



Towerbell

INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JUNE 2020

Justice, equality, peace ...

As the nation responds to racial injustice as illustrated by recent events in Minneapolis (and elsewhere), and grieves the loss of lives while honoring the tradition of Americans to peaceably protest, remember these words from 1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

**It always protects, always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres.**

As I went to press, I thought it was important to not only acknowledge recent events, but also to speak against injustice and systemic racism. Our first responders also deserve our respect and support, and should not be vilified as a profession. So I have hijacked page one; I'm not speaking on behalf of IPC or anyone else. Rather than focusing on the violence and looting of last weekend, I ask instead that we recognize the causes for legitimate discontent and the part each of us plays in both problems and solutions, that we hear the message of those peacefully seeking to be heard, and that we act in compassionate and just ways.

~ Wendy Lavey

COVID-19 UPDATE Stay Safe and Be Well

- Although Session initially set a goal of resuming in-person worship services on the first Sunday of June, we have delayed that by 2 weeks to **JUNE 21st**. This date is subject to change depending on the "state of things" as we get closer to that date.
- With input from Session and others, a working group comprised of Rev. Hudson, Carol Tomasko and Jan Adams met to plan for the return to in-person services and developed **new procedures**, which you will find on page 2 under *Worship Activities*. These procedures are for the protection of everyone. We look forward to welcoming you back to worship.
- Videotaped services will continue to be uploaded to YouTube for those who are unable to attend in-person.
- The office remains closed. Paula performs her duties by working in the office one day (Mondays) and from home. Rev. Hudson comes and goes. If you need to come to the church office, please call ahead.

Worship Activities

Copies of the bulletins and a link to Rev. Hudson's presentation of the service on YouTube are sent out to everyone on the email distribution each week. **You can also go to YouTube and search for "IPC Pastor Bill."** For 6/7, we are trying something new – recording the service from the sanctuary on Saturday morning. Hopefully this is successful!

6/7 **TRINITY SUNDAY**

Three Ways to God: Karl, George & Jim!

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13;
Matthew 28:16-20

6/14 *The Laughter of God!*

Genesis 18:1-15; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8

6/21 *A Broken Family*

Genesis 21:8-21; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

6/28 *A Living & Holy Sacrifice*

Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

NEW PROCEDURES FOR WORSHIP

All attendees will enter the church thru the side parking lot doors by the office.

Doors will remain open to avoid contact by members.

Masks are required to be worn by everyone. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided to you.

Social distancing (6-10 feet) will be required in the pews. Some pews will be roped off.

There will be no bulletins, bibles or hymnals. The service will be on the screen. You are encouraged to bring your own bibles.

There will be no singing.

There will be no communion, no passing of the peace and no passing of the offering plate. An offering plate will be located at the back of the sanctuary.

After the service, members will be excused pew by pew to avoid congregating in the back of the sanctuary.

Fellowship hour has been suspended.

The Deacons' Corner

The deacons have called many of you to advise about the reopening of Church, but the initial opening **has been delayed** until June 21st (subject to updated info) as a precaution in light of the recent up-tick of corona cases in Ohio, so please change your calendars.

News of the Day! **Brooklyn** _____, granddaughter of Madeline & Leon W _____, was given an award at school for having the "Best Manners" and well-deserved, as I can attest to, being her Sunday School Teacher! Madeline also got hugs from her grandkids on Memorial Day, so she is happy. **Karen E** _____ just celebrated a birthday. She tells me her mom, **Meta** _____, has had two corona tests at Jennings and tested negative both times, but didn't care for those sticks in her nose! **KEEP THOSE STICKS AWAY FROM ME TOO!**

Ed and Carolyn H _____ are doing well, and Carolyn even went to a dental appointment. **Janet D** _____ goes on rides on the weekends, which is quite enjoyable. Her son-in-law had a bad 3 week bout with the virus but is okay now. I talked with **Katie B** _____, and the family is well; she is all about getting the kids finished with school. Much appreciation to Katie and ALL the mothers and fathers who have had to act as school teachers this year, along with all their other duties!! I really admire you!

Betty J _____ is well; she missed her niece's anniversary party because they wanted her to stay in, but she is always cheery and upbeat. I called **Doreen S** _____, and she wanted me to tell you all "hello!" She lives with her daughter, Karen, and has been busy going through lots of old papers and such like all of us. She is fine except for trouble walking. Hang in there Doreen! I see **Lee McG** _____ and **Janis C** _____ out walking in my neighborhood. My dog Hank is getting used to seeing them now. **Sue S** _____'s son had a heart catheterization and a corona nose swab test (drat those sticks!!) at the hospital, and he is better and back at work. Glad to hear he is feeling better!

Marge J _____ takes walks around her front yard and is doing well but misses everyone at Church. **Ann S** _____ had lunch up in front of the C.E. Building on May 16 when the Azaleas were beautifully in full bloom and **Jean C** _____'s daughter stopped to take a picture for Jean to see!

~ Continued on next page

More from the Deacons

~ *Continued from previous page*

Ann's brother Karl bought a Kia Sorento last month, and when he went to fill the gas tank, he found a \$2 bill tucked under the gas cap—a gift from the dealer!!! **Pat C** is good, and her kids are all okay. Her son works for an airline so he is having some “time off” and her daughter, who is a pharmacist in Cincinnati, reports she is “very busy!”

Rhoda K is doing a lot of puzzles and making masks. **Frank L**, who is always fun to talk with, is quite the cook and was making potato dumplings and sauerkraut! He keeps busy but he is currently looking for a new barber, as he learned that “Bill the Barber” on State Road passed away in March. My husband **Ray**, also a customer of Bill, is also looking for a new barber! Ray keeps busy with mulching and tree trimming and yard work. And speaking of yard work, I hear the **Tomaskos** were up at the Church putting down some deliciously lovely mulch. Thank you Tomaskos for all you do for us! And Carol's mother, **Mary S** is doing well and likes the Towerbell articles.

Thank you to **Kyle McG** who is mowing the lawn! And I talked with **Larry M** for a long time as we talked about old times. He and Susan are well. He goes to Marc's like I do, he wrestles with our Church lawnmower, and misses everyone at Church very much.

Erik B was downtown last weekend during the rioting, putting out a police car fire, and picked up and **saved an American Flag**. It doesn't get better than that!

~ *Nancy Jermann*

Pastor Contract Extension

While IPC continues the search for a called pastor under the leadership of the Pastor Nominating Committee, Session and Rev. Hudson recently agreed to an extension of the original one-year contract through October 31, 2020. It contains the same 30-day termination provisions that existed in the original contract. The financial terms were increased slightly in order to meet Presbytery of the Western Reserve requirements for 2020. Vacation, study leave and annual reimbursable expenses are prorated to a 6-month period. Copies of the extension will be placed on the table at the back of the sanctuary once we resume services.

~ *Wendy Lavey*

Presbyterian Women Tidbits

- ❖ **Five IPC volunteers step-up to participate in our mission opportunity challenge!** Jan Adams, Bev Rospierski, Kathy Siemon, Lauren Somple and Paula Trill are making facial masks for the Youth Opportunities Organization (Y.O.U.) in cooperation with the Presbytery's Outreach Committee. As the program was explained,

“This summer Y.O.U. will be working with local employers, nonprofits, and schools in the city of Cleveland and throughout Cuyahoga County to provide meaningful summer jobs for low-income youth so they can earn as they learn. What our staff has learned is that not only do our youth and their families depend on the income from these summer jobs, but a recent Case Western Reserve study of our data shows that youth who are involved with a Y.O.U. summer job, even for one year, do better in school and are less likely to get involved with the criminal justice system.”

Some of the IPC volunteers have already made facial masks and donated them to charities of their own making us doubly thankful for their time and effort. Lee Lohr, the treasurer of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, will pick up our donations the morning of June 19th. If you are not mentioned and would like to help, please call Janis Carr at 216 262-5180. Read the next [Towerbell](#) to find out how many masks IPC donated!

- ❖ **Mark your calendar...**for the 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, “Rejoice in Hope!”, which will take place next year in St. Louis, Missouri, **August 5-8, 2021**. For further information go to:

www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

- ❖ **A Reminder...**there is still time to straighten out your baubles, bangles and beads and see if there is any jewelry that you can put aside to help PW raise money at the church rummage sale for our mission donations sent at the end of the year. When church resumes, your jewelry donations can be left in the church office. Thank you!

~ *Janis Carr*





Mission in Motion

More good news! We have decided to donate \$500 from the Miller Mission Fund to Rebecca's Place. This Christian organization, which is part of RAHAB (Reaching Above Hopelessness And Brokenness) Ministries, is dedicated to helping young women who are victims of trafficking. This safe house, here in Ohio, provides a variety of therapies to help these girls move their lives forward in a positive manner.

Also, Love INC has received the money we sent them last month, funding grocery store gift cards to give to those in need. When we let Love INC know we were sending a special donation to them, this is the response we received: *"Thank you so much! We just got a call today from a family of seven with no income – did not qualify for unemployment when they lost their jobs. They desperately need food and toiletries..."*

Certainly, there are many people hurting in many ways at this time, and it is a blessing for IPC to be in a position to bless others.

~ Lee McGovern

Next Mission Team meeting

Tuesday, June 23, 7pm

Current plan is to meet at the church this month; let Lee know if you would like to join by phone and she will make it happen!



Do you know?

Have you ever heard the story of the **Joshua tree**? While driving through southern California a couple of years ago, I became fascinated with a Dr. Seuss-like tree growing in the midst of sand and rock. It piqued my curiosity. Time to do a little research.

A picture from my phone labeled this unique plant as the Joshua tree. Are you intrigued as to what it looks like? Study the picture to the left.

Further research revealed the following from Reference.com.

“Although the Joshua tree was named after the Biblical prophet Joshua, the tree was never mentioned in the Bible. It is native to the Americas rather than the Middle East.

The Joshua tree, also known as the ‘yucca palm,’ from its scientific name, *Yucca brevifolia*, is found mostly in the Mojave Desert and other areas in the American West. Folk legend traces the name to Mormon settlers in these areas in the 19th century who saw the tree's gnarled branches and compared them to outstretched arms leading them forward. This could compare to several instances where the Biblical figure Joshua lifted his arms upward, such as Joshua 8:12. (KJV ‘And he took about five thousand men, and set them to lie in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.’) Other sources point out the conception of the American West as a promised land for many religious settlers, suggesting that the name Joshua was applied to these distinct trees since Joshua was Moses' successor in leading the Biblical Israelites to their own promised land.

However, 19th-century sources are mixed on this subject, although most of the earliest available uses of the name do treat it as emerging within the Mormon community. Some religious origin for the term Joshua tree seems likely, as both Mormon and other Christian settlers often saw their new homes through a Biblical lens, but like many slang terms, the exact origin is unknown.”

For me, I like to think of a quote by Dr. Seuss when I think of this unique tree. “Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.”

~ Janis Carr

Something to Celebrate . . .

Thank you to **Paula**, for her wonderful work as the IPC secretary! Paula will retire during the next few weeks and we want to officially recognize and thank her for everything she has done for the church. Paula has always gone above and beyond. We are so happy that she is a member and friend of IPC and that we will be able to continue to see and worship with Paula on a regular basis. Paula, we know you can't wait to have even more time for knitting, quilting, gardening and spending time with family and friends. Though we will miss having you in the office, we are so happy for you and you certainly deserve a wonderful retirement!

And Something to Search For . . .

And with Paula's retirement, the search is on for a secretary for IPC! Please reach out to any qualified family or friends who will be GREAT at this job. The search committee – **Reverend Hudson, Beverly Rospierski, and Lee McGovern** – look forward to speaking with any outstanding candidates. Please contact any of us with questions and don't hesitate to share this job description with anyone who is interested.

George Floyd's Musical Legacy

~ Jake Briggs

American music is firmly rooted in the black experience and, without appreciating and respecting it, we would not have the great musical world we do today. I thought I would share the discussions I've had with my students this week about George Floyd, who as I'm sure everyone knows died on Memorial Day at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. I wanted to humanize this stranger to my students. I've always been interested in Hip Hop (the choir already knows this ☺) and George Floyd actually was a member of the Houston Hip Hop Scene. The Southside and DJ Screw made tapes with freestyles and George Floyd (known as "Big Floyd") has a couple verses on them; it really humanized this name for me personally. I recommend the Library of Congress YouTube channel that recently had a lecture by Langston Wilkins on the "screw community."

IPC Secretary Job Description

Independence Presbyterian Church is looking for a kind, cheerful, efficient secretary to help perform administrative duties in our office 12 hours per week, Monday through Thursday, 9am-12pm. Responsibilities will include managing the phone and email, producing the bulletin for weekly worship services, liaising with contracted staff and utility companies, and working with the minister, congregants and various committees in the church. Requirements include proficiency in Microsoft Office, a willingness to be trained in QuickBooks and keeping the website updated. Being punctual, trustworthy, organized, responsible, detail-oriented and communicating clearly are also essential. Wages are \$14 per hour with two weeks of paid vacation annually. IPC has an active, caring congregation and we welcome you to join us!

Please apply for the position by sending a cover letter and resume to **Lee McGovern** at leechristinecarr@gmail.com. Interviews will begin on Wednesday, June 24th, so please apply as soon as possible. We look forward to working with you!

PNC Update

We have been busy interviewing several candidates, via Zoom, over the last month. A couple of these individuals seem potentially promising! Keep saying prayers and sending good thoughts. Hopefully we will have more good news soon!

~ Laura Butler

Christian Ed Update

We currently plan to resume Sunday School in the fall on September 13th, the Sunday following Labor Day. Unfortunately, summer Vacation Bible School – which was in the process of being planned in conjunction with the United Methodist Church of Independence – has been cancelled.

~ Joe Stern

Presbyterian Trivia: Do you know the one hymn in our hymnal with lyrics written by Desmond Tutu?

Answer to May Trivia: The "every man" actor from western PA and lifelong Presbyterian was Jimmy Stewart.

Presbyterian 101

Q: When and what is Trinity Sunday?

A: *In the western Christian calendar, Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost. This year, Trinity Sunday is June 7th (Pentecost, the church's birthday celebration, was May 31st). For eastern Christians, Trinity Sunday is instead the Sunday of Pentecost.*

Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. From the Presbyterian Mission Agency's website:

"The celebration of Trinity Sunday began among Western Christians in the 10th century and developed slowly until it was formally established on the Sunday after Pentecost by Pope John XXII (1316-1334).

Unlike other festivals in the church's liturgical calendar, Trinity Sunday centers on a doctrine of the church, rather than an event. It celebrates the unfathomable mystery of God's being as Holy Trinity. It is a day of adoration and praise of the one, eternal, incomprehensible God.

Trinity Sunday, in a sense, synthesizes all we have celebrated over the past months which have centered on God's mighty acts: Christmas-Epiphany celebrating God's taking flesh and dwelling among us in Jesus Christ; Easter celebrating Christ's death and resurrection for us; Pentecost celebrating God the Holy Spirit becoming our Sanctifier, Guide, and Teacher. It is, therefore, a fitting transition to that part of the year when Sunday by Sunday the work of God among us is unfolded in a more general way.

The triune God is the basis of all we are and do as Christians. In the name of this triune God we are baptized. As the baptized ones we bear the name of the triune God in our being. We are of the family of the triune God. We affirm this parentage when, in reciting the creeds, we say what we believe. Our discipleship is rooted in the mighty acts of this triune God who is active in redeeming the world. The triune God is the basis of all our prayers — we pray to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit. The Trinity holds central place in our faith...."

~ Wendy Lavey

Bunnies, Birds & Babies

~ Nancy Jermann

Just when you thought things can't get any worse, they do. As if the pandemic, the economy, unemployment, and political squabbling isn't enough, we are now being thrust into civil unrest in our major cities. I follow the stories on the news and things sure look bleak. I am staying in my house, as ordered, but I can't take TV anymore!

I watch for my little bunnies who visit my patio every year for a snack but there is a coyote in the easement, so no bunnies. I've also been closely watching the little white birdhouse hanging just outside my kitchen window on the eaves of the patio. A mother and father sparrow have been spending their days flying back and forth bringing morsels to their little birdies, who seem constantly hungry and needing attention. But I am battling with a mean Blue Jay who is trying to steal the babies (he's already killed one), so every now and then when he turns up, I jump up from the kitchen table and bang on the window in protective solidarity with the sparrow parents! Even birds are mean, I thought.

I was depressed, tired of the rain, the isolation and news reporters, so I stepped out onto the patio to pout, **when lo**, in the eastern sky, arched over my neighbor's house, was the most beautiful rainbow. It took me back to my Rainbow Girl Days: ***"I do set my bow in the clouds, as a token of the covenant between me and the earth..."***

Then, last evening, as I watched CNN and saw all the looting and violence in the Nation's cities, and was thinking, this is the end, people are terrible.... I got a text from John Bair with pictures of his new baby granddaughter, **Isabel Ellen**, born on Friday, May 29th to his daughter Emily, and a real cutie. And I smiled and felt good. It seems that God sends little messages of hope to us when we need them. So, **congratulations to John and Nancy Bair, and Emily & her hubby, and welcome to the world little Isabel Ellen!!!!** God is watching over us, **and it is good.**

We're All in This Together

Can be sung to the hymn tune, AURELIA, The Church's One Foundation, #321 in the Glory to God Hymnal.

Sheer heartbreak heaped on heartbreak, From nature's
fury made,
A tiny little virus tremendous power displayed.
This outbreak leaves us shocked and we strive to
understand
What brought such pain and havoc abroad and in our
land.

The cancelled fun vacations, the end of this school
year,
Leave us in isolation, in turmoil and in fear.
Our hearts go out to all those whose future is unsure.
May families find the strength and the courage to
endure.

We yearn to be together to share our joys and woes,
And yet by staying home our compassion truly shows
How much we love each other and want for each the
best.

In fellowship deferred, we find hope and we are
blessed.

We weep with those who weep and we pray: "Lord,
meet their needs."

We long to be good neighbors; we want to do good
deeds.

To offer hope and help, we take off'rings to give aid,
And for relief and solace, we fervently have prayed.

These burdens are so heavy; they seem too much to
bear,
And yet Your love sustains us and shows us that You
care.

O Lord, You are our rock, our redeemer, and our
friend,

You offer us the promise of life that knows no end.

*Reprinted from TheHymnSociety.org. Copyrighted © 2020
by Carol J. Clarke. Permission is granted for use in non-
commercial settings, especially worship services including
those live streamed.*

Investment Committee Update

The Miller Endowment account began 2020 at its highest ever valuation level (adjusting for a 2018 distribution). The onset of the Covid19 outbreak and economic shutdown sent the markets plummeting, dragging the account value down with it. However, a fairly defensive posturing (~30% cash) mitigated some of the downside and kept the account value comfortably above the mandated \$100,000 valuation level. The account has rebounded with the markets, ending May off about 3.2% YTD. This compares favorably with most broad market averages which remain lower in a range of ~ 6% to 18% (only the tech heavy NASDAQ is positive YTD, + 5.8%). Roughly 26% of the account is held in a money market fund for potential liquidity needs, but also helps to reduce the impact of recent equity market volatility on the account's valuation.

The IPC "Manse Account", funded from proceeds of the Manse sale, is held in a separate account from the Miller Endowment. It remains invested in various bank CDs (roughly equal dollar amounts per CD) maturing at staggered quarterly intervals. The longest dated maturity is now April 2022. As interest rates have declined sharply this year, the average, unweighted yield to maturity of all holdings has declined to roughly 1.7% from roughly 2.4% about a year ago. Year-to-date income generated has been roughly \$1570. All income paid is added to a money market fund (~14% of the current account value) for any near-term liquidity needs. All CDs are F.D.I.C. insured.

~ John Bair

"Pepper.... And Salt", The WSJ



Financial Corner:

May	Operating revenue \$4,421	Operating expense \$8,529	Net Operating income (\$4,108)
YTD	Operating revenue \$57,655	Operating expense \$53,966	Net Operating income \$3,689

Independence Presbyterian Church
6624 Public Square
Independence, Ohio 44131

216-524-6307
ipcusaorg@gmail.com
www.ipcusa.org

Postage



TO:

Happy Father's Day!!

*"The father of a righteous child has great joy;
a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him." ~ Proverbs 23:24*



**"April
showers bring
May flowers"
~ photo by
John Bair**

Thank you to all contributors to the June 2020 Towerbell: Rev. Bill Hudson, John Bair, Jake Briggs, Laura Butler, Janis Carr, Nancy Jermann, Wendy Lavey, Lee McGovern, Joe Stern, and Carol Tomasko. All errors belong to Wendy as editor and layout specialist! Color printing donated. FOR THE JULY TOWERBELL, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NEWS AND ARTICLES TO WENDY BY NO LATER THAN JUNE 30. Although we combined July & August last year, we will issue each month since we are less able to see each other in person.