



IT WAS REALLY CHEESY

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## From the Archives...

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 14, 2026! We of Irvington Presbyterian Church will celebrate our 120th year of worship and prayer and loving one another!

Dr. Reinink will create a powerful worship service starting at 10am, then all will enjoy a gathering of food and fellowship and historical displays in Fellowship Hall.



On June 10, 1906, after receiving authorization from our Presbytery, 125 charter members met together at IPS George W. Julian School #57. And the IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH began! After that, they met in a tent, and at Carr's Hall at the corner of Ritter and Washington St. Finally our current land at 55 Julian Ave was purchased from Irvington's co-founder, Sylvester Johnson, and here we are!

Two historic pieces we have discovered already: The original worship service from June 10, 1906. And the most beautiful photo of Penni Jo Lewis for whom the Handbell Choir was named! (Thank you, Pat Lewis!)

The committee is off and running with 4 weeks to make Fellowship Hall out of this world. (In a Presbyterian way, of course.)

We are looking forward to celebrating together!

Your IPC historic geeks.....  
Frank Hurdis & Sheri Patterson

## A Dozen Decades...

It's impressive to think that it was one hundred and twenty years ago that our congregation came into existence in the auditorium of School #57. At these milestones, every church loves to tell its "from humble roots" story because it feels impressive to consider the journey a congregation has taken to get to where it is, right? Well, we will get plenty of those stories in the coming weeks, I'm sure, so let me share an angle on our history that I enjoyed recently while planning a worship service.

The Chartering Ceremony of a congregation is a service of worship, usually held in the community where the congregation anticipates worshipping, and is almost always a service that has plenty of pomp and circumstance, calling upon the Presbytery representatives and other local churches to participate in one way or another. Despite the personnel and significance that might prompt excitement about such an event, remember: most churches celebrate in places that are not churches and rarely in places conducive to a high and holy service of symbolism, religious ritual,



LIFT will not be gathering in June and July due to summer adventures and vacations with our group members. Please mark your calendar for Monday,

August 17th for our next gathering. More details will be coming in the August newsletter. Please feel free to contact Kathy Moorhead (317-430-3402) if you have any questions.



Summer camp is here! The church pays \$150 of the cost of summer camp for its members! If you or your child is registered for camp, please email Fox Alexander at [alexander@irvpresby.org](mailto:alexander@irvpresby.org) to let him know or use the QR code above. Please include the camper's name, the camp name, the dates they are attending, and the total cost of camp.

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and beautiful church-y-ness. It's in a park, or a gym, or a bar... Irvington Presbyterian Church's chartering took place in the auditorium of School #57. Glamorous? No. Conducive to a gathering? Definitely. And, in a manner that is true to the community of Irvington's personality, this community of artistic-leaning, big-dreaming, deeply passionate Presbyterians hosted a gathering worth remembering. The order of this service included twenty-three items, including—and I kid you not—six preachers preaching, five Elders installed, four well-known hymns, three long prayers, two soloists, and an anthem by the Butler Glee Club. The church historian, Emily McAdams, described it by saying, "If the length of the program at this organisation meeting was prophetic of the longevity of the Irvington Presbyterian Church, the Church has a great future."

What I love about this story is that it poses a wonderful counterpoint to the traditional "look how far we've come" narrative of a church's history. We have seen good and bad in this community, country, and world over these years. We have built and rebuilt. We have seen generations come, generations live, and generations pass away. But there is something... Unique? Quirky? Spicy? Special?... about Irvington Presbyterian Church that I see surfacing in little ways, week after week; in big ways, as I flip through chapter after chapter of our history; and in conversations with so many of you! There is a creativity and imagination that is always at work, simmering just below the surface. It's the ability, interest, and willingness to recognise that our community and we are uniquely gifted and specifically called to be here, together, for this season of life. This passion-driven, identity-bearing, creativity-led personality that shows up in Irvington and at Irvington Presbyterian Church is something I love, and it's something I love to see throughout our history!

God has given us a collective story to tell, made up of the many stories of our community and congregation. As we tell and retell the stories and experiences of those who went before us, we can begin to see the themes and overall direction God has been taking us. And just like the many very unique stories within the Bible collectively tell us about God's unending, relentless pursuit of God's beloved children (that's us!), if we consider our story—a story that weaves our collective creativity, intelligence, imagination, and love together in service to Irvington and the world—we can see how IPC, too, becomes another thread in that tapestry that proclaims God's love.

...A very passionate, beautiful, shiny thread.

Honoured to be part of this journey with you,

PS: Learn more about our history! Check out: [irvpc.link/history](http://irvpc.link/history)

## FOX ALEXANDER: INTERIM DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION!

You may have met him in choir, or heard the name uttered, associated with edible oddities and mouthwatering favourites alike. The Men's Bible Study knows him well, and the youth group has seen his friendly face pop in a few times—especially lately! This summer, Alexander has accepted the call to be the leader of youth to roller coasters and festivals; the coordinator of summertime Sunday School activities; the finder of fall faith formation festivities; and the one you can ask about all things Christian Education! He will be joining the ranks of the Christian Education Committee and is eager to experience the rhythms, traditions, excitement, and opportunities with us! Welcome, Alexander!



## IT WAS A "MACSTRAVAGANZA"

On Sunday, May 17th, cheese was in the air—from the dozen or so mac & cheese dishes expertly prepared for the camp scholarship fundraiser as well as from event emcee Cameron Harris' jokes. For a \$2 entry fee, connoisseurs of the pitch-in and cook-out staple were treated to several variations and were then invited to vote for their favorites with their dollars. The fundraiser gave a whole new meaning to "carb day" as the used sample cups stacked up and the crock pots emptied out. In the end, after the cheesy concoctions were all served, along with the equally cheesy jokes, the votes were tallied and the winners were named. The Stauffer Twins took the People's Choice Award for their ham-infused entry and Fox Alexander nabbed both the Most Creative Award for his dessert mac and was also crowned mac royalty by securing the most overall votes. Over \$800 was raised for the IPC Camp Scholarship fund, which awards scholarships for children, youth, and adults to attend camps or workshops that help to foster one's faith. It was a win for everyone! Thanks to everyone who helped set up and clean up, brought in mac & cheese entries, and contributed to the camp scholarship fund!



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

The first Sunday of June, in Fellowship Hall following worship, we will celebrate all June birthdays! We will have cake and other goodies! If we have omitted anyone's birthday, it may not be recorded in the church office. You can email Lori at [lchapman@irvpresby.org](mailto:lchapman@irvpresby.org) to inform her of your birthdate.

Harrison Studabaker 6/3  
Doug Shafer-Johnson 6/5  
Mathew Akoko 6/6  
John McColley 6/7  
Linda Medlock 6/8  
Craig Shaw 6/9  
Jenny Sonafrank 6/11  
J. Surgener Jr. 6/11  
Abigail Giddens 6/15

James Laslie 6/15  
Richard Pflanzler 6/16  
Barbara Ferling 6/17  
Adeline Parkinson 6/20  
Mary Dickman 6/21  
Karen Harding 6/21  
Kathy Moorhead 6/23  
Lance Alexander 6/24  
Donna Isom 6/24

Jeffery Laslie 6/24  
F. Watkins 6/25  
Barbara Wilkins 6/25  
Gwen Mann 6/27  
Peter Stockwell 6/27  
Tony Brozan 6/28  
Charles Ellison 6/28  
Keith Adams 6/30





The IPC Justice Advocacy Team will be hosting a Family Activity and Rest and Recovery Tent in the library lot during Irvington Pride on Saturday, June 27th. IPC is also helping to sponsor the event. Irvington Pride is a safe, community-based celebration where all are invited. Vendors, food trucks, wrestling matches, and other events are scheduled.

The Justice Advocates are in need of volunteers to help set up, host in the tent, and clean up. Watch for the opportunity to sign up coming in Friday emails and on the IPC website!

Thanks to the Choir and Bell Choir for expressing their musical talents this past year. You all have given both Joy and Comfort to many. We are looking forward to hearing your wonderful musical talents next year.

--H & E COMMITTEE



We would like to thank IPC's Director of Music, Doug Shafer-Johnson, and organists/accompanists Luke Kessler and DJ Smith.

IPC Chancel Choir and Penni J. Lewis Memorial Bell Choir members:

Fox Alexander  
Peter Stockwell  
Jenny Giddens  
Gary Conway  
Louise Owen  
Luke Kessler  
Jenny Sonafrank

Erika Hinshaw  
Ondrea McAulay  
Beth Hawks  
Mary Conway  
Arie Schreibman  
David Owen  
Taylor Schreibman

Patrick Wooden  
Steve Lewis  
Kristin Shaw  
John "Jack" Holmes  
Frank Alger  
Matt Wolf  
Lucas Shafer-Johnson



Join members of the IPC Justice Advocacy Team at Indy Pride! Some of us will be joining with our sibling Presbyterian congregations in walking the parade route while others of us will be meeting at the northeast corner of Massachusetts Avenue and East Street. Scan to QR code to sign up!



**JUNE YOUTH SCHEDULE**  
 Youth Group, June 7, 5:30-7:30 pm  
 Indy Pride, June 13  
 Youth Group, June 14, 5:30-7:30 pm  
 Youth Group, June 21, 5:30-7:30 pm  
 Irvington Pride, June 27  
No Youth Group, June 28  
 Kings Island Trip, June 29

**YOUR MUSICAL TALENTS ARE NEEDED!**

During the summer months, while the chancel and bell choirs take some time off, music remains a central part of our worship. This is where all of you musically talented members of IPC come in. You have the opportunity to share your musical gifts during worship. Instrumentals, solos, duets, trios, a full choir...all kinds of musical offerings are possible! Contact IPC Director of Music Doug Shafer-Johnson by email (dshafer-johnson@irvpresby.org) or by talking to him after an upcoming worship service if you would like to sign up for a date or have questions.

**MEN'S SOFTBALL!**

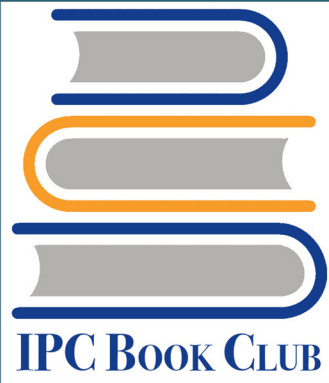
Anyone interested in playing, please contact Matt Harris at 317-979-5652 or mattharris1981@yahoo.com.

- Monday June 1st 6:15 p.m. Field #2 vs. Zion Lutheran
- Monday June 8th 6:15 p.m. Field #1 vs. Refuge
- Monday June 15th 7:30 p.m. Field #1 vs. Outlook
- Monday June 22nd 6:15 p.m. Field #2 vs. Fall Creek
- Monday June 29th 7:30 p.m. Field #2 vs. Post Road 1
- WEEK OF JULY 6 - NO GAME

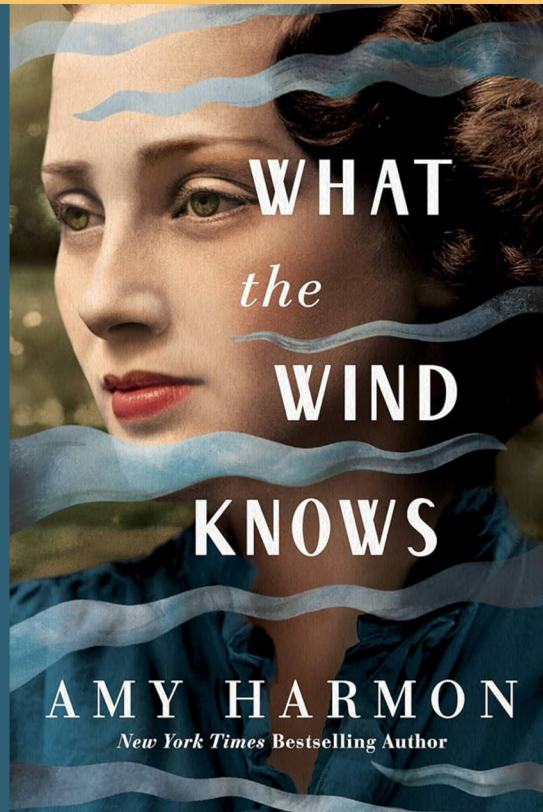
- Monday July 13th 6:15 p.m. Field #2 vs. Brookville Road 1
- Tuesday July 21st 6:15 p.m. Field #1 vs. Realife
- Tuesday July 28th 6:15pm Field #1 vs. People's Church

*All games are played at Heather Hills Baptist Church, 1421 N. German Church Road, Indianapolis, IN 46229.*





July 8<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 PM  
IPC Parlor



While scattering her grandfather's ashes in Ireland, Anne Gallagher is mysteriously transported back to 1921 during the Irish War of Independence. Mistaken for a long-lost woman, she is taken in by Dr. Thomas Smith, a physician tied to the Irish nationalist movement. As Anne becomes entangled in the dangerous fight for freedom, she falls in love and must decide where she belongs.

#### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian Sympathies are extended to Jason Reed and Michael Brocker on the death of Jason's father, Phil Reed.

Please keep Jason and Michael in prayer as they adjust to life without Jason's father.



## SAFE HARBOR

If you're interested in joining, please contact Pat Lewis at [pmclewis@yahoo.com](mailto:pmclewis@yahoo.com) or David Owen at [davidDPU81@yahoo.com](mailto:davidDPU81@yahoo.com).

- June 20th: Buck Creek Winery
- July 18th: Picnic/Hike/Ziplining

Everyone is welcome to join us at any of our upcoming 2026 events. Our activities usually take place on the third Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted. Upcoming events include duckpin bowling, attending a hockey game, and going to a play.

Thanks--David Owen

#### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the parlor at 10 a.m. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Steve Payne. All are welcome!

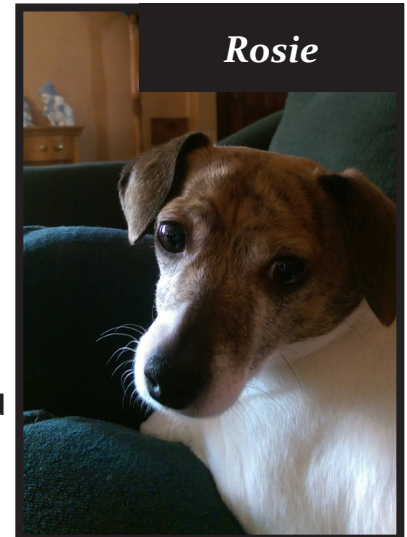
Alzheimer's Support Groups for Caregivers continue to take place here at Irvington monthly on the 2nd Tuesday in the parlor at 1 p.m.

[alz.org](http://alz.org) |  [alzheimer's association](http://alzheimer's association)



## Pawsitively Uplifting

Pretty much anyone who's ever had a pet knows the crushing feeling when our fur (or scaly, or many-legged, etc.) babies cross the Rainbow Bridge. About three and a half years ago, my family

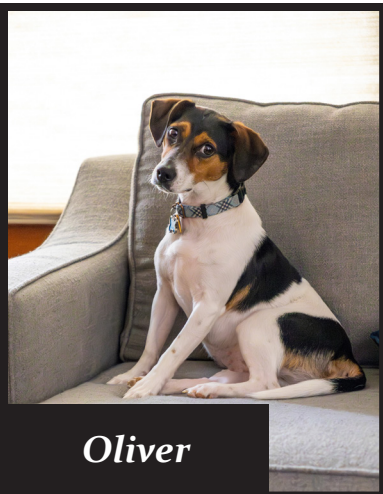


*Rosie*

faced an unexpected terminal diagnosis for Rosie, our 11 year old terrier mix. We chose to be with her when she was euthanized, employing Lap of Love to come to our home and gently administer the medications that eased her suffering while we held her, wrapped in her favorite blanket. It was a tough day and still makes me tear up when thinking about it. Rosie was much loved despite her sometimes anti-social behaviors (nail trimming was a nightmare and she absolutely hated other dogs and those pesky Irvington squirrels). For me, the quiet early mornings where she would wedge herself in the chair next to me while I drank a cup of coffee is how I like to remember our time together. Her absence stung, but for several months, we could not bring ourselves to contemplate beginning a search for a new companion. We told ourselves that when the time was right, we would know.

Six months or so later, we realized that we were ready to open ourselves up to the possibility of finding a pup to fill the hole in our hearts. We began looking at dog rescues online. It wasn't too long until Kristin found a rescue facility near Brazil, IN where a litter of terrier mix pups was nearing adoptable age. Kristin, Eli, and I trepidatiously arranged a time to go to the rescue to meet the pups. I think we each had identified a different littermate we were leaning towards based on the online photos.

The rescue had a huge fenced yard. Once we were safely inside the fence, the rescue director let slip the hounds and we were engulfed by a wave of five or six yipping, tripping, nipping furballs that moved en masse from one of us to another. With the exception of one pup. As the litter moved away from me to Kristin or Eli, this one pup rolled over, belly up at my feet, begging to be petted, wiggling with joy when



*Oliver*

I did so. The wave of the other pups returned to me, clamoring for the attention that the black and white with just a little brindling pup was getting from me. Satisfied with the attention, the pack again raced off to Eli or Kristin...except for that one pup who plopped himself down on my feet with his paws flailing, begging to have his belly scratched again. This happened once or twice more with that same pup sticking with me. There wasn't much of a decision at that point. I had been chosen by Oliver.

We filled out the paperwork, he got his last series of shots and microchipped, and we started our journey with Oliver. After a half an hour of crying and yowling, he finally settled down and fell asleep in the back seat next to Eli and then woke up to his new surroundings and family.

Oliver is now just shy of three years old. I'm not saying that it's all been easy. Oliver is an anxious dog with his own anti-social behaviors (nail trimmings and a few certain neighborhood canine nemeses) and he is aggressively affectionate, incessantly demanding pettings and scratchings, but he is ours. He came into our lives exactly when we needed him to. And he loves quiet early mornings curled up next to me while I drink my coffee.

--Craig Shaw

SEAL

SEAL

# Irvington Presbyterian Church

*The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

55 Johnson Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46219-6498

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## JACK'S O R N E R

### I AM THE VINE...

As I was standing in the Sanctuary looking towards the balcony, I noticed the green-looking vine. I wondered why that was there and what it meant. I found that it

was talked about in the Bible, John 15. This is where it says I am the vine and you are the

branches. He takes away the branches that do not bear fruit. The message emphasises that to bear fruit, one needs to live to stay connected to Jesus. As the branch can not bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine. I've looked at that vine for years and not really known what a powerful meaning it has. I'll bet many of you have looked at that vine and never really thought about it, and now, when you look at it...?

