

Towerbell

INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2019

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The first person to experience the Risen Christ was Mary Magdalene. Who is this Mary? The Bible tells us very little about her. She is a disciple of Jesus. She was not in the inner circle, but there she was early in the morning by the grave. One of the reasons why the women are at the tomb and at the crucifixion, was both the Roman and Jewish authorities didn't take women very seriously. Women could go to places of danger where the apostles could not.

Mary Magdalene was there to grieve. Grief exposes one's heart to loss, to despair and to all the injustice of life. The official seal of Rome was placed upon the entrance grave stone. Suddenly mourning turned into fear. The seal is broken and the stone is rolled away. The guards lie as dead in horror on the ground. An angel sits on the stone, looks down on the frightened men and turns to Mary and the other women with her. *Do not be afraid.* In a grave yard in the early morning with a grave sprung open, with trembling all around, who would not be afraid?

It is a fearful thing to hear and see the mighty acts of God. The angel urges Mary to hope, to believe and to accept the Good News that Christ is risen. Then sends her to go and tell the apostles. Mary, quaking, proclaims Christ is risen! Trembling fear turns into trembling joy. With both emotions, Mary runs to tell.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

-Reverend Bill Hudson

Calendar

- **Apr 2**—Spiritual Growth/CE meeting
- **Apr 3**—Knit Wits
- **Apr 4**—Morning Glories
- **Apr 6**—Annual Spring Cleanup Day
- **Apr 7**—Church School & Worship with Communion
- **Apr 8**—Evening Circle
- **Apr 8 & 9**—Presbytery-hosted events with Rev. Dr. John Bell
- **Apr 9**—Property & Finance meeting
- **Apr 14**—Church School & Worship
PALM SUNDAY
- **Apr 14**—Deacons meeting
- **Apr 17**—Knit Wits
- **Apr 18**—**Maunday Thursday**
- **Apr 19**—**Good Friday**
- **Apr 21**—Church School & Worship
EASTER SUNDAY
- **Apr 23**—Mission Team meeting
- **Apr 27**—IPC PW trip to Love INC.
- **Apr 27**—Presbytery PW Spring Gathering
- **Apr 28**—Church School & Worship and potluck lunch to welcome Rev. Hudson

INTRODUCING THE REV. WILLIAM (BILL) HUDSON AS OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR!!!!

The Board of Session is excited to welcome Rev. Bill Hudson and his wife, Jacqueline, to IPC. Rev. Hudson officially begins on April 23, with his first Sunday service on April 28. Join us on April 28th for a special welcome, including a potluck lunch following service.

From Rev. Hudson ...

I was born and raised in Baton Rouge, LA. I was baptized at the First Methodist Church in Baton Rouge. My mother was the organist there. My earliest memory of church is crawling around the organ as my mother practiced. But during desegregation trauma, my mother had a hard time sitting on the organ bench during the sermon. FMC was a very politically established church. For example, the Governor was a member there. So when I was 12ish the family moved back to our Presbyterian historical roots, joining the University Presbyterian Church. This congregation then and now is a multiracial and ethnic congregation that seeks to welcome all to its fellowship and table.

I have always heard the Call of God on my life. In high school, I led Bible Studies and led a Christian Coffee House on Friday and Saturday Nights with 100 plus meeting each night. On a typical week: on Monday night I would go to a Black Baptist Church Bible Study, Wednesday a Catholic Charismatic Prayer Service, Thursday Night a Full Gospel Bible Study, Friday and Saturday was the Coffee house and on Sunday I would go to the early Service at the Presbyterian then walk across the Street to the Lutheran Service. I could not breathe enough of the air of faith. I was a part of a church drama group, in which I acted and directed. I also started reading Luther and Bonhoeffer in High School. On entering Louisiana State University it was my intention to go into ministry.

It is with great joy that Jacqueline has walked along side of me in my life and in my ministry. She brings a host of gifts for the journey. She is an educator and avid reader, with an artistic eye. She is also an ordained elder, has served on the Trustees, taught Sunday School both for children and adults and is an excellent Liturgist. She is my biggest critic and biggest supporter. She is my helpmate. We have four children between us and six grand-children with one on the way.

We have served congregations in New York, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Kentucky. We have served in extremely rural congregations and urban congregations from New York City to Canada, Kentucky. What I have found is the Church is a small town wherever you go. I have tried to leave a congregation in better shape than when I have arrived. You will be my fourth Interim. I am here to help you clarify what God is calling you to be and do; I look forward to the journey.



From Jacqueline ...

Hello! I am Jacqueline Hudson, wife of your new Transitional Pastor, Bill Hudson. We were asked to write “a brief introduction” of Bill. One thing you must know is Bill felt the Call of God on his life as a child. He always knew he was heading into ministry. We met when I had been looking for a church where the true creative mercy of God was being preached and taught. I found the church. I found a pastor and we found each other. I believe you are going to be exceptionally pleased with Bill’s ability to bring the Bible alive and connect us to God and our own discipleship, often through the stories of the Old Testament. His devotion, love, knowledge, and preaching will engage you. We are both looking forward to being a part of your congregation and faith journey.

Upcoming Worship Activities

In April, the “farewell tour” by our regular pulpit supply ministers continues. Our new Interim Pastor, Reverend William (Bill) Hudson starts at the end of April, preaching for the first time on April 28.

- 4/7—Rev. Dean Myers
- 4/14—Rev. Luke Choi
- 4/21—Rev. Luke Choi
- 4/28—Rev. Bill Hudson

For Palm Sunday, we will have a processional of children (and others) waving palms and the children plan to sing a short Easter-themed song during the “young disciples” portion of the service. Please plan to attend. Children, practice your song!!!!

We encourage you to participate in Good Friday services. Here are a few locations who are holding Good Friday services: Independence United Methodist Church @ 7:00pm and Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church @ 7:30pm.

Rummage Sale Ramblings

Have you begun decluttering your abode? If not, it is never too late to do so! According to Marie Kondo, the Japanese guru of decluttering and organizing, use her “Kon Mari” method, asking yourself, “Does this spark joy?” If you have items that do not spark joy in your life, donate them to our Rummage Sale, June 13, 14, 15th! Tables have been set up in the Hunt Room and Fellowship Hall for your goods. The Rummage Sale Committee is available to accept your donations during Office hours, Monday -- Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and of course on Sundays--after church. *Contact Bev Rospierski or Brenda Kolchin with questions.*

Rev. Dr. John Bell

The Presbytery of the Western Reserve is excited to host The Rev. Dr. John Bell for musical events on Monday-Tuesday, April 8-9. Rev. Bell is a internationally-known hymn-writer and minister with the Church of Scotland. For information on the workshops on April 8 (at John Knox Presbyterian) and April 9 (at Lyndhurst Community Presbyterian), or the Monday evening “Big Sing” at Forest Hill Presbyterian, go to <https://www.preswesres.org/johnbell>.

WHO'S WHO AT IPC - DEACONS

Jan Adams	<i>Moderator, Care Plan, Family Service, Ministries, Session Rep, Fellowship Coordinator</i>
Janis Carr	<i>Vice-Moderator, Family Service, Sanctuary A/C Rep</i>
Pat Clark	<i>Family Service, Property & Finance Rep</i>
Donna Edwards	<i>Spiritual Growth (CE) Rep, Flowers</i>
Karen Embrescia	<i>Valentine Project</i>
Phil Holt	<i>Ushers, Ingathering</i>
Frank Lovell	<i>Ingathering</i>
Nina Kazarovich	<i>Clerk, Communion</i>
Guy Savastano	<i>Communion, Spiritual Growth (Worship) Rep, Home Days</i>
Joe Stern	<i>Personnel / Nominating Rep</i>
Madeline Wateska	<i>Family Service, Outreach/ Mission / Stewardship Rep</i>

WHAT DO DEACONS DO AT IPC? PLENTY!!

The office of Deacon is open to all members of IPC. Deacons minister to those in need, assume duties as delegated to them by the Session such as presenting the gifts of the people to shut-ins and assisting with the Lord's Supper. The IPC Board of Deacons is presently composed of 11 Deacons. Each year 3 or 4 Deacons are elected to a 3-year term, allowing for experienced Deacons to be on the Board. Deacons are eligible for a 2nd consecutive 3-year term after which they must sit out a year before being considered again.

IPC Deacons prepare communion, sponsor the Independence Home Days Cookie Booth, coordinate Harvest In-Gathering, send valentine packages to college students as well as those in the military, and provide for flowers at Easter and Christmas. They sponsor a fellowship hour each Sunday following worship and oversee funeral receptions. IPC Deacons provide ministries through the Care Plan including sending greetings to their families throughout the year. A Deacon representative sits on each of the Session committees and reports back to the Board. The Board of Deacons meets the second Sunday of each month following worship.

Interested in serving as a Deacon? Reach out to the Nominating sub-committee (Lorrie Harper) or the Board of Deacons Moderator (Jan Adams).

Presbyterian Women Tidbits

Time to mark your calendar for some upcoming Presbyterian Women events. On Saturday, April 27th, join other IPC women at 10:30 a.m. at the church where we will carpool to Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) in Brooklyn Heights for a tour of its facility and learn more about the organization. Drivers will be provided. The goal of Love INC is to help churches help others. IPC supports the organization monetarily as well as materially with collections such as our recent paper towel collection. After the tour, at approximately 11:45 a.m. we will have lunch at Bob's Big Boy restaurant, 7800 Granger Rd., Valley View. We will order off the menu and separate checks will be provided. After lunch, we will return to the church. There is a sign-up in the hallway across from the church office.

If the Love INC activity is not your cup-of-tea, also on Saturday, April 27th, the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve is holding its Spring Gathering at the Lyndhurst Presbyterian Church, 5312 Mayfield Road, Lyndhurst, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with registration starting at 8:30 a.m. The theme of the event is "Earth Care Stewardship". The cost is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. The advance reservation deadline is Tuesday, April 23rd. Reservation forms including further information are on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Willing to try something new? On Thursday, May 23rd, PW will sponsor a "game" afternoon for women in the gathering room at church from 1 to 3 p.m. We will have board games, cards, and puzzles for you to use or bring some of your favorites. If you don't want to "game", come and chitchat with your friends and enjoy some snacks together. You don't have to register...just come for fun and fellowship.

Lastly, a reminder to sort through your jewelry and bring any unwanted items to the church office to donate to the Presbyterian Women's jewelry table, which will be a part of the June IPC Rummage Sale. (Mark your donation "PW Jewelry Sale.") What you do not wear anymore might be someone else's treasure and vice versa. Thanks for adding to the IPC Presbyterian Women's treasury with your unwanted "baubles, bangles and bright shiny beads."

SPOTLIGHT ON ... MARK MURRAY



Mark Murray has been a member of IPC since high school and was the son of members Roy and Patricia Murray, longtime members now deceased. He graduated from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School after an illustrious career in baseball and football there. He attended the Air Force Academy in Colorado following his dreams to fly and perhaps become an astronaut. When I asked him what his favorite school subjects were, he humbly said (with a smile) that he was good at everything. I believe him!! At the Academy, he took at least 5 jumps out of an airplane in his training. He still loves the outdoors and skis in a special program at Boston Mills. Awhile back Mark was featured as an IPC artist of the month with his paintings of landscapes and sports. Mark loves reading history, biographies, science fiction and adventure books in the Reading Club. (See separate article!) He has travelled recently with his longtime aide Orest to Dayton to tour Wright Patterson and to Niagara Falls.

- Karen Shallcross



Do you know?

- Inspired by the Reverend Leroy Ford, the IPC Sesquicentennial Quilt hanging at the front of the sanctuary was created by the Early Birds Circle and its friends. It was begun in October 1986, and completed in November 1987. The case was donated in loving remembrance of Leslie M. Gerding by her family and friends. Please take a closer look at it and the framed sampler next to the case to see present church members who helped with this beautiful creation.
- On top of the sanctuary's glass display case, which was donated in loving memory of Royal J. Harlacher, lies the World War II Prayer Roll of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Independence, Ohio. The first page states, "Good Friend, we bid your prayers for these our Loved Ones serving in the armed forces of the United States of America. Turn these pages gently and ask God's blessing upon them, for they are very dear to us. May their names all be recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life." Sometime take a minute to look at the book and see if you know any of the courageous men listed there.
- There are many symbolic meanings for an Easter Lily. This is just one of them. "The popular Easter lily we use today to celebrate the holiday is referred to as 'the white-robed apostles of hope.' These beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers were brought to the United States in 1875 from Japan by an American tourist and named after the florist who made it popular. The flower retells the resurrection story with its life cycle. These snow-white flowers symbolize new life and hope. The bulb of these flowers buried in the ground represents the tomb of Jesus and the glorious white trumpet-like fragrant flowers which grow from the bulbs symbolize His life after death. The snowy white color stands for the purity of the Divine Savior and the joy of the resurrection while the trumpet shape signifies Gabriel's trumpet call to rebirth."
<https://www.dgreetings.com/easter/easter-lily-history.html>

- Janis Carr

One Great Hour of Sharing

OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED ON PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY ...

CHILDREN, REMEMBER YOUR "FISH BOXES"!!!

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the first annual Presbyterian offering of this calendar year and 100% of every donation collected at IPC is sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The offering is used to help tackle hunger, disaster and development. The Presbyterian Hunger Program not only works to nourish people but it also attempts to eliminate the root causes of hunger. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is an emergency and refugee program that provides domestic and international support. The Self-Development of People program works with low-income communities across the United States. Every donation, large or small, contributes to the success of these programs and you can find more information about OGHS and the other Presbyterian Offerings at: <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org>.

Mission in Motion

The Tower of Towels is nearly complete! Thank you for your donations. The paper towels will be taken to Love INC soon and they will be appreciated. We voted in our March Mission meeting to use \$250 to become an official sponsor of the **Habitat for Humanity Walk*Run*Mosey event** in June, to contribute to the important work that Habitat does in Cleveland and also to generate awareness for IPC. Details of the event can be found at www.clevelandhabitat.org for anyone that wants to participate. We also voted to send \$1,000 from the Crisis Fund (collected on Christmas Eve) to First Presbyterian Church Wetumpka in Alabama. Their sanctuary was completely destroyed during the recent tornadoes and it is wonderful that we are able to send something immediately to help support the church and its congregants in a definitive time of need. What a blessing it is to be able to serve others!

Presbyterian Trivia: Name the Presbyterian minister who, as one of the lead organizers of the March on Washington, was one of the speakers leading up to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech.

Answer to March Trivia: Before creating, producing and starring in Mister Roger's Neighborhood, Fred Rogers attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained as a minister of the United Presbyterian Church in 1963.

Presbyterian 101



Q: What is the meaning behind the official seal of the PC(USA)?

A: The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – approved by the General Assembly in 1985 – is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. The basic symbols in the seal are the **cross**, **Scripture**, the **dove**, and **flames**.

The dominant structural and theological element in the design is **the cross** — the universal and most ecumenical symbol of the Christian church. The cross represents the incarnate love of God in Jesus Christ and his passion and resurrection. Because of its association with Presbyterian history, the Celtic cross was chosen as a model for this contemporary rendering of the ancient symbol.

In experimenting with the basic lines and shapes of the cross, the contour of a book began to emerge in the horizontal section, and the two center lines of the cross became the representation of an **open book**. This highlights the emphasis which the Reformed tradition has placed on the role of Scripture as a means of knowing God's word.

The slightly-flared shape of the Celtic cross also makes possible the transforming of the uppermost section into the shape of a **descending dove**. As a symbol of the Holy Spirit, the dove is intimately tied to the representation of the Bible, affirming the role of the Spirit in both inspiring and interpreting Scripture in the life of the church. The dove also symbolizes Christ's baptism by John and the peace and wholeness which his death and resurrection bring to a broken world.

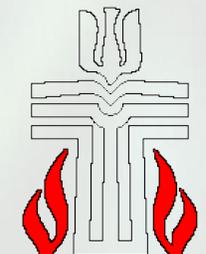
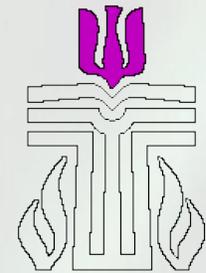
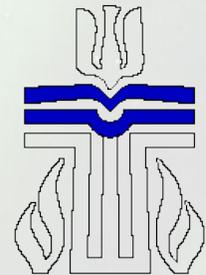
Integrated into the lower part of the design are **flames** which form an implied triangle, a traditional symbol of the Trinity. The flames themselves convey a double meaning: a symbol of revelation in the Old Testament when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush and a suggestion of the beginning of the Christian church when Christ manifested himself to his apostles at Pentecost and charged them to be messengers of the good news of God's love.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul described the church as a body with many members, illustrating the pluralism of the church and the many gifts which God gives to its members. So also the seal's individual parts, when taken together, form an encompassing visual and symbolic unity, while not exhausting the richness of possible interpretations.

From PC(USA) website:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/stat-ed-clerk/stated-clerk/seal/>

Notable: Rev. Bill Hudson reports that his grandmother was 1 of 5 people on the task force to design the seal!!



Financial Corner:

March	Operating revenue	\$8,836	Operating expense	\$5,798	Net Operating income	\$3,038
YTD	Operating revenue	\$24,156	Operating expense	\$22,408	Net Operating income	\$1,748

IPC Investment Committee Update 1st Quarter 2019

IPC currently has two investment “funds.” After suffering a significant 4th quarter 2018 selloff to end near their lows of the year, the equity markets have experienced a broad-based rebound thus far in 2019.

The “**Miller Endowment**” account ended 2018 off roughly 4.4% but has gained roughly 9.5% in the first quarter 2019 to pull within striking distance of its best-ever levels of August/September 2018. The account is positioned primarily in low cost, key U.S. equity index funds (54%) with a lesser weighting in several international funds (13.5%) and a minor exposure to a healthcare sector fund (2.5%). Roughly 30% of the account is held in a money market fund for potential liquidity needs.

The IPC “**Manse & Housing Allowance**” account, funded by the proceeds from the Manse sale, is separate from the Miller Endowment. It is invested in various bank CDs (roughly equal dollar amounts per CD) maturing at staggered quarterly intervals. The longest dated maturity is September 2020. The average, unweighted yield to maturity is roughly 2.4%. All are FDIC insured and most pay on a monthly basis. All income paid is added to a money market fund (~13% of the current account value) for any near-term liquidity needs.

- John Bair, Investment Sub-Committee

A Call For Readers

Did you know that IPC member Mark Murray has a Reading Team? Currently there is just one reader, but when it started over 25 years ago, we had at least 8 people involved. The first book we read was *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton, and we are reading *Den of Lions* by Terry Anderson now. Mark enjoys science fiction, history (Civil War, World War II), biographies, and adventure fiction. We are nearing the 200 book count!! Mark lives in Brecksville within 15 minutes of the church. The best time to read is 1-2 p.m. but it could be later. A reader could do once a week, every other week, once a month. Mark is so appreciative of the fellowship and break in his daily routine when a reader comes. Please consider joining the IPC Reading Team!!!! Contact **Karen Shallcross** for more information: 216-524-0863 or kshallx@prodigy.net.

Reminders

Spring Cleanup

IPC’s annual spring cleanup is on Saturday morning, April 6, 8am-Noon. All hands are needed to help us clean and prepare the church, inside and (weather permitting) outside.

Easter Flowers

If you ordered Easter flowers, you may pick them up following service on Easter. Flowers that are not picked up then will be brought to our shut-ins.

2019 Graduates

The CE Sub-Committee is collecting names of new graduates. If you have a family member who is graduating this spring/summer or who recently graduated in December, whether from high school, college, trade school or graduate school, provide the name of the student to the office, or contact **Laura Butler**, laurabutler1103@gmail.com, 216-702-5434.

Old Advent Devotionals

The office is looking for copies of the Advent Devotionals printed in **2011, 2013 & 2014**, written by Edith Campbell. If you have a copy of any or all of these, please call **Paula Trill** in the office. She would like to borrow them to make sure the Church has a “copy” on our computer.

Blue Hymnals

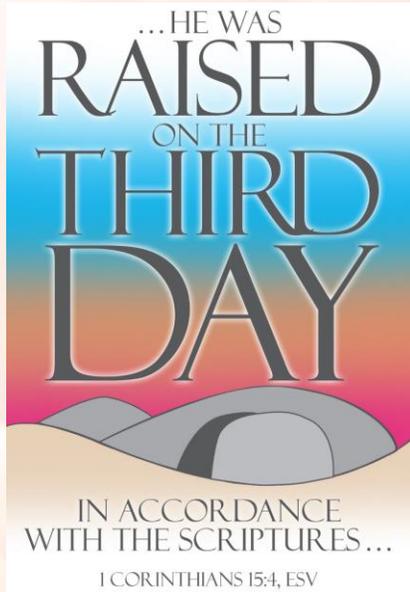
The blue hymnals that had been used at IPC for many years are still available. *If you would like one, contact the office or **Karen Shallcross**.*



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Postage



TO:

Recent IPC Facebook posts

- **March 10:** During this season of Lent, may we take on a discipline of prayer. Through regular prayer time, we give God the space to transform our lives. And when we feel too tired or weak to do this, Jesus will ease the burden for us.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

- Matthew 11:28-30

- **March 17:** King David had sinned. When he wrote Psalm 3, the consequences of those sins were piling up and his life was in danger because of it. Instead of hiding from God, David asked God’s forgiveness, then prayed with the faith that God would not turn away from him. May we have faith like David’s.

“I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side.”

- Psalm 3:5-6

Thank you to all contributors to the April issue of IPC’s Towerbell: Rev. William Hudson, Jan Adams, John Bair, Janis Carr, Jacqueline Hudson, 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.