



MEET MERP!

--PAGE 7



## DON'T BE AFRAID! I'VE GOT NEWS!

My family isn't much for talking on the phone. We never have been. What that means, however, is that when the phone rings with one of any number of familiar numbers in the 519 area code, I immediately break out in a sweat. I pause briefly and flash through all the potential reasons for the call – Birthdays? Births? Holidays? Illnesses? Funeral? ...How terrible is that? When my family calls, my gut reaction is to try to stay calm and find a quiet space to take the call.

While I haven't seen any terrifying creatures that could be described as being a "messenger of God" or an angel, it is reasonable to believe that seeing an angelic being would make my "caller ID fear" look like child's play. Throughout scripture, descriptions or references to angels appearing are followed immediately by one of two things: the witness being struck by fear, or the angel saying, "Do not be afraid." At the beginning of Jesus' story—with Mary before his birth and the shepherds upon his birth—and with the angel in the tomb, and even Jesus in those days following, the words are spoken again: "Do not be afraid!"

Don't fear! Fear causes us to pull back. Our response to fear is to recoil or run. Don't respond logically to what you are seeing and hearing; counter that reasonable and involuntary response with this reality check: Don't fear because what you are witnessing is sooo good, the earth is trembling at the news! Do not fear; the most terrible thing you could have witnessed did happen, but the next chapter of the story changes everything!

Don't fear because there is no time! Don't fear because you have work to do. Don't fear because this Good News is so good that it will make you jittery with excitement and respond irrationally with

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## From the Archives...

### A View From A Liturgist

WAIT. The Liturgist isn't from The Archives, right? Well, it feels that way at times for yours truly, but sitting in the "other chair" on the Chancel during Worship is fascinating!!

First, EVERYONE should volunteer to serve as Liturgist. Dr. Reinink does a great job of enlarging the Bulletin into 7 pages so that you know exactly when to sit down, stand up, and pray. Of course, he told me that during the hymn-singing, I should stand away from the microphone. Apparently he has been told about my singing quality. (*Editorial Note: the lectern and pulpit mics are both turned off during hymns!*)



The Chancel is such a lovely historic place! In 1928 Architect Merritt Harrison designed every piece for this worshipful area, as the Chancel reflects the symbolism in all of the sanctuary. First and foremost, it symbolizes the head of the cross.

Our physical cross on the altar certainly has a story to tell. The first one was plain in design and overlaid with gold. An Elder and a Scot, Mr. William Johnston, proclaimed it was NOT a Presbyterian Cross. Through the good work of several IPC men, the new cross was designed, the copper casting cost \$7.00, it weighs 14 pounds, and Mr. Johnston did the polishing. He then made a small oak box on

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joy when you realize what it means!  
Don't fear! Rather, respond! Get up  
and go tell others!

The Good News is that Jesus of  
Nazareth is the Son of God, conquered  
death, and, in so doing, blazed a new  
path for humanity to journey: a path  
that passes through the inevitable but  
continues beyond death and into life  
everlasting in the glory of God. Death is  
still inevitable for us, but it is anything  
but the end.

The Good News is that He Is Risen! He  
Is Risen, Indeed!

Blessed Eastertide, friends! May  
you find new life and resurrection in  
amazing ways this month!

*Pastor Jon*



*We thank God for the beauty and blessings of Spring!*

**Save the date!**

**Sunday, May 17th**

**Youth Sunday &**

**Mac & Cheese Cook-Off**

**Camp Scholarship Fundraiser**



Thank you for all of the "souper" support  
at the Irvington Community Lenten Soup  
Supper and Service on March 18th!

A huge helping of gratitude for those  
donating soup, bread, crackers, and  
desserts and an extra helping to those who  
set up, served, and cleaned up afterwards!



**U40? ...ish?**  
**Millennials, Gen Z,**  
**(even you young-at-**  
**heart Gen Xers!), we**  
**know you're there**  
**and we see you!**

**Text your name to**  
**Pastor Jon to get**  
**added to the list**  
**for some upcoming**  
**connection activities:**  
**(317) 352-7657.**

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which the cross rests. His gift.

Again, the stately chair in which the Liturgist sits was designed by Architect Harrison, as was the Minister's chair at the Pulpit. The family of IPC Elder Amos W. Butler donated the Liturgist's chair in his honor. An engraved brass plate is on the chair's back. In his professional life, Mr. Butler was the secretary of the State Board of Charities and Corrections. He was no relation to the Butler family of Butler University, also in Irvington 1875-1928.

Back to the future, 2026, and personal musings from the Chancel. How truly delightful to look into the children's smiling, often giggling, faces during the children's sermon. The future is bright!! Then, when the choir takes their places in the Chancel Loft, and Director Doug Schafer-Johnson sings beautifully seemingly close to my left ear.....it is truly a goose-bump experience!! Finally, prayers in this holy, quiet, space are moving and profound and truly personal!

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



# SOUL FOOD PROJECT

URBAN FARM

## RESCHEDULED!

## LIFT

Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm | IPC Parlor

L.I.F.T. invites everyone to the Parlor on April 20th to learn about the Indianapolis Soul Food Project's mission of building sustainable urban agricultural spaces and educating the community through demonstration, producing high-quality food, and fun.



Amber Quinn  
Public Ally/Farm Outreach  
Coordinator of Soul Food Project



Bring a friend along with a snack to share as we explore improving our own garden spaces and how to engage with this fantastic community resource!

### IN MEMORIAM

Dee Miller

(May 16, 1936 - March 9, 2026)

The Christian sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Deloris (Dee) Miller.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 12th, in Fellowship Hall following worship, we will celebrate all April 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 to inform her of your birthdate.

Barbara Broadlick	04/01	Eric Lewis	04/23
David Hansen	04/01	Martha McDonald	04/23
Nancy Farmer	04/03	Julie Pittman	04/24
Caroline Thompson	04/04	Christopher Traylor	04/25
Betsy Laslie	04/08	John Holmes	04/26
Erika Hinshaw	04/09	Emma Holzhausen	04/26
Jane Gough	04/11	Robert Lewis	04/26
Melitta Payne	04/13	Jackie Cox	04/28
Jean Anne Hedelius	04/20	Sophia Merida	04/29
Adilynn Traylor	04/21	Zachary Giddens	04/30
Nolan Lewis	04/22		

## The Constitution of the PC(USA)

In honor of sharing the wealth of information that our new officers received, Pastor Jon wanted to share some of those resources with everyone!

Have you ever wondered to yourself, “I wonder what the Book of Order says about...” Or if you have ever felt the desire to read through a terribly-dated-but-no-less-fascinating statement of faith from the pages of the history of the Protestant faith, you are in luck! Rather, God’s providence is upon you today! These are helpful links to have somewhere if you’re interested in doing some reading and research!

Part I: The Book of Confessions can be found at [irvpc.link/confessions](http://irvpc.link/confessions)

Part II: The Book of Order can be found at [irvpc.link/order](http://irvpc.link/order)

And if you’re more interested in having a giggle while learning about the fundamentals of our tradition, the perennial recommendation is The Presbyterian Handbook: Revised Edition published by Geneva Press.

If you’d like hard copies of any of these, reach out to the Office or Pastor Jon to see if they have copies to share.



## CHILDREN’S CHURCH UPDATE

With Easter wrapping up, we will be returning to the Spark curriculum in the coming weeks. We’re excited to continue learning and growing together through these lessons!

All of your children’s artwork is currently displayed in the C.E. office. They have been incredibly creative, so be sure to stop by and check out the wonderful artwork they’ve made.

A special thank you to Hannah for helping tirelessly in the littles’ classroom—your dedication and care make such a difference!

We are also continuing to learn Galatians 5:22. Ask your child if they have it memorized yet and see if they can say it for you at home!

Thank you for your continued support of our Children’s Church program.



*IPC Sunday School Artwork--The study of scripture paired with creating works of art helps to reinforce Sunday School lessons.*

## YOUTH NEWS

Our Youth Group continues to meet every Sunday from 5:30–7:30 PM, and it has been a great time of fellowship, games, and growing together in faith. As we finish the Lent schedule, we will continue to use our discussion time to discuss and expand on the weekly Sermon. using this time as an opportunity to reflect, ask questions, and deepen our understanding of what this time means for our walk with Christ.

Please note that we will not have Youth Group on Easter Sunday, so families can spend that time celebrating together.

We also want to encourage our youth to get involved in serving the church. One great way to do this is by helping in the Children's Church on Sunday mornings. It's a wonderful opportunity for our students to lead by example and support our younger kids.

Additionally, we are still seeking a few adult volunteers willing to support the Youth Ministry by attending the Youth Group once a month. Volunteers simply help by interacting with the youth, playing games, and sharing a meal. Your presence makes a meaningful difference in creating a welcoming and supportive environment.

As spring approaches, we will also begin looking for community volunteer opportunities for our youth so they can serve others and make a positive impact in our community. We will also be announcing our spring fundraiser to help offset some of the costs associated with summer camps.

Thank you for continuing to support and pray for our Youth Ministry!

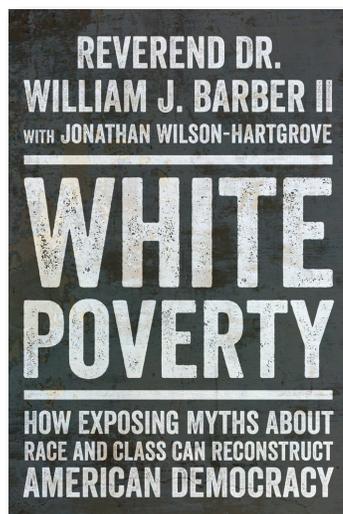
### Community Read and Discussion-May 12th and 19th White Poverty: How Exposing Myths About Race and Class Can Reconstruct American Democracy

The Justice Advocates of Irvington Presbyterian Church invite you to join us for a community read and two-part discussion of *White Poverty: How Exposing Myths About Race and Class Can Reconstruct American Democracy* by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove.

*White Poverty* was written to challenge the pervasive racialized myths of poverty in the United States and how those myths have been weaponized

to keep members of the adversely economically effected classes from forming bonds of solidarity to enact changes to a system that perpetuates scarcity of income, wealth, education, and resources. Barber and Wilson-Hartgrove contend that despite much of the public narrative being built to stigmatize poverty as primarily a racially-based issue, the majority of the impoverished class is composed of white people.

Rev. Dr. Barber emphasizes the need for "fusion politics" in the face of the divide and conquer strategies that have historically led to policies that are adverse to the majority of people: exorbitant healthcare costs, stagnant wages, high food costs, shredded social safety net programs, etc. By forming a coalition built on the lived commonalities of poverty that cut across racial divides, Barber hopes to create a movement that can challenge not only the perceptions of poverty but to transform the American political landscape and ensure economic justice for all.



The community discussions will be held on Tuesday, May 12th and Tuesday, May 19th from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Irvington Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library. Free copies of *White Poverty* are available in the IPC office and at the library. This title is also available in book, ebook, and audiobook formats through the library.



Irvington Presbyterian Church Justice Advocates

# HOW TO SPELL "PRESBYTERIAN"

a class for new members and those with questions



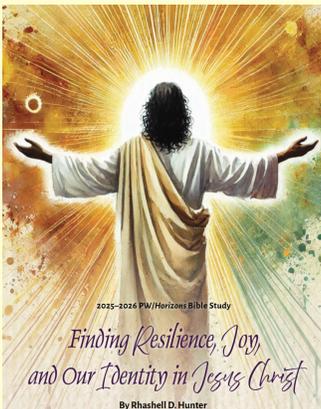
a crash course in our theology, history, & life together!

Classes on Sundays at 11:30— watch the bulletin or contact Pastor Jon for upcoming dates!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Christ

Unable to come on the 3rd Thursday to Bible Study?



Interested in hearing what we're learning together? You can join us! Contact the Office for the Zoom link to join us live, or watch the recordings at [irvpc.link/pwbiblestudies](http://irvpc.link/pwbiblestudies).



While the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir enjoy their summer break, June and July will see all kinds of soloists and small groups performing special music for anthems in worship. If you've ever been interested in offering up your musical talents in worship outside of the realm of choral singing or bell ringing, this is your sign!

I'm happy to meet with any musicians one-on-one to rehearse or assist in your musical ideas. Instrumental playing, solo singing, duets trios and quartets -- all kinds of musical performances are possible!

Talk to me (Doug Shafer-Johnson) in person or send me an email at [dshafer-johnson@irvpresby.org](mailto:dshafer-johnson@irvpresby.org) to inquire or discuss further details.

## 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**



## Pawsitively Uplifting

Merp is my beloved grand cat—a chatty beauty who we believe originally hails from Utah. She was found abandoned by Rebecca (Eli’s girlfriend), and because she was so friendly and clearly adored humans, it was obvious she had once been someone’s missing lovey. Sadly, no one ever claimed her, and she officially became

theirs. Eli and Rebecca made the trek back to Southern Utah to bring her home from the shelter to Logan, where she quickly settled into family life.



When Eli accepted his next role with the Forest Service in Washington and Rebecca hers in Oregon, and their new housing did not allow animals, Merp took to the skies and landed at Grammie Michelle’s house, where she has happily ruled for nearly two years. Anyone who meets her comments on her dog-like personality: she waits by the door, chats constantly, and prefers a warm lap over any other lounging option. Believed to be a Siberian, Merp loves drinking from faucets, supervising (and interrupting) work by walking across keyboards or snapping laptops shut, and soaking up the outdoors from the screen porch



or an open window. She’s cared for by a devoted village when Grammie is away—the Shaws, Alexander and Lance, Peter, and her niece and nephew. And her name? “Merp,” of course, comes from the unmistakable little sound she makes when she’s chatting you up.

--Michelle Eckert



One of the most frequently preached-on of Jesus’ miracles is the Wedding Feast at Cana where water is turned into wine. In this Biblical story, a common, everyday element--water--is transformed into wine to serve to thirsty wedding guests. Though maybe not on such a divine level as this, on Sunday, March 1st, Janet Wilzbacher, Donna Tindall, and Betty Thomas demonstrated how to turn an ubiquitous item in modern life--the plastic bag--into something useful--plarn. Plarn, aka plastic yarn, can easily be made following a few easy steps, rolled into a ball, and then used to make waterproof sleeping mats given to our unhoused neighbors. If you find yourself in possession of a plastic bag full of plastic bags after a shopping trip, instead of tossing them into the trash, bring them to IPC and toss them in the Bags to Mats bin in the Mission Nook outside of the Parlor.



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

### A BRIEF HISTORY.....

Ninety-seven years ago this March, our Church was dedicated to our Lord. There was a full week of programs leading up to the dedication on March 17, 1929. On March 15, 1929, our organ was dedicated with a concert

given by Ralph Morse Gerber of Chicago. He was one of the leading organists known in musical circles. Actually, the congregation worshiped for the first time on March 10. Tours were given of the Church from the gymnasium to the Sanctuary before and after the service. Monday evening was Community night, with messages of greeting from ministers from Downey Christian Church, Irvington Methodist, and Our Lady of Lourdes. Tuesday was Presbyterian night. Wednesday night was education night. Thursday was a fellowship dinner and youth night. Friday night was devoted to an organ recital. Sunday was the formal dedication with the address by Reverend Jonathon C. Day.

