

CONNECT CARD



GRACE CHURCH
 Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

_____ Service time attended
 _____ I have a prayer request (please list on back)
 _____ I am a first time visitor
 _____ I would like to be contacted by a pastor
 _____ I would like to join the church
 _____ Sign me up for weekly email updates
 _____ Sign me up for this small group/class:

Please complete, tear off, and place in the offering plate

(Please list)

Sermon: The Joy of Adoption Sermon Text: Matthew 1:18-25

- I. **The Literal Adoption of Divinity**
 Luke 3:23b Jesus was known as the son of Joseph. NLT
- II. **Our Part in Our Adoption**
 John 1:12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. NLT
- III. **The Divine Adoption of Humans**
 Ephesians 1:5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. NLT
 - 1. **No Unadoptables**
 Acts 10:35 In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. NLT
 - 2. **Cancelled Debts**
 Colossians 2:14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. NLT
 - 3. **A Child's Confidence**
 Romans 8:15,16 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. NLT

Art of Marriage event on Friday, February 09 and Saturday February 10. This video event equips married couples with a passion for building Godly marriages. Cost is \$40 per couple and includes your books and also Friday night dinner will be provided for participating couples and for kids in childcare. **Childcare is provided for Friday only. There is no childcare for the Saturday session.** More details in the Welcome Center. Please sign up in the Welcome Center or by calling Grace Church at 724-463-8535. Upon registering, further details will be available. **Sign up by January 21, 2018.** Go to <http://familylife.com/theartofmarriage/vidoe-event> to learn more!

Attention Grace Youth! It's here... Winter Jam 2018 on January 19 in State College. We will meet at the Growth Center at 2:45 pm and leave at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 per youth. We will return 12:30 - 1:00 am. For further details please look in Welcome Center or contact Doug/Becky McNulty at 724-479-0869.

Childcare servants needed all three services Christmas Eve. Please see Mary Beth in the nursery to sign up.

DIRT (Discover Inspired Religious Treasures) **New, Exciting Monday Morning Bible Study! Starting January 08**, at 10:00 am in Room 208. We will discover six treasures from God's holy Word in this series based upon Jonathan Cahn's, *The Book of Mysteries*. Leader: Al Kimmel, a retired UM pastor. Al earned a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School. He has served in the Erie/Meadville, Indiana and Greensburg Districts of our conference. He and his wife, Barb have been worshipping at Grace since he retired last July. Go to the Welcome Center or call the church office to sign up.

Have you always wanted to read the Bible but didn't know where to start? We will offer a 5-week **Bible for Dummies Class** on Wednesday nights beginning January 10 at 6:15 pm after dinner. This class will give you an overview of the Bible and tips on how to get started. Questions? Contact Kenny Schramko at 724-584-6920 or at steelersfan345@gmail.com. A sign-up sheet will be in the Welcome Center or call the church office if you are interested. Let's start the New Year off right by diving into the Word of God!

Grace United Methodist Church

P. O. Box 6
 Indiana, PA 15701

indianagrace.org
 724-463-8535



December 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent

Our Pastors
Rev. Bill Blair - Senior Pastor

Pastor Kathy Mihoerck - Congregational Care & Senior Adult Ministries

Pastor Dennis Marshall - Visitation

We gather in grace

The coffee is ready! Please enjoy a time of fellowship in our Welcome Center between worship services. Meet and greet your friends and make new ones.

Check your bulletin today for information on special events, including *The Longest Night* service and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. Get connected with a Grace Group and Sunday School! There is something for everyone!

More information is available in the Welcome Center. Check our website for other opportunities to Gather in Grace!

Child care

Child care for children up to age 4 is available in the nursery Sundays during worship services.

Children K-5 can attend Kid's Church: "The Train Station" - an exciting worship experience - at 11:00 am (please sign your child in downstairs before the worship service begins).

Children ages 3-5 can attend Kid's Church: "The Caboose" during the 11:00 worship service (located down the main hallway past the Welcome Center).

Order of Worship
Traditional Worship 9:00 am

Gathering Music

Announcements

Prelude - Agape Bells
He Is Born

*Opening Hymn of Praise - No. 220
Angels from the Realms of Glory
 Betty McCoy, Organist

Christmas Inspiration
 Pastor Denny

Lighting the Advent Candle
Christ, Be Our Light
 (words on screen for congregation)

Special Music: *What Joy Is Born*
 (congregation please sing with the last chorus)
 Solo, Dawn Winstead; Piano, Shanda Tomer

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Choir Anthem
How Great Our Joy

Message: The Joy of Adoption
 Matthew 1:18-25

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Receiving of our Tithes and Offerings
We Three Kings

*Doxology - No. 95
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn - No. 240
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*Benediction

Postlude

*Indicates the congregation standing as able



If you are joining us for the first time today, we extend to you a very special greeting! We have a gift for you in our

Welcome Center. Additionally, please take a moment and complete a connect card and drop it in the offering plate or return it to the Welcome Center host. Thank you for joining us!

Our sympathy is extended to Jim & Jean Watters and their family on the death of their son, Timothy Watters who passed away on December 10, 2017.

The white carnation on the altar is in memory of Margaret Juart who passed away on December 07, 2017. Our sympathy is extended to her family and friends.

Grace Church Special Christmas Services
 in the Grace Church Sanctuary

Thursday, December 21 - 7:00 pm
 "Longest Night" Worship Service

No worship service on Saturday, December 23

Sunday, December 24
 9:00 am - Regular Traditional Worship
 11:00 am - Regular Contemporary Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00 pm - Family-Oriented Worship
 Charlie Brown Christmas Play

7:00 pm - Traditional Worship

9:00 pm - Contemporary Worship

All offerings received at the Christmas Eve Candlelight services will go towards Missions. This includes International Missions, National/Conference Missions, Local Missions, Mission Trips such as the Mexico Mission Trip, Bethel Bible Village Trip, Youth Mission Trips and Local Relief. It also includes mission needs such as the Fleece For His Sheep blankets for those in need.

Wednesday Dinners are on Winter Break.

Dinners will resume on January 10, 2018.
 Have a Blessed, Merry CHRISTmas and
 a Happy New Year!

THIS WEEK AT GRACE



The Church Office is closed from 12:30—1:00 pm, Monday Thru Friday, and from 10:30—1:00 pm on Tuesdays

4:00 pm
Monday, December 18
 Women's Prayer Group - Room 205

7:00 am
10:00 am
3:30 pm
Wednesday, December 20
 Men's Bible Study - Room 102
 The Seekers Women's Group - 173 Valley Rd., Indiana
 Women's Grace Group - Room 201

2:30 pm
3:00 pm
7:00 pm
Thursday, December 21
 Love Basket Pick-up from 2:30—5:30 pm
 After School Comes Grace Program
 Longest Night Worship Service - Sanctuary

7:00 pm
Friday, December 22
 Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Play – Sanctuary

7:45 am
Saturday, December 23
 (No Worship Service this Evening)
 Prayer Fellowship - G.I.M. (1st Floor)

On **December 24** the **Children's Bells will be performing** at the 9:00 and 11:00 am worship services. There will be **no Kid's Church that morning**. Kids will worship with their families.

The "**Longest Night**" **Worship Service** will be on Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm. This is a service of prayer, scripture, and music that acknowledges that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Ring in the New Year With Grace! New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31! Join your Grace Church family at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall for food, fun and fellowship, and watch the ball drop to ring in 2018. Bring a food item to share. Sign up in the Welcome Center.

Auditions for Godspell: Sunday, January 14 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the church. Ages Senior High to Young Adult. Be prepared to sing a song A Cappella or with a CD voice track.

Thank you to the Gene & Sherry Cathcart, Greg & Koren Greene, and Matthew & Emily Hawk families for participating in the Advent reading and lighting of the candles this weekend.

Love Basket Distribution 2017: Please share in the joy of giving by helping with this outreach project.

December 19,	8:30 am	Organizing of non-perishable food
December 20,	6:30 - 8 pm	Packing of Love Baskets at Church
December 21,	1:00 pm	Unloading of Turkeys/chickens; etc.
December 21,	2 - 5:30 pm	Distribution of Love Baskets from Church

The most critical times are Wednesday and Thursday. We will especially need extra muscle to carry the boxes to the cars on December 21 between 2:00 and 5:30 pm. If you have questions, please call Ed Scott at 724-388-3291.

Remember in prayer....

- North Korea
- Heidi Allison
- Joan Shirley
- Janet Luther
- Micah Taylor
- Terry St. Clair
- Betty Scarpino
- Chris Lybarger
- Andrew Manzek
- Debbie Douglass
- Hurricane Victims
- Dale Cunningham
- Rosemary McDowell
- Margaret Juart Family
- Timothy Watters Family
- All First Responders
- Deployed Military

PRAYER REQUEST:

If you would like to help provide rides, or need a ride to church, please fill out the other side of this form and the information below.

Special accommodations: _____

Yes, I need a ride to Church! I usually attend: _____ Saturday 7:00 pm Sunday: _____ 9:00 am _____ 11:00 am _____ I'm Flexible

Yes, I can provide rides to Church! I usually attend: _____ Saturday 7:00 pm Sunday: _____ 9:00 am _____ 11:00 am _____ I'm Flexible

I'm Flexible I can help: _____ regularly _____ occasionally

NEW TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY!