



April Newsletter



Dear friends,

Spring has finally sprung, or at least the rains of spring have come, and I couldn't be more excited! After a long and dreary winter (they are all long and dreary, aren't they?), it's time to see the sun shining, the flowers blooming, and the birds coming back to their nests. As a pastor, I find myself drawn to both the beauty and the symbolism of the season. Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth, a time when we can reflect on the miracle of God's creation and the hope of new beginnings.

Before we get to the spiritual side of spring, though, let's first talk about the lighter side of spring! As much as the spiritual is important, there are a few things that always make me smile this time of year. First of all, there's all the sneezing that goes around. We love spring, but spring brings pollen. Spring also brings changes in weather patterns and barometric pressures. For all of us who have allergies or asthma, spring is a constant reminder that there are some things we can't control in life. So, we sneeze and sniffle and move on. Secondly, there's the joy of watching people emerge from hibernation. After months of bundling up, people shed layers of clothing and venture outside. When I lived in Minnesota, it amazed me how many people started wearing shorts and t-shirts the minute the temperature gauge went above freezing. After a couple years living up there, I understood and joined them! Finally, there's spring cleaning. Not a favorite pastime of mine, I must admit. Still, I enjoy opening up my home after months of closed windows to the fresh air outside (even if that brings on more sneezing and sniffing!).

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But the main thing I enjoy about spring, every spring, is the miracle of watching the natural world come back to life after a period of dormancy. Watching the trees bud, the flowers bloom, and the birds build their nests is a reminder of the beauty and wonder of God's creation. Spring is an annual reminder that no matter how dark and cold the winter may be, there is always the promise of new life and growth.

Spring is also, as I hinted at the beginning of this article, a season that is rich in spiritual meaning. As we watch the world around us come to life, we are reminded of the power and glory of the Creator. We are reminded of the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who conquered death and brought new life to all who believe in him. And we are reminded of the hope we have as the children of God, that even in the midst of darkness and despair, there is always the promise of new beginnings and renewed hope.

I give thanks for the God who brings new life out of death. I give thanks for the God who turns winter into spring. I give thanks that our God is a God of hope. I give thanks that one day we will see the full glory of God's kingdom, when all things will be made new, and we will experience the joy of eternal spring. And I give thanks for all of you. We have been through a few winters together and now we have come to another spring. We are learning to live into Christ's calling on us to be the church, and new life will emerge. I believe this. Do you?

May God bless you and keep you this spring season and beyond.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Denise



Reading the Bible: Got Questions?

New Small Group Study Begins Sunday, April 16, 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?



Holy Week at IUMC

Sunday, April 2

10:30 am

Palm Sunday

Special Music

Palms

Holy Communion

Thursday, April 6

6:00 pm; parlor

Maundy Thursday

Sharing a meal

Holy Communion

Casual Gathering

Friday, April 7

6:00 pm; Sanctuary

Good Friday

Reflections from

the Cross

Sunday, April 9

9:15 am, Fellowship Hall

(No Sunday School)

10:30 am

Easter

Christ is risen....

Breakfast

Processional

Special Music

"Resurrection!"

All are welcome! Join us as we reflect on Christ's last week on earth and join together in a celebration of the Resurrection.



The Chosen Bible Study Returns!

Mark your calendars! On Thursday, April 20th, at 6:00 pm, we are restarting our Bible study based on “The Chosen.” Last fall we looked at season 1; now we begin season 2. Each week we will watch part or all of an episode, and then discuss the episode as it relates to Scripture.

If you didn’t make it to season 1, you are still welcome for season 2. You can go back and watch season 1 on your own through The Chosen app or on YouTube, or we will begin with an overview of season 1 before jumping into the next season – so, either way you will be prepared!

Where: The parlor

When: Starting April 20 at 6 pm

Cost: None – there will be free handouts available.

Hope to see you April 20!

IUMC Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 1st at 10:00 a.m.

The event is open to the youth in the community, ages toddler thru 5th grade.



**Filling the eggs will be Thursday @ 1 pm in the parlor.
We also need help hiding the eggs @ 9:15 am Saturday morning.**



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 is Back!

April 12th

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!



Would You Be Willing to “Adopt” a Room?

An announcement was made in church a couple months ago that we hired new custodians for our church and pre-school. The problem is that our two new hires, combined, are part-time and, as you know, our church is BIG! There is simply no way to adequately clean the entire church in the time allotted ... and we simply can't afford to pay for more hours.

Would you be willing to adopt a room in the church and clean it once a week? We have identified some smaller areas of the church that could be cleaned well in an hour or less each week. We can assist you in getting access that will work with your schedule and will provide cleaning supplies (of course, if you have a preference, you can bring your own).

Here are the rooms/areas we have identified: (that remain on the list).

The music director's office

The youth room

Fellowship Hall (this is large and could be divided, but the cleaning needed is minimal – and would not include the restrooms or stage)

Fellowship Hall Kitchen

The preschool custodian will take care of the preschool classrooms and restrooms. The church custodian will take care of restrooms, the main sanctuary, hallways, the parlor, church offices, entryways, the south narthex, some downstairs cleaning, windows, etc.

If you are willing to take “adopt a room” either let Pastor Denise know or contact the church office. Also, if there is any area of the church you think needs TLC and you want to volunteer for that, no reasonable offer will be refused!!! If we work together, we can keep our church looking beautiful!



EASTER FLOWERS - 2023

DONOR: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

or

IN MEMORY OF: _____

Pick up your flower on Easter Sunday after 10:30 AM service.

Cost: \$10.00 per plant

Please return your order forms with payment to the church office or put them in the offering plate.

Orders must be received in the church office by Monday, April 3rd.

DONATIONS, what we need and what we don't

ICAN

Food for the ICAN food pantry (Hallway basket)
Underwear-all sizes for men, women, children
Socks-all sizes for men, women, children
Full size deodorant
Full size body wash
Baby diapers, baby wipes
Toilet paper

CHURCH

Canned chili, stew, meat pasta
Regular crackers, jelly
Coffee, cups, plates for Sunday AM
Travel size toiletries
Water, sport drinks (smaller size bottles)

With no retail store in the building, we no longer take donations of household items.

If you have donations for the preschool, please take them to the preschool office.

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 Exodus. 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 the Book of Exodus before or struggle finding it in your Bible. All are welcome! Meeting ID: 813 7695 8874 Passcode: 216949