



Irvington Presbyterian Church • Fall 2023

# THE CARILLON

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'"*

– Psalm 122:1

**WELCOME BACK, FRIENDS!** Every fall, a colleague's church would hold a fall homecoming. People would return from all over the country to the church for a weekend of festivities. At the time, I thought it was a cheesy riff on your alma mater's homecoming weekend. Now, I see there was something to it—marking time with a reunion of people, re-engaging after time away and apart. It's good to be back together.

The summer has been exciting around here, that is, if you enjoy excavators and dump trucks. The month of August saw the church campus transform into a construction site (a more in-depth report can be found later in the Carillon). But in the midst of all this activity, there were moments of levity and even grace. Shared worship with St. Barnabas has enriched both of our congregations, providing both a better understanding of other worship traditions as well as deeper appreciation for our own. We collected hundreds of donated goods for the attic sale and I witnessed countless hours of volunteers at all hours of the day lifting, moving, and sorting.

In some ways, our fall reunion together will be a time for life to return to normal routines. We find ourselves back in the regular routines of life after a summer of respite. But in other ways, we return to find things changed and changing. Much like returning to your hometown for your high school reunion and realizing how much has changed, signs of change are all around us at the church.

We have a new office manager, Emily Villar. We have a new assistant director, Liz Marinis, at Good Shepherd, who will succeed Mandy Landivinec as director. We have new playground equipment; we have two Good Shepherd classrooms renovated; we have extensive new drainage (very little of which you can see).

And we have other changes. The chancel choir will begin again October 8, a few weeks later than normal. We have new faces participating regularly in worship. We have new community groups using our facilities.

It can feel both exactly the way it was and nothing at all like it was. But what I hope remains is this sense of a reunion with a community of persons committed to following the ways of Jesus and this sense of homecoming, returning to a sanctuary of God which gives you peace, safety, and a place to belong.

So welcome back and welcome home!

**Grace and Peace, Rev. Blaine Crawford**

# WORSHIP

## **FALL SERMON SERIES - Rev. Dr. Blaine Crawford**

Without fail, young children go through a phase in which they ask the same question over and over again: Why? Why does the apple taste like that? Why is the sky blue? Why do we need to brush our teeth?

The why questions never leave us, though they change with age. We can try to ignore them or suppress them, but inevitably, they will insert themselves back into our lives. The fall sermon series will explore a different why question each week, with the hopes of strengthening our faith, encouraging our souls, and inspiring us to live gossiped lives.

### **October 1 (World Communion Sunday) - *"Why Does God Feel So Distant?"***

First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

### **October 8 - *"Why Are We Here?"***

First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

### **October 15 - *"Why Am I So Lonely?"***

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9

### **October 22 - *"Why Should I Trust God?"***

First Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23

Second Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22

### **October 29 (Reformation Sunday) - *"Why Go To Church?"***

First Lesson: Psalm 1

Second Lesson: Thessalonians 2:1-8

## **LIVE-STREAMING**

<https://www.youtube.com/@irvingtonpresbyterianchurch1232/streams>

## **WEBSITE EVENTS PAGE**

<https://www.irvingtonpresbychurch.org/events/>

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**WELCOME BACK** to those who have been away, to newcomers and all! Welcome to another program year of Christian Education for children, youth and adults. Programs start on Sunday, September 17. No matter how much we ‘know’ there is more to be revealed. We delve deeper, and our understanding evolves, leaving former certainties behind. We believe; and then there are moments (or seasons) of doubt and questioning.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children come to the sanctuary at 10:30 on the 17th, stay through Children’s Time, and then go down to Sunday School classes with their teachers. On October 1st, we will have our first Chapel Time, gathering in the Chapel at 10:30am for our own service before going upstairs for communion. Letters have been sent home to families with calendar, roster, registration and other forms. If you did not get this information, or have questions, please contact Lisa (*below*). Enormous gratitude to all those who have volunteered to teach and lead this year!

## **ACOLYTES**

Welcome to our new acolytes – fourth graders Belle Harris, Emma Kaskawits, Maggie O’Shea and David Wood, who are joining the fifth and sixth graders who are continuing to serve: Gavin Bancroft-Baines, Adriana Floyd, Madison Floyd and Audrey Hueston. New acolytes should be in touch with Lisa about training prior to September 17th.

## **CONFIRMATION**

Kick-off for the 6-month Confirmation class will be scheduled for later in September. This class will have a new approach, offering a combination of required and elective, individual (on-line) and group assignments and activities. Confirmands – Heidi Blanton, Cameron Brown, Charlotte O’Reilly, and Adelaide Sledge - will be supported in their journey by Blaine, Lisa and a team of Mentors. Please support them as well with your prayers.

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

High School members and friends are encouraged to participate in the Sunday School program by volunteering to assist in classrooms, serve as Superintendents and help with other activities. Many thanks to all those who have already volunteered.

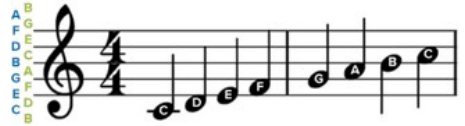
## **ADULT EDUCATION**

Our Sunday morning adult education class starts on September 17th with a continuation of a study of the Book of Acts, led by Reuben Garcia. We meet in the Upper Room at 9:00 am. Let Lisa know if you need a book. We are using N.T. Wright’s Acts: 24 Studies for Individuals and Groups from his “For Everyone” Bible Study series, if you want to get a copy for yourself. You can find other Sunday morning classes for the season, additional education opportunities, and Book Club and Bible Study information in the Adult Education brochure. Copies will be in the back of the sanctuary and online.

For more information, contact Lisa Niven at [lisa.niven@irvingtonpresbychurch.org](mailto:lisa.niven@irvingtonpresbychurch.org); at church on Wednesday or Friday at (914) 591-8124; or on my cell (914) 380-0717.

**Lisa Niven, Director of Christian Education**

# MUSIC NOTES



**Dear IPC Family:**

WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT the 2023-24 program year begins! Here are some ways you can participate in IPC's open music ministry:

Chancel Choir will start again on October 8. Rehearsals are 8:45-10:00 AM on Sunday mornings.

We will be having an intergenerational community concert in Calvin Auditorium on Saturday, October 28 at 7:00 PM. All are encouraged to share their talents at this event! This event will also serve as a fundraiser for our annual Messiah concert.

Our annual Messiah concert will be on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 PM. Rehearsal with the orchestra will be on Saturday, December 9 - the time isn't yet confirmed, but will likely be early in the afternoon. I currently plan to hold rehearsals on Wednesday, December 6 (*evening*); Monday, November 27 (*evening*); and Sunday, November 19 (*after church*). I'll also set aside time for each individual section of the choir (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) to go over their parts.

And as always, I am eager for musical offerings to be shared in the most important part of music ministry: Sunday morning worship.

I look forward to glorifying God with you through the gift of song this program year!

**Grace and Peace, Jon**

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR

Over the summer, the Personnel Committee and the Worship and Music Committee worked to hire a children's choir director. They received a limited number of applicants and interviewed two candidates. One candidate withdrew from consideration and the other was not moved forward in the process.

This fall, the search will continue as we hope to extend our music ministry to our children.

## REFUGEE MINISTRY

The Afghan family that was originally scheduled to arrive in July is finally able to leave Pakistan and will make their way to the US next week. The Sadeqi/Omaree family is now scheduled to arrive on September 21st.

Our refugee ministry is preparing for their arrival and would like to thank all who have donated goods. Please keep Haroon, Nilofar, and baby Dhauha in your prayers as they prepare for their journey to the US.

# GOOD SHEPHERD Early Childhood Center



## AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



My name is Elizabeth Marinis. I have been teaching children of many ages for 15 years. I started my teaching career in the NYC public school system. I took a break from teaching to raise my own two children Andrew and Scott, and started teaching again at Good Shepherd. This is my 7th year here!

I was born and raised in Irvington and am a resident now. My own children are alumni of this wonderful school and I feel blessed to be a part of this amazing community now as a teacher. I love working with children and watching them grow and develop. It is a rewarding and amazing experience to watch children learn, form relationships, and gain independence, in a caring and stimulating environment.

I have a BS in Childhood Education with a minor in Psychology from Iona University and a Masters Degree in Literacy from Mercy College.

I love to be outside in nature, walk, and exercise. I enjoy cooking and going to restaurants. However, my favorite pastime is spending time with my family and friends.

**Elizabeth Marinis, GSECC Assistant Director**

## SUMMER CONSTRUCTION

### Good Shepherd Classrooms

At the beginning of July, two Good Shepherd classrooms in the lower level of John Knox Hall flooded due to the heavy rains. As the room dried out, a layer of asbestos tiles, underneath the upper layer, became disturbed. After the abatement, new subfloors were constructed; new floor tiles laid; new exterior doors installed; walls painted; and new cabinets built and installed.

### Playground

New playground equipment for Good Shepherd was installed in both the upper and lower play areas. Many thanks to Keach Hagey Harris, who chaired the playground committee, and Good Shepherd Director, Mandy Landivinec, for steering this project. Next summer, additional grading of the pathway will take place, finishing the project.

### Drainage

Extensive new drainage was installed throughout the church property. New catch basins were installed in the front lawn, redirecting water away from the sanctuary, with larger drainage pipes installed by the ramp into the sanctuary. New catch basins and drainage pipes were installed in the back lawn. The entry way into the Good Shepherd classrooms on the lower level of John Knox were re-built, to prevent future flooding. A new awning now hangs over this area.

Many thanks to our contractors who expedited projects for us to have everything ready for the start of the school year—Ivkosic Painting, Karl Dibble, AVM Environmental, Those Guys, New Crystal Restorations, Hudson Landscapes, and Corsetti Contracting. Stay tuned for additional drainage projects this fall and fundraising efforts to help cover the costs of the projects.



# Office and Officers

## Irvington Presbyterian Office

25 North Broadway, Irvington NY 10533  
914 591 8124

Office Hours: 8:30am-12:30pm

## Rev. Dr. Blaine D. Crawford, Minister of Word & Sacrament

blaine.crawford@irvingtonpresbychurch.org

## Jon Riss, FAGO, ChM, Director of Music

jon.riss@irvingtonpresbychurch.org

## Lisa Niven, Director of Christian Education

lisa.niven@irvingtonpresbychurch.org

## Emily Villar, Office Manager

emily.villar@irvingtonpresbychurch.org

## Andrea Sarayli, Bookkeeper

andrea.sarayli@irvingtonpresbychurch.org

## Sal Ruggiero, Sexton

## Good Shepherd Early Childhood Center:

### ❖ Mandy Landivinec, Education Director

amanda.landivinec@irvingtonpresbychurch.org

### ❖ Liz Marinis, Assistant Director

liz.marinis@irvingtonpresbychurch.org

## SESSION

**Christian Education** George Bollenbacher

**Finance/Stewardship**  
Tim Sledge, Boyang Zhang

**Good Shepherd**  
Barbara Flye

**Membership/Fellowship**  
Sarah Seitz

**Nominating**  
Susan Breen

**Personnel**  
Bill Bayer, Mary Bongiovi

**Property**  
Sarah Seitz

**Worship/Music**  
Mary Bongiovi, Jonathan Ackerman

**Clerk**  
Susan Breen

**Treasurer**  
Gordon Elliot

**Assistant Treasurer**  
Michael Blanton

**Commissioner to Presbytery**  
Betsy Bollenbacher

## DEACONS

Melissa Brown  
Melissa Campbell  
Keach Hagey Harris  
Elizabeth Lindberg  
Sue Maley  
Donna Taylor

**Moderator**  
Joyce Chaluisan

**Treasurer**  
Erika O'Shea

**Recording Secretary**  
Betsy Bollenbacher

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Tom Rusk



**Irvington Presbyterian Church** is called by Jesus Christ to glorify God in worship through word and song, grow as disciples through study, engage in mission to the world, joyfully extend hospitality and fellowship to all and, with God's help, to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

We seek to be a place of healing, where individuals can feel safe and find sanctuary from their own hurts, and can then turn that healing spirit outwards, to help others. We believe God is calling each of us to ministry, and we seek to be a place where each member will feel helped and supported in discovering their gifts.



## One time giving or easy automatic contributions...

<http://irvingtonpresbychurch.org/give/>

To receive the weekly ministry email and other important IPC communications, please sign up for the church email list by scanning the QR code to the right:



[https://www.instagram.com/irvington\\_presbyterian\\_church/](https://www.instagram.com/irvington_presbyterian_church/)

**The CARILLON is published quarterly by the Irvington Presbyterian Church to share stories of the gospel at work in and through the ministry of the church.**