



THE CHANCEL CHOIR RETURNS TO WORSHIP



The Practice of Tending

*My parents have begun the process
of retiring from farming.*

That statement is strange for many reasons, but even if I remove emotion from the phrase, it's odd to suggest that they "have begun the process of retiring." Are they retired or are they working? Well, 18 months ago, they did move off the farm, swapping homes with my sister and her family so they could take over the family farm. ...Mostly. Rumor has it that Dad was trying to "enjoy retirement" by spending every day at the farm. A line had to be drawn in the sand to help my Dad begin retiring, and to let the new generation do the work. The agreement: Dad would take care of the field crops, but he wasn't allowed to meddle with the livestock (unless my brother-in-law asked for his help). The beginning of the retirement process.

I think this will be a good step, if I'm honest. Dad gets out of the house and on the land a bit, but besides the spring and harvest "busy seasons," the work schedule is pretty tame. Plus, like many farmers, my Dad enjoys the process of getting the soil ready; aligning the planter rows perfectly to get nice, straight rows; looking at the soil makeup of different parts of the field and adjusting fertilizers in different areas so that all the plants grow up evenly and healthy; and then doing some back-of-the-napkin calculations every few days to figure out the year's potential yield and sale prices...

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IRVINGTON HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL WELLNESS FAIR

IPC has partnered with the Irvington Halloween Festival Committee to host the 4th Irvington Halloween Festival Wellness Fair on Saturday, October 24th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Our community partners are excited to return to provide services for our community. They include Community East Hospital, Jane Pauley Health Clinics, Alzheimer's Association, ICAN, Indianapolis Fire Department, BeSmart Gun Safety, Irvington Public Library, Open Circle Arts, 1 st Chiro Chiropractic, SHIP, and Versiti.

We are excited to have a new partner this year, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization, which supports local governments in transportation, housing, safety, and other quality-of-life issues. Our partners will provide screening and education on diabetes, stroke prevention, cardiovascular health, wound care, maternity services, cancer screening, orthopedics, 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 screenings. Not to mention all the giveaways! Returning this year, we will have an OTC/Prescription Drug Take-Back. This is an excellent opportunity to safely dispose of expired or no-longer-needed medications.

The fair will also offer opportunities to learn how to connect with our community.

The Open Circle Arts, ICAN, 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.

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Building

Faith • Family • Future



Contribute to the
Capital Campaign

Matching Grants

Matching grants have quite a few things in common with socks. While they won't turn pink if you accidentally wash them with the reds, they do run the risk of being lost. To make sure we do not unintentionally lose a portion of these grant funds, we need your help.

The capital campaign to fund replacement of the HVAC system, electrical upgrades, window repairs, masonry work, and flat roof replacement is in full swing! We have two

matching grants - one from Indiana Landmarks and another from Sacred Places. To ensure they don't get lost in the laundry like socks frequently do, we need your help. Please consider making a gift to the campaign. The chart below shows how your money will be matched when you give.

Gift Amount from church member	Date gift given	Matching Grant #1 - deadline November 30, 2026	Matching Grant #2 - deadline November 30, 2027	TOTAL
100	November 15, 2026	100	100	300
1000	November 15, 2026	1000	1000	3000
100	November 15, 2027	n/a	100	200
1000	November 15, 2027	n/a	1000	2000

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, November 1st
5:00-6:30 p.m.

Irvington Presbyterian Church Parking Lot
(behind the Irvington Library)



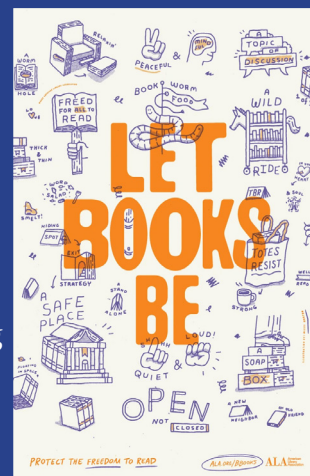
Put on your costumes and bring your trick-or-treat bags for a scary good time!

All are welcome!

This year, Banned Book Week falls from October 4-10. Over the past year, 4,235 unique titles have been challenged and 5,668 titles were banned from libraries (66% of the total challenged), with access to an additional 920 books restricted. IPC's Justice Advocacy Team firmly believes in the freedom to read what one desires and vehemently opposes the banning of books.

This year's Banned Book Week is "Let Books Be."

JAT Co-Chair, Peter Stockwell shares one of his favorite banned books below.



IN MEMORIAM

Robert "Bob" Gough
(February 2, 1936 -
September 21, 2026)

The Christian sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Bob Gough.

Magic Fish by Trung le Nguyen

Tiến Phong is a second-generation Vietnamese American who is coming of age and finds himself unable to communicate some of his core life experiences with his mother. Separated by their life experiences and a language barrier, he and his mother instead communicate through fairy tales.

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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 that we've got a lot to offer.

How can you help? We will need volunteers on the day of the Wellness Fair. Volunteer

Opportunities include working the welcome table, being a runner, serving lunch, working the clean-up crew, and more. We will be providing lunch for our community partners, so we will need donations of individually wrapped cookies and brownies. IPC will donate carbon monoxide and smoke detectors as prizes for 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 carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors.

Please come to the Wellness Fair and bring your friends and neighbors. Our partners are eager to provide care in our community. Volunteer sign-ups will begin on Sunday, October 11th. Please mark your calendar now for this exciting event on Saturday, October 24th. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of the Justice Advocacy Team.

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Tending to field crops is a combination of biology, chemistry, and mathematics that requires a caring, attentive personality and demands an optimistic worldview and a deep well of resilience.

Stewardship 2026-2027: TENDING

A couple of weeks ago, you should have received a packet of information inviting you to join the 2026-2027 BUILDING: Faith, Family, Future capital campaign. Soon, you'll also start to see more details about the 2026-2027 TENDING Annual Giving Campaign, too. No tractors or farm implements needed to help this flourish, but a caring and attentive personality won't impede our growth!

BUILDING | The Capital Campaign is intended to raise the funds needed to maintain and preserve the historic building and property, which are integral to much of our church's ministry, worship, and congregational life. This campaign addresses deferred and scheduled maintenance projects that need to be done occasionally. The BUILDING Campaign is a lot like the early stages of preparing a field to become farmland. It does the hard work whose effects are seen for years—generations, when maintained: clearing large plants, trees, and rocks in preparation for the finely-tuned care and maintenance that will support crops.

TENDING | The Annual Pledge Campaign, on the other hand, is the work we do on the land that has been dedicated, cleared, and prepared for the ministries of the congregation. Where the BUILDING campaign would establish property lines and maintain the big items, like masonry, windows, HVAC, etc., the TENDING campaign is what we provide to the Church to sustain its annual ministries. The work of TENDING is regular work, attentive to the changing environment and situations, forecasting appropriately when possible, and planning ahead so as to thrive throughout both high- and low-yield seasons and years. The TENDING campaign is done every year, encourages us to consider the landscape and our unique situations, look ahead to what we suspect it will bring, and discern how and what we are to offer.

BUILDING VERSUS AND TENDING

The two campaigns may be running simultaneously, but they sustain two entirely different and integral aspects of this family of faith's congregational life: We are building up the facility with the special BUILDING Campaign, replacing and repairing the loose limestone and bricks, restoring the windows that have become rusty and chipped, replacing electrical wiring that is becoming brittle or unprotected, and swapping out the climate control equipment so we can be comfortable when we're here. Yet, caring for the real estate where our ministries primarily reside is an occasional task that is only important if we can support the ministries that reside here.

The Annual Campaign gathers our gifts and resources that are part of our regular giving—our weekly or monthly offerings that serve to sustain the regular ministries we have built and maintain together. The ministries we foster and raise here together are possible when we work and give and worship together. Our Annual Campaign is what equips our leaders as they make plans for the next year of work which happens in the carefully curated and dutifully maintained facility that needs some work done on it, which is what the BUILDING Capital Campaign will allow us to do. The TENDING campaign—which helps us pay utilities, tune the pianos, answer phone calls, support ICAN and Westminster, remain insured—is not as exciting as a new air conditioner, perhaps, but it is absolutely essential to our ministry.

As you discern your giving and what you might be able to contribute over the coming 14 months, be mindful that both are crucial to our collective call: The BUILDING activities create the space where we are TENDING to the ministries that recognize the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love that has been instilled in each person in our congregation and each person who helps us tend to the bountiful garden God has given us! What a calling and what a gift!





Appetizers Delight **Monday, October 19th**

I don't know about you but I'm in an appetizer rut; cheeseball, crackers, and veggie tray, Oh My!

Holiday season is right around the corner, and it would be great to expand my repertoire. How about you? Do you have a recipe that you'd like to try but just haven't had the time? This is for you. Bring



your favorite appetizer or a new "untried" appetizer to share. Also, bring a printed copy of your recipe so we can take a snapshot to take home with us.

We will gather on Monday, October 19th at Kathy Moorhead's

home (5315 West Stone Way, New Palestine, IN 46163) at 6:30 pm. 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 an appetizer 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.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Todd and Erica Simmons, who were married at IPC on Saturday, September 26, 2026!

DREAM PROJECT SUCCESS!

In October 2025, a Dream Project grant was awarded to Meryl Stuckey to create the Girl Scout/Daisy Troop #875. Meryl shares that "the grant money provided troop start-



up expenses. With the grant money, the troop was able to afford a first aid kit, patches and badges, and pay for an overnight retreat at Camp Gallahue, in Brown County, Indiana! The remaining grant money was used to purchase meeting supplies.

During the year, the girls completed a couple of service projects. They made cat scratchers out of recycled cookie boxes and donated them to Indy Humane. They also filled seed packets with Shasta Daisy seed to pass out to neighbors and to place at the Irvington Library Seed Exchange.

I know the girls had a great first-year experience with Girl Scouts. The troop retained 17 of the 18 girls who started! Seven girls bridged from Daisy to Brownie level. This year, we have opened the troop up to new 1st-year Daisies and will continue as a mixed-level troop of Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts. Our troop is now at 20 girls, kindergarten to 2nd grade!"

Well done, Meryl and Girl Scout/Daisy Troop #875!

Have you been dreaming of a project to serve our community, but funding is an obstacle? The IPC Dream Project may help make that dream a reality.

Applications are available in the church office.

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Just as Tiến struggles to talk with his mother, she struggles to talk with her own mother. Even as a first-generation immigrant, she has an experience entirely separate from both her mother and her son. The narrative transitions between the present day, memory, and fairy tales to emphasize that even when we fail to find the perfect words, understanding can still be achieved through connection. Just as the stories the family tell highlight their own experiences, the beautiful artwork underscores the message of the novel that even as the details of each generation of a family may be dramatically different, the same themes flow through their lives. The gorgeous artwork elevates the story and connects the three generations of family to their roots in Southeast Asia. Le Nguyen's novel has been banned across the country in schools and libraries for its LGBTQ+ themes, perhaps proving that even the most innocent portrayal of queerness isn't safe from censorship in the modern day. Naturally, as a middle-grade graphic novel, *Magic Fish* is appropriate for any age, however, anyone can resonate with the messages of family, connection, and communication.

IPC BOOK CLUB

The IPC Book Club has been meeting every other month for the past year. We thought it would be fun to add a new twist. Our next scheduled book is for November, and we will meet on November 11th in the church parlor. The book, *The Christmas Stranger* by Richard Paul Evans, has been selected. In addition, we decided to add an October date on October 14th in the Parlor. For this October meeting, we would like participants to share a favorite book or author. This would be a great opportunity to introduce ourselves to new authors and genres. If this idea is successful, we plan to continue with an alternating schedule in 2027. We are also open to additional suggestions that can be shared in October.



**Wednesday,
October 14th
IPC Parlor
7:00 pm**

An Evening of Shelf Expression

Which author do you enjoy?
What book have you recently read that you just can't wait to talk about?
Now's your chance to share!!
The IPC Book Club will host an Evening of Shelf Expression on Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00 pm in the IPC Parlor.
Come prepared to talk about an author you love or an especially good book that you've recently read.



**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 11TH
IPC PARLOR
7:00 PM**

THREE YEARS AFTER A CHRISTMAS EVE ACCIDENT TAKES HIS FAMILY, GRIEVING COMPUTER REPAIRMAN PAUL WANLASS HAS GIVEN UP ON LIFE UNTIL A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER NAMED GABRIEL UNEXPECTEDLY VISITS HIM. GABRIEL DISAPPEARS AFTER LEAVING A CRYPTIC WARNING, BUT PAUL SOON DISCOVERS THAT A YOUNG WIDOW AND HER BULLIED SON RECEIVED A SIMILAR VISIT FROM THE SAME MAN. AS THIS NEW FAMILY BRINGS CHAOTIC WARMTH AND LONG-LOST EXCITEMENT BACK INTO HIS WORLD, THE THREE BEGIN TO BOND OVER THEIR SHARED EXPERIENCE. TOGETHER, THEY SET OUT TO UNCOVER WHY GABRIEL BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER AND WHO—OR WHAT—THE ENIGMATIC STRANGER TRULY IS.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
RICHARD PAUL EVANS
THE CHRISTMAS STRANGER

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Third Thursdays of each month
at 10:30 AM in the Parlor

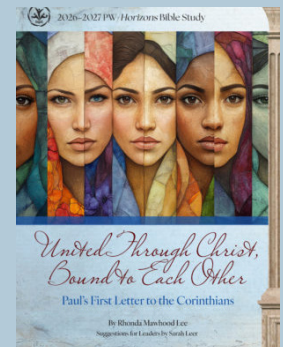
Followed by lunch at
a local restaurant

This year's book:
*United Through Christ,
Bound to Each Other:
Paul's First Letter to the
Corinthians*

Author: Rhonda Mawhood Lee

Book cost: \$14

Contact Gail McNierney with questions.



YOUTH & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM NEWS:

The Youth have been meeting through the summer at the usual time, plus two "Sundae Sunday" inter-church youth socials with the teens from Downey Christian Church.

At our most recent meeting, we enjoyed reuniting with Mandy and Steve Holzhausen, plus buying hygiene products to donate next week for ICAN Sunday.

The youth have lots of exciting events coming up this fall, including an apple orchard outing, a lock-in, and the Pancake Supper fundraiser. Dates forthcoming! If anyone would like to volunteer for the weekly meetings or for a special event, they should reach out to me via email.

Sunday School has started back up! The kids spent last Sunday learning about Joseph's reunion with his brothers in Egypt during a famine, and they used their craft time to decorate grocery bags for our neighbors at ICAN to use when shopping at the pantry.

I have filled most of the volunteer spots between now and the end of November, with only 11 spots left on the board. Those empty spots are in all age groups (young kids, elementary kids, teens), and we would love to fill them soon.

Between Halloween and Christmas, I also have some extra volunteer spots for holiday fun with the kids. If anyone isn't available on a Sunday to help in the Sunday school rooms or youth group but would still like to be part of the kids' program, they should reach out! There's lots of fun to be had here.



IPC Youth and meeting volunteers, Steve and Mandy Holzhausen with collected hygiene items bound for ICAN.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 4th in Fellowship Hall following worship, we will celebrate all September 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 share your birthdate.

Sue McColley	10/1	Jack Simpson	10/20
Michelle Eckert	10/5	Becky Corsaro	10/22
Shirley Sheeks	10/5	Sarah Lewis	10/22
Jennifer Heimach	10/6	Norma Pittman	10/22
Patricia Lewis	10/8	Charlotte Swick	10/22
William Hoke	10/9	Kathy Stroud	10/23
Michael Leamon	10/9	David Frangos	10/25
Mary Fox	10/12	Erica Hardy	10/25
Matthew Hoke	10/14	Timothy Swick	10/25
Frank Alger	10/15	Kristin Shaw	10/26
Susan Boyles	10/16	Jeanie Miller	10/28
Jon Koss	10/17	Jonathan Schwarz	10/28
Willhelmina Dewey	10/17	Gary Conway	10/29
Clare Stuckey	10/17	Charles Marion	10/30
Nancy Coombs	10/18	Stephen Payne	10/30
Kacie Grimmitt	10/19	Rachel Lemke Reid	10/30
Aeriel Lewis	10/19	Diane Welch	10/31
Robert Melvin	10/20		

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

From the Archives...

IPC and The Great Depression

On March 17, 1929, the Rev. Dr. George Allison led the dedication of the lovely church where we now worship. (Photo of the church is from that program.) After serving IPC for 11 years and completing the great building project, Dr. Allison resigned to accept a call in Topeka, Kansas.

On the Sunday after Easter in 1930, Dr. John B. Ferguson, age 51, was called as the fifth minister of Irvington Presbyterian Church. He proclaimed, "Never did a minister come to a church under more favorable conditions. There was a most beautiful edifice—I was coming into an inheritance on which others had labored."



Gracious words. However, the country was in the midst of a financial depression.

At IPC, the church owed \$121,000, \$40,000 of which was in notes signed by thirty-two Church officers, and \$10,000 was due the contractor. There was no manse for Dr. Ferguson's family of five children. He took a cut of \$1,400 less than Dr. Allison's salary, and after two years there was a further cut.

'Stunning financial situation!'

Inside IPC, "little economies were practiced." There was only one Church phone, and only thirty free calls per month. All additional calls were \$.05 each. Staff took many calls at home to save money. The use of lights, postage, and stamps—all were watched carefully!! Every group and department dug in to save money in small and large ways.

Very importantly, contractor E. A. Carson contributed half his fee, giving \$5000 to the Church, while President of the Indiana Limestone Company, William H. Martin, took no profit on the stone, thus contributing \$8000.

IPC survived the Great Depression under Dr. Ferguson's solid and patient leadership.

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

MY GA EXPERIENCE

My GA – Part 1- oops

(We printed Part 2 last month, but then realized we had not printed Part 1. Here is Part 1.)

My journey to the 227th General Assembly began with a phone call asking whether I would serve as a Commissioner and attend the Assembly. I said "yes" without knowing what to expect. I started reading everything I could find about the General Assembly. What is the General Assembly? In a nutshell, it is a council of the church, a discernment event, and a body of worship. It is composed of teaching elders (TEC), ruling elders (REC – Me!), young adult advisory delegates (YAADS), theological student advisory delegates (TSADS), and partner advisory delegates (PADS). This is some of the alphabet soup of the Presbyterian world.

On February 28th, during the Presbytery meeting, 4 others and I were voted in to attend. During March and April, emails started pouring into my inbox. There was a ton of information to sort through. I was required to create a login and password for the MyGA website. This website was where everything would happen. I was required to register for the assembly, choose my airline flights, indicate a hotel preference, and choose a local Presbyterian church to attend on the Sunday I was there. It was also discovered at this time that I would be in Zoom committee meetings on June 22-24, and that they could run well into the evening! I also found out



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Irvington Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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JACK'S CORN

Navy Bean soup has been served to the U.S. Senate since 1903. The recipe is available on the U.S. Senate website, but no one knows who to credit for it. It calls for 2 pounds of dry navy beans, 4 quarts of water, 1 ½ tablespoons

of butter, and salt and pepper to taste.

Senator DuBois later added mashed

potatoes, garlic, and parsley. Navy beans are also known as Boston beans, pinto beans, and white pinto beans. The U.S. Navy has served them since the mid-19th century. This soup has been made every day for roughly 100 years.



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that the assembly would take place from June 25 through July 2 in Milwaukee, WI. After registering, I received additional emails with details and required coursework prior to the committee meetings. At this point, I wondered what I had gotten into! On May 9th, our Synod sponsored a Zoom information meeting that instructed us on how to use the online GA business tools (used during committee meetings and at the assembly). I was truly now on information overload!

On June 3, we were commissioned and blessed at the Presbytery meeting. On the evening of June 7th, there was a Zoom meet-and-greet for members of The Reformed Identity in the U.S. (my committee). There were 65 members from across the U.S. We were told the 3 days of committee meetings would be long and that we should not schedule anything during that time. We were told which overtures (a recommended change to the constitution or a policy) we would be discussing, and the schedule laid it all out. Basically, no free time! I knew I would need to take care of any personal business before those 3 days. I also knew I would have only 1 day to pack and complete everything before my flight on June 26 (it was leaving at 7 am!). Finally, on June 17th, a lengthy email arrived outlining the complete assembly schedule, transportation arrangements to the hotel, and other miscellaneous information. At this point, my excitement was building, although I wondered if I was the right person to do this. The time was now getting shorter until the 3 days of online meetings.

Part 3 to come in November.

--Elder T.J. Hengst