
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.

STAIR 3.0 TUTORS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed afternoons January 20–May 5 to work one-on-one with third graders at Hayes K-8 to strengthen reading skills through IPC’s STAIR 3.0 program. We urgently need three Tuesday tutors and four Wednesday tutors to keep all students in the program. Ready to serve? Contact Marion Dukes at mdukes@ipc-usa.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING AND DINNER resume on January 14. Reservations for dinner must be made by noon on the previous Tuesday. Visit ipc-usa.org for additional details and weekly programming information.

WESTERN CAROLINA MISSION TRIP INFO MEETING: IPC will travel to Western Carolina June 7–14, 2026, to continue relief efforts following Hurricane Helene, focusing on helping families rebuild and restore their homes and communities. **An informational meeting will be held Wednesday, January 14, at 5:30 p.m. in GH1.** To learn more, contact Rev. David Seamon at dseamon@ipc-usa.org.

SPRING CHILDREN’S MUSICAL REHEARSALS are on Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. K5 - 6th Grade are invited to join us to practice for “In the Image.” Register at ipc-usa.org on the Sign Up Links page.

SUMMER CAMPS: Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School and Bibletimes Marketplace (BTMP) for IPC members. VBS is designed for preschool children ages 2–5, and BTMP is open to elementary students and youth in grades K–12. Register and find additional details on the Sign Up Links page at ipc-usa.org.

DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION for IPC members opens tomorrow, January 12. Visit the Sign Up Links page at ipc-usa.org to access the registration link and learn more.

ANNUAL PLEDGE: 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, join us in joyful generosity as we share our gifts to bless others. Your annual pledge provides the foundation for ministry, mission, and growth. Find 2026 pledge cards at the reception desk and in the Parlor, or make your pledge online by texting PLEDGE to (205) 927-3100 and following the prompts.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

IPC follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together. Today is the Baptism of Our Lord. At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus’ baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, this Sunday is an appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism or the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own Baptism.

CONNECT WITH IPC’S PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Kevin J. Long
Pastor
kevin.long@ipc-usa.org

Rev. Susan A. Clayton
Associate Pastor, Congregational
Care and Adult Ministries
sclayton@ipc-usa.org

Rev. D. Nicole Newton
Associate Pastor, Discipleship
nnewton@ipc-usa.org

Rev. David J. Seamon
Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach
dseamon@ipc-usa.org

Cammie Ashworth
Director of Youth Ministries
cashworth@ipc-usa.org

Beth Middleton
Director of Children’s Ministries
bmiddleton@ipc-usa.org

Stacy Pulliam
Member Engagement and
Assimilation Coordinator
spulliam@ipc-usa.org

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Rev. Kevin Long, Pastor
Rev. Susan Clayton, Associate Pastor
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



JANUARY 11, 2026
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



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
www.ipc-usa.org | www.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

Welcome

Opening Hymn *“Be Thou My Vision”*

Verse 1: Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light!

Verse 2: Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Verse 3: Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

Verse 4: High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

LISTENING

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

Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God, you do not change with the changing years, but we are creatures of time. As we look back at the road we have traveled, we give thanks for your faithful mercies along the way. Where the road has been dark, you have not failed us though we have often failed you. Forgive us we pray. You are our guide and our goal, our strength and our stay. In this new year, we would walk with you, for you alone can bring us to our journey’s end in peace. Amen.

Leslie Weatherhead

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 3:1-17*

Sermon: “Wrestling in the Dark”

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: “The Blessing”
- 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: “The Heart of Worship”
- Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Closing Hymn *“Shall We Gather At The River”*

Verse 1: Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain: Yes, we’ll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Verse 2: On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.

Repeat Refrain

Verse 3: Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we ev’ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

Repeat Refrain

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.*