

October Newsletter



It's Pumpkin Time! – October 2023

October is usually seen as a time of ghosts and goblins, trick-or-treaters and candy, and haunted happenings, and that is certainly true here in Irvington! It's also time for a change in seasons, as the weather turns colder, the nights grow longer, and the leaves turn color and then begin to fall. But, as Protestants, October causes us to remember another event (hint: his likeness is on the pumpkin!). October 31 isn't just Halloween, it's Reformation Day.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door (or door frame, we're not clear on that) of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. In those days, doors and door frames were kind of like public bulletin boards, and this one was the bulletin board for the seminary. Luther wanted to spark a theological discussion and did he ever! One of the issues had to do with salvation. The Catholic Church was preaching a message of salvation according to merit (and selling "indulgences" to help people earn more merit with God). Luther, reading Scripture, disagreed and pointed to the grace of God, freely offered to all who sought forgiveness of sin through belief in Jesus Christ. Salvation, Luther argued, was a free gift ... not one that could be sold by the Church.

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We, of course, are Methodist, not Lutheran. Wesley had his differences of opinion with Luther (remember, Wesley lived 200 years after Luther). Still, Wesley noted in his journal that he had his “heart strangely warmed” experience while at a Bible study at a house on Aldersgate Street in London when someone read aloud from Martin Luther’s Preface to the Book of Romans. So, we, as Methodists, owe some debt of gratitude to Luther.

What were those words of Luther that so moved the heart of our founder? Perhaps it was these, taken from Luther’s Preface: “Faith is a living, unshakeable confidence in God’s grace; it is so certain, that someone would die a thousand times for it. This kind of trust in and knowledge of God’s grace makes a person joyful, confident, and happy with regard to God and all creatures. This is what the Holy Spirit does by faith.”

A week after Aldersgate, Wesley praised Luther in a sermon on “Salvation by Faith” which he preached at St. Mary’s in Oxford. Speaking of Luther, Wesley said, “When sin had overspread the church, the Spirit of the Lord lifted up a standard against it. He raised up a poor monk, without wealth, without power, and at that time without friends, to declare war, as it were, against the bishop of Rome ... But this little stone being chosen of God, soon grew into a great mountain....”

Wesley disagreed with some of Luther’s theological views and was disappointed in many of Luther’s harsh words spoken about others, particularly against the Jews but even against those who didn’t agree 100% with all he had to say. Wesley, it seems, had a rather broader definition of grace than Luther which makes sense because “grace” is probably the singular word that defines the Methodist view of God’s love for us. But this October, let’s pause and remember that without Luther paving the way we might not have had the Wesley who, out of his desire to reform the Church of England, gave birth to a people called Methodists.

Enjoy the beautiful weather!

Brian Tull has a new address:

2548 B Colleton Way
Indianapolis, IN 46240



Virginia Morrow

Jini Morrow (A former long time member of IUMC) is turning 97 on November 11th.

Because of her health issues, she is living with her daughter. The family will pick up cards sent to Jini at:

Virginia Morrow

1124 48th Avenue E. # 220

Bradenton, FL 34203



Donations for bagged wrapped Halloween candy to give out to trick r treaters is now being accepted. Please drop your donation in the candy barn in the main hallway.



We will be bagging up the candy on Thursday, October 26th @ 1:30 PM in the parlor. Come join us!

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!





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.



Our First Box Truck Arrives!

As many of you know, it was at least a couple of months ago when we learned of an opportunity to receive donations of items that we could give to others as a mission of our church and our church's commitment to ICAN. After delay after delay (and some doubts as to whether it would occur), we finally were able to get our first truck of items and unload them at the church.

This was a trial run, so we weren't able to specify what we wanted/needed, but in meeting with the director of the program, I am assured that will happen. This was an important first step in meeting face to face and getting to know one another.

Thanks to all who came to the church Tuesday afternoon/evening to assist with the unloading of the truck!

Now, the next step Organizing.

Thursday is IUMC Volunteer Day! Come to the church as you are able between 10 am to 2 pm and between 5 pm to 7pm. Fellowship Hall will be set up for you to organize, sort, count, and bag items for us to give out and deliver. Much of this work can be done while seated, so everyone can help. Only have an hour? Come for that hour! No need to call or schedule ... just show up and contribute to the mission of Christ's Church.

**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?

A New Book/Bible Study is Starting: Get it On Your Calendar Now!

A new evening small group study has begun in the parlor on Thursdays, at 6:00 p.m. led by Gary Keithley. If you've never attended one of Gary's studies before, they are highly recommended. Gary's love for God and his desire to share God's Word is evident.

The focus for this small group study is taken from Zondervan's Faith Lessons series in which biblical truths are examined in their biblical settings. Know someone to invite who doesn't come to church? Offer to pick them up and bring them with you. This study is open to all. All are invited and all are welcome!

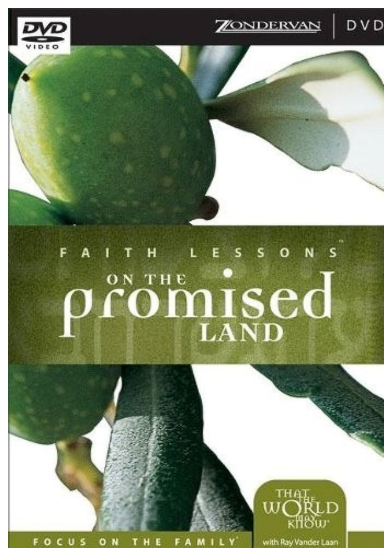
This is an eight-week class and will conclude the week before Thanksgiving / Advent. Have a conflict one week? That's ok, you can still come.

When: Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Where: IUMC Parlor

Why: Because faith matters!

Have questions? See Gary Keithley after one of the services. Haven't met him yet? Find the pastor and she will make the introduction!



What Do You Think?

The Irvington Halloween Festival is coming up at the end of October and brings thousands of people to the streets of Irvington. Some of us have been brainstorming (yes, it's been painful) for how we might raise some needed funds for our church and we've arrived at two ideas. Introducing: The Microwave Bowl Cozy and The Quilted Coaster!



MICROWAVE BOWL COZY

VIDEO TUTORIAL



[HTTP://MYPATCHWORK.WORDPRESS.COM](http://mypatchwork.wordpress.com)



Are you a quilter/sewer? Are you willing to learn? Beth Gilbert says they are easy and she is willing to teach. She may even be able to help with fabric. Halloween ones ... Christmas ones ... fall season ones ... winter season ones ... quilty-looking ones. Already know how to make them and willing to help? Jump right in and start stitching! Finished products can be dropped off by the pastor's office. Willing to learn or want to be part of a sewing group??? See Beth after church.

We will need volunteers to help sell these at the Halloween Festival on Saturday, October 28th. See Pastor Denise or call the church office to volunteer.



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 Minor Prophets. 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)**
- *Snack packs of cookies, fruit snacks
and cereal bars**

Place your donations in the office hallway.