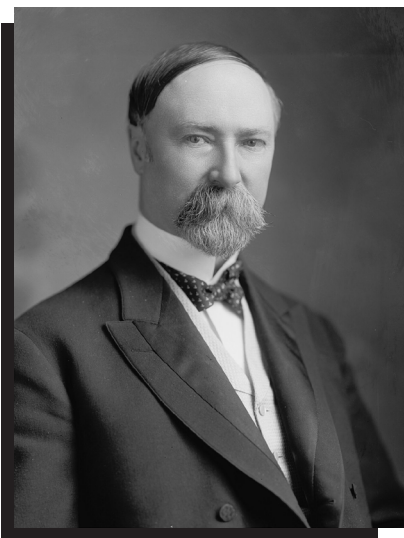


### IPC ENDOWMENT – Love Offering

Each year, on the Sunday closest to Valentine's Day, the IPC Endowment collects an offering to help build the corpus of the fund. We call it the Love Offering as a reminder of the many gifts that have grown this fund out of the love of this church. You will find an offering envelope in this newsletter, and we invite you to take part in this offering during worship on Sunday, February 9th. Whether you contribute \$5 or \$500, your gift will serve this church in perpetuity. Thank you for all your gifts!



## From the Archives...



*What fun it is to dive into historic church bulletins! Yes, I blurted out, "Oh my stars!!" right here at home while reading a piece dated 3.23.13.*

Rev. John S. Martin was our minister 113 yrs ago, and his address as well as phone number were listed right on the front of that Sunday bulletin. And, remember they worshipped in the little brick building on our current location!

On this particular Sunday, Rev. Martin reminded the members of a very special event that afternoon.

*"The big men's meeting will be held in this church this afternoon, commencing at 2:30. The Hon. Charles W. Fairbanks will be the speaker. The men have generously made this an open meeting for all, regardless of sex, and there should be, and doubtless will be, a crowded house."*

Let us not insult the historians in our pews....but Mr. Fairbanks was the 26th Vice-President of the United States during 1905-1908 serving under President Theodore Roosevelt. Previously, he was a Republican Indiana Senator, 1897-1905. He and his wife lived at 30th and Meridian Street in Indy, and they had five children. You will recognize several places that were names in his honor, Fairbanks, Alaska being an important one. Here in Indy, an IPS elementary school on the west side honored Mr. Fairbanks when it was built.

We will continue to be on the lookout for other famous visitors to IPC. Well, of course, besides all of you who attend lovingly each week!!

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

## ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, February 22nd, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following worship. Items of business to be considered include a review of the Annual Report, the 2025 Budget, terms of call, and a report from the Nominating Committee will be heard. All members of the church are invited to remain in the pews and take part in the meeting.

## WHAT KEEPS YOU COMING BACK FOR MORE?

When it comes to researching in churches, two main questions have been asked a thousand different ways: What keeps people coming back to a church? And, how do we get the youth to stay involved in the church? There are hundreds of theories on why people leave faith communities, and hundreds more that suggest a solution (and there are hundreds more that have been made into books and study guides). Most of the time, the aim of the surveys and research was to find the perfect combination of factors that would create the most effective church for attracting, retaining, and forming church members. Frankly, I start getting skeptical the moment someone emerges from a research paper with a formula of "music style + size of membership – number of grumpy seniors x length of service of worship" –and they do exist! In the 2010s, Christian Smith and Kenda Dean published some long-term research that was looking at communities of faith whose youth had especially high rates of remaining committed to their faith traditions as they aged. Of everything they discussed, the two most notable findings were: the term "moralistic therapeutic deism," a phrase that described what would eventually

*Continued on Page 2*

*Continued from Page 1*

be known as “spiritual but not religious;” and, a list of the qualities that were common among churches who had rates of youth retention that were many times higher than others. Twenty years later, “Spiritual but not religious” is still very common; the magic list that would make churches youth magnets, however, has lost its relevance.

In December, Pew Research released a study that shows that 86% of Americans who had mostly positive experiences in their faith traditions as children tended to remain with that faith tradition. While the research is far less in-depth than that of Smith and Dean twenty years ago, this feels far more relevant and applicable, doesn’t it? People are more likely to stick around somewhere if they have good feelings associated with it.

In a world that is so full of relevant data (decades of statistics are available on every facet of the faith of Americans, and that pales in comparison to the digital data that exists on the subject) and ways to evaluate those data, one would think that the perfect equation for member retention would certainly exist by now. The reality is that there is one factor that will make or break a church’s vitality: it’s all about the relationships.

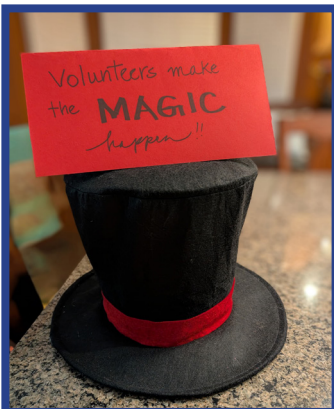
One of the only details I’ve retained from Smith & Dean’s research was a gem that I’ve quoted again and again: The single-greatest predictor of whether a child will grow up to be a person of faith is whether or not they develop connections/ friendships with adults from their faith communities (besides extended family). Pew’s recent research suggests that the likelihood that someone would continue to be involved with their faith communities was tied to having positive experiences—often involving positive connections with other people—in their faith community. And, let’s be honest, there are few places where we can engage with people who genuinely care and seek to know us, despite our different socio-economic or generational experience, except in a church! It’s what makes us a unique place to be!

And, lest I fall victim to one of my own critiques – this encouragement to dwell in the relationships of the Church isn’t just based in research or driven by statistical analysis. It is part of our calling from God, summarized in the laws of Scripture, and an embodiment of our faith, to be sure! We are to love the Lord our God, and love our neighbor as ourselves. That’s a lot of relationship building that is encouraged in those words that Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy.

Statistically, theologically, anecdotally... It’s all about the relationships!

Do you feel the same?

Grateful for great experiences and great people in this family of faith,

### THANK YOU TO THE OFFICE VOLUNTEERS, AV TECH’S, & BUS DRIVERS!

Your dedication and quiet efforts are appreciated. The IPC Staff wants to take a moment to recognize and deeply appreciate the commitment, care, and hard work that you bring every day. It’s because of you that everything runs seamlessly, and for that, we are truly grateful. Thank you for being a steady force that keeps us moving forward with grace and strength.





Living  
In  
Fellowship  
Together

## JOCKAMO'S TASTING PARTY | Monday, February 16th

Jockamo's private back room has been reserved for a tasting party featuring various pizzas, salads, and drinks. We will sample both white and red wines, and pitchers of water, iced tea, and soft drinks will also be available. The cost is \$22 per person, tip included.



Mark your calendar for a fun evening of fellowship! We will gather on Monday, February 16th at 6:30 p.m. Women of all ages are welcome, and please feel free to invite a friend — the more, the merrier! We will be collecting feminine hygiene products for Westminster. Please contact Kathy Moorhead at 317-430-3402 if you have any questions or to let her know if you will be attending.

## IPC YOUTH NEWS

The Irvington Presbyterian Youth Group is off to a great start in February 2026, and it has been wonderful to see our youth growing in fellowship and service together. Recently, our group joined with other local youth groups for a Youth ICAN Day, working side by

side to serve our community and live out our faith through action. Our regular Sunday night youth meetings continue to go well, and we will keep meeting

every Sunday from 5:30–7:30 PM, providing a welcoming space for connection, faith, and fun.

Looking ahead, we have several exciting events coming up this month. On Sunday, February 15, we'll host a Valentine's Day Party—youth are encouraged to bring a friend for an evening filled with food, candy, and fun. Then on Tuesday, February 17, everyone is invited to our FAT TUESDAY Pancake Dinner, lovingly prepared and served by our youth. All are welcome to join us for a delicious meal and great fellowship. We hope you'll

*The Youth group is looking for adult volunteers to serve one Sunday night a month. This is a minimal commitment; you just have to show up and hang out! We meet on Sundays from 5:30 to 7:30.*

*Children's Church is seeking additional teachers to serve on one or two Sundays a month. Lessons are already created and ready, so you just need to have fun and share the weekly story.*



join us!

*Joshua Barrett,  
Director of Youth  
& Children's  
Formation*

## IPC DREAM PROJECT: LET'S DREAM BIG!

With all the exciting things happening at IPC, have you been considering creating a project to serve our community?

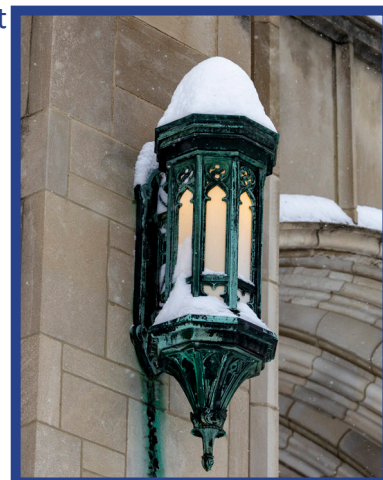


Since the creation of The Dream Project in 2022, we have supported six projects. The projects were: Welcome Team for Our Newest Neighbors, Garden Tour Comfort Station, School #57/Hannah's Playground, Irvington Arts Collective, Daisy Scout Troop and most recently the ICAN Hygiene Kits.

How about you? Have you ever dreamed of a project to serve our community, but funding was the obstacle to fulfilling that dream, now is your chance. Applications are available on the table before you enter the Sanctuary at

the west door or in the office.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Moorhead (317-430-3402).



## WE'RE HIRING!

As many of you may know, our organist and outstanding accompanist, DJ Smith, has been busier than usual over the past year as he completes his studies to become a nurse! We are excited for DJ as he fulfills this career shift, but it also means that he won't be able to be our primary accompanist for much longer. So... if you happen to know an organist...

Irvington Presbyterian Church (IPC) is seeking a Church Organist. IPC prides itself on being a steadfast member of the historic and historically artistic neighborhood of Irvington on the East side of Indianapolis, and IPC's music department has been an integral part of contributing to and participating in the life of that community. The Church Organist is a fundamental participant in embodying the ministry of music making that our members, neighbors, musicians, and community have come to know as IPC's primary artistic expression. The Church Organist will present to the congregation various genres of music, primarily using the organ and piano, and will play a major role in assisting the Director of Music in developing IPC's musical programming and education for all ages. IPC's Church Organists have historically been accomplished musicians who appreciate and support the theological beliefs of Presbyterianism as an expression of the Reformed faith, exhibit enthusiasm and energy in promoting the music ministry of the church, and provide creative investment and development of the musical "voice" of the congregation in a way that complements and supports the work of their colleagues. Interested parties are invited to review the position description and application



instructions available at [irvpresby.org](http://irvpresby.org) or by scanning the QR code to the left or by contacting the Church office at (317) 356-7225.

## *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, please contact Kathy Moorhead at 317-430-3402



## LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Now's the chance to share your "Souper" power! IPC will be hosting the community soup supper and Lenten service on Wednesday, March 18th. We will need to provide a buffet of soups, baskets of bread, and trays of cookies. We will also need many hands to set up, serve, and clean up afterwards. If you can provide food items and/or your time, that would be souper! Please contact Jackie Cox

with questions or to sign up: [coxjackie3@gmail.com](mailto:coxjackie3@gmail.com).

## ANNUAL ICAN LENTEN SERIES

*(Wednesdays of Lent after Ash Wednesday and before Holy Week)*

**Soup Supper at 6 p.m. and Worship at 7 p.m.**

February 25

Rev. Frank Everett at  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church

March 4

Rev. Sunil Kotian at  
Downey Avenue Christian Church

March 11

Rev. Lee Welker at  
Irvington United Methodist Church

March 18

Rev. Melody Merida at  
Irvington Presbyterian Church

March 25

Pastor TBA at  
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church





Hello friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome to the Irvington Presbyterian Church community. There are many people and traditions I will miss from Northminster Presbyterian Church in Broad Ripple, where I have been working for the past several years — but one of the main reasons I was excited to start here was because of how friendly everyone I've met has been. With each service, rehearsal, meeting, or casual chat I have at IPC, I feel more welcomed into the congregation and the spiritual community here! Just as I have been warmly welcomed, I want to extend that warmth and encouragement to each of you to participate in music as part of our spiritual life at Irvington Pres. The Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir are both open to anyone with a love for music, with no audition required. Ringers rehearse Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30, and singers from 7:30 to 8:30. We are always looking to grow our membership, which would expand our performance opportunities. If you've ever been unsure about joining either group, consider this your sign to come to a weekly rehearsal and see for yourself. Feel free to stop me in Fellowship Hall after the service to ask any questions or talk to members of the Bell Choir or Chancel Choir. If you don't ring or sing but play another instrument and want to get involved in worship music, we have space for you too! Let me know, and we'll find a way to include your musical talents in our services. Thanks again, and I look forward to more moments together!

--Doug Shafer-Johnson, Director of Music



## SAFE HARBOR

We are a fellowship group started in the 90's with many 20-somethings gathering. Those young people are now in their 50's and 60's and still gather monthly for fun and fellowship.

If you'd like to join in, please contact Pat Lewis ([pmclewis@yahoo.com](mailto:pmclewis@yahoo.com)) or David Owen ([davidDPU81@yahoo.com](mailto:davidDPU81@yahoo.com)).

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 21st  
Indy Fuel  
Hockey Game  
Host: Owen

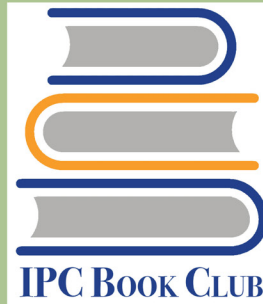
February 21st  
Duck Pin Bowling  
Fountain Square  
Host: Eoff

April 17th/18th  
Attend a play  
(TBD)  
Host: Owen

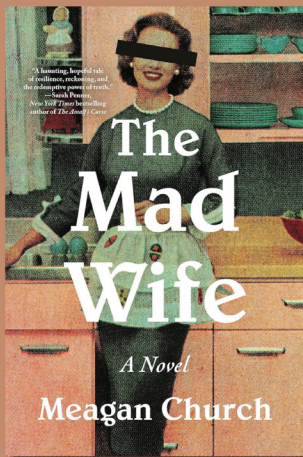
Thank you to everyone who helped with the Hanging of the Greens in November, preparing for the Luminaria and Christmas Eve services in December, and Unhanging the Greens in January. Our sanctuary looked beautiful from all your efforts. Your help was greatly appreciated by your Worship Committee.



**Wednesday,  
March 11<sup>th</sup>  
IPC Parlor | 7:00 pm**



Our next book pick is a psychological thriller! Grab a copy, download it to an e-reader, or listen to "The Mad Wife" by Meagan Church. Described by author Lee Kravetz as "In a quietly devastating wink-and-nod to The Bell Jar, set firmly in thriller and suspense territory, Meagan Church delivers a



piercing portrait of a young mother unraveling in the grip of 1950s suburbia, where Jell-O molds collapse, dishwashers invade, and card games with neighbors turn into emotional battlefields. With razor-sharp insight and aching lyricism, The Mad Wife traces a woman's descent through sleepless nights, domestic disillusionment, and buried guilt, capturing a haunting tension between what is said, seen, and silently endured until she no longer can."

Meet you in the parlor on March 11th at 7 pm for a spirited discussion about "The Mad Wife." Our discussion will be led by LaVonne Mitchell. Please contact Ondrea McAulay (meaulayondrea2@gmail.com) with any questions.



**The IPC Book Club will  
be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday of these  
months in 2026:**

- March 11
- May 13
- July 8
- September 9
- November 11

#### IN JOYOUS CELEBRATION

We celebrate the birth of Theodore James Thompson, born on December 19, 2025. Congratulations to parents, Emeline and Scott Thompson, big sisters Caroline and Lucy, and grandparents David and Susan Hansen, aunt and uncle, Sandy and Hal Page.

#### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian Sympathies are extended to Joan Brown and family and friends as they grieve the loss of Ned Brown.

#### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

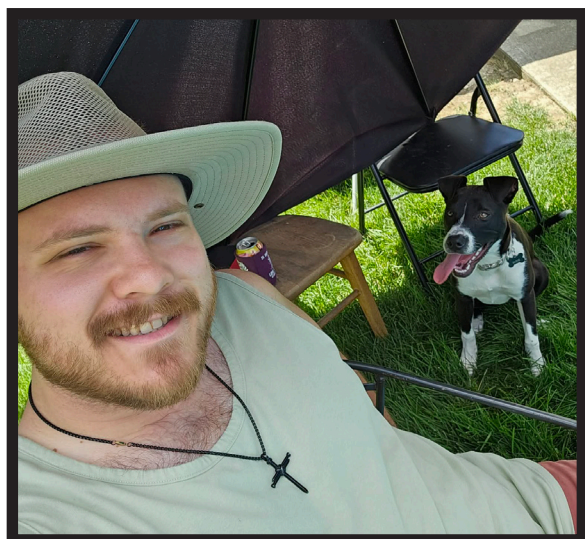
Christian Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Gwen Edstrom as they grieve Gwen's passing.



Westminster Neighborhood Services will be having their 10th annual Food Fight fundraiser on Friday, February 20th from 6-9PM at Marion, INC., 1011 E. St. Clair St., Indpls, 46202. The Mission Committee will be sponsoring a table for 8 at this friendly competition between local high school culinary programs. The teams will use items from the WNS Food Pantry to create their dishes. Guests and judges to taste and cast votes for a crowd favorite dish and the judge's Master Chef. The funds that are raised for this event are used in supporting Westminster's programs and services for the most vulnerable neighbors on the Near Eastside. If you are interested in a seat at the IPC table, please call the office and leave your name. When the IPC table is full, you may still attend by purchasing single tickets for \$50.00. For more information, go to the Westminster Neighborhood Services website and tap the 3 lines in the top right-hand corner.



# Pawsitively Uplifting



Anyone who owns a dog knows that it's not a small commitment. I've wanted my own dog for a long time. Growing up my family always had a dog around, and I loved that. Having a little friend at home was one of the things I missed most while I was attending college. Then two years after college, life is getting hard, it's getting real. The world becomes a much different place as an adult. And someone, on a whim, suggested I should get a dog. And the idea stuck.

My local animal shelter had recently posted about a new litter of puppies, just four weeks old. And when I went in to play with them I wasn't fully planning to fall in love with one. But Sadie made it clear to her sisters that she wanted to play with me. They told me that she was the "fistiest" of the litter, and I couldn't help but think, "That's my dog."

Now Sadie just celebrated her first birthday. She is a joy, and helps me focus on important daily tasks like getting outside, eating, and just generally taking care of myself. Even when the world seems so scary, Sadie helps me through it.

--Caleb Holzhausen



A birthday is a special time to express gratitude to God for life!

On Sunday, February 1st, in Fellowship Hall following worship, we will celebrate all February

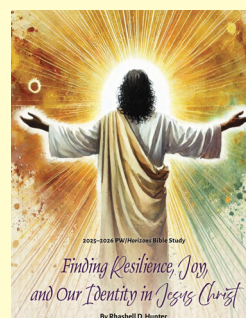
birthdays! We will have cake and other goodies!

*Donald Broadlick  
Bobby Brown  
Jennifer Donaldson  
Anne Moore  
Rachel Moir  
Bob Gough  
Jennifer Harris  
Hudson Lewis  
Bill Voiles  
Aria Studabaker*

*Amy Studabaker  
Lew Beem  
Christopher Studabaker  
Kaydence Meyers  
Katherine Wooden  
Nicole Glenn  
Katherine Gering-Williams  
Erin Jester  
Janet Wilzbacher*

If we have omitted anyone's birthday, please let us know. We may not have it on record at the church office. You can email Lori at [lchapman@irvpresby.org](mailto:lchapman@irvpresby.org) to inform her of your birthdate.

## 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](http://irvpc.link/pwbiblestudies).**

## 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](http://alz.org) |  **alzheimer's association**

SEAL

SEAL

# Irvington Presbyterian Church

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

55 Johnson Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46219-6498

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## JACK'S O R N E R

### WHY DO SHIRTS HAVE COLLARS?

Some things are taken for granted in our lives. Let's consider the shirt collar. Why do some shirts have

collars, and some don't? What purpose do they serve? Before the 15th century, there were no shirt collars. Shirts were undergarments with round, open, scooped necklines. Clergy wore stiff tunics, and a collar was placed under a rough tunic to prevent it from irritating the skin. In the 19th century, a southern reverend invented the clerical collar, also known as the dog collar, worn by ministers. At that time, collars became a symbol of wealth

among European nobility. During the Renaissance, wardrobes included extravagant ruffled collars, some resembling unfurled accordions around the neck. These indicated social status and signified that the wearer was unlikely to do manual labor. Later, the collars we know today emerged as part of everyday clothing designed to frame the face. They also added structure to the garment and provided neck sun protection.

