



November Newsletter

Thanksgiving and the Turkey Pardon

You've likely heard of the American tradition of the presidential turkey pardon. According to the internet, so it must be true, the first pardon took place during Abraham Lincoln's presidency when his son, Tad, asked his father to spare a turkey named Jack from a holiday meal. I don't know why the turkey was named Jack, who named it, or why Tad cared so much, but that's the story. It looked like this would be a one time only event because it seems that subsequent presidents ate all the turkeys that crossed their path. Then, in 1947, President Harry Truman "pardoned" the first National Thanksgiving Turkey. It was Ronald Reagan, by the way, who, in 1987, was the first to use the word "pardoned" to describe the event. Every year since 1947, the National Turkey Federation (who knew we had such a thing) has raised a turkey to participate in the pardoning ceremony at the White House. Apparently the pardoned turkey is then take to the Frying Pan Park (interesting choice of names) to live out his or her remaining years. After their pardon, the turkeys have an average life expectancy of two years.

What does this have to do with anything? November is that time of the year when we think more often about giving thanks. Last night I was thankful for my warm house because it was cold outside! What else am I thankful for? I am thankful my dad and I get to have breakfast together on Saturday mornings (even when it's cold and dark outside and I think about staying in bed). I am thankful for friends and family I can call on the phone and talk to about anything ... or nothing in particular. I am thankful for those who supported me during my transition into ministry and who continue to support me today. I am thankful for this church and for the ways in which we worship and do ministry together. I am, most of all, thankful for the forgiveness of sin, for the gift of grace, and for the promise of eternal life that I am offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus. And, I am thankful that my life expectancy is not two years at a place called Frying Pan Park, but is one with no end in a place called Heaven!

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What are you thankful for? As you think of your list, here are a few Bible verses on thankfulness and a few photos of presidential turkey pardons.

Ps. 107:1 – O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Colossians 3:15 – And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Ps. 28:7 – The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.



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PS – Don't you just love Reagan's reaction?

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS

To prevent further harm from plastics, the ICAN Food Pantry will begin using only reusable bags beginning January 1st. The pantry will issue each person two bags at their first visit to bring back with them each time they visit.

The pantry is asking for donations of reusable grocery bags to give to their clients. Please leave any donations in the ICAN Pantry tub in the main hallway.

Thank you for your donations!

The Angel Tree is Returning!



Last year, because of your generosity, we collected coats, warm clothing, socks, blankets, underwear, food, cash gifts and gift cards ... all of which enabled our church and ICAN to share with those in need.

This year we will be hanging angels on the tree once again (although moving it a little further down the hallway since last year when the south doors open the angels blew off!) and seeking similar donations.

Any cash received will go to the purchase of hygiene products and bus passes.

Angels on the tree will include requests for:

- Aldi's gift cards
- Walmart gift cards
- Fast food gift cards
- Canned soups and stews (pop-up tabs preferred)
- Coats (adults and children)
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Backpacks (adults and children)
- Full size shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant

In the niche area, we will also have a designated glove/mitten and hat giving area.

Thank you for your generosity!



Breakthrough Prayer: Where Do We Go from Here?

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:

"God, we lift our church to you in prayer. We don't know what to do ... Reveal to us where your Spirit is leading us as a church ... Give us faith to listen and courage to step through the doors you open that will lead us beyond all that we could think, ask, or imagine. Lead and we will follow. May your will be done."

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.



Looking for Something to Do that Will Help Others?

Thursdays are church volunteer days and WE NEED YOU!

Come any Thursday between the hours of 11 am and 1 pm or 5 pm and 7 pm and volunteer your time.

What is there to do?

- Sort through donated clothing and organize it for us to give to others.

- Inventory items on hand.

- Make up hygiene kits.

- Take food items, hygiene kits, or other items to the blessing box.

- Help us keep the downstairs kitchen clean.

There are jobs for anyone – sit down, stand up, move about, and so on. Let us know what you can and can't do and we will find a task for you!

No need to call ahead, just show up at the church. Stay as long as you can, leave when you need to leave. The more people we have, the more fun we have. This is a weekly ongoing opportunity!

**Enjoy Fellowship, Entertainment, Door Prizes &
Home-cooked Thanksgiving Dinner**



Thanksgiving Day November 23, 2023

Doors open at 11:00 am for Social Hour

Dinner Served Noon to 2:00 pm

Dinners delivered upon request

**Our Lady of Lourdes School Cafeteria
30 S. Downey Avenue**

Hosted By: Irvington Churches

No Charge, but "Free Will Offerings" Gratefully Accepted

To attend or request delivery, please contact the Parish Office at Our Lady of Lourdes
at 317-356-7291 or parishsecretary@ollindy.org by Tuesday, November 21st.

Please provide name and the number of people attending, or if requesting delivery,
please provide name, address, telephone number and number of meals requested.





BAD BOYS of the Bible

A New Monday Evening Bible Study

Starting this coming Monday, November 6, at 6 pm you are invited to a small group study in the parlor focusing on the “bad girls and bad boys” of the Bible. These are stories you may have never read or heard in a sermon or, if you did read them, you didn’t know what to make of them. But they are in the Bible for a reason!

Bad girl, bad boy, “Whatcha gonna do?” Join us and find out what they did and why it matters to us today.

This is a study that is open to questions and often gets side-tracked or even derailed, but that’s okay. Can’t come every week? That’s ok. These are “stand-alone” lessons (probably taking about 2 weeks per Bible character) so if you miss a week or two or more you can pick right up where you left off.

Where: The parlor

When: Starting November 6 at 6 pm

Cost: None – there will be free handouts available.

Hope to see you November 6, 13, or whenever you’re available!

Not sure if you will like it? Come and sit in on one or two and then decide.

**Reading the Bible: Got Questions?
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.



Why do we read the Bible?

How do we read the Bible?

Who wrote the Bible?

When was the Bible written?

Which translation of the Bible is the best?

Who decided what is in our Bible?



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. Meditate at Eight on 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. Too busy to read at 8 am? 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 Meditate at Eight 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 Meditate at Eight a daily habit ... whether you join us at 8 am, noon, or 8 pm.



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 6:30 p.m.

Where: IUMC Fellowship Hall (basement)

What: A 30-minute chair exercise class focusing on improving range of motion, core strength, and raising stamina! This class is tailored to those who struggle to get around or deal with life's daily aches and pains. It will be led by a personal trainer.

Cost: While donations are appreciated, they are not required or expected. We want ALL to be welcome!

And... Because we are Methodists, there will be music, laughter, a brief meditation, and food!

Our desire is also to offer food, clothing, and hygiene kits to anyone who comes who is in need. This is open to the church and to our Irvington community.

While this is a low-impact exercise program, if you have any question about your ability to participate, please consult with your physician. If you want more details about the program before joining, please see Pastor Denise.

See you there!

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

Denise Robinson, **Pastor**

Gregory Baranovsky, **Music Director/Organist**

Kim Fulton, **Office Manager/Financial Secretary**

Lori Steuer, **Preschool Director**

Greg Boyce, **Custodian**

We are on the Web at:

www.irvingtonumc.org

Our email address and telephone number are:

info@irvingtonumc.org

(317) 356-7231

Visit us on Facebook



Mondays at 1:00 pm in the Parlor & on Zoom

We are studying the Book of Hebrews. Bring your Bible and join us. Handouts are available each week and you can join in any time. It doesn't matter if you've studied these books before or struggle finding them in your Bible. All are welcome!

Meeting ID: 813 7695 8874

Passcode: 216949

ICAN OFFICE NEEDS

- *Body Wash**
- *Deodorant**
- *Shampoo & Conditioner**
- *All gender/size underwear**

IUMC OFFICE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- *Canned soups, pasta, chili and stews
(pull top cans)**

Place your donations in the office hallway.