



IMAGES OF
THE SEASON
--PAGE 5



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

WHERE WILL YOU BE IN 2031?

“Never count your chickens before they hatch!” That phrase was one that was uttered often growing up on a chicken farm, but it is one that has helped me keep myself in check when I start getting excited about something that isn’t quite fully incubated. As with most clichés, however, there’s an alternate side to that: if you never count the eggs, you won’t know how big to build the hen house! Without a plan or dream that is rooted in possibility, how could you ever get ahead?

So, my friends, I’m asking for your help in counting the eggs, imagining what possibilities are incubating, and dreaming what could be possible with what might hatch! Don’t worry, there will be no fowl activity involved! (I won’t even pretend like that’s the end of my chicken jokes...)

Over the next few weeks, you will start seeing some prompts around the Church, in bulletins and pews, etc.. They will be the beginning of a dream or a story that you might tell about IPC except they will be stories you will tell in 2031 – at our church’s 125th anniversary (our quasiquicentennial).

You may think this all sounds vaguely familiar, and that may be due to IPC’s pre-pandemic consultant who came and offered some potential storylines that were meant to help us imagine the possibilities for our church. We are a different Church doing some different things in a new world now. It only makes sense to do some dreaming and imagine what is possible in this time of our Church’s life.

Why are we doing this? Because Session is interested in getting feedback and input from you! What dreams do you have? What is God doing in your life and how is God moving in your heart that might resonate with others? Everyone’s ideas will be compiled and reviewed, highlighting creative ideas, repeated themes, unforeseen similarities or obvious trends... Your ideas and stories will help inform the Elders as they continue shaping the

Continued on Page 2

From the Archives...

SUPER STEWARDS

Over fifty years ago, PENNI J. LEWIS created the sweet Christmas tree skirt that we joyfully use under the mitten tree every year since.

Penni’s name is so well-known in our Irvington Presbyterian Church. Sadly, as a young girl, she passed after Christmas 1975, and the following year our IPC Session created the Penni J. Lewis Memorial Fund for the purpose of purchasing our first set of handbells. Currently, whenever our talented musicians play the handbells, you will see Penni’s name in the bulletin as an honor and memorial to her.

Daughter of Robert and Joan Lewis, and sister to siblings Steve, Becky and Eric Lewis. The Lewis family has contributed to, and continues to make IPC even better! Great Stewards. Brother Steve is a Trustee, and you will have seen him standing on the three-story scaffold on the

Continued on Page 2



Continued from Page 1

Chancel as Trustees replaced the lights recently! He also continues to play in the handbell choir, the very ones named for his sister Penni.

Our article started with a sweet little tree skirt, and an excited young girl who wanted to give to her church! Here in 2026, each of us has pledged to be super Stewards of IPC. Sometimes it is bringing food for Fellowship, or serving on a committee, or simply coming to church and singing loudly each week...and laughing at Dr. Reinink's humor in his sermon!!!

In our past, it was a sweet little tree skirt made for and given to IPC that continues to be loved today!! Thank you, Penni.

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

Continued from Page 1

activities and programs that IPC uses to fulfill our calling to serve Christ and the world. We plan to review everyone's submissions in late February, so you'll only have a few weeks!

You'll find some of the prompts around the Church, but here are some things that may help get your imagination moving:

Where might you be in 2031? What do you imagine your connection to IPC might be? Will you be able to volunteer or join some committee work? Could you be empty-nesting or grand-babysitting? What legacy would you want to have lingering of you in this place?

Think of something IPC has or does that meets a need. If IPC poured all its energy into that, what could be possible in 7 years? What would the Church building look like? Who would be here? And when?

Or imagine the Church was given \$5 million by a generous donor who said that it needed to be used by the Church within 7 years to help it serve more of Irvington or Indianapolis AND that YOU had to choose how to spend it. What would you suggest we do?

What is something that the church could do but would be crazy to try? What is the risk? And what could be the reward?

Some simple examples: Irvington needs a grocery store. What would happen if IPC used our parking lot to build a grocery store and used any profits to pay for groceries for those in need in our neighborhood?

What would happen if we removed the 3rd floor and un-renovated it into a gym—or transformed it into a space for large group gatherings or community events or concerts?

What is the craziest thing the Church could do that would stop people in their tracks and make them think, "Wow, they are gutsy, but they certainly love Jesus!"

This is just to get the creative juices flowing, friends, so don't be apprehensive or worried; let the Holy Spirit dream some dreams with us!

Grateful for the chance to imagine some possibilities with you,

ANOTHER NEW FACE! DOUG SHAFER-JOHNSON



Doug currently serves as the Director of Choral Activities and Instructor of Music at Earlham College in Richmond, IN and was recently the Assistant Choir Director and a Staff Singer at Northminster Presbyterian Church in South Broad Ripple.

Doug's music formation began at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Munster, Indiana, and led him to Butler, where he studied Music, Voice, and Conducting (and even studied under DJ Smith!). Today, his extensive curriculum vitae includes over a decade of experience as a choral director, vocal instructor, keyboard artist, and church musician. Doug officially joined the IPC staff on January 1st.

Living
In
Fellowship
Together

PACKING FEMININE HYGIENE KITS | Monday, January 19th

We will be packing Feminine Hygiene Kits for ICAN to distribute to our Irvington neighbors. All supplies will be provided. We will gather on Monday, January 19th at 6:30 pm 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.



L.I.F.T. Celebrating Christmas at the Cookie Exchange

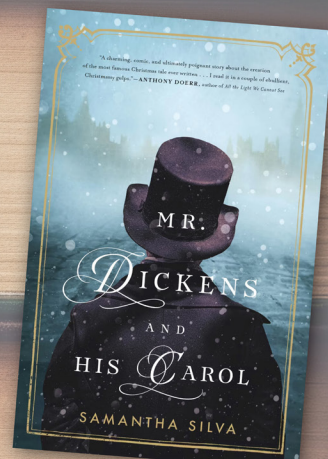
UNHANGING OF THE GREENS

It's always a little sad to take down all the decorations after the excitement and anticipation of Advent and Christmas. Yet, this allows us the needed time to catch our breath as we begin a new year. Please plan to help immediately after worship on Sunday, January 11th as we "unhang" the Greens. Many hands make light the work. Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Moorhead.



Wednesday,
January 14th
IPC Parlor | 7:00 pm

Facing professional and financial ruin, author Charles Dickens initially lacked the Christmas spirit and refused to write a requested holiday story. However, a mysterious encounter on the streets of London led him on a transformative, "Scrooge-like" journey that inspired the creation of "A Christmas Carol," the timeless tale that would redefine the holiday. You can join a spirited book discussion about this story, "Mr. Dickens and His Carol," on January 14th at 7pm.

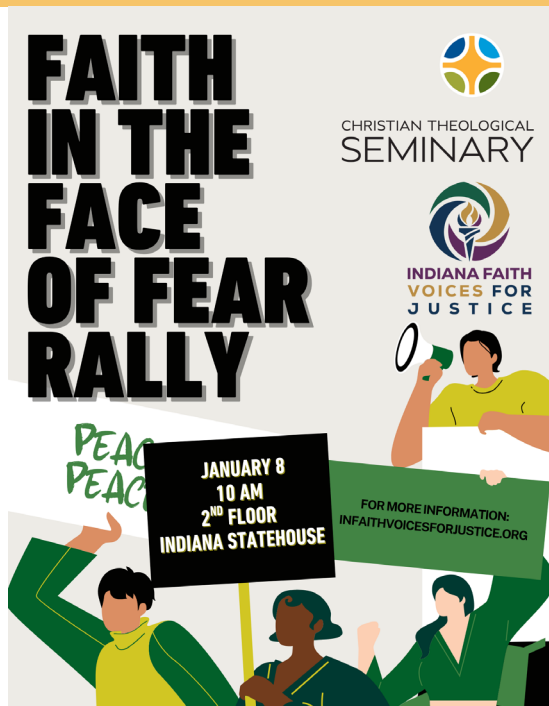


Contact Ondrea McAulay with any questions at mcaulayondrea2@gmail.com

MANY, MANY THANKS!

On Sunday, December 21st, the myriad contributions of Dr. Webb Parker as Director of Music and Steve and Mandy Holzhausen as Directors of Youth Ministries to the missions and ministries of IPC were recognized as they completed their times of service to the church. Thank you Webb, Mandy, and Steve for your faithful work and witness and the huge impacts you have made at IPC!





Do you know the steps to turn them into sleeping mats? I didn't, but Kathy Tindall, sister-in-law of Donna Tindall in our congregation, does. There used to be a committee dedicated to helping transform plastic bags into mats. Over time and during the COVID period, the group shrank to just one person, Kathy Tindall. We want to reintroduce this process and see if some of you might be interested in making these mats. Please join us in the fellowship hall on January 25 after worship as Donna Tindall, Betty Thomas, and I demonstrate the technique. It's an easy process, a great craft project, and it can involve the whole family. Please stop by to talk with us and see how simple it is to turn plastic bags into something beneficial.

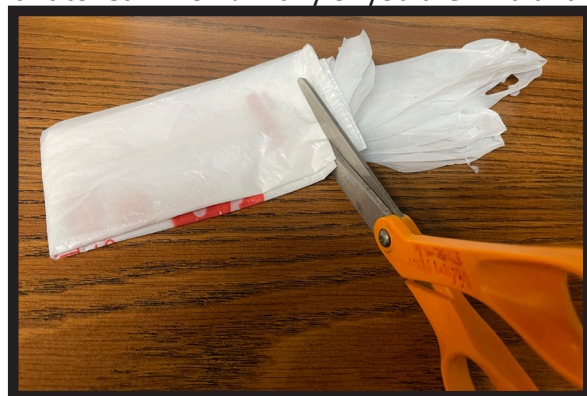
The Justice Advocacy Team needs YOU!

The IPC Justice Advocacy Team needs YOU! The JAT will be meeting to plan events and share ideas/opportunities to learn more about social justice issues facing our community for 2026. If you would like to learn more about how you might become involved, mark your calendar for our next meeting. We will be meeting on Sunday, January 25th after worship. For more information, please contact Kathy Moorhead at 317-430-3402



PLARN?

Plastic bags can be transformed into waterproof, lightweight sleeping mats for the homeless! Want to learn how? Many of you are kind and bring your plastic bags to the welcome center.



In Gratitude...

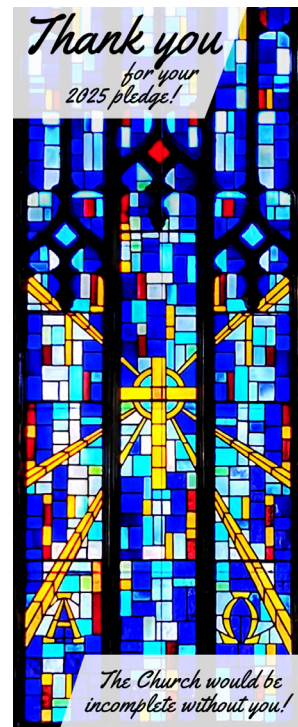
As we say goodbye to 2025, hopes are high for what 2026 will bring. Your stewardship committee would like to thank everyone who has already submitted their Financial/ Time & Talent pledge card.

With the busyness of the holidays, many of you may not have had the opportunity to turn in your pledge card. As of this writing, a higher percentage of our giving households have submitted their annual pledge card at this point in the campaign than we have had at this point in several years, and the average pledge has increased, too.

Your generosity and faithful pledging are so important in making sure we can continue to meet our obligations and fulfill our collective call to serve our community and world. If you have misplaced your pledge card and would like a replacement, please contact the church office.

Thank you for continuing to support IPC in the ministries that we are called to serve.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – 1 Peter 4:10







--The Mission Committee



~ Jenny Giddens

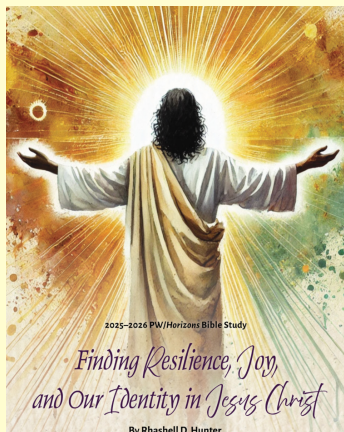
**The Men's Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the parlor at 10 a.m. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Steve Payne.
All are welcome!**

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

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.



Pawsitively Uplifting

tell me, "You must love your job, seeing all those kittens and puppies." While that is a wonderful part of my job,



what I find more rewarding is the relationships I form with pet owners and their pets. I've known dogs and cats from the beginning of their lives until the end, and it's a privilege to be there for all of it. I get attached to some of the dogs and cats, their funny personalities and love of head scratches. It's hard to say goodbye to them when it's their time to go, but what a joy to have known them.

--Ada Parkinson

A BIG Thank you to everyone who helped pack the ICAN Hygiene Kits. Kari Burns, Executive Director of ICAN stated that IPC's generous donation of kits will provide essential comfort for our Irvington neighbors throughout most of 2026. Well done, IPC!



ICAN

IRVINGTON COMMUNITY
ADVOCACY NETWORK



SEAL

SEAL

Irvington Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

55 Johnson Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46219-6498

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
PERMIT No. 2953

LABEL HERE

JACK'S O R N E R

Here are some facts that might make your life a little easier. If you feel nauseated, smelling rubbing alcohol can relieve it almost instantly. Falling air pressure causes pain in a bird's ears. If they are flying low, it almost always means a thunderstorm is coming.

Marshmallows can relieve toothaches, asthma, sore throats, and arthritis. If you peel a banana from the bottom, you'll need to pick off the little stringy things. Holding a banana peel over a bruise for 10-30 minutes can reduce its color. If you're in an area where you should have cell service but don't, put your phone on airplane mode and then switch it back off. Your phone will register and find all nearby cell towers. Baking soda can catalyze superglue. A light sprinkle will cause even a considerable amount to set in seconds.

