

PICTURES FROM CHRISTMAS EVE

—Page 5



INTERIM STEPS

Each month I hope to share information on the interim process and the pastor search. At the January 11, 2022, meeting of Session, I will present a plan and timeline for the next steps. Here are some initial highlights of my proposal.

Questions – Over the next three months we will create survey questions. We will seek input from groups, committee, staff, and various leaders. These key people will help us design the best questions touching upon aspects of church ministry: Education, Fellowship, Grounds, Hospitality, Missions, Staffing, Worship. Around

Easter, the Session will approve the Survey for distribution.

Survey - We will designate a 3-to-4-week period sometime in April 2022 or May 2022 in which the congregation will answer questions related to the church and its ministry. There is a Microsoft tool which can allow for on-line and paper responses.

Listening Sessions – Once we have the survey in hand, we will have FOUR small group discussions of the Survey. These will take place at various times – day, afternoon, evening, weekday, weekend.

PERCEPT – PERCEPT is an organization which prepares

reports on population trends for geographic areas. We have data with information on the households living in a 3-mile radius of the church (income, education, household size, etc.).

Mission Study – From the information gleaned from the Survey, Listening Sessions, and PERCEPT, we will put together a “Mission Study.” This document will present a portrait of the church. Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) – If all goes according to plan, we hope to elect the PNC sometime this summer. The PNC will use the Mission Study to create a Mission Information Form (MIF). The MIF is the official

Continued on Page 3

ADULT RETREAT

Spots are still available for the adult retreat, January 28-30th at Geneva Center. Call the office to reserve your place at this year's retreat. The IPC retreat is for any adult ready to skip town for a weekend and enjoy some great conversation, laughter, and a bit of personal introspection in a peaceful, wooded setting. The cost is \$80, which includes overnight lodging on Friday and Saturday, and four meals. We arrive on Friday evening and are usually home by noon on Sunday.



THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT IPC

As we enter not only the next calendar year but the next season of ministry at IPC, we are revisiting how we do Christian Education for children, youth, and adults – what sorts of classes and programming are offered, when, where, and for whom.

To help church staff and leadership in this discernment, in January we will be circulating a survey of needs, wants, and possible options. Links will be provided via email and hard copies will be available for people to fill out as well.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey so that we have a better sense of what direction people would like IPC's Christian Education opportunities to go. Make your voice heard!

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The Christian sympathy of the congregation is extended to Dee Miller in the death of her daughter, Debbie Miller.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The Christian sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jan, Eric and Arie Schriebman in the death of Jan's mother, Barbara Hudson.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The Christian sympathy of the congregation is extended to Rev. Carolyn Lesmeister and her family on the death of her father, John Lesmeister.

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Hudson
December 22, 2021

“WISDOM FOR THE NEW YEAR: WHAT NOT TO DO”

As we start the new year our thoughts often turn to resolutions. What do we want to do this year which will help us be better people? However, giving advice on such things tends to backfire. So, rather than make recommendations which can be dismissed, I suggest a different approach.

Maybe think about what NOT to do. One of the best humorous books I have read is a book by the comedian and columnist, Ben Stein. The title of the book is, “How to Ruin Your Life.” Stein says that there are too many books telling us how to succeed, but not enough books telling us how to fail.

“So” you ask, “why in the world do we need a book telling us how to fail?” One way to find the right path is to recognize the wrong path. Maybe there are times we don’t know what to do, but if we know what we don’t want to do, this can help us discover a good path.

There are plenty of stories from the Bible of people who made mistakes that led to a turn-around (repent): David, Peter, Paul. Maybe Stein’s wisdom will keep us from wandering too far astray.

Here is some of his tongue-in-cheek wisdom:

#5 Criticize Early and Often

“Always make sure to be the...critic. Let’s face it: There isn’t enough complaining in the world.... Too many people smile and let things go. Don’t go along with them. There’s something wrong with everything and everyone if you look closely enough, and, by golly, you have to make it your job to find it first and complain about it the loudest.” (12)

#13 Treat the People who Are Good to You Badly

“Who cares if they’re good to you? They’re your doormats - they exist solely for you to trample upon. They have nothing to say to you that’s worth hearing. Basically, they’re your servants - no, they are your slaves. They’ll always be good to you because they sense you’re superior to them - and they’re right! They know that you’re a deity, and they’re just insignificant pebbles in the bottom of the sea of life.” (33)

#32 Think the Worst of Everyone

“Some fools say that if you expect the best from people, you’ll often get it. What a silly, infantile notion. In fact, you should always assume that people have the worst possible motives, never tell the truth, and will act dishonestly if given half a chance. So, be smart about it. Don’t give them half a chance. Be on guard, suspicious, and defensive right off the bat.” (96)

#35 Finally, Whenever Possible, say, “I Told You So.”

“Pour salt on those wounds. If something bad happens to someone you know, don’t sympathize. Instead say, “I told you so.” The world needs to know that whatever they did wrong.... you wouldn’t have done it, and you know better. It might smart a bit for others to hear it, but they need to know there is a superior being among them who doesn’t make the kind of mistakes they do.” (102)

So, there are some gems of wisdom to ponder in the new year. If we want to make sure and ruin our lives, follow Stein’s advice.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Steve

“Do for others what you want them to do for you: this is the meaning of the Law of Moses and of the teachings of the prophets.” --Matthew 7:12

FAMILY PROMISE RETURNS!

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
--Hebrews 13.2

For several years IPC has participated in the Interfaith Hospitality Network program of Family Promise. We have hosted families experiencing homelessness with a welcoming dinner and a safe place to sleep. After a time when face to face hospitality was not possible, the program returns.

For the weeks beginning January 16 and February 20, we will once again have families staying in our church. In the past seven Irvington congregations participated with each church taking one day but several are no longer able to take part, so we will have to increase our involvement.

We will have a maximum of three families, and we will know their names, ages, and any food allergies or preferences. Here's a typical week schedule:



- Sunday – receive the van and trailer from the previous church. Unload beds and set them up with sheets and towels in the sleeping rooms on the third floor.
- Shop for breakfast and lunch food.
- In the afternoon pick up the guests at the Day Center, 1850 N. Arsenal Ave.
- Welcome the guests and serve dinner.
- Two church members will spend the night at the church.
- Monday through Saturday – in the morning the guests pick up their breakfast and lunch sacks and are driven to the Day Center.
- In the afternoon pick up the guests at the Day Center.
- Serve dinner.
- Two volunteers will spend the night.
- Sunday – in the morning drive the guests to the Day Center.
- Load the beds into the trailer.
- Clean up the sleeping rooms and the kitchen.
- Drive the van and trailer to the next church.
- Take our sheets and towels home to wash.

IPC will host the guests all week and will provide volunteers for several days, still to be determined. We will need volunteers to set up beds; provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner; drive the van; serve dinner, stay overnight, and do laundry.

Volunteers are welcome to offer games, books, craft materials, and fun activities to our guests, keeping in mind our weeks are school weeks and parents want their children in bed on time. All volunteers who come into direct contact with the guests must be covid vaccinated. The guests will have been vaccinated.

For more information, see www.fpgi.org. To ask questions or volunteer, contact Martha McDonald at 317-357-5123 or indymcmc@gmail.com.

Continued from Page 1

denominational document that is presented to perspective candidates applying for the position of pastor. Once the MIF is approved, we will begin our active search for the new pastor – hopefully in the fall of 2022.

I hope this overview helps you see my intention for the next few months. If you believe there are questions we ought to include in the church Survey, please send them to me and I will share them with the Session.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Interim Pastor.
Together in Christ,
Pastor Steve

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults will meet at Jockamo's at 6 p.m. January 18th. Contact Rev. Wilson to reserve childcare.

Save the Date: February 13th, Young Adults are heading to see the Indiana Pacers take on Minnesota Timberwolves at 3 p.m. Contact Rev. Wilson to reserve tickets.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 9

5:30-7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 16

9 a.m. – Interfaith Speaker @ Christ Cafe

Sunday, Jan. 23

5:30-7 p.m.

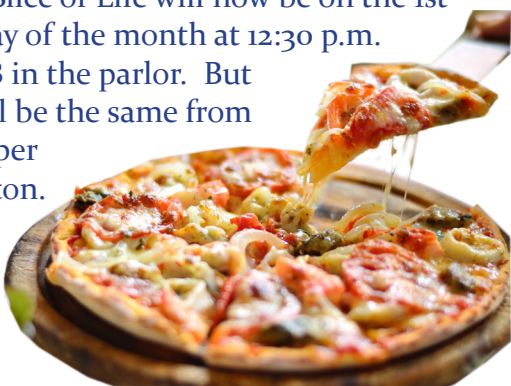
Gatherings will be held at the church unless otherwise announced.



On Sunday, January 16th at 9 a.m. we will have a special speaker from the Center for Interfaith Cooperation.

Slice of life is coming back in the New Year!

There will be a new location, time, and facilitators! Slice of Life will now be on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. right after 3B in the parlor. But the pizza will be the same from Jockamo Upper Crust Irvington. Come out for rich discussions and pizza!



SELF-CARE IN THE NEW YEAR

Confession time. I've never been big into making New Year's resolutions. Maybe it's because the end of the year is such a busy time in the church that there is no energy left for making a commitment to doing something new or doing something else less. Instead of making a promise to go to the gym every day, or to stop eating the candy that Lori, our Church Administrator, keeps on her desk that I was never going to stick to anyway. Perhaps it's better to commit in 2022 to a year of self-love and self-care. For some yes, that may look like cutting back on sweets a bit or going on more walks. But maybe it can also look like allowing ourselves to feel completed and loved as children of God without judgment and self-condemnation. That seems like a faith-filled way to step into a new year. Whatever this new year brings for you, blessings from Irvington Presbyterian Church.

In Christ,

Mamun

MESSY CHURCH

People of all ages are invited to join us as we explore Bible stories and faith themes in engaging hands-on ways at Messy Church! We're also looking for more volunteers to do everything from packing lunch bags to welcoming guests to hosting creative stations. Email Carolyn at clesmeister@irvpresby.org if you are interested!



Masks required for ages 5 & up
Parents' discretion for younger children
55 Johnson Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 356-7225 www.irvpresby.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

5:30-7:00 PM

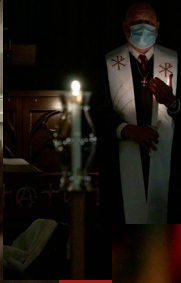
IPC FELLOWSHIP HALL

How a lost coin can show us how to rejoice.

Dinner provided with dine in & carryout options.

For people of all ages!

Please contact Carolyn at clesmeister@irvpresby.org if you have any questions.



Great job, IPC! The congregation far exceeded the amount of requested food donations for Westminster Neighborhood Christmas baskets! Thanks to the Moorheads for delivering all of the donations in multiple trips!

A huge "Thank You!" for all who worked on, watched and made donations to IPC's production of the "A Christmas Carol" Radio Play! Over \$1000 was raised for Faith Ministry, our mission partner in Reynosa, Mexico.



Living In Fellowship Together

Painting with Andrea January 17th

Andrea Hogg will be leading us as we create our own piece of framed art. Please bring a picture frame with glass and a favorite picture or phrase. The picture or phrase will be traced onto the glass, and we will then use acrylic paint to enhance the picture. If you have acrylic paints and brushes, please feel free to bring them. We will be gathering on Monday, January 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. Contact Kathy Moorhead (317-430-3402) if you have any questions.



The Presbyterian Women of the Congregation (PWC) has awarded Deanna Byrd the PW Honorarium for service to IPC and PWC.

The award includes a donation to PW, a certificate, and a pin. Deanna is a Deacon, PWC officer, office volunteer, sender of greeting cards, and head of the PWC flower sale. She is a great example of faith in action with enthusiasm and a cheerful smile.



Congratulations, Deanna!



L.I.F.T. Holiday Cookie Exchange



Photo by Bill Voiles

The Westminster Village North Elf is getting out and about. He, too, has been cooped up over the past year. He can be found roaming throughout Tamarack, Elm, Sycamore library, or the Foundation Social Hall. Who knows what kind of mischief the Elf might get into.

The tradition is that the elf tallies who is naughty and who is nice then runs up to the North Pole each night to report to Santa. I know in years past the Elf has become lost for a few days.



Denise Jones Harrington, LSW, LAC received her Certification as a Senior Advisor on July 6, 2021. Certified Senior Advisors (CSAs)

are professionals, who in the course of their practice, apply multidisciplinary knowledge of the aging process and aging issues to identify the most appropriate options and solutions for seniors' individual needs and best interests to improve their lives. Denise joins over 3100 professionals across the U.S. who are currently certified and meet all criteria for holding the CSA designation.

The Certified Senior Advisor (CSA)® is the leading certification for professionals serving older adults, and is a designation awarded to qualified individuals. Earning the CSA certification requires individuals to pass a rigorous exam and to uphold the highest ethical standards for the benefit and protection of the health and welfare of seniors. CSAs are multidisciplinary professionals who have demonstrated advanced knowledge in the multiple processes of aging.

Denise received her Certification as Certified Dementia Practitioner from the National Council 2019. The CDP certification represents that the professional has received comprehensive knowledge in the area of dementia care, achievement in completing the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care course/seminar, met the NCCDP requirements for CDP certification, applied for the CDP certification and received the CDP certification.

As a CDP, Denise commits to ongoing professional development through NCCDP Staff Education Week or other educational opportunities and re-certification every two years. A CDP certification reflects a deep personal commitment on the part of the professional's accountability by abiding by NCCDP Ethic's statement, inspiring confidence, and dedication in an individual's professional knowledge through quality of life and quality of care provided by the CDP to the dementia patient.

Denise is available to assist members and their families with questions and planning needs. Feel free to contact her by phone 317-509-7085 or email dharringtonipc@gmail.com

Denise M. Jones Harrington, LSW, LAC, NCCDP, CSA

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Alzheimer's Support Groups for Caregivers will continue in 2022 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. The group is open to any caregiver who cares for someone diagnosis with a cognitive disorder and any dementia. The support group takes place in the parlor. Feel free to contact Denise Jones Harrington with questions about any of these events.

alzheimer's 
association®

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Men's Bible Study will meet on December 1st and the 15th from 10-11 a.m. in the Parlor. All are welcome to attend. If you have questions about this group, please contact Steve Payne.



3B Exercise resumes on January 4th. As you make your New Year's Resolutions to live healthier and exercise, come join us on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the parlor. In 3B we work on exercising our minds, spirits, and bodies. All exercises are low impact with both the chair and standing exercises. The goal is to strengthen the body by increasing stamina and balance. Put 3B on your to do list for 2022!

2022 SOLUTIONS GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

The CICOA Solutions Guide has been revised and updated for 2022. This directory of organizations, programs and services for older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers is available as a downloadable pdf from the CICOA website.

SENIOR MINISTRY FUNDED FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Senior Ministry Consultant position has been awarded partial funding for an additional year through the Smock Foundation. We are grateful to Smock for helping to fund Denise's position for the 7th year.

SEAL

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JACK'S CORN NER

Jack Simpson, IPC member, explores the archives for stories of the church, its past members and other bits of interesting information and lore.

As the Great Depression shredded America's economy to pieces, business owners were desperate to find the Next Big Thing. One man's desperation was enough to lead him to create a snack that most Americans had never seen. And yet the iconic snack stands out as something else. Charles Elmer Doolan, future of Fritos, was relieved to have avoided bankruptcy as an owner of a Confectionary in 1932. He was selling candy and ice cream during the Great Depression. While ordering at a small café in San Antonio, Texas, Charles decided to buy a bag of corn chips. He took one bite and stumbled upon the answer he was looking for. But who makes this tasty snack? It turns out the snack was common on the beaches of

Mexico. In fact, the name Fritos translates from Spanish to "Little Fried Things". He needed to find the owner. When Charles found the man who owned

the corn chip business, he bought it. Charles was living at home with his parents, working on corn chip recipes and trying to get that "wow" factor. That's when it hit him. The main ingredient of corn chips was masa, a finely ground flour made from corn kernels, so he set out to learn all about corn flours. He recruited a team of Texas farmers to grow all sorts of corn varieties including hybrids. One employee discovered the chip-changing combo. A combination of sweet corn and field corn gives Fritos that rustic taste. At just 5 cents a bag, Fritos took off. He then came up with Fritos Peanut Butter sandwich. That wasn't the best idea, so Charles' mom came up with the idea of Daisy Dean's Chili recipe, mixing Fritos, tomatoes, and onions right in the Fritos bag. It went over so well that Disney created a Casa de Fritos restaurant. Herman Lay was doing the same thing with potatoes. They got together and formed the Frito-Lay company of today.

