

A LETTER FROM
CAROLYN LESMEISTER
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FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER

As Irvington steps into the process of seeking a new pastor who will serve as your head of staff, this is an opportune moment to reflect on what makes a church “healthy.” The Alban Institute is an organization which supports the work of congregations. The Institute pioneered new ways of enabling congregational leaders to be agents of grace and transformation that could shape and heal the world. Here is an adaptation of an article on congregational health. How well does this describe Irvington Presbyterian Church?

The Marks of a Healthy Church

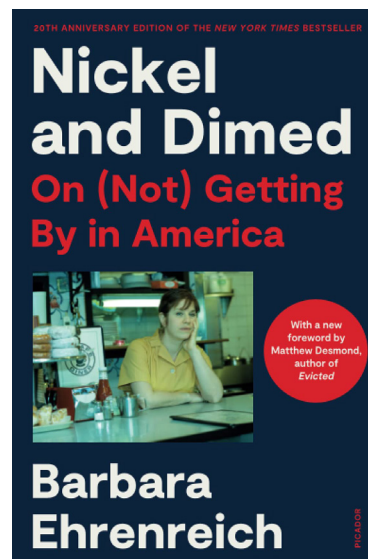
1. *Mission Driven. It has a vision and purpose beyond itself as a community of faith. Do we have a passion that drives us?*
2. *Concentrates on its spirituality and the quality of its life together. This involves both the worship and social aspects of our lives. This means we seek to nurture our awareness of God’s presence among us, and respond to God’s presence through our life, fellowship, and caring for each other, as well as through our worship.*
3. *Has a dynamic outreach program into the community and the world. As God’s servants, a healthy church works to reach out with God’s love to those who long for it, inviting folks into the community of faith and reaching out with healing to those who need it. What percentage of our budget is spent on mission and outreach? What percentage of our time is spent on outreach?*
4. *Works at becoming an inclusive community of faith. Inclusion refers to being open to folks of any age, any race, any culture, any economic condition. Do we make a conscious effort to let everyone feel at home? Do we design our worship and programs so that a wide variety of people will feel comfortable worshipping and growing with us?*
5. *Understands conflict and manages it. A healthy church is not afraid of conflict. It knows that a variety of opinions are healthy and where there is diversity, conflict naturally arises. But it is important that conflict be dealt with openly and resolved quickly rather than let it fester.*

Continued on Page 4

JUSTICE ADVOCACY TEAM COMMUNITY BOOK READ

The Justice Advocacy Team and the Irvington Public Library will be partnering together for a Community Book Read. The book to be discussed is *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, written by Barbara Ehrenreich. Holly Pittman will be leading the discussion. The event is planned for April, 2022.

Please watch for more details to come. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Moorhead.



LENTEN SERVICES
Mark your calendars for Wednesday night services in Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd at IPC. More dates and locations will be available later in January.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The Christian Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jan Schreibman whose husband, Eric Schreibman died, January 13, 2022. And to Arie Schreibman in the loss of his father, Eric Schreibman.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The Christian Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Kyleigh Welch whose grandfather, William Edward "Billy" Welch.

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

Budgeted through November \$334,583

Received through November \$287,061

Current YTD gap: \$47,522

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

CHALICE OFFERING

The Chalice Offering began several years ago at IPC as a way of collecting money to use as emergency funds for members of the church and extra funds for non-budgeted uses. Those participating in this offering are given a chalice to collect their end-of-the-day pocket change. Then, every quarter, the offering is presented.

On Sunday, February 27, the Chalice Offering will be received. Extra chalices are now available from the pastors, if you need one at home.



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 envelop in this newsletter and we invite you to take part in this offering during worship on Sunday, February 13th. Whether you contribute \$5 or \$500, your gift will serve this church in perpetuity.

Thank you for all your gifts!

PER CAPITA REMINDER

Your contribution towards Per Capita will assist this church in meeting it's 2022 budget goals.

TJ Hengst (Chair)

Scott Stroud (at large)

Lloyd Crain (Elder)

Jan Schreibman (at large)

Steve Payne (Elder)

Gail Mc Nierney (at large)

Erika Hinshaw (Trustee)

Bruce Stroud (Treasurer)

Susan Hansen (Deacon)

COVID--THE THIRD YEAR

In a month, we will mark the beginning of the 3rd year of dealing with COVID. I am sure many of us are experiencing COVID fatigue at this point and at a higher level than before. There are many things you can do to help yourself survive these unpredictable times we are living in to stay healthy and encouraged.

1. Eat healthy meals.
2. Get plenty of sleep
3. Take medications as prescribed.
4. Exercise and move as much as possible. Limit your sitting time.
5. Stay in touch with family & friends by telephone, video chat or by mail.
6. When weather permits go outside for fresh air and vitamin D from the sun.

By continuing to read our Bibles and praying we can stay encouraged. Here are the words of Isaiah....

***You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you. Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)***

Denise Harrington
Senior Citizen Coordinator

It is with bittersweet feelings that I announce that I will be leaving IPC. The last few years here have been lovely, and it has been a real joy, honor, and privilege to work with such wonderful colleagues and volunteers and to watch the children and youth of this church grow in faith! However, I've accepted an offer to serve full-time as a Montessori Instructional Assistant at an IPS school – the same one that my son, Xavier, attends – and the opportunity is too good to pass up. I've long been interested in Montessori education and am excited for the chance to try it out.

As I'm writing this in mid-January, the staff has only just learned of this upcoming transition, and thus I am not able to share definite plans about what things will look like going forward. I know that this church is committed to faith formation and educational opportunities for people of all ages, and that the children of IPC are a great joy and blessing. I have no doubt that they will continue to be cared for and taught by loving, faithful people. (Filling out the CE survey will go a long way toward helping them figure out how to best do that!)

Christian Education is truly the work of many people, and none of what we do would be possible without such dedicated volunteers and supporters who contribute to the work through their time, talents, and treasures. I am so deeply grateful to everyone who has shared their gifts with me and with the congregation over the years. You all are such a blessing, and I will miss you all dearly!

Thank you for everything,
Rev. Carolyn Lesmeister

TRIENNIUM!

This amazing conference for youth & young adults featuring speakers, music, breakouts ... everything! It happens once every three years and is often described as a life-changing spiritual experience.

Triennium will be held July 24-27 right here in Indianapolis, and the theme is Matthew 25. Registration costs are shared, so don't let the price tag scare you. We aren't registering just yet, but take a look at the event, check the dates, and keep an eye out for details on when and how to sign up. Visit <https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/> for more information.

CE SURVEY

If you haven't yet completed the Christian Education survey, please do so ASAP. The survey is for everyone – whether you have children or not – and addresses opportunities for people of all ages. It will only take a few minutes to complete. Hard copies are available at the church, or you can visit our website for a link. The deadline to complete it is February 6.

CONFIRMATION CALL OUT MEETING AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, FEB. 13

This meeting is specifically for parents of youth who would be interested in doing confirmation in the relatively near future. If your child is in 6th grade or older and was not part of the last confirmation class a few years ago, we'd love to get in touch with you about upcoming opportunities. If you are interested but can't make the meeting, please let Pastor Mo know at mwilson@irvpresby.org.

RAMBLER ROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With Carolyn's departure from IPC, volunteer assistants are especially needed for the Rambler Room, which is 2-3-year-olds up through kindergarten-aged children who leave worship after Sacred Space. Hannah Braun will continue to serve as the lead teacher, but another adult is needed to help out. If you're interested in serving in this way, please contact Carolyn at clesmeister@irvpresby.org for information about volunteer training.

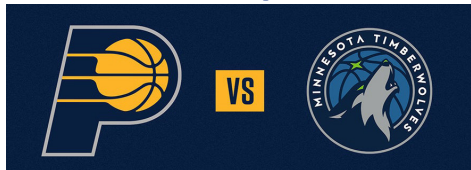


PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2022

July 24-27 • Indianapolis, IN

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults: are heading to see the Pacers against the Minnesota Timberwolves: February 13th at 3:00pm. Tickets are paid for by the Engaging Young Adults Grant. Contact Rev. Wilson to reserve your tickets soon!



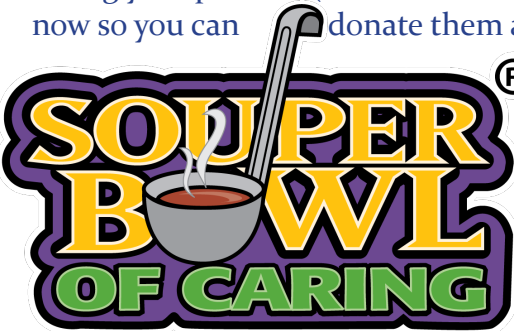
IPC YOUTH GROUP

Watch your email for upcoming events and other Youth Group news.

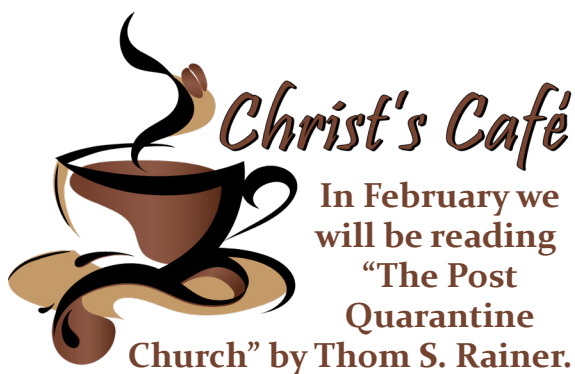
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The youth group will be collecting loose change and other cash donations on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 13, immediately following worship! Start saving your pennies (and dimes and quarters) now so you can

donate them and support the CROP Walk to end hunger.

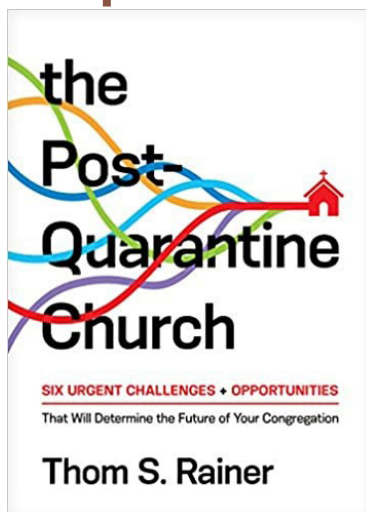


tacklehunger.org



In February we will be reading "The Post Quarantine Church" by Thom S. Rainer.

There are copies to purchase in the office for \$10.00. You can also order the book independently. We will begin the study at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor on February 6th.



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6. *It is an open church, not closed. This means that is open to input from outside the church, open to people, new ideas, resources. It takes in and gives out. This requires flexibility and willingness to change as circumstances and times require.*
7. *Has leaders who will lead. This refers to the Session composed of the elders and pastor, and other officers and leaders. Leading means directing, being a resource, taking initiative, when necessary, to risk, discerning God's will, and acting on one's decisions and judgment. It means preparing others to lead, and guiding others rather than doing everything themselves.*
8. *Has communication which is open and direct. A healthy church does not engage in gossip. But rather, members deal directly with each other as issues arise. If a member has an issue with someone else, they go directly to the one involved.*
9. *Examines behavior and actions to see if it is effective. The healthy church asks itself, "Is what we're doing in our programs and worship effective?" It doesn't recycle old programs simply because they have been done before. The healthy church does what accomplishes its purpose.*
10. *Uses everyone's gifts/makes that clear. Every person, every age, has a gift - something they do well and enjoy doing. The healthy church seeks to recognize and use each person's gift within the life of the church.*

Even as a new person, I can see that Irvington has many of these qualities. What do you think?

Together in Christ,
Pastor Steve
Interim Pastor

Adapted from The Alban Institute

IRVINGTON ROOTS AND WINGS CHILDCARE

Irvington Roots and Wings – Child Care Ministry of Irvington Presbyterian Church has an intentional social/emotional focus. Regardless of age, our students learn and understand the power of what they are feeling (or need) and how to express it appropriately. We use Conscious Discipline-inspired concepts. (www.consciousdiscipline.com).

Promoting positive behavior encourages learning and to accomplish this all teachers focus on children's age-appropriate behavior milestones and individual needs. Clear, consistent, age-appropriate guidelines are modeled throughout the day. Our strategy allows the child to grow into taking responsibility for their own actions by giving them choices.

Children are coached on age-appropriate verbiage they can use to express a need or dislike to include when another child takes something or does something they don't like. Phrases that are more productive than "share", "be nice" or "say you're sorry" are used by teachers in order to develop a child's cognitive awareness of the situation.

Children are prompted to say phrases like -

"Can I have it when you're done?"

"I'm having a turn."

"I don't like it when you..."

Teachers use phrases to assist children like -

"Can you ask if they're ok?"

"You may ____ or _____. Which do you choose?"

"You can have a turn when he/she is done."

"That was so kind. Thank you for..."

"Thank you for being a good helper."

Excerpt from www.consciousdiscipline.com

"Conscious Discipline empowers us to be conscious of brain-body states in ourselves and children. It then provides us with the practical skills we need to manage our thoughts, feeling and actions."

Our culture at Irvington Roots and Wings childcare is understanding how we impact each other, our school, our families, neighborhood, and community. We strive to help children ultimately be successful (as defined by them/family) in elementary school and beyond by being good learners and good friends.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the church Parlor. If you would like more information please contact, Steve Payne.



3B Exercise has been cancelled until further notice. Please check the Friday email and bulletin for the

latest information on when it will resume. Contact Denise Harrington with any questions at dharringtonipc@gmail.com.

SLICE OF LIFE

Slice of Life is postponed until February 15 at 12:30 p.m. in the church Parlor.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Association has asked that all support groups return to virtual platforms until further notice. The support group has returned to Zoom as of January. The Alzheimer's Support Group will continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1pm. To

alzheimer's association

receive the Zoom link contact Denise Harrington at dharringtonipc@gmail.com



Spring is on the way!!

SEAL

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Irvington Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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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.

MEET PASTOR STEPHEN, IPC'S INTERIM PASTOR

Pastor Stephen was born in Indianapolis on June 5, 1959. He has 2 sisters and one brother. His father worked as a Fuller Brush salesman and also Electro Lux sweeper sales representative.



His father was transferred to Madison, Indiana in 1968, and was involved in a serious car accident. He survived the accident, but it brought on an illness that had been lying dormant in his body and he passed away. His mother returned to Indianapolis and worked at RCA on the east side. Money was tight and they had to live in public housing. They moved into a small camper. When he was 10 years old, he walked to church every week as he felt safe in the presence of GOD. Eventually he was able to go to Indiana State University. At the end of his first year, he was asked about being a camp counselor for summer at Geneva Center. He was there for 3 summers. He met Liz Kaznak-Hall while she was attending camp. (It is truly a small world!). At this same time Pastor Steve was thinking about joining the military. After graduating from college, he was offered a job as a teacher, but turned it down at the last minute and went into the Ministry. He did not feel worthy, but a passage from Mark said, 'to pick up the cross and follow me.' In 1981 he entered Louisville Seminary and graduated in 1985. He won the best preaching award in the Seminary. He and Liz's paths crossed again when in Louisville where they worked.

Next month will be part 2.