

We are a church with one mission: to grow followers of Jesus through grateful worship, genuine community, and generous service to each other and our world. We believe by loving God and loving people we can have an impact that really matters, and would like to tell you more about that. If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing with us, or just have some questions, **fill out the contact card** or ask the person next to you. **Please feel free to call or email too if you have any questions.**

FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

Indiana church of Christ
225 East Pike
Indiana, PA, 15701

E-mail:
indianacofc@gmail.com

Website:
indianapachurch.org

Evangelist
C J Moffett
985-807-7593

GOD'S FAMILY TIMES

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—9:30 am Sunday

WORSHIP
Building—10:30 am Sunday

GROWTH GROUPS
Resume September 17th
Grose's -- 6 p.m. Sunday
Tonkin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—7 pm Wednesday

Family Covered Dish Dinner: TODAY after services.

Small Groups: Will resume NEXT Sunday September 17th at 6 p.m. at the Grose's or Tonkin's home.

Ladies' Class Planning Meeting: Thursday September 21st at 1 p.m.

Dinner before Class: Wednesday September 27th at 6 p.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend and what you will bring to share.

Don't forget to sign up for the "meet and greet" for Mayleen Niehenke

If you would like to donate to providing water to African communities please give your gift **directly** to Dave or Sharon Mack by **September 17th**. Checks can be made payable to Indiana church of Christ.

Support for our Betikara lamb, Toavina, for September & October is being collected. Please give your donations **directly** to Sally Duriez

Nathan Irwin and family will be in Indiana October 6-12 on furlough from North Africa. Nathan will be sharing their mission during class and services on Sunday the 8th and Wednesday the 11th. If you have any specific questions about their mission or would like to visit one-on-one please let Doug or Paula know.

Pictures for a new directory will not be taken until January!
Happy Birthday *Happy Anniversary*
9/12 Don Baker 9/23 Chris & Marv Masterson

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

PS:

Family are now in North Africa. Pray for peace and protection, for spiritual needs and for many connections with others God has called there. Pray for personal engagement into their new communities and for all the logistics that need to begin a new life in a foreign place.

FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

September 10, 2017

The Beginning of Dementia Isn't the End of Grace

How the church can come to the aid of sufferers and their loved ones by Matthew Loftis

In the era of modern medicine, a great many human afflictions can be treated, if not cured outright. Medicines easily defeat diseases that once would have killed us, while prosthetics and pain-relief drugs help us adapt to disabling symptoms and incurable illnesses. Dementia, unfortunately, remains neither curable nor especially treatable—and it is only getting more common as our population ages.

Dementia is especially fearsome in a culture like ours, one that treats autonomy as essential to human flourishing. Losing the ability to think and make rational decisions is always a profound loss, but it is especially terrifying for people who value independence so highly. Thankfully, **Finding Grace in the Face of Dementia** by physician John Dunlop is an excellent companion in thinking through the questions that dementia raises.

The first half of the book covers some basic theological precepts about sin, illness, and the body, as well as medical and scientific details about dementia. Dunlop then describes the daily experience of those who suffer from dementia and the people who care for them. Plenty of books and resources contain this sort of information, but this book remains immensely useful for anyone—pastors, family members, or even people in the early stages of dementia themselves—seeking basic facts about the disease and subjects like in-home care or nursing homes. Having spent many years caring for demented people at every possible stage, Dunlop helps readers step into the non-slip socks of a person with dementia and understand his or her frustrations and sorrows.

For the rest of the book, Dunlop asks whether we can find any grace in dementia. To do this he first confronts the assumption that makes people queasy when they interact with someone who has dementia (or consider the possibility of developing it themselves): that human beings who have lost their intellectual capacity are aren't quite fully human anymore. People might say, "He's not there anymore" or "His soul is gone, but his body is still hanging in there." Dunlop argues that the mind goes into decline.

Having emphatically rejected the possibility of euthanasia, it may seem curious that Dunlop argues against using feeding tubes for people with dementia who no longer eat. However, if dementia is a terminal disease and people too affected to eat or drink have reached its final stages, then withholding feeding tubes becomes a gesture of compassion. As Dunlop explains, "people in advanced stages of dementia stop eating because they are dying; they don't die because they stop eating." His perspective is similar on other end-of-life interventions: For people in the later stages of dementia, aggressive measures are often harmful.