

■ March 2021



MARCH 14, 2021
Don't forget to set your
clocks ahead an hour
before going to bed on
Saturday, March 13th!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Though Session has not yet determined whether the sanctuary will be reopened for attendance during Holy Week, we will most certainly observe the solemn nature of the week which concludes with the celebration of Easter.

Palm Sunday - March 28
Waving of Palm Branches

Maundy Thursday - April 1, 7 p.m.
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Easter Sunday - April 4
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP

Once again, the Irvington Association of Ministers will hold Lenten worship services each Wednesday night in Lent at 7 p.m. Each worship will be held live stream only, from IPC, Our Lady of Lourdes or Downey Avenue Christian Church.
Due to the pandemic, the soup suppers will not be held this year.

DATE
March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24

HOSTING CHURCH
IPC
Lourdes
Downey Ave.
Downey Ave.

PREACHING
Rev. Alan Blakeburn
Rev. Melody Merida
Father Rick Ginther
Rev. Courtenay Murakowski

Dear IPC Family,

Forgive me if I don't celebrate the latest anniversary on the calendar. It was Sunday, March 15, 2020 when we held our final restriction-free worship service followed by Monday the 16th and the shutdown of the country due to the pandemic. We are a year into this pandemic and I don't feel much like celebrating. I feel like lamenting the death of almost a half million Americans. I feel regret at missing a year of being together for worship and coffee hours and fellowship events. I feel exhausted from the mental strain of isolation. But to say "happy anniversary," I think not.

I am more inclined to say "thank you." Thank you to health care workers and teachers and parents and first responders who made sacrifices every day over the past 365 days. Thanks to everyone who checked on someone by phone or text, and thanks to everyone who mailed a note of care to someone. Thanks to everyone who kept supporting the church with their financial gifts. Thanks to everyone who wore a mask, and a special bonus thanks to everyone who wore a mask the correct way. Thanks to people who appreciated church leaders and staff members when they reinvented how-to-do church. Many more people deserve thank yous but like many things in life, you don't always get what you deserve.

But let me close with one other thank you. Thank you, God. We were scared and you comforted us. We were filled with despair and you gave us hope. We were lost but you found us. And even when we didn't want to watch live stream worship anymore, you gave us a comfy couch to make it easier. So, thank you.

Yes friends, it is an anniversary. Blah-blah. Let's move on.

In Christ,

Bob

OFFICER TRAINING

With the transition of officers in the church happening on April 1, training for new elders, deacons and trustees will be held on Tuesday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 23. Thank you to each person who said "Yes" when the Nominating Committee called.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The Christian sympathy of the congregation is extended to Janet Wilzbacher upon the death of her husband, Gerald Wilzbacher.

The Christian sympathy of the congregation is extended to Michelle Eckert upon the death of her aunt.

The Christian sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jodie Fogg upon the death of her husband, Rev. Bill Fogg.

Our sympathy goes out today to Elisa Griffin-Braun and her family upon the death of her brother.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Bill Fogg — February 12, 2021

ROBYN DICKERSCHIED RETIRES



After decades of faithful service teaching our youngest disciples, Ms. Robyn is stepping away from her post in the Rambler Room. Plans to honor and acknowledge this transition are underway. If you are willing to share a special memory of Robyn teaching you or your children, please let us know.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

MARCH

3/5--In person 5:30-7 pm Fellowship Hall

3/14--Zoom meeting 5:30pm

3/21--Youth Leading 10am Worship

APRIL

4/9--In person 5:30-7 pm Fellowship Hall

4/18--Zoom meeting 5:30pm

PYOCA SUMMER CAMP

Camp is back on this summer but with limited capacity in anticipation of continuing physical distancing requirements. Registration opened Feb. 8, so if you're interested, visit www.pyoca.org ASAP to sign up. Remember: IPC covers half the cost, so when you register, choose the payment option that works for your family and then only pay for half the cost. Be sure to let Carolyn know that your campers are registered so we can cover the rest!



FAITH AT HOME BOXES

We will likely be doing one more round of boxes this spring during the Easter season. If your family has not yet been getting them and would like to receive one, please email Carolyn at clesmeister@irvpresby.org.

I wish to express my gratitude with a huge 'Thank You' and a (virtual type) 'Hug' to my Church Family. The support and encouragement I received throughout 2020 during my husband's, Gerald, journey through the winter of his life provided so much strength to both of us.



MESSY CHURCH & HIKING

Warmer weather and decreasing covid-19 cases mean that we will hopefully be gathering in-person again for some fun faith-filled activities! Check for emails and announcements as the details take shape.



I've been a member of Irvington Presbyterian Church since childhood and the expression of caring and support from so many members was amazing and appreciated.

Only to mention a few: LIFT, Joanna Morse, Lois Dillon, Dee Miller, Lori Chapman, Linda Medlock, Kathy Moorhead, Shirley Sheeks, and Bob Heimach, the list goes on and on. A true loving example of the LORD's heart shared by My Church Family.

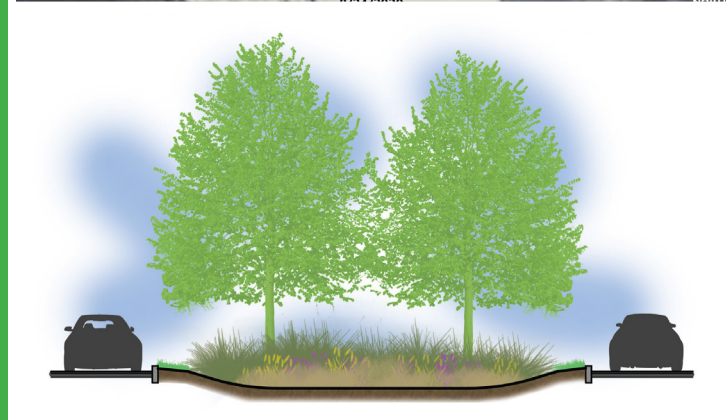
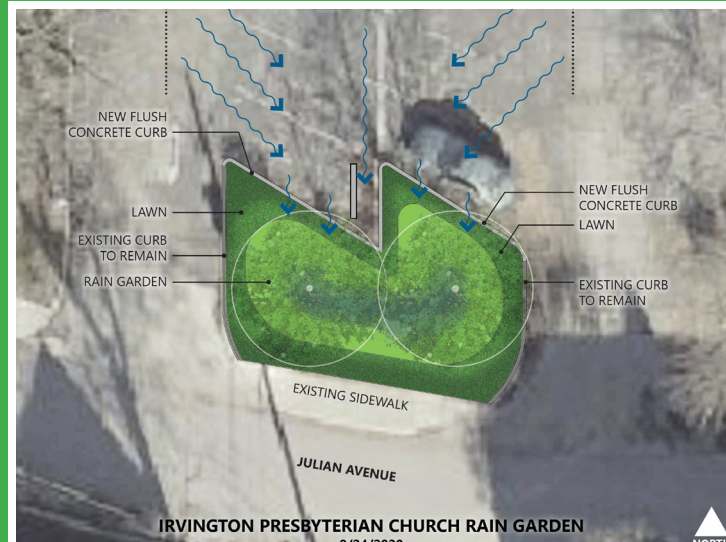
Gerald was of the Catholic faith but we supported each other in faiths throughout our time together. Thank you so much for the cards and calls that meant so much to us throughout the year.

May the Peace of Christ Be With You!

--Janet Wilzbacher

Rain Garden

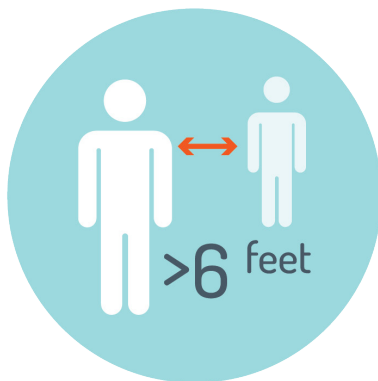
The Board of Trustees has approved a contractor to build a rain garden on the south edge of the parking lot alongside Julian Avenue. The garden will collect water from the parking lot, keeping it from draining onto the street. Session suggested this rain garden as an environmental effort to keep oils and chemicals from the asphalt from ending up in our waterways. Many thanks to IPC member, Pat Stout, who provided expert assistance in the design of the garden.



The rain garden will be funded from the Karl Dickerscheid bequest and will be known as the Karl Dickerscheid Memorial Rain Garden.

As Karl lived around the corner from the church and regularly walked to church, this garden will serve as a reminder of his love for the neighborhood and Irvington Presbyterian Church. A plaque located in the garden will be dedicated in Karl's name.





COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

Any Hoosier age 65 and older is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine in Indiana. To register go to ourshot.in.gov or call 211. If you or someone you know needs assistance registering to get the vaccine, there is help available. CICOA Aging & In-Home Services can assist anyone who doesn't have internet access or is unable to physically go to clinic. CICOA can help with scheduling a vaccine appointment and place homebound individuals on the EMT list to receive their vaccine in home. Feel free to contact CICOA at 317-803-6131 or www.cicoa.org. Help stop the pandemic by getting vaccinated.

What we know Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help us get back to normal. Learn more about the benefits of getting vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. It typically takes a few weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19. That means it is possible a person could still get COVID-19 just after vaccination. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

There are steps you can take to protect yourself until you can get vaccinated. Even after you get vaccinated it's important to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Even after vaccination, take steps to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. After being vaccinated continue to wear a mask, wash your hands and stay 6 feet apart. [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

SEAL

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JACK'S O R N E R

Jack Simpson, IPC member, explores the archives for stories of the church, its past members and other bits of interesting information and lore.

I sat down with Rev. Heimach and asked him how he prepares his sermons. He told me that after his Sunday sermon, he clears his mind of sermons until Tuesday. Then, on Tuesday morning he sits down and looks at the four scriptures of the universal lectionary (the three-year calendar of scriptures for each Sunday, made up of the Old and New Testaments, a Psalm and a Gospel.) He then picks which scripture he will base the sermon on, and he considers any current events that he might be able to tie into. On Wednesday he begins to work on the opening of the sermon. The opening is very important as it tries to capture the attention of the congregation. After he completes writing this introduction, he knows the direction the sermon will take.

Early Thursday morning, when the church is quiet, he writes for about 3 hours and finishes the heart of his sermon. As he writes, he speaks it out loud because a sermon is meant to be spoken. He says it must sound right, sentence by sentence, while lasting around 15 minutes long. It will be 90% done by noon.

He finishes writing it Friday morning. On Saturday evening, he tries to memorize it so he does not have to read it word for word. On Sunday morning he goes over it again at home and then gets to the church early, and goes over it again. His goal is to seek God's Word and provide meaning, while also holding the congregation's attention. He has done this for 34 years and is still finding new things with his preaching.

I asked, "Do you ever reuse old sermons?" and he answered "Never." I also asked if all the sermons he ever preached are kept at IPC. He said since computers, Yes, but before that time, No. He says sermons are relevant to a specific time and day, like food at a meal. Afterwards they are just leftovers and don't taste quite so good.