

■ December 2023



## RECAPING REV. REININK'S INSTALLATION

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The  
**Irvington**  
Presbyterian Church Est. 1906  
[www.irvpresby.org](http://www.irvpresby.org)



## How does a weary world rejoice?

**Week 1**

**December 3rd**

**We Acknowledge Our  
Weariness  
Luke 1:1-23**



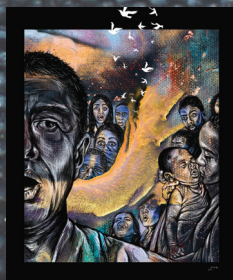
**Week 2**

**December 10th  
We Find Joy in  
Connection  
Luke 1:24-45**



**Week 3**

**December 17th  
Allow Ourselves to be  
Amazed  
Luke 1:57-66**



**Week 4**

**December 24th  
We Sing Stories of Hope  
Luke 1:46-55, 67-80**



The Season of Advent provides many opportunities for reflection and for putting our faith into action during this time of waiting for the birth of the Christ child.

You are invited to participate in those events that will help you to prepare for this new season and find joy in a weary world!

**Westminster Neighborhood  
Services**

**Christmas Basket Packing  
December 8th  
6:30 p.m.**

**Luminaria**

**December 17th  
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve  
We Make Room  
Luke 2:1-20**



**Family Service  
6:00 p.m.  
Candlelight  
Communion Service  
11:00 p.m.**



Dear Presbyterians,

How do we rejoice in a weary world? It's a question many face as we step into a new season of Advent. In Advent, we prepare for and ponder the presence of God among us. The coming of the Christ child is a cause for joy and celebration, but too often the challenges and conflicts of the world cause us to lose hope and faith in this season. This year in Advent, IPC will be drawing from resources by Sanctified Art, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice". We will have available to you devotionals, poetry, art, and in Worship, we will share the scriptures and stories of joy and hope in the season leading to the birth of the Christ Child. We look forward to seeing you in worship this December.

In Christ,

*Marcus*



*Christ's Café*

DECEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24

FROM 9:00-9:45 AM

VISIO DIVINA | ADVENT BIBLE  
STUDY THROUGH VISUAL ART

Join us for the visual meditation and prayer practices of visio divina centered around some of the art we are using and featuring during our Advent season.

December 31 - 9:00-9:45 am

Early Bird Fellowship Hour

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The IPC adult retreat is January 26-28th at the Geneva Center in Rochester IN. More information is coming soon!

## FOLLOWING CHRIST'S LEAD

Every year, society expects us to celebrate the holiday season even bigger and better than years before. This year, coming together to reclaim Advent and Christmas can be both humbling and fulfilling. As we excitedly await the birth of Christ, it's important to remember the reason for the season: the newborn Servant of All, the perfect gift. Christ's example of servant leadership is a model that we should strive to emulate and encourage. Our participation in the Christmas Joy Offering is one way we do just that.

The Christmas Joy Offering is the oldest of the four churchwide Special Offerings, established first as an offering to support ministers in financial need. Today, gifts help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible church workers and retired pastors in need. The Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders through our Presbyterian-related schools equipping communities of color. By supporting the Christmas Joy Offering, you share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, young leaders in our racial ethnic communities, and their families of birth and of faith.

You can give to the Christmas Joy Offering online, or we will receive these gifts during worship on the morning of Sunday, December 24th.

Let us give joyfully and generously!



# DECEMBER YOUTH NEWS

The youth group is for ALL 6th-12th graders and we meet every Sunday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dinner is usually included in our activities. In November we put together 48 Birthday Cake Kits for the Westminster Food pantry, got a little crafty and celebrated friendship. We are looking forward to the Advent Season.

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

## DECEMBER 3

*5:30-7:30 Advent Celebration*

## DECEMBER 10

*2 p.m. A Christmas Carol Comedy at District Theater*

## DECEMBER 17

*5:30-7:30 p.m. Luminaria*

## DECEMBER 24

*No Youth Group*

## DECEMBER 30

*New Year's Eve Eve Party*

## DECEMBER 31

*No Youth Group*



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES FOR ALL!

**There will be exciting activities during the Advent and Christmas Season!**

**December 3:** We will celebrate St. Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas will be visiting us. He will tell us all about his traditions.

**December 10:** During Fellowship Hour, everyone can make a nativity ornament. You may make it at church or take a craft kit home.

**December 17:** During Fellowship Hour, everyone can make a poinsettia ornament. You may make it at church or take a craft kit home.

**December 24:** During the Christmas Eve Family Service (6:00PM), everyone can participate in making the nativity scene.

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

**Budgeted through September: \$266,667**

**Received through September: \$222,478**

**Member Contribution YTD Gap:**

**(\$41,198)**

**Current YTD gap to eliminate budget deficit:**

**(\$79,474)**

**We are thankful for your contributions. Your support of the ministries of IPC is essential. Please help us close the gap we have in member giving, which will aid us end the year on a positive financial note.**





**Young Adults  
IPC Young Adults will  
meet on December  
12th at Jockamo's  
at 6:00 pm Contact  
Rev. Wilson if you  
would like to arrange for  
childcare.**

## GIVING THANKS OFFERING

The name "13th month offering" is no more. It has been renamed "Giving Thanks Offering"! 13th month inferred that someone should give an "extra" month's pledge. Giving Thanks Offering will be whatever you consider contributing to help the church's budget end on a positive note. You can contribute anytime during the month of December/ For those that receive envelopes, an envelope is included for December. There will be Giving Thanks Offering envelopes in the pews and on tables throughout the church. The church wishes to "thank you" for all your gifts during 2023.

## IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT THIS MISSION...

Hello, wonderful people!

When one becomes a member of Irvington Presbyterian Church, so much information is given that one's head might spin. When one has been a long-time member of Irvington Presbyterian Church, a routine can settle in and one can lose touch with some of the "goings on" at IPC. With those thoughts in mind, I am hoping this may help any member of Irvington Presbyterian Church clear their head or reconnect to some important happenings that we, as Irvington Presbyterian Church, can be involved with or simply be informed about. This list is an overall look at what the Mission Committee does. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for what you do to support IPC Missions!!!! - Jenny Giddens

*(Members: Jenny Giddens, Chair, Kathy Stroud, Lynda Dunlevy, Lloyd Crain, Mary Rueff, Shirley Sheeks, Kevin Moorhead, Michelle Eckart)*

### IPC Mission Committee Activities/Offerings

- *Year-round - Irvington Community Assistance Network (ICAN), Fair Trade Products\*, Westminster Neighborhood Services, Irvington Ministerial Association, Faith Ministries in Reynosa, Mexico*
- *Spring - One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (Lent), Pentecost Offering (IPC retains 40%) \*\**
- *Summer - Irvington Ecumenical Youth Mission Trip, The Learning Tree for School 57 school supplies*
- *Fall - Irvington Halloween Festival in October\*\*\*, Peacemaking Offering (World Communion Sunday) (IPC retains 25%) \*\**
- *Winter - Westminster Hats, Scarves, Mittens, and Gloves Tree, Westminster Christmas Baskets, Coats for Westminster (2023) Christmas Joy Offering (Advent)*
- *As Needed - IPC Theater Productions, Family Promise\*\*\*\**

*\*Fair Trade Products: money from the General Sales is used for purchase of coffee for IPC use; money from the one-time sale of Christmas Wreaths was added to the monies for the Mexico Mission for Building Houses.*

*\*\*The use of 40% of the Pentecost Offering total and 25% of the Peacemaking Offering total is determined by the Mission Committee. (i.e.: 2023 – Pentecost Offering amount was given to Irvington Ecumenical Youth Mission Trip)*

*\*\*\*The IPC Booth at the Irvington Halloween Festival raises money for Faith Ministries.*

*\*\*\*\*The Family Promise program helped families in need of housing. IPC and other churches hosted families for overnight stays. Due to COVID, in 2022 the decision was made to suspend hosting in the churches. The program began renting apartments for the families and is continuing that method of assistance. IPC is not involved with the renting of apartments. IPC has donated boxes of sheets, pillowcases, towels, a couple of blankets, and a bag of personal items that included toothbrushes. The Family Promise office is located at 19th and Arsenal.*



Living  
In  
Fellowship  
Together

## SAVE THE DATE

December 4th

### LIFT Christmas Party & Cookie Exchange

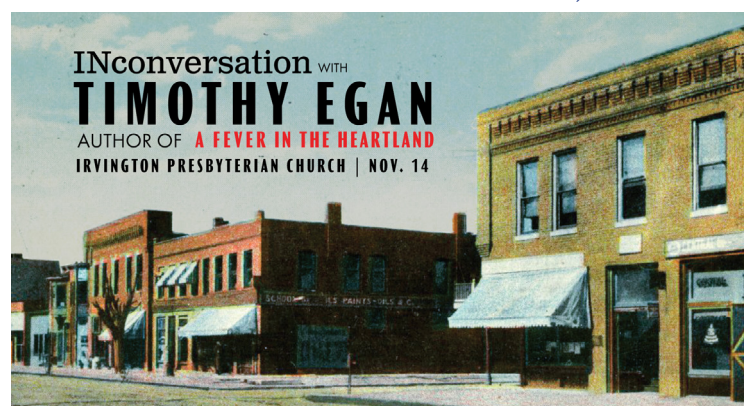
Do you need to take a breath from the hectic pace of holiday preparations? Are you looking for some fellowship, fun and relaxation? You're invited to the LIFT Christmas gathering. Due to Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will be having a combined gathering on Monday, December 4th at 6:30 pm. Watch for more 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.

## IPC INCONVERSATION: HOSTING "A FEVER IN THE HEARTLAND"

On Tuesday, November 14th, IPC provided the space for an event hosted and organized by Indiana Humanities, a non-profit organization with the mission of encouraging reading and open discussion. Author Timothy Egan discussed his newest work Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them.

Nearly 275 people gathered in the Sanctuary to listen as journalist Adam Wren facilitated the session about past Irvington resident and Klan leader D.C. Stephenson's meteoric rise to power and his subsequent arrest, trial, and conviction for the abduction and murder of Madge Oberholtzer, also an Irvington resident.







On Sunday, November 19th, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Reinink was installed as Irvington Presbyterian Church's 10th Senior Pastor! The service, an action of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, was constituted of Presbytery officials, IPC members, and members of the PNC, as well as friends and mentors from Rev. Reinink's journey. Decently and in order, Rev. Reinink and the gathered congregation officially affirmed and accepted this new pastoral relationship. The evening was capped off by a fantastic reception in Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations, Rev. Reinink and the IPC Congregation!





# FROM CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING TOGETHER....



# ...TO PREPARING THE SANCTUARY FOR ADVENT...



THANKS TO ALL WHO HELP MAKE IT POSSIBLE!



SEAL

SEAL

# Irvington Presbyterian Church

*The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

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## JACK'S CORN ER

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

*brain areas than those who have less contact with friends. Number 3: avoid stress and prioritize mental health. Depression doubles the risk for*

*While reading the AARP Bulletin, I ran across an article "Super Agers". These are people in their 80s and 90s that have exceptional memory. Less than 10% of those who think they have it, don't. One secret is they control*

*their blood sugar and blood pressure. They control both through medication and eating a high-nutrient diet. Older adults should eat whole grains, veggies, nuts, leafy greens, berries, and fish. This slows brain aging by 7.5 years. Number 2 is older adults who talk with others every day have less brain shrinkage in key*



*dementia. A study also found stress levels had a 37% higher risk for memory problems. Another study found that older adults with depression who got treatment, including medication and talk therapy, were up to 32% less likely to develop dementia ever 10 years than those who didn't.*

*Merry Christmas to all,  
Jack*