

Independent Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



Service for the Lord's Day

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 27, 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

Teach me, my Father, the ministry of gratitude. May I remember to be glad. Help me to brighten my life and lighten my load by praise. May repining for what I have not be lost in rejoicing for what I have. Give me a song to drive away my sigh. Amen.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE

"Pavane"

Robert Elmore

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

"O Praise God in His Holiness"

George Thalben-Ball

O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 84

Rev. Newton

Minister: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

People: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

Minister: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

People: No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Minister: O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

People: Let us worship the Lord our God!

❖ HYMN 321

"The Church's One Foundation"

AURELIA

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, forgive us for not being grateful for all that we have been given. Forgive us when we cannot celebrate the gifts, possessions and achievements of others but covet them for ourselves. Cleanse us of our insecurity and discontentment. Fill our hearts with gratitude for all the goodness, grace and love that we have received in your Son, Jesus Christ. In his 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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (8:45 A.M.)

Rev. Seamon

Audrey Parada Wheeler

❖ APOSTLES' CREED (8:45 A.M.)

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.

The Word

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mr. Tittle

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Kings 21:1-16

Pew Bible, O.T. pg. 257

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

ANTHEM

“O Sing unto the Lord”

Hans Leo Hassler

O sing unto the Lord, sing Him a new song: O sing unto the Lord, all the earth; O sing unto the Lord, blessing His holy name. Declare his glory in ev’ry nation, show forth His salvation from day to day; Declare His glory to the nations, and to all people now His marvelous glory.

Psalm 96:1-3

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: Envy”

Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

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

❖ HYMN 223

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

❖ APOSTLES’ CREED (11:00 A.M.)

Find the words to the Apostles’ Creed on the previous page.

❖ 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

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Nunc Dimittis” from *The Chichester Service*

Malcolm Archer

Willian Pereira da Silva, *Baritone*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation. Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles. And to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, glory be to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Luke 2:29-32

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Seamon

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 649

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

AMAZING GRACE

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

“Prelude on Hyfrydol”

Healey Willan

❖ *Rise in body or spirit.*

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **William Ennis Shanks, Jr.**

.....

The flowers on the War Memorial are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of **Don Herbert Maring, junior**, Captain, U.S. Army; WWII,
Pacific Theater; father of Sara Maring van Os and Lottie Maring Drennen.

Today's Baptism

Audrey Parada Wheeler, born March 14, 2026, daughter of Sallie & Ryan Wheeler,
sister of Sophie Phillips Wheeler and Hudson Perry Wheeler, granddaughter of
Jennifer & Mickey Thomas, Penny & Randy Wheeler, and Laurie & Jeff Grantham,
and great-granddaughter of Jacqueline Grantham.

Announcements

Choral Evensong

TODAY | 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

The IPC Choir will sing beautiful service music centered on themes of mercy, truth, and thanksgiving as we reflect on New Beginnings. Officiated by Rev. Nicole Newton, this special Evensong service offers a peaceful space for music, prayer, and reflection. Come worship with us as we rest in the Heart of God.

Grace Groups

TODAY | Sign-Up In the Parlor

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, so you can find a group that works for you. Sign up online at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page or in the Parlor.

Gaige's Bible Study

TODAY | 3:45 p.m. | Parlor

Join IPC's Young Adults for a study on the Book of Ecclesiastes for living wisdom on our life and labor each Sunday afternoon.

Announcements

This study will be led this fall by Gaige Tittle, IPC Seminary Intern.

Lunch Bunch: Magnolia Point

Tuesday, Sept. 29 | 11:30 a.m.

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. This is a self-pay event, but please register on the Sign Up Links page at ipc-usa.org.

456 Bible Retreat

Saturday, Oct. 3 | Children's Fresh Air Farm

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. for a day of learning, fellowship, and fun. 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.*

Special Sunday School Series

Oct. 11–Nov. 1 | 10:00 a.m. | Room 305

“The Gospel at Risk? Confessing the Faith Today” is 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.

IPC Youth Camping Trip

Saturday, Oct. 17–Sunday, Oct. 18 |

Living River

Grades 7–12 are invited to an overnight camping trip at Living River, our Presbytery's camp in Montevallo. Register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

IPC Crop Drop & Harvest for Hunger Kick-Off

Sunday, Oct. 18 | 2:00 p.m. | IPC Parking Lot

All ages 5 and up are invited to this family-friendly event from 2:00–4:00 p.m. 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

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.

This Week at IPC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:45 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School Classes
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
3:45 P.M. Young Adult Bible Study, Parlor
4:00 P.M. Choral Evensong, Sanctuary
5:00 P.M. Table Worship, Highland Hall
6:00 P.M. Youth Group, Garage

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M.

- United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other
Presbyterian Women, RM 304
- Digging Deeper in Our Faith Through the
Stories of the Old Testament, Presbyterian 101
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
- Youth Sunday School (7th-12th Grade), RM 101
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
(2K-6th Grade), Ground and 1st Floors
- Nursery (6 weeks–18 months), RM G05

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9:00 A.M. Home for Faith, RM 105
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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:30 A.M. Bridge, RM 309
11:00 A.M. Intercessory Prayer, Chapel

11:30 A.M. Lunch Bunch, Magnolia Point
1:30 P.M. Centering Prayer, RM 304
3:00 P.M. Chair Yoga, RM 301

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

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
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Dinner, Great Hall
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 1

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:00 A.M. 456 Retreat, Children's Fresh Air Farm

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. Carol E. Stephens.
(*Horizon Fund*) In memory of Mr. William F. Edmonds and Mr. Arthur M. Stephens.

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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, *Pastor*

The Rev. D. Nicole Newton, *Associate Pastor, Discipleship*

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

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*

Mr. Gaige Tittle, *Seminary Intern*

Acolytes:

(8:45 a.m.) Russell Chambliss, Charlotte Chambliss, Palmer Gregg

(11:00 a.m.) Lucy Polson, Charlie Smith, Molly Wykle

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Willian Pereira da Silva, *Baritone*



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