



Keeping in Touch

Indian Heights United Methodist Church

November 2024

Pastor Report for 2024 Annual Conference,
November 3

Dear Siblings in Christ-

As I sit to write this report, I am in awe of all you have done in 2024. What an amazing year it has been! I am reflecting on Baby Grace, Parkwood Heights Day School, Worship, Small Groups, Kingdom Kids, Missions, Good Faith Network and so much more. You have truly been the light of Christ to the community and continue to thrive in your ministry and faith. In the fall of 2024, IHUMC held their "Transmitting the Light" stewardship campaign. The focus was on the stained glass in the sanctuary that walks through the story of God's people. Each week focused on a different window and the scripture that inspired it. While the theme scripture was from the Gospel of Matthew.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." -Matthew 5:14-16

The scripture reflects the heart of IHUMC as you all are the light on the hill. The church on the hill that never be put under a bowl, that truly shines the light of Christ to the community. This light has shined to our community this year in so many ways. IHUMC has served families every month through Baby Grace. As a church, you saw the need for diapers in our community and continue to fulfill that need even with the pot seems empty. You all show up, buy the diapers, wrap the diapers and hand them out every month. An average of 50 families a month receive diapers and relationships have begun to form with each of them.

The light has shine through the partnership being built with Parkwood Heights Day School. In 2023, IHUMC voted to sell the parsonage and partner with Parkwood Heights. This partnership has shown to be fruitful in so many ways. The children that fill the halls during the week have brought life and light to the once quite halls. Christ shines in each of their small faces, on the smiles of the teachers and every IHUMC member that they meet. IHUMC has a long history of children's ministry, and this partnership with Parkwood continues to show the importance of providing children with a safe, nurturing and welcoming place to learn and grow their faith. (continued on page 2...)

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Missions continue to be a focus at IHUMC. Baby Grace has become a main focus yet out of Baby Grace a food pantry has grown. A once small food cabinet now provides food to the community twice a week and on the first Saturday of the month. Those who need food are invited to come to the pantry, without questions, and get what they need. This openness makes individuals feel comfortable and worthy when they often are shamed for needing help. The light shining in the volunteers is shown through their warm welcome, hospitality and true care for people. IHUMC continues to volunteer and serve with IHN, Westridge Middle School and advocate for justice in our community with the Good Faith Network. Mercy and justice are important to the people of Indian Heights, and this shows every time you all show up and serve without question, with kindness and Christ shining through all you do.

By being the church on the hill with the light that never goes out, IHUMC has grown in the last year. More children are attending Kingdom kids, a youth group has begun with an average of 3-4 kids/week, membership continues to go up and new visitors continue to walk through the door's week after week.

I am honored to have served IHUMC since 2018 and look forward to many more years of ministry to come. IHUMC has truly taught me what it means to be a pastor, to serve others and to be the light to all I meet. I thank you for your faith, your welcoming Spirit and simply for being you.

Bless you all. Congrats on a wonderful 2024 and here's to an even better 2025.

-Pastor Ali Haynes

Thank You

"**16** Rejoice always. **17** Pray continually. **18** Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus".

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

I want to say thank you for showering me with gifts on Sunday. Your on-going support and trust in me is what gets me through everyday and keeps my faith in what a church family can accomplish. I am honored to serve this congregation and to be surrounded by people filled with the Holy Spirit. You are one of the greatest blessings in my life and I thank you again for generosity and heart. God bless you.

- Pastor Ali



All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is November 3. A bell will be rung in memory of the Saints who have gone to have ahead of us.



Annual Charge Conference

Our Annual Charge Conference is a time to review the past year, and to look forward to the upcoming year. We review things like membership changes, the proposed budget for the next year, the highlights of the past year, etc. You are all invited to this conference, immediately following worship on **November 3**. Please pick up a Conference Book outside the Sanctuary that Sunday. If you are unable to attend and need one mailed to you, let Suzette know in the office. The One Board will be present to answer questions. Please bring your own brown bag lunch.

Then...we gather within the greater Kansas Community on Sunday, **November 17 (1:15-3pm) to celebrate with the other United Methodists in this area at the NE Annual District Charge Conference and District Conference. **This is in the Wesley Chapel at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood.****

Choir News

The Chancel Choir will be performing the cantata "Hope!" by Joel Raney this holiday season on December 15. It's a fun, yet meaningful telling of the Christmas story, mostly set in a variety of gospel styles. It's not too late to join in with our growing group! Rehearsals are not only a great time with wonderful people, but also a way to give of your time and talents. We rehearse Wednesdays at 7pm. Consider joining the music ministry through the Chancel Choir this holiday season! See Suzanne Isbell with questions.



Voting is from 7am-7pm on Tuesday, November 5. Please head to your polling site and let your voice be heard.

IHUMC is a polling site for people in the nearby neighborhoods. We hope to have lots of traffic that day!!



Hanging of the Greens

Come help decorate our church for the upcoming Christmas season! We'll gather for a light lunch after worship on November 24, and then decorate. There is something for all ages (little kids can help too).



Footprints

The Footprints young adult group gathers about once a month at a local KC venue for a time of fun and friendship. They will meet at an art studio at 6pm on Wednesday, November 20. Watch for more details! This is not just for IHUMC members, so please help us grow this ministry by bringing your friends as we grow our 20s to 40s ministry. See Emily or John Wagner with questions.

COLD WEATHER DRIVE FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY

NOVEMBER 1-15

**SOCKS
HATS
MITTENS
GLOVES
HAND WARMERS
SCARVES**

Place items in the basket
outside the Sanctuary by
November 15



Fall Festival 2024!

Thank you to all who helped with our fall festival and who attended, helping make it a fun and wonderful time. It was fun combining a Petting Zoo with Trunk or Treat. There was something for everyone and we look forward to deepening new friendships made as we extended Christ's love throughout our community.







Weather Alert:

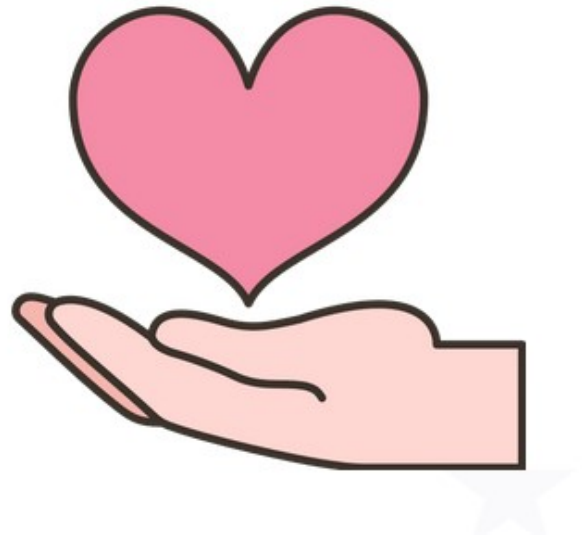
Our church follows the Shawnee Mission School District's weather closures...if their schools and after school activities are cancelled due to the weather, Indian Heights UMC is also closed. We'll do our best to send an email alert out for closures, but please use your best judgment.



Sharing our Blessings in 2024

Thank you for all the donations that have been made to Indian Heights UMC this year. You have enabled so many ministries, helped cover our overhead (electric and water bill, staff, and more), helped purchase needed supplies (baby diapers for Baby Grace!!), helped pay off our mortgage (huge celebration!) and more. Statements will be mailed out in early November so you can compare pledges with amounts given.

Meeting your pledges ensures we meet our budget, and as we look forward to 2025, helps ensure that we can start the new year on a good note financially. Thank you for your pledges made in our recent "Transmitting the Light" campaign. It's not too late to pledge if you haven't done so yet. You can contact the Church Office for a pledge sheet if you need one (email ihumc66207@gmail.com).



Giving

Thank you for your donations to Indian Heights UMC. Your generosity helps support our ministries, including starting new ones God calls us to. Giving on our website is easy and secure:

indianheightsumc.com/donate

Westridge Middle School Book Drive November 3-24

One of the goals of Westridge Middle School is to increase reading skills and reading appreciation. They have set up a free library where students can pick up a book without checking it out or returning it. In addition, they are making donated books available in the Cat's Closet area for families to take. Indian Heights UMC will be conducting a book drive to help provide books for these two areas. Here's what is needed:

- Young Adult books (age 12+) See the list of suggested books by the drop off bin. All languages
- Books for all ages...baby to adult. All languages

Books should be new or gently used.

Books in languages other than English are helpful. See the full list of languages by the drop off bin. The 3 dominant languages are English, Spanish and Portuguese. Barnes and Noble and Amazon have books available in languages other than English.



Miscellaneous...

Are you new to IHUMC? We love to wear **nametags** on Sunday mornings. It helps us get to know each other and eases that awkward, "what is her name?" moment. If you need a nametag (new or replacement), email Suzette: ihumc66207@gmail.com. It takes about two weeks to get them.

Don't forget to check your church **mailbox**. You never know when something will show up in it. Let Suzette know if you need a mailbox (you don't have to be a member to have one).

Did you know an **email** is sent out (nearly) every **Monday** and **Thursday** morning to all on our email list? The email includes news you may not see elsewhere. Thursday's email has the link to the upcoming Sunday's

bulletin (the bulletin is always put on our website so you can view it ahead, or if you worship from home, can follow along). Watch your "Spam", "Promotions", or "Social" email folders if you aren't seeing this in your general email. Not on our list? Let Suzette know.

When you move, get married, get a new email or phone number, etc. it is very helpful for the Church to have this information. Please email **updates** anytime to ihumc66207@gmail.com.

Interested in exploring **membership** at IHUMC? Pastor Ali would love to chat with you! Just email her at

revalihaynes@gmail.com

KINGDOM KIDS

Indian Heights United Methodist Church



Kingdom Kids Sundays at 10:30am

KINGDOM KIDS PROVIDES A NURTURING AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN CAN EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AS THEY PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVE LEARNING. WE WEAVE BIBLE STORIES, ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, AND GAMES INTO A FULL FAITH EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN.

Haley Broockerd and
Aby Peoples,
Children and Family Ministry
Coordinators
umcihkids@gmail.com

Follow our Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/indianheightsumc.org



Greater Heights Youth Group

Our Greater Heights Youth Group meets most Sundays at 11:30, immediately following worship. This is for youth 4th grade and older, but we do periodic service projects and invite younger children to join us. We are using a curriculum titled "Freedom Ride" and enjoy games, snacks, Bible study, and great conversations during our gatherings. If you are Safe Gatherings certified and interested in helping with this group, please reach out to Pastor Ali or Laura Harvey. We meet for an hour downstairs in the area off the kitchen. If you're unable to help in person we appreciate your prayers as we learn to follow Christ more closely.



November Dates:

- **November 3:** Lunch and Lesson
- **November 10:** No meeting (Go Chiefs!)
- **November 17:** Lunch and Mission Project (making warm kits for the food pantry; younger kids are invited!).
- **November 24:** Helping with Hanging of the Greens (Decorating the church for Christmas)

Baby Grace

Diaper Distribution

1st Saturdays of the Month, from 9am-11am

Quarterly children's clothing distribution

(Aug/Nov/Feb/May)

More Information on our Facebook Page:

Indian Heights Baby Grace

Cash and Diaper Donations Always Welcome!

Upcoming Baby Grace Diaper Distribution:

**Saturday,
November 2
9-11am**

**Our food pantry is also
open during this time.**

Two churches are doing diaper drives for our Baby Grace in December, so hopefully we'll be stocked up for the beginning of the year. A big thank you to Lenexa UMC and Monticello/Lifebridge UMC! We are still serving approximately 50 families per month and growing! Thank you for all of your donations (time and diapers both!). And keep us in mind if you see a good sale!

We are so excited to be able to continue providing this vital service to our community. Donations are always needed and appreciated. There are containers to collect diapers at the church, or you can give a donation online (mark the Baby Grace fund):

www.indianheightsumc.org/donate

Keep up with our latest news on our Facebook page (Indian Heights Baby Grace). Contact us at babygraceihumc@gmail.com



How Can We Pray for You?

email your needs at:

ihumcprayers@gmail.com



Our Little Food Pantry

Hours:

The 1st Saturday of every month,
from 9-11am (during Baby Grace)

Mondays - Wednesdays
10am-2pm

Saturday's food pantry hours overlap with Baby Grace, making it the perfect time to open our food pantry. **Note that the pantry has been moved into our Library.** Donations are always appreciated (cash or non-perishable items. As we head into fall, canned meals (soup, stews, chili, etc.) are always appreciated. We seem to never have enough cereal-type bars, boxed juices and milk, or canned tuna. Another favorite are basic cooking items, including sugar, flour and oil...and personal hygiene items.



Upcoming Events:

- November 2 - Baby Grace Distribution
- November 3 - All Saints Sunday; Church Conference follows worship
- November 1-15 - Collecting warm items for our Food Pantry
- November 5 - Election Day
- November 17 - Northeast District Annual Charge Conference & District Conference (1:15-3pm at COR)
- November 24 - Hanging of the Greens (following worship)
- November 28 - Happy Thanksgiving!

Events & Room Use:

Please contact the Church Office to reserve rooms and with questions about building use:

ihumc66207@gmail.com.

Check our online calendar for all events.

Ongoing:

- * **Sunday Worship:** 10:30am (in person & live via Facebook). Videos of Worship are on our website the following Monday.
- **Adult Sunday School:** Sundays, 9:00am
- **Greater Heights Youth Group:** 11:45am (most Sundays)
- **Kingdom Kids:** Sundays, 10:30am
- **Women's Theology:** 2nd & 4th Wed. 9:30am
- **Men's Breakfast:** Thursdays, 7am @ Flapjacks
- **Choir Rehearsals:** Adult Choir practices weekly at 7pm (Sept - May)
- **Footprints Young Adult Group** - various monthly venues; watch the calendar for updates
- **Baby Grace Distributions:** 1st Saturdays of the month, from 9-11am
- **Food Pantry:** Mon-Wed, 10am-2pm AND 1st Saturdays, 9-11am during Baby Grace
- **Parkwood Day School:** Monday-Friday, 7am-6pm

Support Groups:

- OA: Fridays, 6:30pm

Need to Reach Us?

Indian Heights United Methodist Church
 10211 Nall Avenue,
 Overland Park, KS, 66207
 913-649-9040
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:30am-2:30pm
 ihumc66207@gmail.com
 www.indianheightsumc.org

Church Staff

Senior Pastor, Ali Haynes
 revalihaynes@gmail.com
 913-710-2661
 (pastoral emergencies)

Music & Worship Coordinator
 Suzanne Isbell
 Suzanne.isbell75@gmail.com

Worship Leader
 Alexis Merry
 amerrysoprano@gmail.com

Haley Broockerd & Aby Peoples,
Children & Families Ministry
Coordinators
 umclHkids@gmail.com

Bill Schnackenberg,
Treasurer
 financeihumc@gmail.com

Suzette Mack,
Administrative Assistant
 ihumc66207@gmail.com

Our mission is to worship God,
 to follow Jesus joyfully, and to build
 community and mend the world
 through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 As Christians, we are seeking, sowing,
 loving and serving all people!



Indian Heights

United Methodist Church

10211 Nall Avenue Overland Park, KS 66207

Come Worship With Us!!
Sundays at 10:30am
(in person and Facebook Live)

Adult Sunday School:
9:00am

Kingdom Kids: 10:30am
Youth Group: 11:45am