

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.

PLEASE KEEP OUR IPC MISSION TEAM IN YOUR PRAYERS as they travel to Mwandi, Zambia, August 1–11. Pray for safe travels, meaningful relationships, and that God would work through them as they serve alongside our ministry partners. Those traveling are Phil Collins, Callie Dukes, Susan Dukes, Tammy Johnson, Georgia Miller, Carol Smith, and Luke Zimmerman.

MWANDI MISSION TRIP DONATIONS: Help support our team traveling to Mwandi by donating much-needed school and educational supplies. Requested items include pens, pencils, crayons, felt-tip pens, Sharpies, stationery, glue, Blu Tack, and AA, AAA, and C batteries. The team also welcomes donations of gently used laptops for nursing students. Please bring donations by Wednesday, July 29, to allow time for packing before departure. Donations may be dropped off in Community Ministries on the ground floor. For questions, please contact Catherine Sager at csager@ipc-usa.org.

APPLY FOR THE 2026 YOUTH GRANT TEAM: Rising high school juniors and seniors are invited to apply for IPC's Youth Grant Team, a 12-week program focused on Christian philanthropy, leadership, and group decision-making. Team members will learn about the IPC Foundation, evaluate grant applications, and work together to award approximately \$20,000 to deserving nonprofit organizations. Applications are due by August 1. To learn more, contact Cammie Ashworth at cashworth@ipc-usa.org.

HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION: Each summer, we are reminded of the great difficulties facing some families that rely on school-provided meals and may now be struggling to meet this additional need. With your help, we can keep the Food Pantry stocked to support our friends and neighbors in need. For ideas on what to donate, contact Catherine Sager at csager@ipc-usa.org.

PLANNING FOR WHAT MATTERS: WILLS, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND THE WHAT-IFS: Whether you're starting from scratch or revisiting decisions you've already made, there's no better time than now to have a plan. Join IPC members and estate planning professionals Sheri Robinson and Jessica Grover on Sunday, August 23, at 11:00 a.m. in the Highland Hall Garage for a practical conversation about wills, medical and financial powers of attorney, common misconceptions, frequently used terms, and resources for next steps. Brunch will be provided, and childcare is available with registration. Please register 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
Pastor
kevin.long@ipc-usa.org

Rev. Susan A. Clayton
Associate Pastor, Congregational
Care and Adult Ministries
sclayton@ipc-usa.org

Rev. D. Nicole Newton
Associate Pastor, Discipleship
nnewton@ipc-usa.org

Rev. David J. Seamon
Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach
dseamon@ipc-usa.org

Cammie Ashworth
Director of Youth Ministries
cashworth@ipc-usa.org

Beth Middleton
Director of Children's Ministries
bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Susan Clayton, Associate
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



JULY 26, 2026

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Gathering Song “You Are My All in All”

Welcome

Opening Hymn “Be Thou My Vision”

Verse 1: Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Verse 2: Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Verse 3: Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

Verse 4: High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

We confess to you, O God, that we have not remembered you enough this week. We have gone our own ways without being mindful of your presence. We have sought our own welfare without thinking of others. We have neglected your kingdom for the pursuit of our own desires in this world. Forgive us, we pray and turn us again to the remembrance of things that matter. Let our commitment to you become fresh and strong again. In Jesus’ name. 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: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sermon: “Hidden in Plain Sight”

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: “To God Be the Glory”
- 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: “Fresh Wind”
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Closing Hymn “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Verse 1: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Verse 2: The name of Jesus charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
’Tis music in the sinner’s ears,
’Tis life, and health, and peace.

Verse 3: Christ speaks, and, listening to His voice,
New life the dead receive,
The mournful, waken to rejoice,
The poor in heart believe.

Verse 4: My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Verse 5: Glory to God, and praise and love
Be ever, ever given,
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heaven.

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.*