

Towerbell

INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE 2019

From the Pastor:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

(Acts 2:42)

This passage from *the Acts of the Apostles* is the earliest description of the Church. The Church was marked by four characteristics:

(1) They were a learning church. (2) They clung together – “fellowship” – i.e., they lived out their faith in community. (3) They gathered around the table of the Lord. This is more than Communion, they ate with each other. The food enriched their bodies and their souls. (4) They devoted themselves to prayer. Their life together was surrounded by prayer.

These are still the 4 characteristics of each congregation. As we prepare for what God is calling us to be and do, let us devote ourselves to this ancient standard of faithfulness. Let us come together to study God's holy Word, both in Bible Study and in Worship. Let us continue in the bonds of fellowship. Let us receive the food of heaven around the table of our Lord. And may we be known as a people of prayer.

Because Acts is about the great transitions of the early church, this Summer at 6:00 PM on Wednesdays, we will be studying and reflecting on “then” as well as “now.”

-Reverend Bill Hudson

Calendar

- **June 2**—Worship
- **June 3**—Session Ad Hoc meeting on committees/structure
- **June 5**—Knit Wits, **NEW** Bible Study
- **June 6**—Morning Glories
- **June 9**—Worship with Communion (**PENTECOST**), graduate breakfast
- **June 10**—Evening Circle
- **June 11**—P&F Committee meeting
- **June 12**—Wed. Evening Bible Study
- **June 13-15**—IPC Rummage Sale
- **June 15**—Habitat for Humanity “Run, Walk, Mosey”
- **June 16**—Worship (**TRINITY SUNDAY**)
FATHER'S DAY
- **June 18**—Mission Team meeting
- **June 19**—Knit Wits, Bible Study
- **June 23**—Worship, Board of Session meeting (*reports due 6/19*)
- **June 24**—Presbytery meeting
- **June 26**—Wed. Evening Bible Study
- **June 30**—Worship *followed by*
Congregational meeting

Worship Activities

Sunday, June 9th, is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the early church. All are encouraged to wear **RED** in celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising. We will be celebrating Communion on Pentecost, rather than on the first Sunday of the month.

Rev. Hudson's sermon titles, scripture selections and liturgists for the month of June are provided below:

- 6/2 *Looking Up!*
Acts 9:1-20; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
Liturgist: Butch Carr
- 6/9 *The Advocate*
Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:1-27
Liturgist: Jacqueline Hudson
- 6/16 *Three Ways to God: Karl, George & Jim*
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
Liturgist: Christine Reinprecht & Anneliese Kinkaid
- 6/23 *Who Needs Who*
1 Kings 19:1-15a; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
Liturgist: Paula Trill
- 6/30 *The Mantle*
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62
Liturgist: Sue Saunders

The last day of Sunday School was 5/19, and we recognized all of the volunteer teachers and nursery care help during the service. See you in September! We invite children to remain in the sanctuary during service; child care for infants & toddlers is available. There are also books and activity packets at the back of the sanctuary. Children are welcome to take these home.

The choir will be on a break for the summer as well. However, Music Director Jake Briggs invites anyone interested in performing during service in the summer – singing or playing an instrument – to contact him.

With the new A/C in the sanctuary, we will no longer be moving summer services to the Chapel. Bear with us as we identify the best temperature settings. If you feel too cold, you might move back a few rows. And likewise, if you feel too warm, move up!!

Presbyterian Women Tidbits

On Thursday, May 23rd, nine Presbyterian Women were willing to try something new. PW sponsored a “game” afternoon for women in the Gathering Room from 1 to 3 p.m. A selection of board and card games and puzzles were supplied. That afternoon Scrabble, Password, Uno and Sorry were played. As far as the Sorry game goes, some of the participants playing were truly sorry and some were not. Snacks were also enjoyed. The general consensus was that it was a fun afternoon and more “game” afternoons should be held in the future. Watch for time and dates!

The Rummage Sale Jewelry Boutique has grown to a beautiful display of “baubles, bangles and bright shiny beads” under the creative direction of Nancy Jermann. Make sure you stop by to view it at IPC's rummage sale. Thanks to all who have added to the IPC Presbyterian Women's treasury through your jewelry donations and purchases at the upcoming sale. Beautiful jewelry at bargain prices!

The latest issue of Horizons, the magazine for Presbyterian Women, is in a magazine file in the Church's library. The May/June issue is all about “Joy”. For this and other interesting reading, borrow a copy of Horizons!



Outreach News

Plans are in the works for a Blessing of the Animals along with demonstrations and tips for pet safety this summer. We anticipate congregational and community participation in this meaningful, informative and fun event, both for you and your pet. Stay tuned for the date to be announced in a coming Towerbell and on Sundays.

It has been way too long since IPC has had a pictorial directory in our hands!! Outreach is working with Lifetouch (former directory company we have used in past campaigns) to come in the fall to take our pictures and assemble a church-wide directory in a new handy, smaller format!! More information to come about the dates and the many helpers we will need to have a successful directory campaign. It is always a good thing to see your smiling faces in person or in print!!!

“Interim” versus “Transitional”

What is the difference between an Interim and a Transitional Pastor? This question was posed to Rev. Hudson, who provided the following answer:

A rose by any other name is still a rose. **Transitional** is what used to be called an **Interim**. The reason I like the name change is, so often, the term “Interim” suggests the time waiting for the real Pastor or real ministry to begin. Just a holding pattern until “Transitional,” on the other hand, suggests that this is a very important journey that we are on. A time of preparation.

In the Bible, transitions were marked by 40. Noah in the Ark - 40 days and nights. Moses with the Children of Israel - 40 years in the wilderness. Elijah the prophet’s journey to the Mountain of God - 40 days and nights. The Exile in Babylon. Even Jesus between baptism and beginning his public ministry spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness.

At first, this time might be seen as a waste of time, yet in looking back, life was forever changed in the transition from bondage to freedom, from death to life and from past to future. In each transition, great miracles happen: Burning Bush, Manna, the crossing of the Sea, Angels, the Bible written, confronting Satan. No one wishes to go into the desert; the Bible says there was a lot of moaning and groaning along the way. They complained all the time. Are we there yet? Have we arrived? When will this be over? The answer is always, “not yet”!

So during our “40 days and nights” together, how will we be changed? What miracles will God bless us with? I am here to help ... to walk with you through this journey.



Rummage Sale Ramblings

The Rummage Sale Committee would like to amuse you with a song in preparation for the sale on **June 13, 14, and 15**. If you so desire, sing along to the tune of “*There Is Nothing Like a Dame*” from the musical, “*South Pacific*.”

We have tables lined up in Fellowship Hall. We have Larry’s clothes racks lined up in the Hunt Room.

What do we need? We need your goods!

We have decorations of all kinds. We have home décor items to please.

What do we need? We need more goods!

We have materials of all sorts waiting to be bought. We have pictures, frames and portraits for décor.

What do we need? We need more goods!

We have furniture to fill your home, lamps to finish the job.

What do we need? We need more goods!

We have toys, games, books and puzzles to stimulate your mind; also tapes and CD’s to soothe.

What do we need? We need more goods!

We have flowers, plants, vases and baskets; jewelry by Nancy.

What do we need? We need more goods!

We have collectables - Precious Moments, Hummel and Royal Copenhagen.

What do we need? We need more goods!

We have Paula at the door offering help to those who bring; we have workers there to sort and price.

What do we need? We need you to sign up on Janis’ board to work!

Volunteers are needed the week of the sale for set up and help during the sale.

Thank you,

Bev, Sue and Brenda

Mission in Motion

At the Cooperative Mission Meeting held at IPC in May, representatives from Christ United, John Knox, Fairmount, Pioneer Memorial, Church of the Western Reserve and IPC met to discuss various aspects of Mission work within our churches. We covered how mission finances are structured, committee composition, mission distributions at local/national/international levels and other topics, such as using technology/social media for mission work, developing leaders and how to address personal tragedies through existing mission entities. Collectively, it was clear that there is never any shortage of mission work to do and it was equally clear that the more we work together, the greater the outcome. Please don't hesitate to ask a mission committee member if you would like more information about the meeting. Another Cooperative mission meeting is scheduled, to be hosted by a different church, for the fall.

June is going to fly by! IPC is hosting a Rummage Sale **June 13th-15th**, and also on **June 15th** is the Habitat for Humanity Walk at Edgewater Park. IPC has donated to this great charity to support the walk, and if you would like to go and participate, registration starts at Edgewater Park beach at 8:30am, with the race starting at 10am. The distance options are a 1-mile fun walk and a 5k walk/run/mosey. It's a fun opportunity to get some exercise and a wonderful way to help those in need of quality housing.

If walking is not for you, but meal-packing is, mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 25th**, when Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church is hosting a Rise Against Hunger event in Brecksville. Participation is welcome, please just let Lee McGovern (leechristinecarr@gmail.com) know if you are interested so volunteers can be coordinated.

Finally, we are always open to Mission ideas – please don't be shy with offering suggestions for mission activities. Thanks for all you do, IPC!



Spotlight on ...

RYAN SMITH



Ryan is the son of members, Connie and Bill Smith, and the brother of Katie. He was confirmed here and participated in many mission trips through the years. Going to Heifer Ranch in Arkansas was a real highlight for him. Ryan also attended Triennium twice and helped build a wheelchair ramp on an Appalachian house. He continues to serve as a Sunday School teacher of IPC youth 3rd – 6th grades and often volunteers as a worship leader.

Ryan graduated from the University of Akron and later received his Masters degree online from Emporia State University. His degree is in Health, Physical Education & Recreation, and he has been teaching physical education for 8 years at Brunswick Elementary School. In addition, he coaches junior high track and winter ski club. He loves to play sand volleyball in the summer and indoors in winter, along with being on a bowling league. He likes hanging out at Edgewater Beach or the Flats with his friends. Favorite trips include the Dominican Republic and Mexico.

Keep up the good work, Ryan!!

WHO'S WHO AT IPC – *the CHOIR*

IPC would like to thank the members of IPC's choir for providing us with beautiful music over the past year. While others may have added their voices from time to time over the past year, the current regular members include the following:

Janet Dular
Bob Highman
Anneliese Kinkaid
Beverly Rospierski
Sue Saunders
Karen Shallcross
Anne Siebert
Joe Stern



Plus, of course, the Music Director ... Jake Briggs ... who directs, accompanies and sings. And most recently Rev. Bill Hudson.

We thank you all for your time, dedication and inspirational messages provided through song. We will miss you over the summer!

MORE FATHER'S DAY MESSAGES FROM THE BIBLE:

Psalm 127:3-5 ³Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. ⁴Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. ⁵Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...

Ephesians 6:1-4 ¹Children, obey your parents in the LORD, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—³so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." ⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the LORD.

Pentecost Offering



Pentecost is held on the seventh Sunday after Easter and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension. For members of PC(USA), the 2nd annual Presbyterian Special Offering also occurs at this time.

Sixty-percent of the offering collected will be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to develop, encourage, and support young people, in addition to addressing the needs of at-risk children. Forty-percent of the collection will be used by the Mission Committee to help youth-in-need in our own community.

You can find out more about all of the Special Offerings at <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/index.html>.

Graduate Recognition

Each year, IPC recognizes members, family members and friends who have graduated during the preceding year. Graduate Recognition Sunday is on June 9th (which is also Pentecost Sunday). Recent graduates and their families are invited to a breakfast before church. Based on information compiled as of press time and so with apologies to anyone omitted, we celebrate and congratulate the following:

Craig Bair – University of Pittsburgh, BS, Dec. '18
Ben Skapura – Brecksville Broadview Heights High School, May '19
Mark Spino – Kent State University, BA, May '19
Nicole Trill – Cleveland State University, BS, May '19
Kimberly Varadi – University of Virginia School of Law, JD, May '19
Luke Varadi – Clemson University, BS, Dec. '18

Presbyterian Trivia: Where is the General Assembly of the PC(USA) located?

Answer to May Trivia: Presbyterian Presidents include Andrew Jackson, James Knox Polk, Ulysses S Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Buchanan, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, Woodrow Wilson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan, and Donald Trump. Polk, Hayes and Grant may have converted to Methodist.

Presbyterian 101

Q: What is the tradition of hymns in the Presbyterian church?

A: Rev. Hudson explained during a recent service that, in the early Presbyterian church, hymns were limited to the singing of psalms. There's more! John Calvin taught that only those things mandated by scripture should be done in corporate worship. Applying this, John Knox wrote that not only were only psalms to be sung, but the singing must be A Capella! Calvin also opposed a choir or minister singing separately. Both called for the psalter singing 1 line followed by the Congregation repeating the line. This was a practical rule given illiteracy. So our Presbyterian tradition called for worship with no hymns, no organ, no choir and no continuous singing!

Q: Speaking of hymns, what happened to the "AMEN" that used to be sung at the end?

A: Dean McIntyre, director of music resources for the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church, explained in an essay that the custom gained fashion when the influential 1861 "Hymns Ancient and Modern" added an "amen" to every hymn. The Methodist hymnal followed suit in 1905, as did the Presbyterians in 1911. But Presbyterian hymnal editor David Eicher writes that around 1920, "the Church of England recognized that adding ... amen had been a rather odd thing to do, so they began to abandon the practice." Hymn editors listened, eventually, over time, with the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal omitting them entirely.

Money Matters

As reported in the *Financial Corner*, IPC is showing a strong operating surplus. A quick word about this! In May, IPC received some full-year pledge amounts – for which we are very grateful – making the monthly operating revenue unusually high. Note also that operating expense is up by several thousand compared to previous months. This is due to pastor compensation as of 5/1. We continue to project an \$8,500 operating deficit for 2019, even though there is currently a surplus.

Financial Corner:

May	Operating revenue	\$21,976	Operating expense	\$10,607	Net Operating income	+\$11,369
YTD	Operating revenue	\$53,959	Operating expense	\$39,290	Net Operating income	+\$14,669

PNC Update

Hello from the Pastor Nominating Committee! We are hard at work collecting all of the pieces we need to move forward in the process of calling a new pastor. Our current task is hearing from you! Someone from the Committee may contact you to get input through a set of questions on what your opinions are in regards to our church and future pastor. If you are not contacted but would like to speak to someone, please reach out to someone on the committee: **Laura Butler, Butch Carr, Dean Jermann, Mike Messenger, Kelly Savastano, or Dave Rahn**. This is an exciting time and we look forward to hearing your voices.

Per Capita Assessment

The per capita assessment was described by the 1985 General Assembly of PC(USA) as a way of "mutually sharing the cost of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading." Per capita contributions fund the shared governing responsibilities for the whole church, supporting the governance work of presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly. Each determines its budget for administrative, operational and program costs, then divides its budget by the total number of members, resulting in a per capita rate.

The rate for **2019** is based on the total number of active members reported **at the end of 2017**. While each church is encouraged to give its full per capita, regardless of how it collects the funds, IPC's Session voted in 2018 and again in 2019 to pay **only** the amount actually collected due to our financial position. Even if you are not personally part of the 2017 member count, consider making a per capita contribution in 2019 to help offset the inevitable shortfall!

The 2019 per capita is **\$32.41 per person**. This is comprised of \$8.95 for the General Assembly, \$3.25 for the Synod, and \$20.21 for Presbytery. We will make an initial payment to Presbytery in July of all per capita receipts collected through 6/30/19. If you have not already paid your per capita, please consider doing so in June. We will have another "push" in December.



Do you know?

- Recently celebrated Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who died in the service of the U.S.A. It was borne out of the Civil War on May 5, 1868. The following was taken from The Old Stone Church in Independence 1837-1987:

“What effect did the Civil War have on the Independence church? Seven residents of the village died from wounds or disease during the war. Prices rose 100% from 1861 to 1864. Low and middle income people found themselves strapped for money. Presbytery says in 1861 ‘The year that has passed has been such as one as we have never before been called to pass through...The troubles of the times seem to have led men to the hands of God.’ The only session reference to the war concerns ‘the death of young brother Lucas C. Hannum having served his country for about one year and a half in the 103rd OVI and was taken sick while at the hospital at Noxville [sic] Ten. serving as a nurse of which sickness he died.’ Otherwise the session minutes are silent.”

Thanks to those who have served and continue to serve for us.

- Partially supported by IPC, Habitat for Humanity is an organization that we hear about, but probably don’t know a lot about. For your information, for the first time since 2012, Habitat for Humanity will be building *new* houses as part of its \$1.85 million 10-house new construction project on Grandview Avenue in Cleveland. Since 2014, the organization has fully-rehabbed 105 houses for Habitat homebuyers and assisted over 400 existing residents with exterior repairs and improvements. And in 2018, Habitat for Humanity worked with 3,203 volunteers for a total of 93,662 volunteer hours. Additionally, there were 5,585 hours of *sweat equity* contributed by homebuyers. Do you like to work with your hands and meet other people with a desire to help others? Spend a day at a Habitat for Humanity project!

- Janis Carr

EVENING CIRCLE DINNER OUT

Past, present and future members of The Evening Circle of IPC are welcome to gather at Harry’s Steakhouse, 5664 Brecksville Road in Independence on Monday, June 10th at 6:30 for a yummy, reasonably-priced dinner and fellowship together. Please RSVP to **Karen Shallcross** by June 6th if you are planning to attend at 216-524-0863 or kshallx@prodigy.net.

REMINDERS

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Rev. Hudson is launching a weekly Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 6pm at least through the summer.

Sunday Liturgists

Rev. Hudson is looking for liturgists for Sundays in July. He plans a month in advance! Contact him if interested.

Blue Hymnals

The blue hymnals that had been used at IPC for many years are still available. *Contact the office.*

Call For Readers

The April Towerbell included information about joining the Reading Team for IPC member Mark Murray. *If you are interested, contact Karen.*

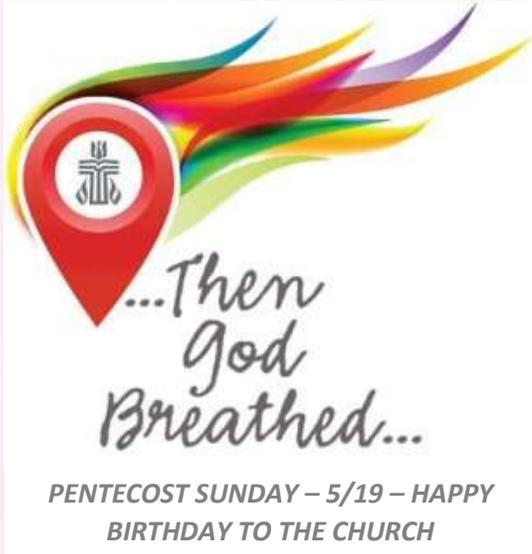
IN MEMORIAM

Former IPC member, Jean Mulkerin, passed away on April 24, 2019, at the age of 92 in Biloxi, MS. Jean and her husband Herbert moved from Ohio to Mississippi fifteen years ago. Herbert passed away in 2008. Both were dedicated members of the IPC family for many years, and Jean is especially remembered for her attention to our flower beds. Her obituary can be viewed here: [Jean Mulkerin obituary](#)

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Postage



TO:

FAMOUS FATHERS FROM SCRIPTURE:

Abraham → Isaac A Man → Prodigal Son Zachariah → John the Baptist David → Solomon

Recent IPC Facebook posts

- *May 19:* This is our hope in Jesus Christ! Who knew there was so much hope and grace in the book of Revelation?

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

- Revelation 21:3-4

Thank you to all contributors to the June issue of IPC's Towerbell: Rev. Bill Hudson, Laura Butler, Janis Carr, Brenda Kolchin, Wendy Lavey, Lee McGovern, Kelly Savastano, Karen Shallcross and Paula Trill. All errors belong to Wendy as editor and layout specialist! Color printing donated. Updates and articles are due to Wendy by the last day of the preceding month, although earlier is better!!