

# A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

January 10, 2019

My dear Friends:

Welcome to 2019! This is my first pastor's letter of the new year and I am eager to see what this year will bring to us. But before we get too far down the road of the new year, I want to thank you for your generosity in 2018. While we are finalizing the December 2018 income number, I can tell you that our congregation exceeded the target number of \$1.2 million about which I had written to you earlier last month. Heading into this new calendar year with the strong financial support of our congregation is a great joy.

Another great joy to begin this year is this. Since I came to IPC in January 2017, I've made it my practice to have six-month check-ins with our ministry staff. I just finished those check-ins this afternoon: it is a great joy to hear how encouraged and energized our ministry staff is. I said it when I came and I still believe it to be the case—we have the most talented collection of ministry leaders of any place within our denomination. I've been reminded again what a privilege it is to serve with and beside these talented leaders.

And there is so much that we have planned for the spring! In each ministry area as well as in our various shepherding communities, creative plans are being made to engage you and your families with Jesus Christ. Whether it is our senior high's February retreat or RYM this summer, or our music program's plans to do the entire Messiah for the first time in over ten years, or our upcoming missions conference, or our women's ministry with Bible studies and their annual retreat in March: much is happening in our life together.

In the light of all of this, I would strongly encourage you to stay engaged with the life of our church as we go through the Spring. There is much that competes for your time and attention—so many places to go, so many things to do. And yet, this is the place where God meets us in Word and sacrament; this is the time, pregnant with salvation possibility, in which God wants to work in your life. Don't miss this season in which God will be present, powerful to save, mighty to redeem. Join with us as we see how God will make us new people to serve a new Memphis.

In the grip of God's grace,



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