



IPC MESSENGER

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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JUNE - JULY 2022

OPEN BORDER

Wearing Two Hats

TERRY JOHNSON

We all wear a variety of “hats.” We may be at once children, parents, siblings, citizens, and Christians. Our identity as Christians supersedes all other dimensions of identity. We are Christians first and everything else second.¹ Might there be times when we are forced by conflicts between these identities to hold two mutually exclusive convictions, aspirations, and hopes?

The correct answer is, yes. For example, as a parent I may want my child to be spared pain and sorrow. Yet as a Christian I may want God to do whatever it takes for my child to be saved and sanctified. I can hold these two desires in dynamic tension: please spare but please don’t spare. Likewise, I can be of two minds regarding open borders and immigration more broadly. I may be of one opinion as a Christian, and another as an American.

Christian view

As a Christian I may see large-scale immigration as an opportunity. The world is coming to us. Foreign-born residents of the United States provide us with the opportunity to show acts of kindness to the “stranger who sojourns among (us)” (eg. Ex. 22:21; 23:9; Lev. 19:33-34; Deut. 10:18, 19; 1 Kings 8:41-43; 2 Chron. 6:32-33; Jer. 7:6; Zech. 7:10; Mal. 3:5). Even more importantly, it provides opportunities to evangelize those who may never have heard the gospel. Because their lives have been uprooted, they may be open to the gospel for the first time in their lives. This often is the case for new immigrants who are nominal Christians, Muslims, or Hindus, among others. Recognizing this opportunity, our congregation is offering “English as a second language” (ESL) courses. We also are hosting dinners for international students. Among the most impactful things ordinary members can do simply is to invite these internationals (ESL and college students) into their homes for a meal. Each of us should consider what we might do. The world is at our doorstep.

American view

However, as an American I may reasonably conclude that open-border immigration is bad for the country. I may draw this conclusion not because I harbor bigotry against foreigners

¹ For more on this subject see Terry L. Johnson, *Who Am I? What the Bible Teaches About Christian Identity* (Durham, UK: EP Books, 2020).

but *because I love my American neighbor*. I may recognize that massive immigration has an adverse effect on wages, especially for lower-income workers whose paychecks are undercut by cheap labor from poor nations. I may observe that illegal immigration at the southern border overwhelms American border towns with non-Americans. I also may be concerned that legal immigration allows criminal elements into the country who otherwise would have been denied entry.

I may recognize further that traditional American culture is a distinctive thing worth preserving, and even a familiar, comforting thing worth keeping. American civilization, with its emphasis on basic rights and freedoms, on hard work, democratic institutions, free markets, religious liberty, separation of church and state, and rule of law is unique in human history. It has produced unparalleled peace and prosperity for *all* of its citizens. I want this civilization preserved for my children and grandchildren. Yet (and here is the point), if America's historic strengths are to be preserved, the rate of immigration should be slowed to that which can be thoroughly assimilated to these central American values. Because I love all my American neighbors, I don't want immigration to destabilize our familiar

culture by a flood of foreigners who do not share our basic convictions, values, and way of life. Again, assimilation is the key. I may reasonably be convinced that if we are to preserve the best of American civilization, we must slow immigration to a rate at which the newcomers can be thoroughly assimilated. This conviction may have nothing to do with bigotry, racial discrimination, or hate. Indeed, it may be motivated by the opposite: love for my near neighbor.

We wear two hats. Notice that I haven't actually taken off my Christian hat when I donned my American hat. Jesus teaches me to love my American neighbor about whom I am concerned. Neither have I taken off my American hat when I donned my Christian hat, because I believe the conversion of my foreign neighbors is in the best interest of the world, my nation, and the individuals themselves. The difference between the two hats simply is that of perspective and emphasis. Because I am an American *Christian* I want to serve the immigrant community. Yet because I am an *American* Christian I also want to protect my American neighbors. At once I may warmly welcome newly immigrant families while advocating a reasonably calibrated immigration policy.

Find this article and more at Dr. Johnson's website,
Reformation Today (reformationtoday.org)

Save the Date

2022 COMMUNION SEASON

SCHEDULE

August 5-7, 2022
Rev. David T. Irving
of Woodland Presbyterian Church
(PCA) in Hattiesburg, MS

7/5 - FRIDAY

SUPPER - 5:45PM

SERVICE - 6:30PM

7/6 - SATURDAY

BREAKFAST - 9:00 AM

SERVICE - 10:00AM

7/7 - SUNDAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00AM

MORNING WORSHIP - 10:00AM

EVENING WORSHIP - 5:30PM

SUPPER - 6:30PM

IPCkids

BARBARA RUSTINE • DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summertime brings the joys of playing on the beach, going to Point Pleasant Day Camp, eating popsicles, growing a garden, and taking vacation! Summer is also a fabulous time to focus on nurturing spiritual growth in the hearts of our children.

With no homework or early school mornings, now is the ideal time for the whole family to curl up and read a few good books from IPC's new family resource library, located just outside the choir room. Dive into biographies, history, and theology for kids, books on parenting for dad and mom, and family worship books for the whole family.

Or maybe you'll invest some of these long summer days in helping your child to work on IPC's memorization goals:

Level 1: The Ten Commandments, The Apostle's Creed, and The Lord's Prayer

Level 2: *The Children's Catechism*

Level 3: *The Shorter Catechism*

What better opportunity to challenge your child to commit these truths to memory, and to encourage them by making it a fun project to tackle together?

Mastering Level 1 will enable your little ones to more fully participate in worship together with your family and the whole

church on Sunday mornings. Committing the Catechisms to heart equips your child with a solid foundation in the gospel, and introduces them to the most important doctrines of the Christian faith. For help to explain the Catechism as you learn it together, check the resource library, or ask me or a pastor for ideas. We'd love to help you in the Christian nurture of your child!

Once memorization is complete, let me know, so that we can make sure to recognize and celebrate this achievement together as a church.

"GIVEN OUR COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-ORDERED FAMILY, THE WELL-ORDERED CHURCH, AND PRAYER, WE THINK THAT WITH CATECHIZING WE HAVE... THE BEST HOPE OF TRANSMITTING OUR FAITH TO OUR CHILDREN."

- Mr. Johnson, from *Catechizing Our Children*

See ipcav.org/children for this and more information about the children's ministry at IPC.

Summer Schedule

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| MAY 31 | — | Last ESL Class, Break for Summer, Resuming in Fall |
| MAY 30-JUNE 3 | — | Mission Savannah |
| JUNE 1 | — | College Summer Bible Study Kickoff |
| JUNE 5 | — | Promotion Sunday & Start of New Sunday School Quarter |
| | | New Members Join |
| | | PM Communion at Point Pleasant |
| JUNE 6-JULY 29 | — | IPC Day Camp at Point Pleasant |
| JUNE 8 | — | Youth Dessert Fellowships Begin |
| JUNE 16 | — | Dead Theologians' Society (12 pm) |
| JUNE 21-24 | — | PCA General Assembly Birmingham, AL |
| JULY 2 | — | Family Day at Point Pleasant (see back of <i>Messenger</i> for more details) |
| JULY 18-22 | — | MS Blue Ridge Conference Blue Ridge, GA |

Gather to Pray

WOMEN OF THE
CHURCH

June 2 - July 28
Each Thursday, 8:30-9:30am
@ Three Tree Coffee at the Porch
215 W. Collins St., Pooler

Come a few minutes early to grab a coffee or tea, and join us either in one of the indoor rooms, or out on the porch for prayer.

Questions? Text Barbara @
912.306.9876

FAMILY CORNER

JUNE

Psalms & Hymns of the Month



VISIT THE INDEPENDENT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
SAVANNAH ON YOUTUBE TO
FIND THE 2022 (YEARS 1-10)

youtu.be/UByWvnVLozo

(Year 11-15)

PSALM 130

- 1 LORD, from the depths to Thee
I cried.
2 My Lord, give ear to me.
O hear my voice and hearken to
My supplicating plea.
3 LORD, who shall stand if Thou,
my Lord,
Shouldst mark iniquity?
4 But yet with Thee forgiveness is,
That men may rev'rence Thee.
5 I wait, my soul awaits the LORD;
My hope is in His word.
6 More than the watchmen wait
for morn
My soul waits for my LORD.
7 O Is-ra-el, hope in the LORD;
The Lord saves graciously.
8 And He shall Is-ra-el redeem
From all iniquity.

TUNE: MARTYRDOM CM (90A)
("Alas and Did My Savior Bleed")
Based on Scottish Psalter, 1650

(Year 1-10)

PSALM 119:97-112

Mem—Verses 97-104

- 97 O how I love Thy law; it is
My study all the day.
98 It makes me wiser than my foes;
Its precepts with me stay.
99 More than my teachers or the old
Thy servant understands;
Thy testimonies I consult
100 And follow Thy commands.
101 I stayed my feet from evil ways
That I Thy word observe;
102 I have been taught by Thee and from
Thy judgments will not swerve.
103 How sweet in taste Thy promises,
Than honey far more sweet!
104 Thy precepts understanding give;
I therefore hate deceit.

Nun—Verses 105-112

- 105 Thy word is to my feet a lamp,
And to my path a light.
106 I sworn have, and I will confirm
To keep Thy judgments right.
107 I'm humbled much; Lord, quicken me
According to Thy word.
108 Accept the offerings of my mouth;
Teach me Thy judgments, Lord.
109 My soul is ever in my hand;
Thy law I never spurn.
110 The wicked laid a snare, yet from
Thy precepts I'll not turn.
111 I'm to Thy testimonies heir;
They joy to my heart lend.
112 My heart Thy statutes longs to keep
Forever to the end.

TUNE: BETHLEHEM CMD
Gottfried W. Fink, 1842

ABOUT THE PSALMS

PSALM 119

Mem - 19:97-104

*Wisdom: love for God's law; insight
from God's commandments*

The New Testament polemic against legalism, both Jesus in His conflict with the Pharisees and the Apostles with the Judaizers, has sometimes masked the normative outlook on God's torah, His Fatherly instruction: love (v 97) and delight (v 103). Because of this love/delight, the psalmist meditates upon the law of God constantly, with the impact of wisdom (vv 98-100a) and obedience (vv 100b-102). He is wiser than enemies, teachers, and the aged, that is, human wisdom and tradition (vv 98-100a); He knows what to do and what to avoid (vv 100b-102). What God teaches, says Motyer "is the way to a sound mind, to reliable emotions, and to right living."

Nun - 119:105-112

*Guidance: "a lamp to my feet, a light
to my path"*

Granted that the Lord is my shepherd and that He leads and guides His people (Ps 23:2, 3), how does He do so? Ordinarily,

JULY

Psalms & Hymns of the Month

About the Psalms, cont.

it is through His word. It is a “lamp,” “probably the lamp to illumine the next step,” and a “light,” “the light to illumine the path ahead,” says Motyer.

This conviction leads to strong commitment and determination: an “oath” and its confirmation to keep God’s rules (v 106) despite severe affliction (v 107), risks (v 109), and enemies (v 110), that is, despite all hazards, life is kept under the direction of God’s word.

Obedience to this guiding word is both a joy (v 111) and a duty (v 112). “Joy without obedience is frivolity,” says Motyer; “obedience without joy is moralism.”

PSALM 130

The seventh of the eight “penitential” Psalms (preceded by Pss 6, 25, 32, 38, 51, 102) it is also the eleventh of the “songs of Ascents,” that is, of the songs sung by pilgrims preparing for worship while journeying to the temple in Jerusalem. It was considered by Luther a “Pauline Psalm” because of the clarity with which it displays the doctrine of justification by faith.

(Year 1-10)

I LOVE THY KINGDOM LORD

Timothy Dwight (1800)

I love thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God:
Her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye,
And graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be giv'n,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heav'nly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Jesus, thou Friend divine,
Our Savior and our King,
Thy hand from ev'ry snare and foe
Shall great deliv'rance bring.

Sure as thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of heav'n.

TUNE: ST. THOMAS
Aaron Williams (1763)
(#353)

(Year 11-15)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Versified by Dewey Westra 1899-1979
Alt. in Psalter Hymnal 1987

My soul, recall with reverent wonder
How God amid the fire and smoke
Proclaimed His holy law with thunder
From Sinai's mountain when He spoke:

"I am the Lord, your God and Sovereign,
Who out of bondage set you free,
Who saved you from the land of Egypt.
Then serve no other gods but Me.

"You shall not bow to graven idols,
For I, a jealous God, your Lord,
Shall punish sin in those who hate me,
But love all those who keep my Word.

"The Lord is God; His name is holy.
Do not His holiness profane.
God surely will not hold them guiltless
Who take His holy name in vain.

"Remember, keep the Sabbath holy,
The day God sanctified and blessed.
Six days you shall do all your labor,
But on the seventh you shall rest.

"Honor your father and mother;
Obey the Lord your God's command,
That you may dwell secure and prosper
With length of days upon the land.

"You shall not hate or kill your neighbor.
Do not commit adultery.
You shall not steal from one another
Nor testify untruthfully.

"You shall not covet the possessions
Your neighbors value as their own;
Home, wife or husband, all their treasures
You shall respect as theirs alone."

Teach us, Lord God, to love your precepts,
The good commandments of your law.
Give us the grace to keep your statutes
With thankfulness and proper awe.

TUNE: LES COMMANDEMENTS DE
DIEU - *Genevan Psalter*, 1547, Arr. by
Claude Goudimel, 1564, rev. (#724)

IN MEMORIAM

Bobbie Vance Henderson

Entered the Lord's presence on
Saturday, April 30, 2022

*Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord.
Revelation 14:13*

IN MEMORIAM

Neill Graham Stevens III

Entered the Lord's presence on
Tuesday, May 3, 2022

*Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord.
Revelation 14:13*

Weddings

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew M. Mullinix were united in marriage by Mr. Johnson on April 9, 2022. Mrs. Mullinix is the former Miss Madeline E. Lee.

Mr. & Mrs. Austin G. Webb were united in marriage by Mr. Gear on April 23, 2022. Mrs. Webb is the former Miss Claire E. Breckenridge.

Mr. & Mrs. Plenty Groover V were united in marriage by Mr. Johnson on May 7, 2022. Mrs. Groover is the former Miss Emily A. Wells.

Births

Elizabeth Catherine (Ellie-Kate) Dixon was born Wednesday, April 6, 2022 to ***Mr. & Mrs. Luke H. Dixon (Emily)***.

Vera Mae Martin was born on Sunday, May 8, 2022 to ***Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Martin (Conrad) (Sarah)***.

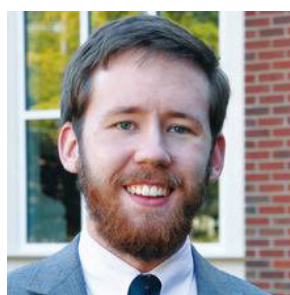
NOTE TO THE CHURCH

Dear IPC family,
We are most grateful and appreciative for your many expressions of kindness, sympathy and support when our daughter, Andrea, passed away. Your outpouring of love and your prayers were a blessing and a comfort during this difficult time.

With thankfulness and love,
John & Pat Toler

IPC Interns

We are welcoming three pastoral interns to the IPC staff in the coming weeks. Will and Oli will be here in Savannah for a year, and William will be here for the summer before returning to seminary in the fall. Please give them a warm welcome!



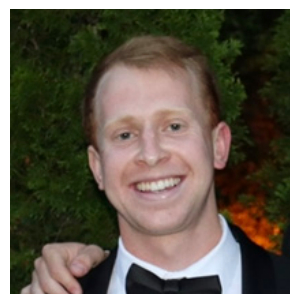
WILL KEYTON

Will hails from Dothan, Alabama and has just graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte. He has also worked as a youth intern at his home church, as an RUF intern at Tennessee Tech, and most recently at Sovereign Grace Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.



OLI SIMMONS

Oli completed his seminary studies this year at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He will be our resident Brit - he is originally from northern England, but has lived stateside while at seminary and has spent 2 summers interning at Eastwood Presbyterian Church in Montgomery, AL.



WILLIAM ALDERMAN

Some of you will recognize William, who was here several years ago as the youth intern and is returning to join the pastoral intern team for the summer. He is currently attending seminary at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and is originally from Auburn, Alabama.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Abigail Brodmann | 9 Jobe Gear | 16 Ross Rambo | 23 Jeffrey Blevins |
| 1 Ivy Monroe | 10 Gus Bell | 17 Natasha Van Grouw | 24 Bill Monroe |
| 1 Joshua Espinosa, Jr. | 10 Davis Rushing | 17 Vivien Gift | 25 Suzanne McCaslin |
| 1 Elizah Gear | 10 Edie Steward | 18 J. D. Blevins | 25 Mark Rustine |
| 1 Thomas Wallace | 11 David Gobel | 19 Tom MacMillan | 26 Matthew Mullinix |
| 2 Jerry Dillon | 11 Elliott Oliver | 19 Donna South | 27 Flynn Nolan |
| 2 Carol Teasley | 11 Mose Laffitte | 19 Ed Forester | 27 Jayden Brewer |
| 4 Tim Ragen | 11 Jessica Coleman | 19 Tamara Thompson | 28 Susie Stephens |
| 4 Caroline Nix | 12 Steven Wohlfeil | 19 Amy Rustine | 28 Joe Monroe |
| 5 James Nolan | 12 Sherwin Prescott | 19 Elise Rustine | 28 Helen Knoche |
| 6 Molly Pavlo | 13 Brad Stevens | 19 Carolyn Downs | 29 Bob Oliver |
| 8 Angela Breland | 13 Jim Moore | 20 Philip Morgan | 30 Marcie Hill |
| 9 Chip Breckenridge | 15 Jennifer Nolan | 20 Jane Billings Johnson | 30 Natalie Chester |
| 9 Jody Lanier | 15 Lee Rambo | 20 Plenty Groover | |
| 9 Charles Winge | 15 Marc Biemiller | 21 Robbie Forester | |

JULY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Samuel Carpenter | 9 Caroline Laffitte | 17 Jack Brodmann | 24 Levi Hazeltine |
| 2 Ginger Thompson | 10 Cole McAllister | 17 Stacy Nix | 25 Abigail Taylor |
| 3 John Gentry | 10 Caroline Bradley | 18 Bill Best | 25 Griff Hogan |
| 3 Elizabeth Oliver | 11 Brooks Mathews | 18 Kirstine Flanagan | 26 Neal Cope |
| 4 Peg Morris | 11 Ty Thompson | 18 Natalie Schoeffler | 28 Natalie Brown |
| 4 Hannah Glang | 11 Gabe Quinley | 19 Sides Bell | 28 Mills Gross |
| 5 Zachary Harris | 12 Charlie Brown | 20 Jeff Murns | 28 Tricia Stacy |
| 6 Mike Hazeltine | 12 Joan Smith | 20 Sam McAllister | 28 Joel Parrish |
| 6 Clementine Rookstool | 13 Tim Shaw | 21 Jose Flanagan | 29 Rosemary Taylor |
| 7 Liz Brodmann | 13 Thadd Stevens | 21 Tom Sullivan | 29 Joshua Lane |
| 7 Bill Immel | 13 Boaz Corbitt | 21 Sally Roth | 29 Doug Henrick |
| 8 Bob Loyd | 14 Rick Mullinix | 21 Cecilia Martin | 30 Bucky Ward |
| 8 Ruth Anne Sutton | 14 Megan Rodenberg | 22 Michael Hazeltine, Jr. | 30 Grace Carpenter |
| 8 Stephen Bell | 15 Clay Nolen | 23 Bev Meng | 30 Sadie Rookstool |
| 9 Mike Spitler | 15 Laura Kate Mathews | 23 Paula Heritage | 31 Cindy Carpenter |
| 9 Lynette Ward | 16 Opal Gear | 24 Warren Hazeltine | 31 Warren Hill |

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July 2

FAMILY DAY AT POINT PLEASANT

BREAK OUT THE SWIMSUITS & SUNSCREEN FOR A
FUN AFTERNOON IN THE SUN AT POINT PLEASANT.
BOUNCY HOUSES & SLIDES WILL BE SET UP FOR
YOUR FAMILY'S ENJOYMENT!

Stay tuned for more details!