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## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

**WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS!** We would love to welcome you as a new member of our family of faith at IPC. Please indicate your interest by contacting Stacy Pulliam at [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org). "Like" us on Facebook at @IPC Birmingham.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT** dinner and programming for adults and children resume on January 8; Youth Midweek begins on January 22. Find more details on the Ministries tab at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org).

**SPRING CHILDREN'S MUSICAL REHEARSALS** start on Wednesday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m. K5 - 6th Grade are invited to join us to practice for "It's Cool in the Furnace." We will enjoy the adventures of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego while hearing about how wonderful our God is! Volunteers are also needed. Register at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page.

**IPC YOUTH:** It's time to register for our Gatlinburg trip from January 17 to January 20. Youth 7th-12th grade are welcome. Find additional information and registration online or in the youth email!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Biblical Explorations with Rev. Susan Clayton and Dr. Jeff Leonard are thrilled to announce a nine-day trip to Rome and Assisi next summer traveling May 31 - June 8, 2025. Let us know if you are interested! Find our interest form at [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) on the Sign Up Links page.

**2025 ANNUAL GIVING:** We are so grateful for those who have given generously to support the mission of Jesus Christ at IPC. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, the time is now to join us in responding to Christ's call for our church. Find pledge cards at the reception desk, or make an online pledge by texting PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and following the prompts.

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## CONNECT WITH IPC'S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

**Rev. Kevin J. Long**  
Pastor  
[kevin.long@ipc-usa.org](mailto:kevin.long@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. Susan A. Clayton**  
Associate Pastor, Congregational  
Care and Adult Ministries  
[sclayton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org)

**Rev. D. Nicole Newton**  
Associate Pastor, Discipleship  
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**Rev. David J. Seamon**  
Associate Pastor, Mission and  
Outreach  
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**Cammie Ashworth**  
Director of Youth Ministries  
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**Beth Middleton**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
[bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org)

**Stacy Pulliam**  
Member Engagement and  
Assimilation Coordinator  
[spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org)

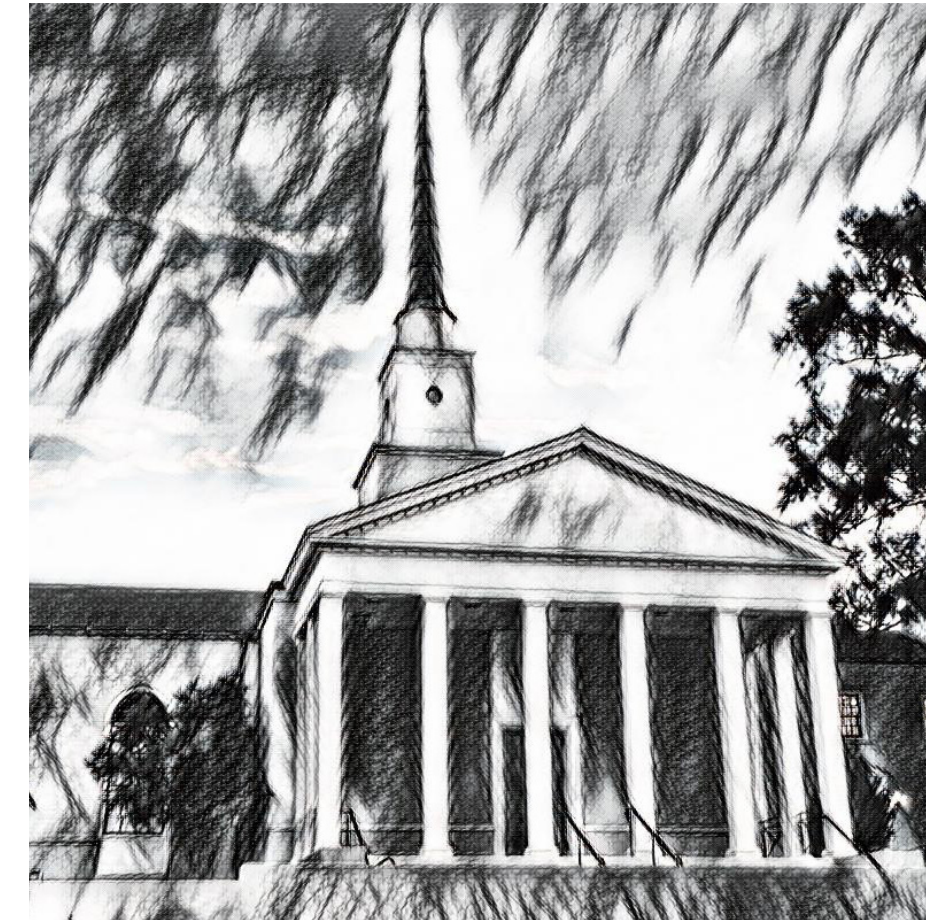
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## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

<b>Rev. David J. Seamon</b>	Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach
<b>Sarah Mason</b>	Worship Leader
<b>Brett Burcham</b>	Acoustic Guitar
<b>Eric Onimus</b>	Bass Guitar
<b>Leif Bondarenko</b>	Drums
<b>Carlos Pino</b>	Electric Guitar
<b>Tommy Bowen</b>	Horns
<b>Oliver Middleton</b>	Video & Lights

# THE TABLE

## Independent Presbyterian Church



JANUARY 5, 2025

EPIPHANY SUNDAY



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### Independent Presbyterian Church

Church office: 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205

Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 | Phone: 205.933.1830

[www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org) | [www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham](https://www.facebook.com/ipcbirmingham)

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

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## WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Open · Affirming · Welcoming  
WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Table.  
As you prepare yourself for worship,  
we invite you to reflect quietly on these words:

*Like a child in a forest, beguiled by a thousand mysteries I follow  
the gleam of Thy going. So much I have learned and yet so little –  
so much lying before. Lead on, O infinite Guide. I follow.*

*from Beginning the Day by Henry Edmonds*

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## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. Today is Epiphany Sunday, the Sunday that falls closest to Epiphany, January 5. Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world as the magi came from the East to worship the Christ child. God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important not only because of the star that guided the magi but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

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## IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT:

**E-mail or call us:** We would love to say hello and welcome you to our church family. Please reach out to us by contacting Stacy Pulliam at [spulliam@ipc-usa.org](mailto:spulliam@ipc-usa.org).

**Visit our website:** [ipc-usa.org/welcome](http://ipc-usa.org/welcome)

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## FLOWER DEDICATION

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

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## GATHERING

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

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship:**

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come.  
All: **The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**  
One: Come, worship the Lord of glory.  
All: **Proclaim God's praise among the nations.**  
*Isa. 60:1-3*

### **Gathering Songs**

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"  
"How Great Thou Art"*

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## LISTENING

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

### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**God of grace and truth, too often we diligently seek you but  
chase the wrong guiding stars. We spot ambition rising from the  
horizon and hitch our lives to its restless instruction. We glimpse  
wealth and hope its light will brighten the gloomy corners of our  
lives. We chase after affection, giving our treasure to those who  
care little for it. So much that dazzles cannot satisfy the deep  
need within us. Forgive us lost pilgrims. Draw us toward the star  
of your way that forever provides warmth and illumines the  
path to peace.**

*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**

*"Gloria Patri"*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson:** *Matthew 2:1-12*

**Sermon:** *"Epiphany"*

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## RESPONDING

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

### **Hymn**

*"We Three Kings"*

### **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. 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: *"New Wine"*
- Prayer after Communion

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## SENDING

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

### **Closing Hymn**

*"'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus"*

### **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.*