

■ November 2023



TIME CHANGE
Don't forget the time
changes on Sunday,
November 5!



Celebrating All Souls' Day:

A Journey Through History and Faith

As we approach the month of November, our thoughts turn to the season of remembrance and gratitude. While many of us are familiar with All Saints' Day on November 1st, I would like to explore the significance of its companion day, All Souls' Day, and how it has found meaning in both Catholic and Protestant traditions.

All Souls' Day, also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, has deep roots in Catholic tradition. It finds its origin in the early Christian Church when believers began to commemorate and pray for the souls of the departed. This practice was linked to the belief in purgatory, a place where souls would undergo purification before entering heaven.

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Stewardship 2024 Campaign
Watch your mailbox!

Sunday November 12, 2023

God is able to provide you with every blessing
in abundance so you may share abundantly in
every good work. ~2 Cor. 9:8

*Featuring
IPC Choir*

*Irvington Arts
Collective Octet*

*Dana Zenobi
Soprano*

*DJ Smith
Organist*

Lux Aeterna

*A Service of
Light and Remembrance
on All Souls' Day*

Thursday, Nov. 2 @ 7:00p
Irvington Presbyterian Church
An altar at the front of the sanctuary will
be available to place a photograph
of those you would like to remember.
55 Johnson Ave.

ILLOGICAL GRATITUDE

What are you grateful for? I asked this question in worship earlier in October – the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend, to be precise – and then I asked you to share that with me using paper slips that you returned as you left the Sanctuary. I didn't just take them and read them. No, no; I took them and read them and then made this word cloud!

So, what are you grateful for, Irvington Presbyterian Church? This! These are the things for which you give thanks. The larger the word, the more often it appeared in the slips of paper you turned in. What do you see? Do any of these words stir up gratitude in your heart? As we get closer to Thanksgiving, we get to reflect on this a bit more.

As you reflect on those things for which you are grateful, I offer two important parts of that practice of gratitude:

1. Dedicate some time to being grateful. It doesn't have to be much: on a short walk or drive home from Church, or as you lie in bed trying to fall asleep. Think about those things you are grateful for. (And bonus points if you can do it with someone else!)
2. This is the extra step: Share that gratitude with someone else. And for the over-achievers among us: share your gratitude with whomever is responsible for your thanksgiving. Tell your family that they make you grateful. Send a quick text message or email to that colleague, teacher, pastor, or grandchild who gave you joy today. Thank your bus drivers, your food service staff, your youth group leaders, and your spouse.

The illogical part of this time for gratitude? It's the way that gratitude and thanksgivings multiply when we do something out of gratitude. Watch and see: Your words to someone will be returned with positivity and they may actually go and share their gratitude with another. Suddenly, a good feeling you had, turned into two, four or eight others who could be grateful and feel hopeful about the world.

We are mere weeks away from two big seasons: Christmas, in all of its consumer-driven hype that can push back against any gratitude the season could conjure; and Stewardship, which seems to pair with year-end appeals and holiday giving to feel like a year-end tax or guilt-laden imposition. But if you are practicing your attitude of gratitude, stop and ask yourself how your prayers of thanksgiving might inform a more thoughtful, meaningful, and impactful response. God loves a cheerful giver, and such emotion behind any giving that the multiplication and infectious nature of your giving will inspire and recruit other grateful participants with you.

So let's be grateful! Let's be generous! And may God bless us in our generosity and be glorified by our gratitude!

Truly grateful for each of you,



**IRVINGTON ROOTS
AND WINGS**

If you know anyone
whose family needs
full time childcare
for their 18-24 mos. or

3-4-year-olds, please refer them to Irvington Roots
and Wings at irvrootsandwings@gmail.com.





Congratulations to the Stuckey Family on the birth of Clare on Tuesday, October 17th! She joins parents Joe and Meryl and siblings Jane, Beau, and Mitchell.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

For Sunday School to be successful, we need many volunteers to teach Sunday School. Volunteers can sign up to teach preschool/kindergarten (ages 2 - grade K) and/or elementary (grades 1 - 5). We would like two teachers for each class. Please consider teaching our wonderful children here at IPC. Contact Hannah Braun (hbraun@irvpresby.org) if you would like to sign up.

Dear IPC Family,

I would like to thank you for your prayers, cards, messages and sanctuary flowers after my back surgery.

I am recovering and feeling much better now...my long time pain is gone!

*In gratitude,
Jean Anne Hedelius*

NEW HERE AND NEW MEMBER CLASSES:

Interested in learning more about IPC and the Irvington Community?

Join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor Sundays in November for new here and new member classes.

Learn more about the church, our history, ministries, and missions on November 5th and 12th.

For those interested in becoming members at IPC continue with the classes on November 19th and 26th.

NOVEMBER YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group is for ALL 6th-12th graders, and we meet every Sunday from 5:30-7:30. Dinner is usually included in our activities. October kicked off with raising \$250 for the Crop Walk, thank you to everyone that donated. We also had a lock-in full of screams and snacks, did some work sorting the stacks of children's books on the third floor, and helped at the Wellness Fair. IPC has so much to offer, and we are looking forward to more Fall fun this month.

Below are some save the dates for upcoming events. For up-to-date information and pictures follow us on Instagram @irvpresbyyouth.

November 5: 5:30-7:30 Youth Group

November 12: 5:30-7:30 Youth Group

November 17-19: PYOCA Fall Retreat

November 26: 5:30-7:30 Friendsgiving

December 30: New Year's Eve Eve Party

CHRISTMAS BASKETS AND MITTEN TREE

It's time again to begin stocking up on pasta, baked beans and tuna for the



WESTMINSTER
Neighborhood Services, Inc.

quickly approaching Westminster Neighborhood Services Christmas Basket packing and distribution.

IPC has been tasked with providing 350 boxes of pasta, 350 cans of baked beans, and 700 cans of tuna. While you're out shopping for these, possibly pick up some hats and mittens or gloves for the mitten tree!

--IPC Mission Committee

THANKSGIVING PITCH-IN

Join us Sunday, November 26th after Worship in Fellowship Hall for a Thanksgiving lunch pitch-in. Turkey, ham, potatoes, and rolls will be provided. Bring a side, or dessert to share. Please take your dishes to Fellowship Hall prior to Worship.



FALL CLEANING??

It's time to put our space to good use!

Let's get a fresh start this November with a major clean-up day on Sunday November 5 after worship. Feel free to dress down for church and stay after fellowship time for a major church clean-up day. We promise to have them home in time for the Colt's game!



Finance Committee update on member contributions needed to support the work and ministry of IPC:

Budgeted through September: \$240,000

Received through September: \$ 198,573

Member Contribution YTD Gap:

(\$41,427)

Current YTD gap to eliminate budget deficit:

(\$62,810)

Please prayerfully consider what you are able to do to help us close the gap. Thank you for all you do for IPC!

Congratulations to the families of Avah Maliyah Dodson and Elaina Grace Amezcua on their baptisms during the October 22, 2023 Worship Service!



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On November 2nd, Catholics gather to remember their departed loved ones, offering prayers and Masses to aid the souls in purgatory on their journey to eternal life. It is a day of reflection and a reminder of the interconnectedness of the living and the dead in our communities.

As members of a Presbyterian congregation, it's important to note that All Souls' Day may not hold the same historical significance as it does in Catholicism. However, many Protestant churches, including our own, have found ways to adapt and incorporate the spirit of remembrance into their worship and spiritual practices:

1. Remembering Loved Ones

In Protestant congregations, All Souls' Day is an opportunity to remember and honor our loved ones who have passed away. We can reflect on their legacies and the impact they had on our lives.

2. Embracing Hope

While the concept of purgatory may differ in Protestant theology, All Souls' Day still offers a chance to reflect on the hope of resurrection and the promise of eternal life offered in Christ.

3. Prayer and Reflection

On this day, we can engage in special prayers and reflective moments during our worship services, similar to the Catholic tradition. It's a time to draw closer to God and seek comfort in the communal act of honoring and remembering those who have passed.

All Souls' Day is a day that transcends denominational boundaries. It calls us to remember and pray for the departed while fostering a sense of hope and community. As we approach this special day, may we take a moment to remember our loved ones and the hope we have in Christ, not only as individuals but as a church family.

On Thursday, November 2, the IPC Choir, in collaboration with the Irvington Arts Collective Octet, Soprano Dana Zenobi, and our very own organist DJ Smith, will present "Lux Aeterna: A Service of Light and Remembrance on All Souls' Day." I hope you will join us for this special service of music, light, prayer, and remembrance. Please invite your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors. This service is for all.

There will be an altar at the front of the sanctuary for pictures of folks you would like to honor and remember. Prior to the start of the service, we invite you to place those photographs on the altar as an outward sign of honor and remembrance. Though these loved ones are no longer with us physically, we know we carry their memory with us always.

I certainly hope you will join us.

Webb Parker, Ph.D.
Director of Music

SAVE THE DATE December 4th

LIFT Christmas Party & Cookie Exchange

Do you need to take a breath from the hectic pace of holiday preparations? Are you looking for some fellowship, fun and relaxation? You're invited to the LIFT Christmas gathering. Due to Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will be having a combined gathering on Monday,

December 4th at 6:30 pm. Watch for more information on the location.

We will gather for our annual Christmas party and cookie exchange. It is perfectly fine not to participate in the cookie exchange. This is not to add one more thing to your to-do-list. For those who wish to exchange cookies, please bring a large batch of your favorite cookie. 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. Contact Kathy Moorhead (317-430-3402) if you have any questions.



L.I.F.T. Gathering
Financial Investments 101
with Bridget Tetak
on October 16th

A BIG thank you to YOU! The first Irvington Halloween Festival Wellness Fair was a huge success. We had over 100 people learn about local services and opportunities to improve their health. Our neighbors were thrilled to win fire extinguishers, smoke detectors or first aid kits. Besides receiving lots of “swag” from our partners, our neighbors also received a tasty bag of apples.

Our partner, Versiti, was very happy with the number of folks who gave the life-giving gift of blood, and Community Hospital East was busy giving lots of flu shots.

Our partners were asked, “What did you enjoy most about the event?” They responded with statements such as, “The event was well organized and set up with a variety of stations and info.”; “Everyone was so friendly, kind, and hospitable.”; and “I enjoyed the sense of community in this event. It’s such a great event to bring people together. All the chatter is so heartwarming.”

The neighbors who visited the Wellness Fair said, “Wonderful and very helpful!”, “Great time – will be back next year.”, and “Everyone was great.”

With these and more positive responses, we can say that the Wellness Fair was well received by our partners and neighbors alike. Well done!

Justice Advocacy Team



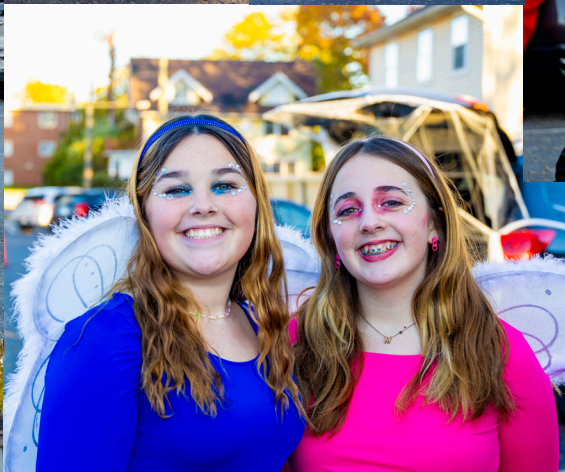
A huge thank you to Kathy Moorhead on the months and months of work, hours and hours of meetings, hundreds of communications, and the thousands upon thousands of details in putting this fantastic community event together!

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 22nd
5:30-7:00 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!



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

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Indianapolis, IN

PERMIT No. 2953

LABEL HERE

JACK'S C 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.

Questions asked of our Minister Rev. Dr. Jonathan Reinink

1. *Where do you go when you die? There are several ideas. Some believe that you go straight to heaven. Some believe you sleep until Jesus and archangels come. Then you come. Then you come out of a deep sleep.*
2. *Who did Jesus pray to? God the Father-He was in human form while on Earth.*
3. *How many people did Jesus raise from the dead? We know of three for sure but could have been more. Lazarus, the widow's son, and the father's son that told Jesus he was dead, and Jesus said he was just sleeping.*
4. *Was Jesus married? I really don't think so. He was in human form and had close relationships with many...*
5. *How about your pets? They are like your kids and have many years and bring you love and happiness. I believe they will be around you in heaven. God is love so I believe they will be with you.*
6. *What will you look like in Heaven? I'm not sure what you will look like, but I believe people will be able to recognize you. What age will you look? I don't know. Maybe everyone will be 33, Jesus' age when he died.*

