
LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS! If this is your first visit, we would love to say hello and welcome you to our church family. **Contact us:** Please reach out to Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org. **Visit our website:** ipc-usa.org/welcome

FLOWER DEDICATION: The flowers on the foyer table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark L. Miller.

BOOK CLUB: Join Rev. Nicole Newton on Feb. 23 at 5:30 p.m. in RM 303 for the first gathering of Books & Becoming, a monthly book club exploring how reading shapes faith, identity, and the way we live together. Meeting on the fourth Monday of each month, the group will start reading *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church* by Amy Kenny.

JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH at North Italia on Feb. 24 at 11:30 a.m. for good food and fellowship. This is a self-pay event. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page for our headcount.

LENT INVITES US INTO A SEASON of prayer, reflection, and renewal. Learn more about worship opportunities, devotionals, and ways to engage the season at ipc-usa.org.

LENTEN CHAPEL & LUNCH: Join us on Wednesdays during Lent (Feb. 25–April 1) for a noonday worship service in the Chapel, followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Reservations are only required if you plan to stay for lunch. Reserve lunch by Tuesday at noon each week at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

BARBARA NOOJIN WALTHALL BIBLE STUDY SERIES: On Sunday, March 1, IPC welcomes guest preacher Rev. Dr. Anna M. V. Bowden, Associate Professor of New Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Rev. Dr. Bowden will also lead an adult Sunday School class in the Great Hall. This series is supported by the Barbara Noojin Walthall Bible Study Fund, maintained by the IPC Foundation as part of the Focus on Faith Committee.

KULTURECITY LUNCH & LEARN: Join us after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 1 in GH1, for a Lunch & Learn focused on sensory inclusion, neurodiversity, and IPC's initiative to become KultureCity certified. Please register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY: Gaige Tittle, IPC Seminary Intern, will begin leading a Young Adults Bible Study on Sunday, March 1 from 3:45–4:45 p.m. in the Loft at Highland Hall, walking through Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Join us at this weekly gathering before the Table service.

WOVEN & WONDER: Join us on Thursday, March 5, for two distinct sessions allowing us to grow in faith together with author and faith-formation leader Meredith Miller. The morning session (10:00–11:30 a.m.) is designed for church leaders, educators, and ministry volunteers, while the evening session (5:00–7:00 p.m.) includes a reception, book signing, and a talk for parents, grandparents, and all who walk alongside children. Sign up at ipc-usa.org.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. We are currently in the season of Lent as signified by the color purple, which symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice.

CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

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Stacy Pulliam
Member Engagement and
Assimilation Coordinator
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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Susan Clayton, Associate
Pastor
Sarah Mason, Worship Leader
Brett Burcham, Acoustic Guitar
Eric Onimus, Bass Guitar

Carlos Pino, Electric Guitar
Jeff Lopez, Horns
Fred Rogan, Steel Guitar
Tommy Bowen, Horns
Hayden Thomas, Sound

THE TABLE

Independent Presbyterian Church



FEBRUARY 22, 2026

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Phone: 205.933.1830
ipc-usa.org | facebook.com/ipcbirmingham
This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

GATHERING

We *gather* as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God

Prelude

Gathering Song

"Put Your Hand In The Hand"

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Living Waters"

Verse 1: **Are you thirsty
Are you empty
Come and drink these Living Waters
Time unbroken
Peace unspoken
Rest beside these Living Waters**

Verse 2: **Christ is calling
Find refreshing
At the cross of Living Waters
Lay your life down
On Thee, all come
Rise up in these Living Waters**

Chorus: **There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of Living Waters**

Verse 3: **Spirit moving
Mercy washing
Healing in these living waters
Lead your children to the shore line
Life is in these Living Waters**

(Repeat Chorus)

Verse 4: **Are you thirsty
Are you empty
Come and drink these Living Waters
Love, forgiveness
Vast and boundless
Christ, He is our Living Water**

(Repeat Chorus)

LISTENING

We *listen* for the word of God through confession, passing the peace, Scripture, and preaching

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Please observe a period of silence for personal reflection.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*Please exchange the peace with the words,
"The peace of Christ be with you."*

Confessional Response: "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: "Lent: Do We Have To?"

RESPONDING

We *respond* to the hearing of God's word through reflection, prayer, offering, and communion

Invitation to Discipleship

Sharing of Gifts

In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty.

- Offering Song: "How Can I Keep From Singing"
- To give online, text OFFERING to (205) 927-3100 and follow the steps.

Celebration of the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

- Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts; As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People
- Communion Song: "A Mighty Fortress"
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

We are *sent* out into the world to love God and our neighbors

Closing Hymn

"Because He Lives"

Verse 1: **God sent His son, They called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, Heal and forgive;
He lived and died To buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there To prove my Savior lives!**

Chorus: **Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!**

Verse 2: **And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final War with pain;
And then, as death Gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory And I'll know He lives!**

(Repeat Chorus)

Benediction

Postlude

*Our service is over, let our service begin.
fed by mystery, forgiven of sin.
Now our faith made real, when brokenness we heal.
our service is over, let our service begin.*