



# October Newsletter

October is known for Halloween and we are at the epicenter of the celebration here in Irvington. We are looking forward to the events and celebrations that are coming up. Kids are excited about all the candy they can eat and the grown-ups enjoy the costumes and the parties.

The origins of this go back to Celtic celebrations of seasons and the lifecycle of birth-death-rebirth. Halloween originated from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Samhain means summer's end. We know that life is sustained because of the food that is cultivated, and they relied on seasons in the ancient times and how it sustained life. So the change of season, especially from summer into winter was this transition from life to death, and then back to life in the spring.

Christians adopted these to celebrating the saints and how they served their communities and gave of themselves without regard for their own comfort. All Saints Day is November 1 and All Hallows' Eve is October 31.

This ties in with our faith in Jesus where we die to our sins and are alive in him. As we go through the month of October, let us live in the knowledge that our life is in Christ, and that we live in victory, knowing that he gives us the strength to carry on even in times of struggles. We are energized by the people who have gone ahead of us and have shown us that it can be done. We serve our neighbors in humility and bring life to the world around us. That is the way to live and the way to life too. May God be with us as we infuse life into a world that has seen so much devastation in the recent times.

In my sermon a few weeks ago I spoke about showing hospitality to our guests that come in to receive help at ICAN. If you have time on a Tuesday from 9am – 1 pm you could come to the church and spend some time talking to the folks. If you are interested in other serving opportunities, we can discuss how we can work together.

Let us pour life into each other as we live in community. Amen.

***Pastor Sunil***

## Upcoming Small Groups

**Living Networks Forum: Science & Faith in Conversation** Join Bill Karr Sundays 11:45am-1pm starting October 5th for a 9-week series exploring connections between cutting-edge science and Christian theology. We'll discuss language, physics, biology, economics, and technology through both scientific and biblical lenses, fostering thoughtful dialogue about faith in our rapidly changing world. Food provided first week; bring lunch for future sessions if desired.

Bill is bringing lunch for the first class and so please scan the QR code to let us know if you will be there for the October 5th class.



**Cooking classes are back!** Thursday, October 9th @ 5:30 PM in fellowship hall. Please bring a \$10 cash donation to each class to help offset the food cost. Class will meet the second Thursday of each month. Reserve your spot by emailing the church office @ [info@irvingtonumc.org](mailto:info@irvingtonumc.org) or letting Kim know by phone or in person.

**Miss Linda's Sewing Class** begins on Thursday, October 16th @ 6:00 PM, and will continue each third Thursday of the month. We will meet in the Choir Room on the second floor. Sign-up at the welcome center at the north end of the hallway or call Kim in the office.

Ever considered going to an adult Sunday School Class? Join us for out-of-the-box Sunday School – on **Wednesdays**! Come for semi-structured learning, lots of great discussions as well as fellowship. Most of all, come to explore how to grow your faith journey and apply it to your everyday life. Sunday School on **Wednesdays begins October 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 6:30-7:30 pm. More info to come!



*If you have other ideas or would like to host a class meeting in your home, please contact pastor Sunil or the church office. We would like for people to gather during as many times they would like in the month in their own homes to build accountability and community.*

## OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

- He's a candidate to become a United Methodist Elder in June, 2026.
- He's a husband, a father, a leader.
- He's an intern working on certification to become a marriage and family counselor.
- He's a teacher, a musician, a vocalist.
- He's a brilliant Bible instructor.
- He's a soccer player (when he has spare time).
- He's energetic, approachable, intelligent, pleasant.
- He's SUNIL, and he's OUR PASTOR !



AND WE APPRECIATE HIM !

Let's show our APPRECIATION by :

- Giving him our sincere thanks.
- Giving him a love gift.
- Inviting him and Lois out for dinner.
- Giving him a hug after worship service.
- Praying for him daily (and letting him know that you are).
- Writing him a sincere note of encouragement.
- Attending worship services regularly.
- Giving him your best smile every Sunday.
- Volunteering for a committee or project.
- Participating in the life of our church.

WE LOVE YOU, SUNIL..... IN OCTOBER AND IN EVERY MONTH !  
GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR MISSION.

## MISSION TRIP

We are hoping to take a group from IUMC in the new year (2026) to Mid-West Mission in Illinois. If there is interest, please reply to this email. Here are few dates that are available.

### 2026

week of Jan 4 - 8  
week of Jan 18-22 (MLK day 2/19)  
week of Jan 25-29  
week of Feb 15-19 (President's day 2/16)  
week of Feb 22-26  
week of March 1-5

Midwest missions receive many teams from many churches to volunteer at the warehouse. Their goal is to **send disaster relief kits that people in the affected areas desperately need. They receive the donated items, pack them in the warehouse and ship them off to locations that are experiencing natural disasters.**

There is more information on their website. <https://mmdc.volunteermatrix.com/>

**Non-Local Teams/Groups:** You will need to schedule and pay for your housing in this system first, then once that is done you will be given an Access Code (if your set date or dates are over 3 months in advance) to use to access and reserve your volunteer slots for your group. **We are open to volunteers Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4pm.** For more information please contact [reservations@midwestmission.org](mailto:reservations@midwestmission.org).

### Volunteer Shift Fees:

Each Half-Day Volunteer Shift (AM/PM) has a material fee of \$8 per person effective 1/1/2025.

### Housing Fees:

Each Lodge Room is \$50 per night plus a Non-refundable Registration Fee of \$50 per room.

Each RV Site is \$30 per night plus a Non-refundable Registration Fee of \$30 per site.

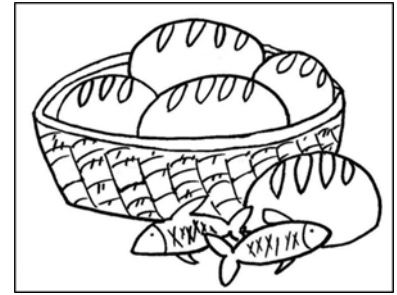
Please email the church office the dates that would work for you if you would like to be part of the mission trip.

See Ron or Jane Heustis for more info.



## Fishes and Loaves: Let's Feed Our Neighbors!

Our church is feeding our neighbors by filling the Big Red Box each week. As you prepare for your weekly shopping, consider these stories:



... A young mom usually can make her modest income work but an unexpected car repair has taken most of her cash this week. She considers going to a food pantry, but all are closed by the end of her shift. She is driving home wondering what she can do, then remembers that Red Pantry box at that church on the circle. Maybe there is something there she could feed her kids....

... An elderly man lives in an apartment on Washington Street. He has always prided himself in being self-sufficient, but he no longer drives and must depend on rides for grocery shopping. The man's cupboard is getting bare. He is too embarrassed to ask others for help, but he has heard neighbors talk about the Red Box on the circle. It's a pretty good walk for him, but maybe he could 'borrow' a can or two, just until he can get to a grocery....

... A young boy who is out of school for the summer lives with his grandparents who both work the nightshift. It's not easy being quiet during the day, so he travels the neighborhood looking for adventures. He sometimes eats the free lunch at his school, but his bike has a flat tire and it's a pretty long walk. Then he remembers that shiny red box in front of the Methodist church. He had seen people taking food from there. If it was free, he figured that would be alright. After all, it is a church....

We hope these people will find what they are looking for when they open the door of the pantry. We hope they think of our church as a safe place to get something to eat.

Not sure what to buy? Look for a suggested list on the welcome center. Or google food pantry donation suggestions to get ideas. Think easy to open, easy to prepare, nutritious.

Our meager gift of food makes a difference, not just in sustenance for the body and for the spirit. Sometimes what we place in the Big Red Box is a message of comfort, a message of hope, a message of love. Our contributions each week are truly like the Fishes and Loaves bible story – they multiply to make a meal of God's Love.

## Big Red Box Project Pantry Shopping Suggestions

- Foods/meals that require little/no preparation
- Focus on sources of protein
- Easy to open (pop-tops are good!)
- Nutritious and comforting

- Hearty soups/stews/chili/full meals in cans
- Meats in cans or pouches (ex. Tuna)
- Peanut butter (single servings)
- Nuts/ dried fruit
- Protein bars
- Beef jerky/shelf-stable cheese sticks
- Fruit in single-serve cups or small cans
- Vegetables in single-serve cups or small cans
- Beans in cans (no dried)
- Instant rice/single serve pasta, etc.
- Cereal
- Crackers (small packages)
- Granola bars, cereal bars, fruit bars
- Snack-sized packs of pretzels, chips, etc.
- Milk (in shelf-stable boxes)
- Juices in boxes or plastic bottles
- Water in 8-16 oz. plastic bottles

Our community may need comfort items as well:

- Sample/hotel sized shampoos, body wash, etc.
- Single-wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Bar soap
- Single-roll wrapped toilet paper





# WARM HEARTS, WARM CLOTHES

DONATE WINTER ITEMS TO HELP A NEIGHBOR IN NEED

Too many neighbors in our community are facing harsh weather without proper clothing & necessities. Your donation can provide warmth, comfort, and dignity to those in need.

## WHAT ICAN NEEDS THIS SEASON:

- Adult sleeping bags
- Adult thermal clothing & underwear
- Adult warm socks & boots
- Adult hats, gloves, and scarves
- Hand & feet warmers
- Gently used blankets
- Gently used tents & tarps
- Towels & washcloths
- Slippers
- Flashlights with batteries

*Please make sure all items are clean and in good condition.*



## DROP OFF LOCATION:

ICAN Assistance Center • 30 N Audubon Rd

## LEARN MORE:

[irvican.org](http://irvican.org)

## Sunday School... on Wednesday?



Have you ever considered joining a Sunday School class, but are reluctant to come to church an hour earlier or stay after worship? Sunday School, on Wednesday (i.e. Wednesday School!) is a great way to see if this style of small group fellowship and learning is for you.

Sunday School is a time when adults can come together to find out more about living in faith through semi-structured learning and thoughtful discussions. It provides a platform for asking questions and learning from each other. Sunday School also provides a space to connect with those on a similar journey, build friendships and find support and encouragement. Perhaps, the biggest gift of Sunday School is building a 'practical faith' – one that helps us to apply Christian teaching to our everyday work and play.

IUMC's Sunday School, on Wednesdays, will be led in the first weeks by Jane and Ron Heustis. As the group grows, topics and lessons will be inspired and directed by the members.

Come and see if Sunday School is for you! You can attend every week or come when you can.

IUMC Sunday School, on Wednesdays, begins October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

6:30-7:30 pm, in the Parlor

Do you have ideas about topics? Do you have questions about the process or format? Please contact Jane Heustis, [jsheustis@gmail.com](mailto:jsheustis@gmail.com) or 317 435 6650.



## Chair Exercise Class

Feel the need to get moving, but not sure where or how to start?

Want to get out of the house, see old friends, and hopefully meet new friends?

Chair exercise class for age 50+ adults (although open to younger adults facing mobility problems).

When: Wednesday evenings, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Where: IUMC Fellowship Hall (basement) ALL to be welcome!

We are collecting bagged wrapped candy for Halloween. Volunteers will be handing out the candy to the trick-r-treaters on Halloween night. Leave your donation in the ICAN tub or in the office hallway.



## Grant Update

Our church learned on September 15 that we were NOT selected to proceed with our application for a Sacred Spaces Indiana Grant from Indiana Landmarks. They explained that they had 2.5 million dollars to disburse, and there were too many applications from houses of worship throughout the state. Their decision was based on urgency of need and the impact the church building has on the community it serves.

We will continue to search for other ways to secure funding.



Pastor Sunil is offering a Bible Study on Tuesdays at 1 PM . The study will be in the parlor and on Zoom We will continue with the book of Psalms. All are welcome to join!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6088142449?pwd=hw0WI58kaC6LjVbnuxq0zrXl4bCjU.1>

Meeting ID: 608 814 2449  
Passcode: 922133



### **Honest Conversations About God, Jesus, and the Church**

For some time, we have been thinking about launching some kind of non-traditional service on Thursday evenings here at IUMC. Part of the process has been wondering what might work best in Irvington and how to begin. Beginning is the hardest step!

Would you be willing to be part of a launch team with Pastor Sunil? This is new for him also, by the way!

This would mean being part of a discussion group, letting the pastor practice on you (that should be interesting!), and then committing to being at some of the evening services for a minimum of six months (while not giving up on Sunday mornings, FYI). You wouldn't be expected to commit to every Thursday night but we need a group of people to greet and sit with those who come from the community and perhaps offer a cup of coffee.

This is a work in progress, but the pastor can't do this alone. This service is going to require the assistance and commitment of around 10 people from the service for there to be a launch. Can you be a part? Will be a part? Pray about it and if so, hand in this form to Pastor Sunil or let him know. This could be exciting and fun ... and faith enriching!

Yes, count me in!

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Name



### **Our Prayer Ministry: Prayer Wall**

You've been praying the prayer ... we've been praying the prayer as a church when we meet in small groups and in the worship service:

Now what? We believe God answers prayer but accept that answers come in God's time and not our own. When will God answer? How will God answer? God's answer to our breakthrough prayer is not limited to the pastor and, in fact, may not come to the pastor. God's answer may come in a whisper, a thought, or a nudge to you.

If you have been praying and have felt something on your heart or in your mind, don't ignore it. Share it! In the hallway by the prayer wall, a small area has been set aside for breakthrough prayer. There are index cards and a suggestion box along with several reminders of the power of prayer. Write your thought on an index card and put it in the box. You can write your name on it or choose to remain anonymous. Either way, your idea can be shared and we can pray over it to see if that may be where God is leading us. Help us listen for God's answer to our prayer.



Now there are two ways to start your weekday off right with a short meditation including Scripture, reflections, a question to ponder, and/or a prayer for the day. It will take less than five minutes of your time but help you stay focused on your faith.

1. Daily Meditation our church Facebook page. Go on Facebook and look for Irvington United Methodist Church. Every weekday morning, Monday through Friday, a short meditation/devotional will post. The daily post takes just a few minutes to read. The post stays up on the Facebook page and can be read later in the day. Miss a day? The day before ... and the day before ... and the day before is still there.

Want to help us out? Share the IUMC Daily Meditation on your Facebook page. It's the Facebook way of telling your family and friends and inviting them to check it out. There's a share link to the bottom right of each daily mediation. Help us expand our reach!

2. Did you know our church also has a YouTube channel. Go to YouTube and look for "Shining the Light with IUMC." A picture of our rose window (see above) is with our name, so you'll know you're in the right place. In addition to sermons, you can listen to the daily meditation on your phone or computer. While you're there, hit the subscribe button ... it costs you nothing and will help us reach more people.

Make Daily Meditation a daily habit ... whether you join us at 8 am, noon, or 8 pm.

**SUNDAYS**

9:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

Irvington United Methodist Church

30 N Audubon Road

Indianapolis IN 46219

**Our Staff**

Sunil Kotian, **Senior Pastor**

Kim Fulton, **Office Manager**

Lori Steuer, **Preschool Director**

Micki Gowdy, **Church Financer Manager**

We are on the Web at:

**[www.irvingtonumc.org](http://www.irvingtonumc.org)**

Our email address and telephone number are:

**[info@irvingtonumc.org](mailto:info@irvingtonumc.org)**

**(317) 356-7231**

**Visit us on Facebook**

**Small Group Study Sundays at 9:15 am**

**The Bible is the best-selling book of all time  
and yet many people who own a Bible have never read it.**

**Many who start reading it soon stop.**

**They stopped when they felt it had no relevance to their lives.**

**They stopped when they didn't understand what it meant.**

**They stopped when they didn't like what it had to say.**

**The Bible is supposed to be hard and we are supposed to struggle with it.**

**Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the parlor as we look at the Bible.**

**Whether you've never read it or read it 100 times, you will learn something new. The Bible  
is like that.**

**Bring your questions. All are welcome.**

