thank you for your help!

Living River Sunday

TODAY | *10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Living River*

Head out to Living River, a Retreat on the Cahaba, today for a family-friendly, free event that includes food, live music, and activities. Come and go or stay all day! All are welcome.

Announcements

Beer & Hymns

Monday, Oct. 19 | 7:00 p.m. | The Grocery, 2823 Central Ave., Homewood

Sing old-time hymns (and a few new ones) in a relaxed setting with good food and great company. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

When the Generations Meet: Caring for Aging Parents

Wednesday, Oct. 21 | 5:30 p.m. | GHI

Adults caring for aging parents while also supporting children, work, or other family responsibilities are invited 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.

Fall Family Social

Thursday, Oct. 22 | 5:30 p.m. | Back Forty

IPC Day School Families and Church Families are invited to bring your whole family for fellowship and fun! Please plan to purchase your family's dinner and drinks.

Volunteers Needed for Fall Fun Day

Saturday, Oct. 24 | Children's Fresh Air Farm

Help welcome Summer Learning Program campers back to the Farm for Fall Fun Day! IPC volunteers are needed for shifts between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to help make it a special day of fun for our campers. Let us know if you plan to attend at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Choral Service of Evensong

Sunday, Oct. 25 | 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Next Sunday the IPC Choir will be offering a Choral Service of Evensong with violinist Daniel Szasz, concertmaster of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Evensong is the Service of Evening Prayer by song, sung at the onset of evening to mark the close of day with gratitude, and to compose the mind and renew the spirit for the coming week. We take this time to rest in the Heart of God, to give thanks for our lives and our blessings.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, Oct. 27 | 11:30 a.m.

Join the Lunch Bunch for good food and fellowship at Kirkwood by the River. We will meet in the Café on the main level at

Announcements

11:30 a.m. This is a self-pay event. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page, so we will have an accurate headcount.

Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, Oct. 31

Join in for IPC's day of service with Habitat for Humanity. This build will take place in the Roebuck neighborhood. Let us know you are interested at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

November Organ Recital Series

Sunday Concerts | 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Mark your calendar for the 62nd Annual November Organ Recital Series. Enjoy free concerts on the first four Sundays in November. These programs are a gift to the community. Learn more at ipcmusic.org.

Provide & Serve Dinner at First Light

November 1-7 | First Light Shelter

Volunteer with your family or a group to provide evening meals for the women and children staying at First Light Shelter. Sign up at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Elementary Fall Retreat

Nov. 13-15 | Living River | K-6th Grade

All elementary-age children are invited to our Fall Retreat at Living River, a weekend to unplug, explore nature, and grow in faith and friendship. Whether it's your child's first retreat or they're a seasoned camper, they'll enjoy classic camp fun like bracelet-making, gaga ball, fishing, and more. NEW for 2026! All Kindergarteners attending must have a parent attend with them as a chaperone. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

Christmas Citrus Fruit Orders

Now through Nov. 22

Support the IPC Choir by purchasing fresh Christmas citrus fruit. Order forms are available around the church and from any choir member. You may also order online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

This Week at IPC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School Classes
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
2:00 P.M. Crop Drop + Family Finale, Parking Lot
3:45 P.M. Young Adult Bible Study, HH Patio
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, Highland Hall

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other *Presbyterian Women*, RM 304
- The Gospel at Risk? Confessing the Faith Today, *Adult Combined Classes*, RM 305
- Epistle to the Hebrews: Its Social and Cultural World, *Wonder Years*, RM 306
- The Book of Romans, *Reformed*, RM 309
- The Prayers of Henry Edmonds, *Bridges*, GH1
- No Youth Sunday School, *due to Camping Trip*
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floors
- Nursery (6 weeks–18 months), RM G05

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:00 A.M. Home for Faith, RM 305
NOON Bible Study with Lucy Turner, RM 304
1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308/309
5:30 P.M. Yoga, RM 301
6:00 P.M. Boy Scouts, Scout Hut
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307
7:00 P.M. Beer & Hymns, The Grocery

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:30 A.M. Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel
12:00 P.M. Tapestries, RM 217

1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 303
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 301
5:00 P.M. Joint Officer Dinner, Clubhouse on Highland

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:00 A.M. Yoga, RM 301
10:30 A.M. Women at the Well, RM 101
10:30 A.M. Caregiver Support Group, RM 304
10:30 A.M. Zoom Bible Study
1:00 P.M. Bridge, RM 308
3:00 P.M. Living After Loss Support Group, RM 304
5:30 P.M. Lakeview Al-Anon, RM 304
7:00 P.M. Lakeview AA, RM 307

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

5:00 P.M. The Upward Way, RM 305
5:00 P.M. Youth Grant Team, RM 101
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Dinner, Great Hall
5:30 P.M. When the Generations Meet: Caring for Aging Parents, GH1
5:30 P.M. Home for Faith, RM 105
5:30 P.M. KidsROCK, Ground & 1st Floors
6:00 P.M. Bible Study with the Pastor, RM 218
6:30 P.M. IPC Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

11:00 A.M. Knitting Ministry, RM 105
12:00 P.M. Bible Study with Rev. Clayton, RM 307
1:30 P.M. Mahjong, RM 308
5:30 P.M. Family Social, Back Forty

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

6:30 A.M. Bill Shanks Bible Study, GH2

To learn more about our upcoming events and to register for classes, please visit ipc-usa.org.

Prayer List

Copies of IPC's current prayer list are available in the Parlor and Narthex. Our Intercessory Prayer Group meets each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel to pray by name for those on the list. To submit a prayer request for a loved one, yourself, or any prayer need, please contact Connie Logan at clogan@ipc-usa.org.

Special Gifts Received

Kirkwood Funds: (*Chapel Fund*) In memory of Mrs. Grace Etheridge, (*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mrs. Patricia D. Bowles, Mr. William F. Edmonds, and Mrs. Lillian J. Sharp.

Music & Fine Arts: In memory of Elizabeth and Merrill Compton.

Give to IPC

Mail a Check:

Independent Presbyterian Church
3100 Highland Avenue S.,
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Give Online:

Scan to give in a secure, convenient format online.



Text to Give:

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

Thank You for Your Gifts:

Questions on how to give can be directed to Margaret Lane H. Wolff at mhollingsworth@ipc-usa.org.

Watch Online

We invite you to worship with us from wherever you are. Join the 11:00 a.m. livestream at [YouTube.com/@IPCBirmingham](https://www.YouTube.com/@IPCBirmingham)

Visiting IPC?

To learn more about joining IPC, email us at membership@ipc-usa.org or visit the New to IPC page on our website.

Harvest For Hunger

Annual Campaign

OCTOBER 18 - NOVEMBER 22

HARVEST FOR HUNGER

Harvest for Hunger is IPC's annual effort to fill every shelf in our food pantry with food and hygiene products to support our community members in need!

Our food pantry is stocked completely through donations, and we depend on the generosity and kindness of our church members and friends to keep our shelves filled.

Through your financial gifts, donations of supplies, and God's grace, our food ministry has been able to grow to support more individuals in need each year.

Let's join hearts and hands this holiday season to help provide for the more than 100,000 children and families who struggle with food insecurity in our area.

Donation bags can be found in the Parlor, Highland Hall, or the Community Ministries office (ground floor off of 31st Street South).

How to Give

Please return your filled bags to the Parlor or Community Ministries office by November 22, Harvest for Hunger Dedication Day.

Find IPC's Food Ministry Wish List by scanning the QR code on the next page or typing this link into your web browser:
<https://qrco.de/FoodNeeds>

Questions

Contact: Catherine Sager

Community Ministries Assistant
(205) 933-3725 | csager@ipc-usa.org

IPC Food Ministry Needs

*All nonperishable food items are accepted,
but our most needed items include:*

Food Items

- Microwaveable Chef Boyardee Cups
- Hearty Soup with pop-top
- Tuna, Vienna Sausages, Spam, Chicken
- Easy Mac cups
- Canned Vegetables
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned fruit and Fruit cups
- Packets of grits
- Breakfast and protein bars
- Snack crackers

Hygiene Items

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap
- Diapers
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Baby Wipes



SHOP ONLINE: Find IPC's Food Ministry Amazon Wish List and have your donations directly delivered to the church



GIVE ONLINE: Financially contribute to help fill the shelves of IPC's Food Pantry.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, *Associate Pastor, Congregational Care & Adult Ministries*

The Rev. David J. Seamon, *Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach*

Mr. Gregory Roberson, *Guest Organist and Member of the IPC Choir*

Acolytes:

(8:45 a.m.) Nathaniel Siegel, Caleb Siegel

(11:00 a.m.) Mabel Fleenor, Henry Fleenor, Charlie Smith

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir



I N D E P E N D E N T
P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

3100 Highland Avenue, South
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

PHONE: (205) 933-1830

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

ipc-usa.org