

Stewards of Our Story:
Preserving the Past...
...Preparing for the Future

IPC
STEWARDSHIP
--PAGE 3



Come worship with us at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday!

From the Archives...

“The Significance of the Small”

Our current IPC Stewardship Committee has been meeting and planning for the future. ‘An exciting time!!!! A look back certainly instills in all of us what a small group can accomplish with God’s guidance! Your IPC History Geeks have gathered several stories about STEWARDSHIP, and we encourage you to look at the variety of ways early members donated their gifts of time and talents.

The following actions were done before Jonathan C. Day, our first minister was called, and notice that the community rallied to help also.

-----Before the founding of IPC in 1906, we were invited to worship with the established Methodists and Downey Ave. Disciples of Christ in Irvington.

-----School 57 welcomed us to hold our first organizational meeting in their auditorium in 1906. At this meeting, the Butler College Glee Club (located in Irvington) gave of their services to sing for the glory of God during the program.

-----Noted in 1907, and before the little red brick church was built, members opened their homes for Session and other board meetings, donating food for the groups. Also, the Ladies Aid Society sewed aprons and quilts to sell, thus increasing the church’s meager balances.

-----“In the beginning the organizations were few and small in number, but they became an important part of church life” (1908)

-----Member George Thormeyer “gave freely his time and energy to the support of a church building and was largely responsible for a building program.” (1907-1908)

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THE ‘BOTH-AND’ GRATITUDE

I like to think that I’ve done pretty well trying to “blend in” with the culture over the years. But, y’all: once I start seeing the leaves changing color around the neighborhood, I can’t help myself but fall back into my Canadian ways...

Canadian Thanksgiving is neigh, and I can’t help myself but lean into the rhythms of my childhood. Always on a Monday and usually while the colorful leaf-viewing is at its prime, it is a season that naturally fell into one of gratitude, especially for farming families who are looking at the harvest and planning for the winter months. I recall this association between harvest and gratitude being so strong in our community that attendance at the Thanksgiving worship service was ranked as being more important than attending on Mother’s Day!

What is fascinating about practicing gratitude is the way it directs our vision. Gratitude is stirred when one considers something that has already passed. We thank someone for their act of kindness. We are grateful for the advances of modern medicine. We find gratitude arising as we consider the sacrifices our loved ones make for us. We are moved when we give thanks to God for the gift of salvation through Christ Jesus.

...and it’s that last statement that makes my next point: Gratitude is something that begins by looking at the past, and it stirs us to respond.

Gratitude prompts a response. We respond with thanksgiving—itself, by definition, an action. A grateful person is someone who is actively expressing their gratitude. And, what’s more, when

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-----Architect and member

Bennejah Weesner designed the little brick church and refused all payment for his work. When the Trustees insisted upon his accepting at least a partial fee, he turned the money back into the building fund.

-----By October, 1908 the financial situation seemed almost desperate even after securing a \$1500 loan from the Indiana National Bank who require each of the Trustees to endorse as an individual. With money still lacking, "The heart of a woman, a tavern keeper on the south side, was moved. I have never done anything for the Church." \$500 was forthcoming and that money was paid back with 6% interest by the end of a year.

Yes, in 2025, we know that donations of money are needed to maintain our Church building and programs. But just as important, our members' gifts of time and talents are crucial in the life of Irvington Presbyterian Church.

(All quoted material from the blue book, Irvington Presbyterian Church 1906-1956)

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

Continued from Page 1

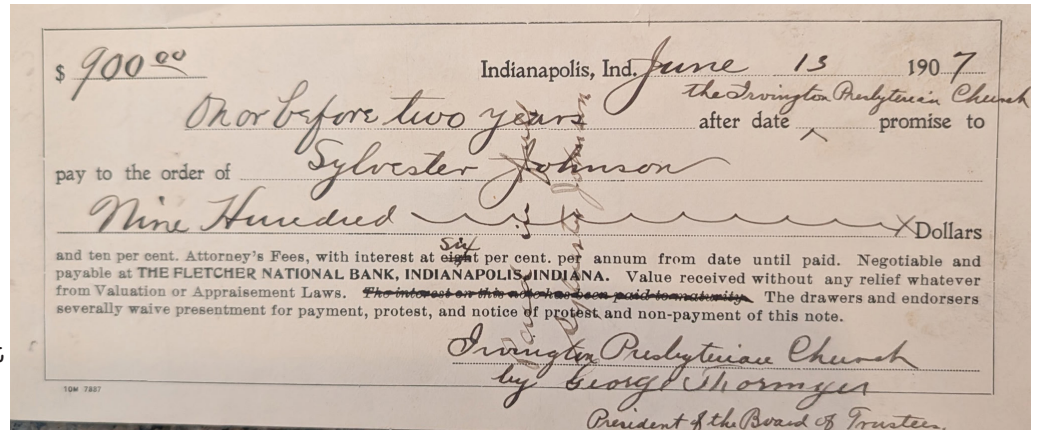
we see an expression of gratitude—that is, a present expression that was initially inspired by looking back—we, in turn, often feel inspired as well! Gratitude is an action that is both focused on the past and driving the present and future response.

As a congregation, we will be doing some of this work of gratitude as we approach the 2026 Stewardship season, but also as we move between Canadian and American Thanksgiving holidays. The stories of our collective past—the stories of IPC's earliest days; the building of this edifice during the roaring 20s; the difficult days of being a debt-laden church during the Great Depression; all the way to the shifts of social and societal norms during the 2020 Pandemic—our storied history serves as a way of remembering God's faithfulness, inspiring gratitude in us today, and propelling us into the work God continues to call us to fulfill.

Join me in being grateful! Consider what drove you to participate in the life of IPC and what the gratitude for that season, those people, that activity, this community might inspire you to do today to express it. When you're at fellowship hour after worship one of these Sundays, ask one another: What are you grateful for today? What about IPC stirs gratitude within you? And—very importantly—what does that gratitude move us to do or nudge us toward considering?

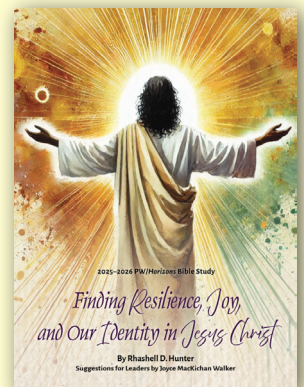
Get your gratitude attitude on, folks! And don't be shy about asking!

Grateful for you, my friends,

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All women are invited to Women's Bible Study, meeting on the third Thursdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor, lunch following at Jockamos. The Presbyterian Women's study is "Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ," topics that Dr. Jon will lead in meaningful discussion.



Living In Fellowship Together

CONVERSATION & FOOD WITH FRIENDS *Monday, October 20th at 6:30 p.m.*

It is time to meet with friends at Manley's Irish Mutt, 7041 E. 10th St. Women of all ages (21 and over at the Mutt) are always welcome. Why not bring a friend? We'll be enjoying dinner from their expansive menu. We will be collecting feminine hygiene products for Westminster.

It is always good to meet with friends, enjoy a meal (you do not cook), and just 'visit'. Please RSVP by October 17th to Jess Young at 317-670-9368 or jyoung27@iuhealth.org

As you may recall from September's newsletter, IPC will be celebrating the 120th anniversary of the creation of our congregation. I often wonder what motivated 126 people to come together to leave their home churches, the churches that they had grown up in, were baptized in, and married in, along with all the other life moments of a church family, to start something new. What were their hopes and dreams for this new church? When they came together to eventually build the little red brick church, I'm sure they had no inkling that they would eventually build the beautiful church home that we enjoy today.

Your Stewardship committee has been drawn to our "creation" story of 1906. Many of us have become part of this church family, not by birth but by choice. We have found peace in troubled times, joy in life's milestones, and comfort in our shared "church" home. We have sung hymns, prayed prayers, and worshipped together, along with frying fish and playing softball. We have rejoiced in babies' births and health "good news." We have cried together in the deaths of loved ones. The critical words here, to me, are "We have." We have come together to do the work that our Creator has called us to do.

Our season of Stewardship will begin on Sunday, October 26th. Plans are underway for a special moment about stewardship each Sunday. As a congregation, we will present our pledges on Stewardship Sunday, November 16th. Worship will be followed by our Thanksgiving Lunch. Watch for more details.

As we look toward 2026, what hopes and dreams do you have for yourself and your church family? How can we fully participate in the life of IPC? We all know that during this Stewardship season, we will be asked to make a financial pledge toward the work of the church, and this is essential. But new this year, you will also be asked to pledge your time, energy, and talents. How will you respond to this call? What hopes and dreams do you have for IPC that we can work together to achieve? We may not need to build a church building like they did 120 years ago, but we can certainly "build the church".

YOUR PLEDGES SUPPORT...

paying the salaries of the pastor and staff • keeping our building safe and welcoming • **COVERING UTILITIES AND UPKEEP** • **sustaining local and global missions** • providing Christian education for all ages • **opening our doors for community gatherings** • sponsoring youth and children's programs • offering pastoral care and counseling • *strengthening music and worship ministries* • providing resources for Bible study and spiritual growth • **extending help to those in need** • *advocating for justice and compassion in our world* • supporting food pantries and shelters • **NURTURING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** • **aiding disaster relief efforts** • **encouraging interfaith partnerships** • **maintaining technology for worship and outreach** • providing scholarships and sponsorships • **EQUIPING LEADERS FOR MINISTRY AND ENSURING OUR CHURCH CONTINUES TO BE A BEACON OF HOPE, SERVICE, AND LOVE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE WORLD!**



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY | OCTOBER 5

Following the Great War (WWI), there was a desire from within the Church to build stronger ties between the American Church and our siblings in Christ around the world. In an attempt to build up a sense of unity between the many flavors of Christianity in his city of Pittsburgh and to then associate that sentiment with followers of Christ around the world, Rev. Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr, then pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church, began sharing and promoting the idea in 1933. The denomination latched on in 1936, and the Federal Council of Churches endorsed World Communion Sunday in 1940. In recent decades, our denomination has woven the themes of the Sunday into the peace-related ministries of the Church, eventually becoming World Communion Sunday—the day we receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, one of the four churchwide Special Offerings of the PC(USA).

On Sunday, October 5th, we will come together in worship to celebrate the work of peace and promote the unity of the Church in all her forms, arrangements, sizes, locations, ages, and more. After we celebrate the Lord's Supper together, we will receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

**PURSUE
WHAT
MAKES
FOR
PEACE.**

Your gifts will directly support ministries of peacemaking and evangelism with 50% being distributed by the national staff toward our international and domestic peacemaking mission and ministry projects; 25% will help Whitewater Valley Presbytery in its peace-related work; and 25% will be directed by our Mission Committee to do the same here in Indianapolis. It is a beautiful image and example of how our relatively small contributions toward this important ministry joins together with 9,000 other congregations to have a massive impact in all corners of the world!

As Presbyterians, we claim that Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace who has shown us how to pattern our lives, imitating the compassion, kindness, and grace that is shown to us. This is one way that we can share it with others while celebrating our unity with our Presbyterian siblings around the country. May we joyfully bring peace to all we care for, love, and serve!

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® | alzheimer's  association

COATS FOR WESTMINSTER KIDS

The Mission Committee is once again collecting donations for our annual Coats for Westminster Kids drive. Each year, Indianapolis Presbyterian Church (IPC) has had the joy of providing warm winter coats for every child enrolled in the Westminster Neighborhood Services childcare program—usually

around 50 kids. With your help, we can do it again this year!

Please see Michelle Eckert or place your donation in the Sunday offering, marked "Westminster Coats."

Let's keep these children warm this winter!



WESTMINSTER
Neighborhood Services, Inc



**Saturday, October 11th,
from 8:00 to 9:30-10:00 a.m.
in the Church Parlor.**

**Please come to read, study, and
reflect using the Devotional Book
"Time Out for the Spirit." You can
find out more about this group from
Jackie Cox coxjackie3@gmail.com or
(317) 726-9142**

**SAVE THE DATE
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 16, 2025**

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group is in full swing after Rally Day! We've celebrated our 2025 graduates, and while our group is a little smaller this fall (so bring a friend!), we have plenty of exciting things planned.

Lock-In Update: Please note the new date—our Lock-In will be Friday, October 3, from 7 PM to Saturday, October 4, at 7 PM. The theme this year is "Light the Night."

In September, we kicked things off with a hay-ride, a board game relay, and—of course—lots of great food!

Stay connected by following us on Instagram for updates and photos: [@irvpresbyyouth](https://www.instagram.com/irvpresbyyouth).

If you're in grades 6–12, you're always welcome—come join the fun!

OCTOBER CALENDAR:

Friday, October 3 – Saturday, October 4:
Lock-In (date change!)

Sunday, October 5 | 5:30–7:30 PM: Youth Group

Sunday, October 12 | 5:30–7:30 PM: Youth Group

Saturday, October 18:

Wellness Fair – Youth Volunteers Needed

Sunday, October 19 | 5:30–7:30 PM: Youth Group

Sunday, October 26 | 5:30–7:30 PM: Youth Group

Trunk or Treat

**Sunday, October 26th
5:00–6:30 p.m.**

Irvington Presbyterian Church Parking Lot
(behind the Irvington Library)

All are welcome!



**55 Johnson Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
irvpresby.org**



Put on your
costumes and
bring your
trick-or-treat
bags for a scary
good time!



IRVINGTON HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL WELLNESS FAIR

IPC has partnered with the Irvington Halloween Festival Committee to host the 3rd Irvington Halloween Festival Wellness Fair on Saturday, October 18th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Our community partners are excited to return and provide services for our community. They include Community East Hospital, Jane Pauley Health Clinics, the Alzheimer's Association, ICAN, the Indianapolis Fire Department, Be Smart Gun Safety, Irvington Public Library, Overdose Lifeline, Irvington Arts Collective, 1st Chiro Chiropractic, and Versiti. We are pleased to welcome two new partners this year: Schroeder and Schroeder Dentistry, and the Soul Food Project/Urban Farm.

Our partners will offer screenings and education on diabetes, stroke prevention, cardiovascular health, wound care, maternity services (breastfeeding, safe sleep, doulas), cancer screening, knee health, mental health, nutrition, gun safety, overdose harm reduction, and more. We will also have a FREE flu clinic, blood glucose testing (fasting only), blood pressure checks, and HIV testing. Plus, there will be plenty of giveaways! Returning this year is the OTC/Prescription Drug Take-Back, an excellent opportunity to dispose of expired or no longer needed medications safely.

The fair will also have opportunities for you to learn about ways to connect with our community. The Irvington Arts Collective, ICAN, Soul Food Project, and Community East Hospital will have information on how you can become involved. You can also support our community by donating the life-giving gift of blood to the Versiti mobile unit.

And don't forget that we will also be holding drawings throughout the day for fire blankets, first aid kits, carbon monoxide detectors, and smoke detectors. I hope you agree we've got a lot to offer.



Irvington Halloween Festival Wellness Fair
HEALTHCARE SHOULDN'T BE SCARY!

PARTNERS: OVERDOSE LIFELINE
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL EAST JANE PAULEY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL/VAMPIRE RUN
INDIANAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIRO 1ST
BE SMART SECURE GUN STORAGE CHIROPRACTIC
IRVINGTON MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION IRVINGTON ARTS COLLECTIVE
IRVINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY INDY CYCLE SPECIALIST ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF GREATER INDIANA
SCHROEDER & SCHROEDER DENTISTRY SOUL FOOD PROJECT

Saturday, October 18th
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Irvington Presbyterian Church
55 JOHNSON AVE. (behind the Irvington Library)

Services: Flu Shots, Giveaways, Drawings for Prizes, Blood Drive, Screenings, Prescription & OTC Drug Take Back, HIV Testing, Fasting Blood Glucose Testing, Something for Everyone!

Boo!

Irvington Presbyterian Church Est. 1906



Saturday
October
18
9:00am-1:00pm

Irvington Wellness Fair Blood Drive

LOCATION
55 JOHNSON AVE INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46219
9:00AM - 1:00 PM

Every 2 seconds, someone needs blood.

A child with cancer. A mother in surgery. A crash victim. Your donation can save 3 lives. It's safe. It's simple. It matters. Don't wait for a tragedy.

PROMOTION Everyone who donates receives a t-shirt courtesy of Abbott and the Big Ten! Pick whatever Big Ten School you want! while supplies last.

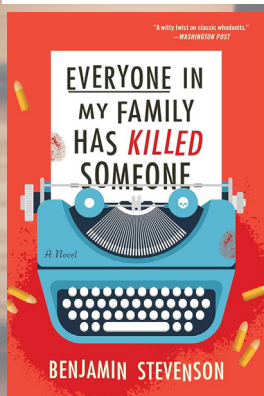
Scan the QR code to sign up.



versiti
Blood Center of Indiana

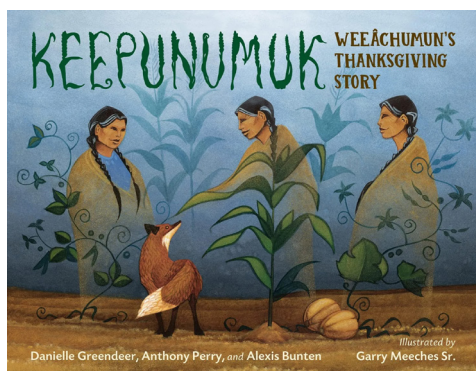
How can you help? We will need volunteers on the day of the Wellness Fair. Volunteer opportunities include working at the welcome table, being a runner, serving lunch, being on the clean-up crew, and more. We will be providing lunch for our community partners, so we will need individually wrapped cookies and brownies donated. IPC will be donating carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors to be prizes for the drawings held throughout the day of the fair. Please select a card from the Burning Bush in the Welcome Center to donate the funds to purchase a fire blanket.

Please join us at the Wellness Fair and invite your friends and neighbors. Our partners are eager to provide care in our community. Volunteer sign-ups will begin on Sunday, October 5th. Please mark your calendar now for Saturday, October 18th, for this exciting event. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of the Justice Advocacy Team.



Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone by Benjamin Stevenson will be the next book that the IPC Book Club will be discussing on Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00pm, in the IPC Parlor. Please bring a snack to share. This is the first book in the Ernest Cunningham Mysteries series. Ernest narrates as he attends a family reunion, where a murder occurs, and he must uncover the killer. The challenge is the killer is among his own family members, all of whom have a history of murder. The story unfolds with clever plotting, wit and humor. Please join in the fun as we discover the murderer in this "Whodunit."

The IPC Justice Advocacy Team and the Irvington Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library are partnering again to host our fifth Community Read event. The book to be shared is **Keepunumuk: WeeAchumun's**



Thanksgiving Story by Danielle Greendeer (Mashpee Wampanoag), Anthony Perry (Chickasaw), Alexis Buntun (Unangan/Yup'ik) and beautifully illustrated by Garry Meeches Sr. (Anishinaabe). Mark your calendars for November 10th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., when our own Ariel Lewis will lead us as we discover this children's book. Ariel is the Director of Roots & Wings Child Care. She shares that "This book is about the first Thanksgiving from the perspective of three Wampanoag sisters. It tells the story of newcomers coming to the land of the first people. It speaks of the language of the land, shared between first people, animals and plants. It speaks of helping the newcomers learn to care for the land they now share. It speaks of the very different stories we hear in schools. A great look at the holiday through a unique lens."

Free copies of **Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story** will be available at IPC and the Library. Come and travel back to the original Thanksgiving. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Justice Advocacy Team.

~~CENSORSHIP~~ is so 1984



READ FOR YOUR RIGHTS



Oct. 5–11, 2025

BannedBooksWeek.org
 @BannedBooksWeek
 @banned_books_week
 #BannedBooksWeek
 #CensorshipsSo1984

IPC's Justice Advocates will be hosting a Banned Book Booth on Sunday, October 5th in the Welcome Center. Stop by to test your knowledge of banned books, pick up a list of the most banned books and a bookmark, and check out the beginnings of a JAT-curated banned book lending library!



SEAL

SEAL

Irvington Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Indianapolis, IN 46219-6498

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JACK'S O R N E R

*This month's question for
Pastor Jon:*

WHEN IS JESUS COMING?

Well, according to a certain crowd, at some point in late September. ...as in, two weeks ago. Seeing as you're reading this, we can probably assume that they're wrong!

All we really have to go on is what we read in the Bible, right? The Gospel accounts of Jesus' words suggest that his return will be something we won't be able to miss (Matt. 24:27-31; Luke 21:34-36; John 5:28; and more), and it will be sudden—when it is least expected (Matt. 24:42,44; 25:13; 1 Thess 5:2; ...).

Paul included several references in his letters, but we can also track the slow realization he had on the subject, as his earlier writings feel more pressing and assume a return during his life, through until his latter writings, which suggest otherwise. We also have several apocalyptic literary references

about what those days will be like (famously, the Revelation to John of Patmos). Still, we need to remember, too, that those images are the visions and dreams of a man in exile who was using a particular style of literature to share prophecies to God's people using symbolic imagery. Which isn't to say that it could be real someday, but it is to say that there is a lot more potential for it to contain symbolism and metaphor than most of the rest of Scripture.

With that all said, I return to the beginning and offer these as my final responses to the question:

When is Jesus coming?

- 1) Don't worry about it because when it happens, you'll know; and
 - 2) Don't worry about it because no one knows the day or time. No one. Nope. Not even. No one.
- So don't worry about it! It's none of your business! God's got other stuff for you to be working on!

~JHR