



# April Newsletter

Dear Beloved IUMC Family,

Spring has arrived, and with it comes the glorious renewal that God weaves into creation itself! The longer days, the warming earth, the birdsong returning to our neighborhood — these are the gentle reminders that our Lord is a God of new beginnings. I hope you will take time to get outside, tend your gardens, enjoy walks and parks, and simply breathe in the goodness of this season. Whether you are planning cookouts with friends, afternoon adventures with your family, or already dreaming about a summer vacation, embrace every moment as a gift from our Creator. Life is better when we can enjoy the sun and the vibrant colors that come to life.

We are planning some exciting events in the fall this year to celebrate 100 years of this beautiful building. For more than a century, this congregation has faithfully served families across our Eastside neighborhood — through seasons of joy and seasons of trial — standing as a beacon of God’s light, love, and grace. That witness continues today, and we give thanks to everyone who has been part of this sacred story. Stay tuned for exciting anniversary events, and begin thinking about how you’d like to contribute to this historic celebration!

In the two Sundays following Easter, we will launch a 2 week sermon series, ***A New Paradigm***. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was not merely an event — it was a cosmic disruption, touching every dimension of existence in ways our limited human minds cannot fully contain. This new reality can first produce doubt, just as it did for Thomas, who struggled to believe until he encountered the risen Lord face to face. It can surprise us and catch us completely off guard, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus himself — without even recognizing Him. A New Paradigm calls us to open our eyes, release our old frameworks, and be ready for the unexpected move of God in our lives. Let us be ready!

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*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. — Joshua 1:9*

In His Service,  
***Pastor Sunil***

## April Small Groups

**Dinner, Devotion and Discussion** Mark your calendars for the *2nd Sunday of each month for 3D - Dinner, Devotion and Discussion*. We'll gather in the parlor around 11:45am for an hour of fellowship and sharing. The entree and drinks will be provided - bring something to share if you like, but not required. All are invited, including children. Bring yourself, your family, and your friends. No reservations needed, just come. Hope to see you on April 12th!

**Cooking Class** Thursday, April 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 so that Lois knows how much food to buy by emailing the church office @ [info@irvingtonumc.org](mailto:info@irvingtonumc.org) or letting Kim know by phone or Lois in person.** *Five people must sign up by Monday @ noon for the class to be held.*

**Constitution Discussion Class** Second Tuesday each month (April 14th) at 6pm, constitution education/discussion group. Karen Auble leads this group. We will meet in the parlor for this small group.

**Miss Linda's Sewing Class is Now 2 Classes a Month!** First and third Thursdays of each month, next class is scheduled for Thursday, April 2nd @ 5:00 PM. We will meet in the Choir Room on the second floor.

**Breakfast Club** Every other Monday Morning at 8:00 am, the club meets at Blueberry Hill Pancake House on East Washington Street for breakfast and fellowship. Breakfast dates for April are the 13th and 27th. All are welcome!

**Chair Exercise Class** Chair exercise class for age 50+ adults (although open to younger adults facing mobility problems). Wednesday evenings, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. **Class will resume April 8th.**

### **Monday Bible Study**

Pastor Sunil is offering a Bible Study on **Mondays** at 1 PM. The study will be in the parlor and on Zoom. We will be starting the book of Daniel this month. All are welcome to join!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6088142449?pwd=hw0WI58kaC6LjVbbnuxq0zrXl4bCjU.1>

Meeting ID: 608 814 2449 Passcode: 922133

*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.*



## Disaster Support, A Mission of Caring

An F5 Tornado in Sullivan, flooding in Henderson KY, hurricane damage in South Carolina, large storms in Oklahoma: any disaster leaves an aftermath of destruction, along with insurmountable challenges. Cleaning up after a disaster takes a whole community.

UMCOR – the United Methodist Committee on Relief – provides organized efforts to help our neighbors after a disaster. One part of their program is **ERT, Early Response Teams**.

ERTs are volunteers, like you, who have offered their hands in service. ERTs help families take steps to prevent further damage to property by tarping roofs, mucking out basements, sorting through debris, cleaning, spraying mold, etc. Even more, ERTs provide a caring Christian presence, offering hope when life is overwhelming. While it is disaster relief, it is also a ministry of healing: ERTs enter into their story, provide a gentle shoulder and an attentive ear. Compassion is the primary tool in the ERT toolbox.

A typical team is 4-8 people, all with different strengths and gifts. Work to be done fits all levels of skills and stamina. A typical deployment is 5 days: 3 workdays, 2 travel days, but you can serve any amount of days in that timeframe that works for you. To join a team, volunteers must complete a certification course and pass a background check, then be ready and willing to go when disaster happens.

THE NEXT ERT BASIC TRAINING FOR INDIANA WILL BE:

Saturday, May 16, 2026, 8:30am – 5:00pm  
Fishers UMC, 9691 E 116th St, Fishers, IN 46037  
Lunch, snacks and all materials will be provided  
For more information and to register, contact:

Ron Heustis at [rlheustis@gmail.com](mailto:rlheustis@gmail.com) or register online at [ERT Class Registration](#)

*Registration deadline: May 9, 2026*

## Spiritual Shopping?

Most of us find grocery-shopping a challenge – the traffic, the parking lot, the crowded aisles, the long check-out lines. Even electronic shopping has its own version of stress. It is easy to come home from a shopping trip with a cart full of fatigue, impatience, and (sometimes) disappointment. But what if grocery shopping could be different? What if it could be a spiritual experience, a time of prayer, a moment of thanksgiving?

Our church has joined in the mission of feeding our neighbors through the Big Red Box Project and the ICAN Food Pantry. It is a humble and at times overwhelming task, for there are so many who go hungry. Yet, God calls us to feed His sheep. He also calls us to draw nearer to Him, grow in His spirit. The act of grocery shopping can help with both.

- As you make your shopping list, pray to open your heart to those in need.
- In the parking lot, offer thanksgiving for the opportunity to share what you have.
- As you walk the aisles, pray without ceasing and let God guide you in finding just the right thing.
- When your eye is drawn to an item like a can of soup, a package of cheese crackers, a box of protein bars, pause: is it nourishing? Is it easy to open? Will it offer hope?
- Bless the item as you place it in your cart.
- At home, place your items in a special place so they are ready for the next trip to the church.

It takes practice to hardwire the act of spiritual shopping. It may help to create prompts: a key word at the bottom of your shopping list, a string around your finger, a special bag to take to the store. Ask God to help you become a spiritual shopper.

Your tangible gifts, like your spiritual gifts, are meant to be shared. Both the Big Red Box and the ICAN Food Pantry will share resources with those in need. It is up to us to help them with this great effort. Pick up at least one item every time you shop. It doesn't have to be expensive or extravagant; every piece donated makes a difference.

Need ideas about what to buy? Look for the list of helpful items on the Welcome Center.



### **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

### Money Counters Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help count money and take the weekly deposit to the bank once a month on Monday mornings.

Training will be provided.

Please call the church office if interested.

317-356-7231

## Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday 10:30 am

Good Friday 7:00 pm

Easter Breakfast 9:00 am

Easter Service 10:30 am



### 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.

# IUMC Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 28th at 10:00 a.m.**

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



*We are collecting candy to fill the eggs. (Wrapped small candy)  
Please leave your donations in the east transept or the office hallway.*



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**

Albrecht von Gaudecker, **Organist-Choir Director**

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.**

