

ROOTS AND WINGS
ARTWORK

--PAGES 6



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

“The Church’s State”

When I moved to the US in August 2010, I naïvely assumed it was going to be a very easy transition. On big things, it certainly was (English is just as tricky down here as it is up there!), but what really tripped me up were the cultural subtleties. For example, the “separation of Church and State” was a philosophy that sounded reasonable when I first learned about it. However, when discussions arose around President Obama’s church attendance that November, I began to question whether or not I understood by what was meant by “separation...” I thought I had figured it out until I attended my first annual congregational meeting at my church. The pastor had named the annual report *The State of the Church*. I accidentally referred to it as “The Church’s State.” Those are different statements.

In the spirit of lobbing a light-hearted joke in the face of this season’s political transition, budgetary assessments, and annual reporting, I might likely just run with that title to get some attention: *The Church’s State*. It’s that time of year when we prepare for the Annual General Meeting! That time of year when we assess the state of all the things in our congregation.

The Session is reviewing the final financial figures from 2024 in coming weeks and will propose an annual budget based on your pledging and their fiscal forecasting. Session and the Trustees will bring to you the reports and statements of the year, and we’ll look toward the vision for 2025 and what God is doing in our midst. And we’ll do all this keeping in mind the state of the other families and individuals with whom we stand; the state of Irvington and the joys and concerns of our neighborhood; the state of our state and nation as we participate in the peaceful transition of power; and the state of our neighbors and friends whose lives may be impacted by any one of those things. In that sense, assessing the state of our Church is also about evaluating the state of everything else.

Since IPC’s first days, our congregation has always been involved in the state of our community. It’s who we are. Think about it: this beautiful building was erected in 1928 at the corner of Julian and Johnson... Tall steeple, fresh limestone that almost glowed on sunny days, neo-gothic flourishes all around it, tell-tale stained-glass windows, artistically arranged slate tiles on the roof... There has never been any hesitation by those who laid eyes on the building at 55 Johnson Avenue. It is clearly a Church; a building where a community of faith worship. This magnificent edifice stands at the corner of two one-way streets, neither of which are major thoroughfares. So, if the beautiful building that clearly proclaims its purpose by its mere presence—that is, to worship God in a space that

IPC ENDOWMENT – Love Offering
Each year, on the Sunday closest to Valentine’s Day, the IPC Endowment collects an offering to help build the corpus of the fund. We call it the Love Offering as a reminder of the many gifts that have grown this fund out of the love of this church. You will find an offering envelope in this newsletter, and we invite you to take part in this offering during worship on Sunday, February 9th. Whether you contribute \$5 or \$500, your gift will serve this church in perpetuity.
Thank you for all your gifts!

The Irvington Presbyterian Bell

Expand they did. The little brick church was torn down so that the new immense building could be built on the same lot.

WRONG! The bell was disposed of in a junk pile somewhere in Irvington. An IPC member Mr. Jenkins found the bell, and donated it to the new church on the same lot at the corner of Johnson and Julian Avenues. The bell was installed on the roof of the bell tower above the west entrance at 55 Johnson Avenue.

Currently, the bell remains in the current tower, however, it is not functional at this time. Some will remember that in the past, the bell would sound in the three minutes prior to worship beginning, all would remain quiet in prayer, and the service would begin!!!

Frank Hurdis
and Sheri Patterson



**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.**

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THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to local artist William Lawson, who painted this beautiful view of our IPC bell tower. William can often be found around Irvington, capturing its scenic landscapes and charming homes. We are proud to display this piece in the Welcome Center throughout February.



SAFE HARBOR

What is Safe Harbor? We are a fellowship group of members and friends of IPC formed in the mid-80's by Associate Pastor Vince Alig. We normally get together on the third Saturday of the month to enjoy our time together in various activities. Those activities have varied over the years including gathering at someone's home for snacks and a game night; attending plays or musicals; attempting a scavenger hunt; a weekend of camping in Brown County; and movie or dinner nights. Watch for our upcoming activities in the church publications. If you would like more information, contact David Owen, daviddpu81@yahoo.com. Come join us any time!

SAVE THE DATE

**Westminster Neighborhood Services
Food Fight
March 7, 2025
More information coming soon!**



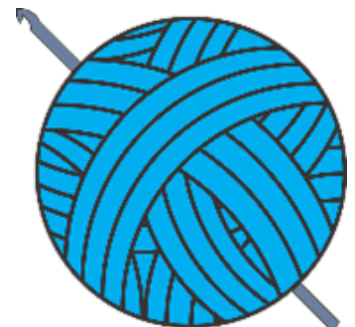
Living
In
Fellowship
Together

CROCHETING WITH ERIKA

Monday, February 17th

Have you always wanted to try your hand at crocheting or would like a refresher? Our very own, Erika Hinshaw, will lead us in the basics of crochet. If you are an experienced crocheter, please join us to share your knowledge. Some crochet hooks and yarn will be available but please feel free to bring your own hook and skein of yarn. We will gather on Monday, February 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor.

Women of all ages are welcome and please feel free to invite a friend to join us. Mark this date on your calendar for a fun evening of fellowship together. Please bring a snack or beverage to share. We will be collecting feminine hygiene products for Westminster. Please contact Kathy Moorhead (317-430-3402) if you have any questions and please RSVP so Erika has a count for the supplies needed.



Continued from Page 1

is entirely intended to facilitate that worship—is not meant to draw in curious passers-by; if it was not designed to demonstrate its dominance over any other state or academic building nearby with a slightly-taller steeple or barely-louder bell... then why is it where it is? What was the purpose of this beautiful Bedford-limestone behemoth?

IPC is a congregation that is entirely, utterly, and always a congregation that lives, leads, and models a worshipful Christian lifestyle amidst the community of Irvington. We are a family of faith that is woven into the life of the community around us!

From the neo-gothic beauty that unapologetically proclaims its purpose and function while remaining humbly tucked behind our local library and off the main roads;

to the ageless sacred music choirs craft in hallowed halls;

to the holy harmony of a chorus of laughter shared by age-old neighbors the Fellowship Hall;

to the diversity of arts, education, religious, and community program that call it “home;”



Irvington Presbyterian Church was, is, and seeks to be

a faith-filled member of this community

and a faithful model of God’s love to all

who notice us,

to all who keep a watchful eye on us,

to all who walk beside us,

and to all who feel called to join us.

The annual report will be shared with you soon, and the annual meeting is just around the corner. We will gather as a church to state the state of our church. And (lest I have too much fun with this) we will gather—as it relates to the mandates of our Church and the State—we will facilitate the debate of the church’s physical state and fiscal estate; to consecrate the nominated slate of elders, trustees, and the diaconate; and to appreciate the general state of our family of faith: The State of the Church. (I just can’t wait!)

GRATEfully,

During February, we not only observe Presidents Day we also celebrate the contributions of African Americans. In 1926, Carter G. Woodson founded the first Negro History Week. The historian launched The Journal of African American History, one of the earliest journals that published African American research and history. We celebrate these contributions in February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Mr. Frederick Douglass, two individuals that serve as examples of leaders that worked for freedom. In 1976, President Gerald Ford declared that honoring the contributions of black Americans would be observed for the entire month.

Below you will find a link to the Hoosier Black Excellence Series. This YouTube series highlights 33 Hoosiers and their contributions to Indiana and the world. Please take a moment during February to learn more about the outstanding work of these proud African Americans.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoM3lWWSp3Kv7ok-TCjbTtUB3HSU44QVf>



HORIZON

Thanks to many who donated items to Horizon House during this past year. We will continue to collect items for this next year. Horizon House continues to need Clothing items. We will continue to collect Jackets, Cots, Hats and Gloves. The Horizon House is still in need for Socks, shoes, and boots. Can you imagine not having UNDERWEAR? We will be collecting NEW men and women's underwear. Horizon House has a room that individuals are able to keep clothing for themselves in suitcases, duffle and bags. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUITCASES AND/OR DUFFLE BAGS THAT YOU CAN DONATE? We will get any and all of these items listed down to Horizon House. Any questions please contact Jackie Cox, Coxjackie3@gmail.com or 317-726-9142.



ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday (2/5)

Services at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Irvington Churches' Lenten Services

- 3/12 at IPC (Heads up for H&E)
- 3/19 at IUMC
- 3/26 at Gethsemane
- 4/2 at Downey
- 4/9 at OLL



ASH WEDNESDAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school classes are filled with eager young hearts, and we need your love and energy to help them grow! In the new year we invite you to volunteer with our Christian Education department.

Teaching Sunday school is about sharing life, hope, and faith across generations. You're making a lasting impact that blesses the children and your heart.

Whether you love storytelling, crafts, or simply nurturing young minds, there's a place for you here. Your time is a blessing to our families, and we can't do it without you.

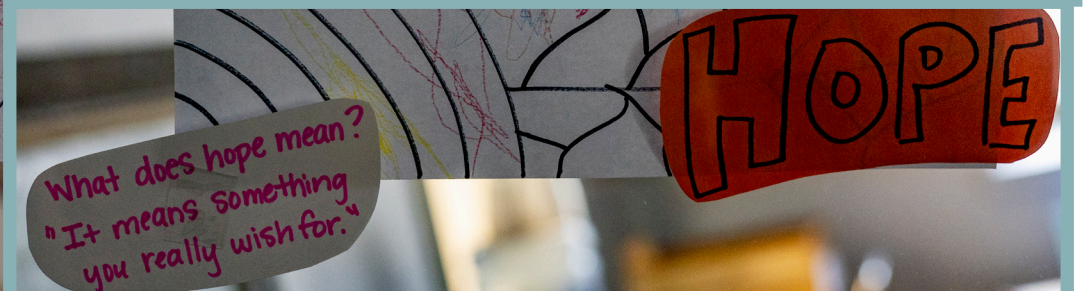
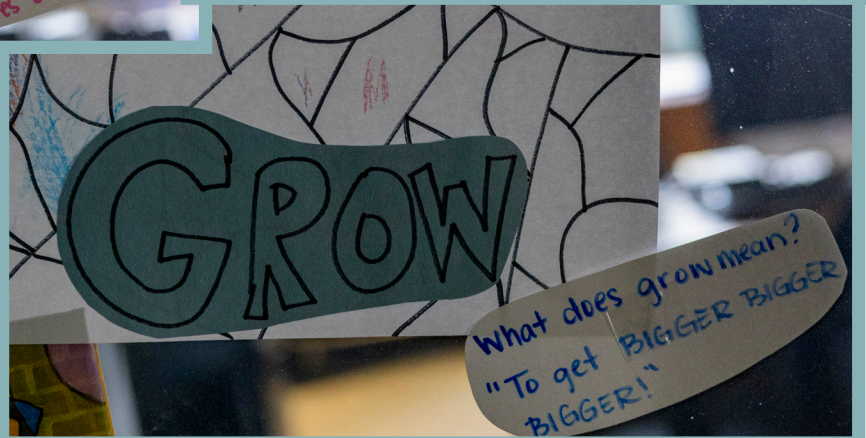
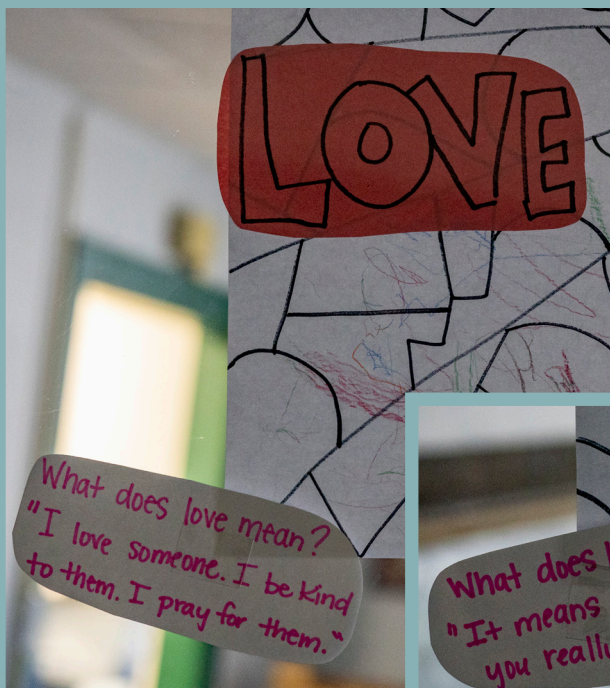
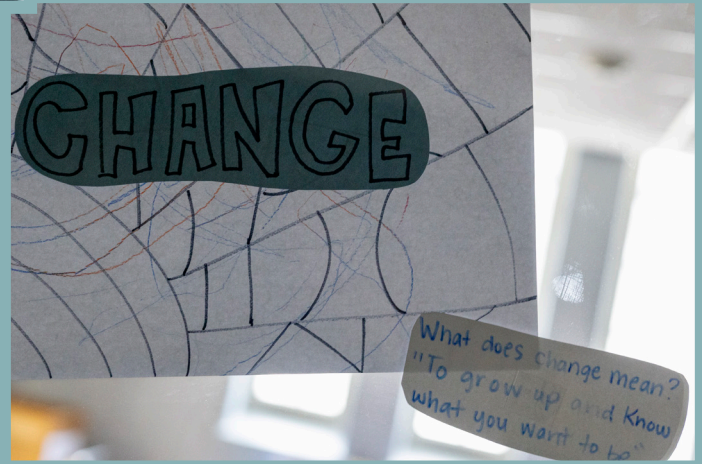
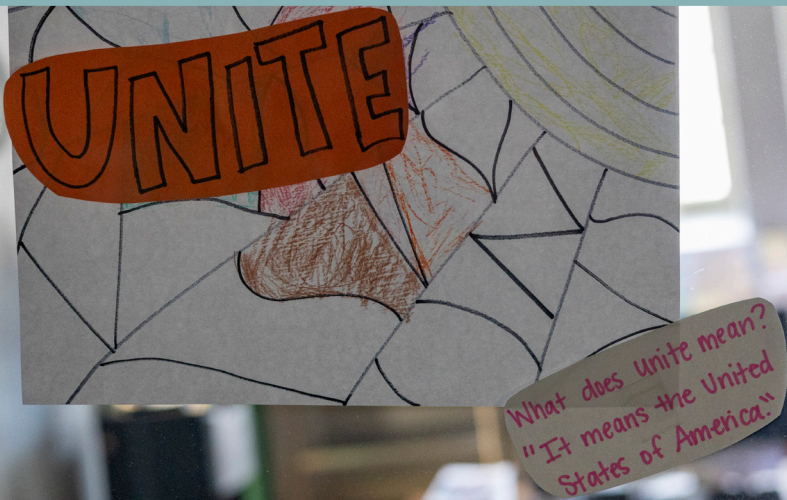
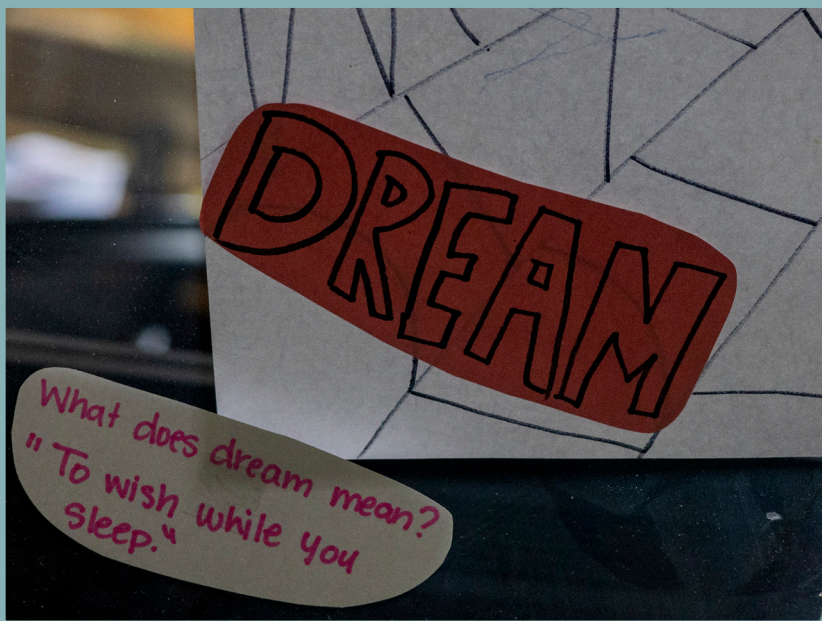
If you're ready to help or want to learn more, reach out to Pastor Maureen at mwilson@irvpresby.org.

ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, February 23rd, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following worship. Items of business to be considered include a review of the Annual Report, the 2025 Budget, terms of call, and a report from the Nominating Committee will be heard. All members of the church are invited to remain in the pews and take part in the meeting.



Roots and Wings students recently heard and talked about "Change Sings" by Amanda Gorman. They created artwork based on what they learned.



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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Please join us the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor for the Women's Bible Study. This Bible study is led by Rev. Wilson. All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, March

4th 6:00-7:30

Fat Tuesday

Pancake

Dinner

Mission

Trip

Fundraiser



YOUTH NEWS

Stay updated with our latest events and photos by following us on Instagram @irvpresbyyouth.

If you are in 6th-12th grade, we can't wait to see you at our upcoming activities!

February 2: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Group

February 9: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Group

February 16: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Group

February 23: 5:30-7:30p.m. Youth Group



A BIG thank you to everyone who helped with the "Unhanging of the Greens". We were so quick that we did not get a group picture. We were done in record time. Again, thank you to everyone.



SEAL

SEAL

Irvington Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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JACK'S O R N E R

Q: Matthew 24:35-36 says, "Heaven and earth will pass away... But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels... Nor the Son, only the Father." But isn't Heaven eternal? How will it pass away? And

aren't the Father and Son two-thirds of the Triune God? If they are One God, how can one know something the other does not?

A: When Jesus says Heaven and Earth will pass away, he's saying it to emphasize the importance of what he's teaching. He's effectively saying, "Everything will come and go; all time will pass; earth and heaven will be gone; eternity will have ended; and even then, what I am teaching you will still be true and worthy of practicing.

Similarly, he's using a kind of hyperbole when he says that no one knows when the end of time will come. He may not have known when the end will come—he was solidly embodying his "human era," if you will—but the emphasis of his teaching was about how we'll know when the end is near. The teaching? "No one will know! Not even the Son of God who stands in your midst!" He was saying it for emphasis.

Though, you ask an important question! We do believe that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are uniquely three persons and yet perfectly united as One God: a mystery of our faith. How does that work, in terms of knowing and not knowing things? That, too, is a mystery of our faith!

