

■ **October/November 2020**



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
ENDS NOVEMBER 1, 2020!**



STEWARDSHIP 2020

LIVE COURAGEOUSLY

“TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE”

Timothy 6:19



The year 2020 will go down in history as a time of sickness, stress and trouble. No one has escaped its trauma, and no one will forget the tight grip of darkness that descended upon the world.

However, our faith in God's sovereignty stands out boldly during this trouble, saying to the world:
Live Courageously (Psalm 31:24).

As a body of faith, we have endured and even thrived at times. We have supported one another; we have held together as a church and we have worshipped as always.

As we consider our financial giving to the church in 2021, the Stewardship Committee is very aware of the job loss and economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic. Therefore, the Committee makes no impassioned plea for an increase in tithes and offerings in the new year. Instead, the Committee asks each person to do as the Apostle Paul suggests in the Book of Timothy, to “take hold of the life that really is life”. In other words, focus on the primary areas of your life that bring you satisfaction: people you love, experiences of joy and the significance of faith. And then, make your pledge. Whether it is an increase in your giving, a decrease, or remaining steady, if it helps you take hold of the life that is really life, then it is right for you.

Sunday, November 15th is STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Please return your 2021 Pledge Cards by then, whether by mail or in the offering plate if we are in worship together.

Thank you for all of your gifts which have sustained the church through this difficult year. This congregation has lived courageously and your faithfulness to God is clearly evident. Blessings to you all!

IPC MISSIONS

A busy time!

Mexico Mission – Though no Fish Fry will be held this year, the Mission Committee invites the congregation to contribute to the Mexico Mission fund the amount they would usually spend for a Fish platter, \$10, \$20 or more.

Then please join us for a special Wednesday Night Live program on Wednesday, October 28th at 7 p.m. when we will highlight the 20th Anniversary of our Mexico partnership with Faith Ministry. This live stream show will feature Mexico trip alumni, pictures of Mexico trips of the past and numerous surprises for your entertainment. It will also include a “Telethon-like” experience so that people can call in with their pledge for the Mexico Mission.



Faith Ministry
Making a difference, one at a time.

Dear Presbyterians,

I like to give out books to people. If I have read and like a book I will give it to you, partly because I really liked it and think you would enjoy it, but mostly because I want all the information immediately dumped into your brain so we can talk about it right that moment. It never works that way, but it won't stop me from wanting it. I don't even really care about getting the book back as long as you read it. I have to date given away ten copies of Parker Palmers book "Let Your Life Speak". As soon as I run out, I immediately order three more. You never know when the opportunity to obtrusively give out reading requirements to an unsuspecting person may arise.

This happened last week when a friend's mom called to say that she was coming by to drop off a donation for the church. She's not even and member of IPC and do you know how I responded to her kindness? I gave her homework. "Hi, nice to see you again. Thank you for the donation, and here a thousand-page history book on the early church for you slog through. You're welcome" That will teach her to be nice to Presbyterians.

Then I went up to my office to order another copy. The book is called "The Story of Christianity" by Justo L Gonzalez and it describes the writings and practices of the early church communities. How they were forming and evolving, even how they responded under threat. Practices that they took to keep themselves safe in an unsafe time. Worshiping in small groups, home churches. They were the original quaran-team. Leaders wrote letters to keep up with their communities. The world and the church was changing constantly, and how to practice being a follower of Christ looked and felt different to different people. They were learning and leading as they went.

This feels very relatable as we continue to navigate new ways of practicing being followers of Christ in a evolving and changing world. And at its core, how do we do it keeping ourselves and one another safe. Home churches, leaders having to communicate from a distance. Groups meeting to worship in secret, risking being caught by the "authorities". That last one's not directed to any specific group of members living at Westminster or anything.... I think those early church mothers and fathers would be proud that the church continues to find ways to be the church even in the face of challenges. That we continue to seek safe ways to worship. I'm sure someday books will be written about this time in Church history. About online choirs, parking lot meetings, sharing Communion from our homes, separated but together. Books will be written about the calls and the care, the creativity, the commitment and mostly the Christ fueled acts of those 2020 Christians. And maybe those books will be given out generations later to remind our descendants how we were the church separated but together in this time. I hope so.

In Christ,

Marcus

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Emeline and Scott Thompson on the baptism of their daughter Caroline Elizabeth on September 20th! Caroline is the granddaughter of David and Susan Hansen and great granddaughter of Carolyn Searight.

PREACHING NEWS

On Sunday, October 25, we will welcome our seminary student, Rachel Lemke, to the pulpit in worship. Rachel served as an IPC Staff member in 2017/2018 before she began work toward a Master of Divinity degree at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. She is a member of IPC and a candidate for ministry in our Presbytery. She will graduate in May 2021.



MENTAL HEALTH AND SELF-CARE IN 2020

*Brent Wright, Chaplain,
Community Hospital East*

2020 is a year in which it can be both impossible to escape and difficult to grasp the impact of the profound disruptions of life-as-it-was brought about by a global pandemic, racial violence, and political rancor. Join us for conversation about the ways in which life in this slow-moving storm of a year is affecting all of us, as well as consideration of a variety of ways of tending to our emotional and relational needs.

On October 29th at 6:30 p.m., Brent Wright, a chaplain at Community East, will be presenting on mental health and self-care in the Sanctuary. This event will be offered both in person, with masks required, as well as having an online attendance option. Information for attending this event virtually will soon be available on the IPC website.

This educational and self-care event is being brought to you through IPC's Engaging Young Adults initiative, a program of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations.

HIKE, PRAY, LOVE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, AT 3:30 P.M.
FORT HARRISON STATE PARK
6000 NORTH POST RD., INDIANAPOLIS**

**JOIN US FOR A TIME OF PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE, AN HOUR-LONG
INDEPENDENT HIKE AND THEN CLOSING REFLECTION AND PRAYER.**

***MASKS REQUIRED**

RSVP TO CAROLYN LESMEISTER AT CLESMEISTER@IRVPRESBY.ORG

Our second hiking event will happen on Sunday, November 15, at 3:30 p.m. at Ft. Harrison State Park. We will again gather for some Scripture reading, prayer, and independent walking/hiking through the park. Note that there is a \$7 per carload entry fee into the park. RSVP to Carolyn for details on where to meet and for financial assistance if the fee is too much.

CHRISTMAS PLAY

If you and your family are interested in being part of our virtual Christmas play, please contact Carolyn ASAP to be included! You will get to dress up as the characters in your assigned scene (with costuming help from the church if necessary!) and film or take still pictures of your part, which will then be edited together with others' scenes to tell the full story of Christmas.

NOW WE'RE COOKING!

IPC THANKSGIVING RECIPES are being gathered to create a collection of favorite dishes. E-mail your best Thanksgiving recipe in your holiday arsenal to Mwilson@irvpresby.org on or before November 1st. Once printed books will be available before Thanksgiving for a \$10 donation for the ICAN food pantry.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS RADIO SHOW

If you would like to participate in a radio show style telling of "A Christmas Carol" in December, contact Rev. Maureen Wilson at mwilson@irvpresby.org.



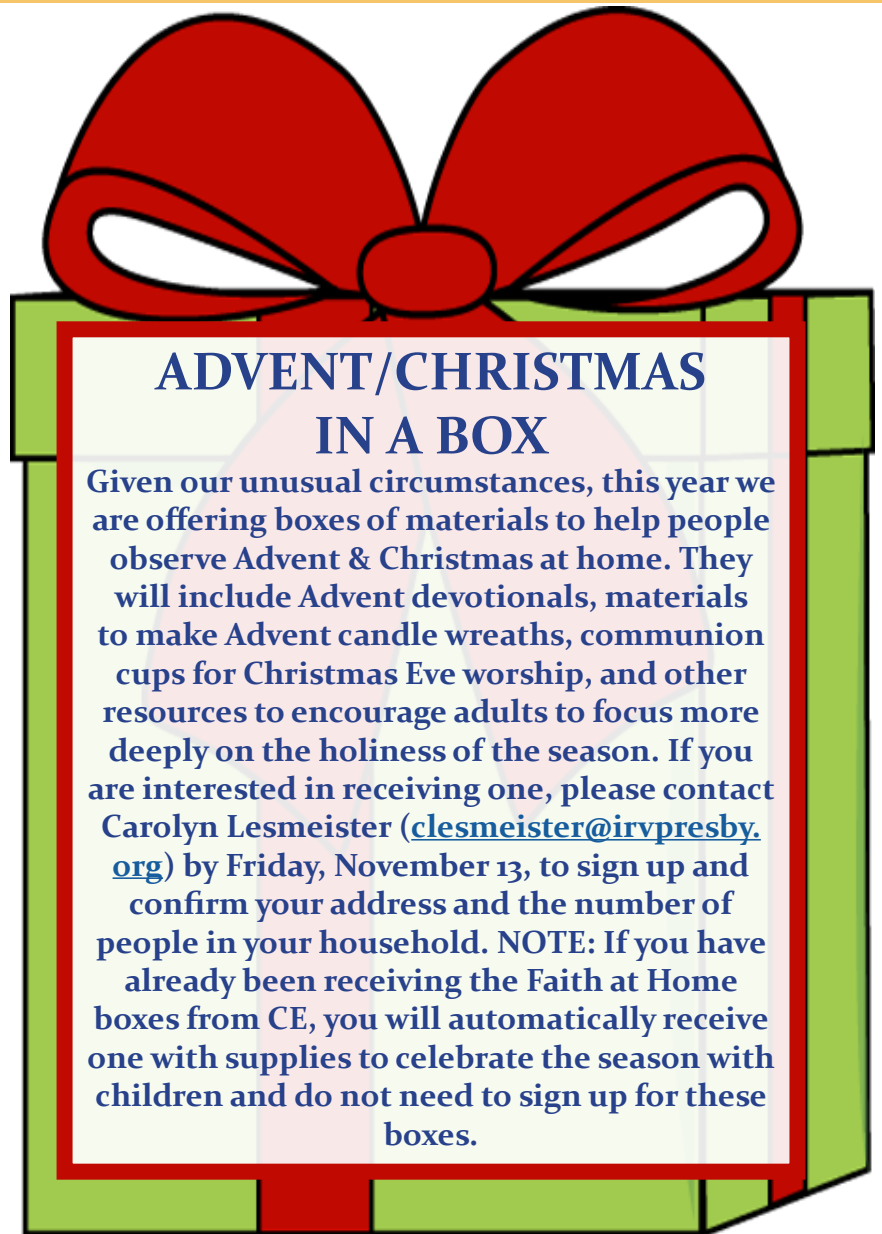
“Masks by Mitchell” For Mexico

Our own LaVonne Mitchell has made some designer masks for IPCers which can be used for all masked occasions. Best of all, proceeds will go toward our Mexico Mission. Costing only \$5 each, these masks are available in the church entryway. Call the church office and reserve one today! And be sure to thank LaVonne!



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our Christian sympathy goes to Joe Dial and his family on the death of his mother, Mara Dial on October 15, 2020.



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS IN A BOX

Given our unusual circumstances, this year we are offering boxes of materials to help people observe Advent & Christmas at home. They will include Advent devotionals, materials to make Advent candle wreaths, communion cups for Christmas Eve worship, and other resources to encourage adults to focus more deeply on the holiness of the season. If you are interested in receiving one, please contact Carolyn Lesmeister (clesmeister@irvpresby.org) by Friday, November 13, to sign up and confirm your address and the number of people in your household. NOTE: If you have already been receiving the Faith at Home boxes from CE, you will automatically receive one with supplies to celebrate the season with children and do not need to sign up for these boxes.

FAITH AT HOME BOXES

IPC families with children will continue to receive boxes of materials to practice faith at home. November's box will focus on cultivating gratitude, and the final box of 2020 will include resources for observing Advent and Christmas at home. If you would like to receive a box and have not been, please contact Carolyn at clesmeister@irvpresby.org. For the Advent/Christmas season, boxes specifically for people without children will also be available. Please see the separate announcement for details about that.



*L.I.F.T.'s latest parking lot
meet-up.*

NOVEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

NOVEMBER 8

Walk trails at Crown Hill Cemetery, scavenger hunt

NOVEMBER 22

Friendsgiving in Fellowship Hall, food provided

MITTEN TREE



As you might suspect, this year there is a high need for mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for people. Our Mitten Tree will be placed in the entryway in early November and you are invited to fill it with these items. When filled we will distribute them to Westminster Neighborhood Services.



Messy Church will break for November and return for a unique gathering in December. Keep an eye for more details about that later in November!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

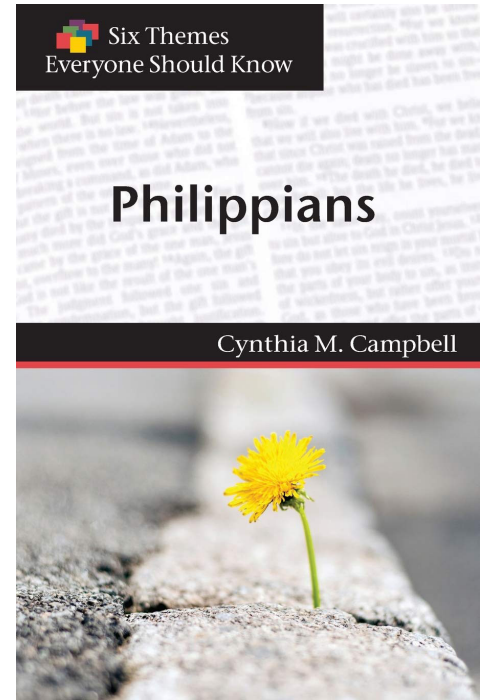
The Men's Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the parlor at 10 a.m. The dates are October 21 and November 4 and 18. Masks and social distancing are required. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Patrick Durkin. All are welcome.

NEW 6-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

All Are Invited

This Bible study will be a 6-weeks study. The workbook is "Six Themes Everyone should know about Philippians" by Cynthia M. Campbell. We will meet On Wednesday starting November 4th from 7-8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at distanced tables with masks. If you would like more information or plan on coming please let us know by email us at steveholzhausen@gmail.com

-Steve and Mandy Holzhausen



WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Again, this year, we are asked to provide 300 cans of beans and pasta, and 600 cans of tuna to fill Christmas baskets at Westminster Neighborhood Services. You will find the collection point in entryway of the church. Baskets will be filled on Friday, December 11 (more details coming soon.)

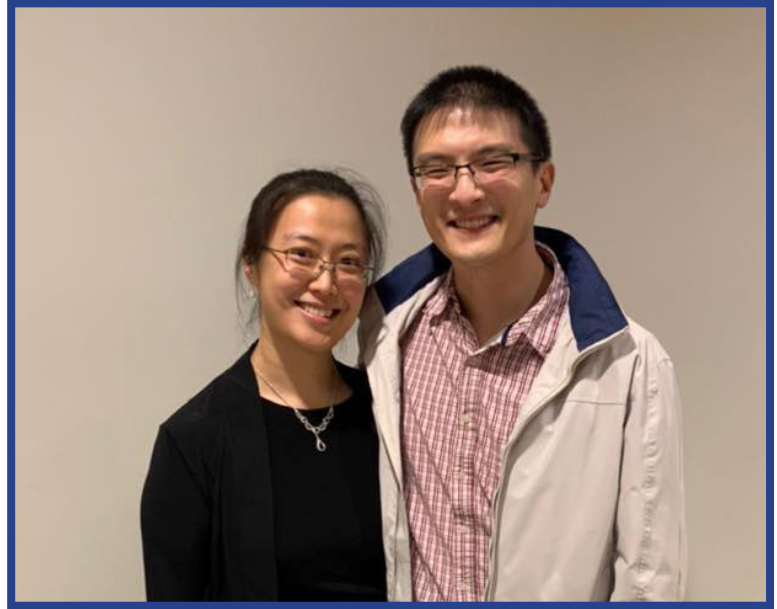


ORGAN/PIANO CONCERT

Coming in December!

Our IPC organist, Tiantian Liang and her husband, Peter Rogahn, will present a Pipe Organ and Piano concert on Friday, December 4 at 7 p.m. The concert will be held in the IPC sanctuary and with a small and limited in person audience. The concert will also be shown “live” on all of our live stream channels, Facebook, YouTube, and our website.

For those wishing to attend in person, please call the church with your reservation.



On October 3rd, Team Purple Strides walked nearly 4 miles in the Walk to END Alzheimer's. Denise Harrington was the team captain. The walk this year was virtual and everywhere, which allowed participants to walk alone, with family and in their neighborhoods. The weather was perfect for walking on the Fall Creek East trail for the Purple Striders. The opening ceremony was virtual, and the team was able to watch it before taking off to walk. The symbol for the walk is the pinwheel and each color has a meaning. **Orange** represents support for the cause, **purple** symbolizes a love one lost to the disease, **yellow** denotes a caregiver for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia, **blue** indicates someone living with Alzheimer's or dementia and **white** represents the eventual 1st Survivor of Alzheimer's. Every dollar raised counts and helps to provide research to end this disease.

Denise walked in memory of her mother, paternal grandmother and for caregivers who are caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other Dementias. Those who joined Denise at the walk have also been affected in some way by this disease. Irvington Presbyterian Church is a Support Group location for the Alzheimer's Association. The caregiver support group is meeting virtually on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Denise to get more information at dharringtonipc@gmail.com or 317-509-7085.





SEAL

SEAL

Irvington Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Interesting facts:

- *By law, no us officer is ever allowed to outrank George Washington. He was unanimously promoted to six star general to make sure.*
- *Ice Cream and macaroni and cheese, French fries, and champagne were all popularized in our introduction to America by president, Thomas Jefferson.*
- *Benjamin Franklin wasn't trusted to write the Declaration of Independence as it was feared he would put a joke in it.*
- *Every night the US Constitution the bill of rights, and the Declaration of Independence are moved to a burn proof safe.*
- *Although we picture the founding fathers as old men, many were quite young. By July 4, 1776, Aron Burr was 20, Alexander Hamilton was 21, James Madison was 25, John Jay was 29, and Thomas Jefferson was 37.*
- *On July 4, 1826 Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died hours apart on the same day.*

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