

■ December 2020



"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

--John 1:5



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

For the health and safety of everyone, during Advent our in-person worship will continue to be limited and people in high-risk categories are urged to stay home and watch our live stream worship.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6TH

Lighting the Candle of Peace

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13TH

Lighting the Candle of Joy

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20TH

Lighting the Candle of Love
Christmas Joy Offering

LUMINARIA

Sanctuary open from 6-8 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

One worship service at 7 p.m.

The service will be recorded and available to watch any time on the IPC Facebook page or the IPC YouTube channel.

Live Stream only, no in-person attendance.

The Lord's Supper, Candlelighting and a pageant will be held with individual recorded parts.

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 27TH

10 a.m. worship, Live stream only.

The Session regrets the change in our worship traditions during Advent and Christmas. However, the health and safety of the congregation is their primary concern. Even with these changes, the church will still provide a joyful worship experience in celebration of the birth of Christ. Despite the pandemic, the loss, the death, the pain, and the sadness of our times, we will still shout:

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!



EVENING OF LIGHT!

Join us in the sanctuary December 20th during the annual Irvington Luminaria from 6-8 p.m. We will open our sanctuary for anyone wishing to come and listen to quiet Christmas music, meditate, or to light a candle in memory or honor of someone.

Masks and social distancing required.

Dear Presbyterians,

The prophecy of Advent & Christmas speaks loudly and clearly this year:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. Isaiah 9:2

For who can deny that since last March the whole world has been walking in darkness. With over a quarter million people dead in our country and over a million dead around the world from the virus, darkness has veiled us all in fear and despair and sadness.

But now, more than ever, we need to look for the light, because it is there. It is there in our country that is energized by reports of a vaccine that will soon be available. It is there in our church that is lifted by your ongoing financial support and by the continued care of one person to another. The light is there when we see people motivated to bring racial equity to people of color, when we see efforts to improve the environment, and even when we collect food for Christmas baskets. And the light is mostly there in our faith that trusts that God is carrying us through the darkness.

If ever we needed the hope, peace, joy and love of Advent and Christmas, it is now. If you do nothing else in December, please look for light. It is here for each of us.

With peace and yes, joy!

Bob

ZOOMING FOR OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Living
In
Fellowship
Together

There is a chill in the air so LIFT will not be meeting at the IPC parking lot. We usually combine our November and December gathering. How about we plan on sharing some Christmas cheer on Monday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom? I'll

send the Zoom link when the date gets closer. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Moorhead at 317-430-3402.



Please mark your calendar for Monday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. to kick off our holiday season.

IPC RETREAT *Cancelled!*

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the annual IPC retreat at Geneva Center at the end of January has been cancelled. When the pandemic ends and gatherings resume, we hope to resume these popular retreats.



2021 PLEDGE CARDS

Thank you to everyone who has already turned in your pledge card for 2021. Early in the new year, the Finance Committee will set the 2021 Budget.

If you have not yet made your pledge, please do so by the end of December so that Finance Committee can estimate our offerings for 2021.

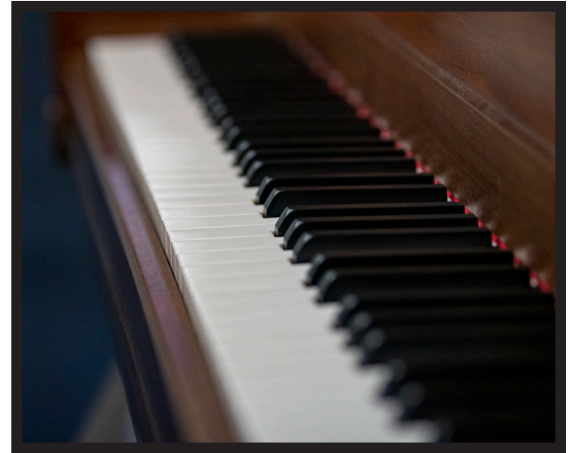
Thank you for your pledges!



ORGAN AND PIANO RECITAL *Friday, December 4, 2020 at 7 p.m.*

Tiantian Liang and her husband, Peter Rogahn, will present a recital of organ and piano duets by the French composer Marcel Dupré (1886–1971). This performance will be a part of Peter's capstone project for his doctoral degree in Organ at Indiana University.

Dupré was one of the most prominent French composers, organists, and teachers during the 20th century. He wrote three pieces for organ and piano—a combination of instruments that was



rare. The first piece, *Ballade*, was written in 1932 and dedicated to pianist and daughter, Marguerite Dupré (1909–1963). It is dramatic and makes effective use of both instruments. The second work, *Variations on Two Themes*, is a virtuosic

showpiece. The final piece, *Sinfonia*, was written in 1946 and was dedicated again to his daughter. It is a multi-movement symphony wrapped up into a single 11-minute piece—it feels like a whirlwind! This father and daughter duo performed the pieces on their concert tours in Europe and America.

These pieces are rarely performed because of the technical demands placed on the performers. For one, the organ and piano are a challenging ensemble to coordinate! Even though both instruments use keyboards, the way they make sound is totally different. The organ is essentially a wind instrument that

uses air to blow into the pipes. On the other hand, the piano is a percussive stringed instrument that uses hammers to strike the strings. This aspect makes the piano and organ total opposites. On top of that, the pieces were written as virtuoso concert pieces to display both Dupré's technical and musical strengths. We hope you will enjoy these seldom-performed pieces.

WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Our annual tradition of filling Christmas baskets at Westminster Neighborhood Services will continue this year, but with safety precautions. Those who are healthy and with no risk factors, are invited to meet at Westminster (2325 E New York St.) on Friday, December 11th at 6 p.m. to fill baskets with food items. Please wear a mask and Westminster will provide gloves.

- IPC has been asked to contribute 300 cans of beans, 300 boxes of pasta and 600 cans of tuna for the baskets. Please drop them off to the church by Sunday, December 6th.
- We are also filling up the Mitten Tree with hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to give to Westminster.



MORE WESTMINSTER NEWS

On January 9, Westminster is opening a new Saturday Food Pantry, to be held on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month from 9 a.m.-noon. Volunteers are needed to help fill and pass out groceries to clients. Please contact Westminster at 317-632-9785.

END-OF-YEAR GIFTS AND TAXES

The IPC Finance Committee wants to remind everyone that several changes in tax law toward charitable contributions can affect your 2020 taxes.

"Under the CARES Act, taxpayers can now take a deduction for up to \$300 in charitable contributions if they don't itemize on their 2020 tax form. This is a flip from the previous rule that required itemization for a tax break.

Individual donors who are well positioned to give generously, regardless of their income, should know about this tax code change for the year 2020: according to Section 2205 there is now no limit to the deductions you can take for charitable contributions if you itemize (list out) your contributions. Previously, you could only deduct up to a maximum of 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) via charitable contributions. But under the new guidelines, 100% of your donation would now be tax deductible."

The Finance Committee urges people to consult their tax preparer for individual guidance on their charitable contributions.

13TH MONTH GIVING

To help the church budget end the year on a positive note, please consider contributing an "extra" month pledge gift. This gift will help the church balance our budget and provide a tidy charitable tax deduction for you in 2020. Thank you for all your gifts!

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. The dates for December are the 2 and 16. Masks and social distancing are required. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Patrick Durkin. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our Christian sympathy goes to Lana Wooden and her family on the death of her father, Dennis Wozniak, on November 13, 2020.

Our Christian sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of longtime IPC member Mary Lou Linhardt, who passed away on September 10, 2020.



"TIE ONE ON"

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings of the year. This offering supports retired church workers and other church workers with special needs. Please mail the enclosed offering envelope to the church.



IRVINGTON ROOTS AND WINGS CHILD CARE

Irvington Roots and Wings - Child Care Ministry of IPC currently has 12 children enrolled. A few are part time to accommodate our families' needs and three children are from families of the church. One of our families moved to Knightstown but still bring their daughter to Irvington Roots and Wings. She also is one of the original babies who is now a multi-age student! We are so fortunate to have loyal families who believe in what we do. Two 5-year old's recently left for peer Pre-K programs and another attends an a.m. program then returns to us for the remainder of the day. We have had a toddler transition to our multi-age class with

another not far behind. We have a few children who receive some type of additional

time infant teacher. Two of the three current staff are members of the church. An attempt to hire another part time infant teacher had been put on hold but will need to be activated again with impending toddler transitions into the multi-age environment. Our students are engaged in both lesson plan driven activities as well as more organic

interactions based on their choices throughout the day. The Irvington library pulls books based on the weekly themes for lesson planning. There is also a goal of being outside in the playground and/or in the neighborhood a minimum of twice daily. In September, Family and

Social Services Administration (FSSA) and Department of Homeland Security (Fire/Emergency Standards) formally reinspected the school and we received a recertification until Feb 2022 with no notations or violations! However, there will continue to be unannounced visits periodically. Thank you for your continued support on all levels as we continue to build this important mission of the church and for the community.



developmental support, to include First Steps. One of the children's therapists currently visits weekly to provide that therapy. We have recently had a new baby start with us. We have a manageable wait list that includes two infants for Aug 2021. Our staff consists of one Director/co-teacher, one full time co-teacher and a part



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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.

His uncle called him Sparky, the name of a racehorse in a comic strip. He was terrible in school, failing every subject in the 8th grade. Sports weren't much better for him. He made the golf team but lost his two big matches. Socially he wasn't any better, no one seemed to care much because he was a loser. Drawing was about the only thing important to him. In his senior year he submitted some cartoons to his yearbook. The editor rejected them. Despite this brush off, he was convinced of his talent. After high school he contacted Walt Disney and they invited him to send in some samples but those were rejected. He was still a loser but he didn't give up. He decided to tell his own life story. The main

character would be a little boy that was a perpetual loser. This is what he knew best. Sparky's character became a cultural hit. People identified with the lovable loser. This reminded people of some of their own embarrassments. The character became known as "Charlie Brown" by Charles Schultz. This reminds us that life somehow finds a way for all of us. If we are persistent and hold fast in our faith, we discover the unique talent that everyone of us has. There is no limit to our potential. In the end, there are no losers, just winners.

