



# August Newsletter

As we look back over the month of July, we thank God for all that He is doing in our community. Our summer camp at the preschool has been a great success. Lori and the staff have worked hard to make this a fun time for the kids as they enjoy their summer.

The movie night was a big hit. The kids built their cardboard cars and watched 101 Dalmatians and ate popcorn and had a great time. It turned out to be a beautiful day and everyone had a great time. We are thankful to all the preschool staff who continue to share the love of Christ in our community.

Albrecht von Gaudecker has subbed as our organist, and we have enjoyed his music. We have advertised for a choir director/organist and please pray that we can fill the position soon.

As we look forward to the end of summer and try to get as much sun as possible, we are also preparing for fall. In August one of our main events coming up is the Rummage Sale and we have collected some items and hope to get more before August 23. This will be a good time to invite our neighbors and build new relationships.

The sermon series continues from last month. We are learning about our part in building God's kingdom. Although our relationship with the word 'kingdom' has soured over the last 30-40 years because of its imperial connotations. But God is not in the business of oppressing people, far from it. He wants us to live freely and abundantly. Our idea of the word is because of what Christians have done to others. God's idea of kingdom has not changed and will remain the same forever. God wants us to love him with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbor. When we can do that, we are ushering in the kingdom of God in our world.

Throughout this month we will look at what it means to store up treasure in heaven, to be alert and ready for the day of Christ's coming, to be discerning in our actions, to be compassionate and finally what it means to be humble. All these things are preparing us to be in service to God so He can work through us.

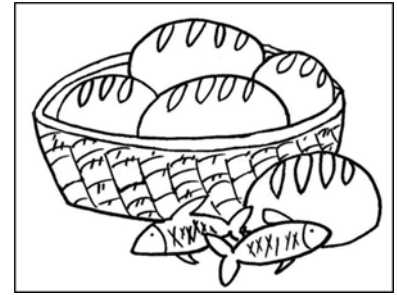
In conclusion, I want to leave you with a quote from Saint Moses, a Monk from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. He said, "You fast, but Satan does not eat. You labor fervently, but Satan never sleeps. The only dimension with which you can outperform Satan is by acquiring humility, for Satan has no humility." Our humility is another way that people know that we are followers of Christ. Let us put God first.

Let us pray for the peace of God to surround us throughout the month of August. Amen!

***Pastor Sunil***

## 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.

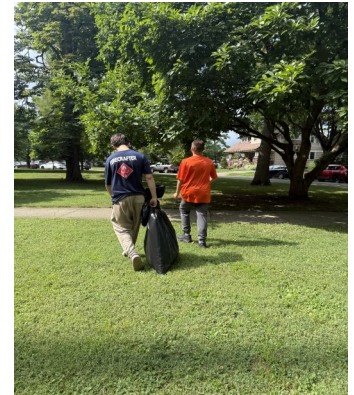
# Big Red Box Project Pantry Shopping Suggestions

- 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



**Although we are collecting food for the “Big Red Box”, the ICAN Food Pantry is open on Thursdays 1-3 PM to help the needy in our community. They are also in need of donations to fill the pantry. Please place any donations in the blue tub in the main hallway. The pantry is always in need of:**

**Peanut Butter/Jelly  
Crackers  
Soaps  
Shampoo**

**Mac n Cheese  
Soups  
Deodorant**

**Pasta/Pasta Sauce  
Canned Meats  
Tooth Brushes/Tooth Paste**





## **Class Meeting (Small Groups)**

Almost 300 years ago, on February 15, 1742 John Wesley met with the Society in Bristol England to discuss how to pay off a loan on the preaching-house and cover its frequent repair costs. They collected an offering, but very soon it transformed into spiritual formation group meetings.

- Personal growth within the context of intimate fellowship
- Accountability for spiritual stewardship
- “Bearing one another’s burdens”
- “Speaking the truth in love.”

In the past many of you have been part of this small group meeting format. As we reintroduce them here this year, we look forward to adding more groups to foster good interactions and growth.

CONSTITUTION 101- Judge Slaughter will be leading a discussion group on the US constitution on Tuesdays in July. Dates: July 1, 8, 15 at 6:00 PM in the parlor.

Lois Kotian, resuming in September, is leading our cooking class every 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm. We will meet in fellowship hall and the kitchen in the basement at church. Every time we meet, we will first ask, “How is it with your soul?” Please contact the church office if you would like to attend this class.

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.



## 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).

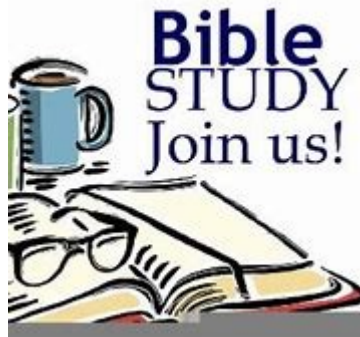
When: Wednesday evenings, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

## The Pretty Good Stuff Sale

**Saturday, August 23rd**

We will be taking donations before servixe on Sundays. Volunteers will be needed for setup and sales, come be a volunteer! Talk to Debbie or Don Gerhart to sign up or call the church office.



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=hw0WI58kaC6LjVbbnuxq0zrXl4bCjU.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.**

