



December, 2025

The Reminder

Indian Head Church of God

Mission Statement

The Indian Head Church of God exists to glorify God with Christ centered worship, Biblically oriented discipleship and Holy Spirit directed evangelism and mission.



Join us for
Christmas Caroling

On SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
at 3:00 p.m., there will be
All Church Christmas Caroling
At Woodcrest Senior Living in
Scottdale, Pa. Meet here at the
church at 2:15 p.m., or at
Woodcrest at 3:00 p.m.



Penny Pile Sunday is Nov. 30. This is an extra offering taken during Sunday School for Camp Sonrise Mountain. There are also plastic containers in each foyer, beneath the podiums, that you can put money in at any time for Camp Sonrise Mountain.

Christmas Eve

WORSHIP WITH US!



CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

*Wednesday,
December 24*

4:00 & 7:00 p.m.



*Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV

Saturday Evening Worship



Everyone is invited
to attend our
**Saturday Evening
Worship Services**
7 p.m. each Saturday night,
especially if you are unable
to come to church on
Sunday mornings.



There will be a
Children's Christmas Program
in the Sanctuary on
Sunday, November 30,
during the Sunday School hour
beginning at 10:00 a.m.
Everyone is welcome!!!



ICV Food Pantry Collection: The item being collected in December is bottles of Ketchup. There is a container for all items in the Normalville side foyer.



The Compassion Team Ministry is ready to help you thru challenges and tough situations. Too often, congregation members are hesitant to ask for help when the ministry's purpose is to assist the church members in providing care and compassion for one another.

For assistance, contact either Jim O'Donnell, 724-557-0521 or Kathleen, the church secretary, 724-455-2626.



End of Year Giving

Any gifts received by Dec. 31, 2025 may be included with 2025 giving. Any mailed gifts received and postmarked on or before Dec. 31, 2025 may be included with 2025 giving.

Important Notice:

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2025 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.



Dear Indian Head Church of God Friends and Family,

"We want to express our gratitude to the MANY volunteers who prepared the parsonage and helped us move in on Nov. 15. We are so blessed to be part of this fellowship! You have made us feel at home in so many ways. May the Lord bless the Indian Head Church of God family!"

Pastor Ben and Sherri

*Marlene Berger and Gленеда White would like to thank everyone for attending their 90th birthday celebration, and for the gifts and cards.

*Thank you so much for announcing Fallon's birth and for the flower and lamb. We are blessed to have all of your love and support from all of years past and for many years to come! We can't wait for our first serve to bring our baby girl!

Love,
Matthew, Victoria and
Fallon Merincheck

*I want to thank everyone for all the cards, food and prayers, in the loss of my wonderful friend, Vernon Dick Davis, and for the visits of our Pastor Ben. Dick really enjoyed the visits. I thank God for all the wonderful years and friends.

Thank you,
Geraldine Cramer



Our special Christmas White Gift Offering will be received on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 20 and 21. However, we will accept this offering at any time. You will be receiving a Christmas letter with all the White Gift Offering information and offering envelope in your mail soon.



You can give online through the Vanco app called the...

Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. (with the app picture above)

We have three options available for your convenience.

1. Text your donation to: 888-788-2914
2. Give online via our webpage and follow the [Donate](#) link.
3. Donate through the **VANCO Mobile Faith Engagement app** at the [Google Play Store](#) or [Apple App Store](#).

Thank you to all who are supporting the church through these difficult times with your generous donations. Donations can also be mailed to the church office at:

Indian Head Church of God
PO Box 488
Indian Head PA 15446

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FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

We have a *Hearing Assistant System* if anyone would like to use it. Please see the person who is at the sound board for assistance.



INTERCESSOR PRAYER LIST

Please note that prayer requests under the headings of Illness, Recovery, Cancer, and Extended Care will remain on the Intercessor Prayer list for four weeks. If you would like to continue to have someone on the list beyond the four weeks, please let Kathleen know.

MAKING A PRAYER REQUEST

PRAYER CARDS: There are prayer cards in the prayer card boxes on the podiums in both foyers. If you have a prayer request, please fill out one of the cards and put it in the prayer card box, or place in the offering box. Be sure to mark whether or not you want your requests shared in the morning worship services. Please sign your name when submitting a request, as we cannot print the prayer request without a signature.

GLOO: We will also be using GLOO (group text messages) to share a prayer concern. If you would like someone to be prayed for through GLOO, please contact Kathleen or Pastor Ben. Please make sure you have permission from the person, or a member of their family, that you would like to have prayer for.



**Therefore, since we are receiving
a kingdom that cannot be shaken,
let us be thankful,**

**and so worship God acceptably
with reverence and awe.**

Hebrews 12:28, NIV



Matt and Lauren Cramer became the parents of a baby girl, Winona Rae, on Wednesday, October 29. Proud grandparents are Rob and Tish Cramer.



Wednesday, December 10

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Indian Head Church of God

**Community Luncheon Ministry will
be offering **FREE HOMEMADE SOUP****

by drive thru only, while supplies last. Soup will be packaged cold in containers and distributed here in the church parking lot. This event is held the second Wednesday of every month. If you would like to help, contact Bonnie Kimmel or Amy Grimm.

**Everyone is welcome to come and get
some soup!**



We are continuing with the Meat Vouchers for the ICV Food Pantry for Christmas. If you would like to donate \$10.00 towards this need, there are special envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary at the offering box that is decorated with turkeys. We will be collecting donation until Sunday, Nov. 30. Please make checks out to ICV Food Pantry.



We are doing Christmas gifts for Eicher's Nursing Home residents. If you took a tag, please return the gifts by Dec. 20. Please be sure to attach the tag to the gift.



Kids' Club and Youth Group

Meet on Wednesday evenings

6:00-7:30 p.m.



Kids in Kindergarten through 5th Grade are invited to learn about Jesus through fun activities including singing, interactive Bible lessons, and crafts. For more information, contact Hope Dull at: hopeforthekids@gmail.com or **724-880-1579**.



Teens 6th Grade & Up are invited to study 1st and 2nd Corinthians while also enjoying games and activities. Teens may choose to participate in our Bible Quiz team. For more information contact Becky Ritenour at: **724-322-0564**.



A simple supper is available for participants at 5:30 p.m.

Want to join us? Pre-registration is requested. Please go to

<https://indianheadchurch.org/> to register today!

“Doing whatever it takes to reach a community effectively with Christ”



The annual Congregational Meeting was held on November 11, 2025.

A motion was approved to adopt the new Constitution as proposed.

A motion was approved the 2026 budget as proposed.

In the Constitution, the names of the commissions have been changed, and one new Commission was added. The Commissions changes are as follows:

- Pastoral Guidance is now *Shepherding*. Elected members are Kevin Miller, Jim Hall and Stacy Dix.
- Deaconesses is now *Worship*. Elected members are Terry Legas, Karen Bigam and Becky Dix.
- Property Management is now *Property*. Elected members are Tom Legas, Zac Long and Aaron Hall.
- Stewardship & Finance is now *Stewardship*. Elected members are Wendy Swank, Doug McMillen and Dennis Bruner.
- Christian Education is now *Discipleship*. Elected members are Dave Bruner, Becky Ritenour and Addie Long.
- Outreach & Missions is now *Mission*. Elected members are Tammy Naugle, Denise Pritts and Darlene Salyers.
- The new Commission added is *Fellowship*. Elected members are Ashleigh Miller, Kayla Long and April Linnell.

*Susan Shepler was elected as Clerk.

All elected members are to reach out and recruit others to help. You can serve on as many commissions as appointed, but can only be elected to one. Appointed members do not have a vote, but can still attend Ad Council meetings.



Ad Council meeting notes from November 17...

*Pastor Ben's day off each week will be on Friday. He will be on vacation the week after Christmas.

*On Nov. 30, there will be a children's Christmas program in the Sanctuary during the Sunday School hour.

*Sherry Hess has agreed to teach one of the weeks in the rotation of the Pre-K Sunday School class. Helpers are needed. If you would like to help, please see Dave Bruner.

*An Assistant Jr/Sr High class teacher is needed.

*A male assistant is needed to help with youth group. Please see Dave Bruner or Becky Ritenour.

*The Sunday School youth Christmas party will be held on Dec. 21, down-stairs in the Youth Room.

*All Church Christmas Caroling at Woodcrest Senior Living in Scottsdale on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m.

*275 kids attended the Trunk or Treat, and there were 20 cars decorated.

*Outreach and Missions will not meet in December.

*126 hoagies have been ordered for the Grab and Go Lunch fundraiser.

*Outreach and Missions will donate \$200 to the Conference for Clean Water Well for International Fields project,

*The parsonage renovation have been completed.

*More Fall cleanup needs done—picnic area swings need put away and add fuel stabilizer to the mowers.

*An electronic locking system, and wireless thermostats are being looked into.





Santa's Helpers?

In the classic Christmas comedy "Elf," Will Ferrell plays the role of Buddy, a human raised by Santa and his elves at the North Pole. (No plot spoilers here, as I'm not focusing on the plot. But it's a truly funny movie.) As in every story involving Santa's helpers, there are workshop scenes featuring lines of elves feverishly working on building toys for Santa to deliver to children all over the world on Christmas Eve. Typically, there's stress as the deadline approaches and something always goes wrong. While this provides fodder for comedy, we can relate to the elves' anxiety – our hurried Christmas shopping and holiday planning goes into overdrive and we find ourselves FAR from "peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

As I write this, I can look at our church sanctuary and the rows of tables set up to receive thousands of shoeboxes. It's our annual collection week for Operation Christmas Child, and scores of volunteers have put in many hours collecting and packing thousands of boxes. Like the toys of Santa's workshop, these shoebox gifts filled with toys and helpful supplies will be delivered around the world to millions of children. (Last year, almost 12 million shoebox gifts were delivered to 170 countries.) UNLIKE Santa's gifts, these shoeboxes also contain the story of Jesus – the greatest Gift of all – and an opportunity for the child to learn more about Him at a local church.

We aren't Santa's helpers! But we most certainly can be servants of our King who work throughout the year to bless others. It might be working for Operation Christmas Child, volunteering at the Easter Egg Hunt, the Carnival, and Trunk-or-Treat, or serving in over 25 other church ministries. Yes, sometimes we get stressed out. Sometimes things go wrong – or at least not as we expect. But we trust in our King to guide us as we use our spiritual gifts to bless others. Our focus is on glorifying God, not ourselves. So I want to thank you for serving our Lord, and wish you a very merry and Christ-focused Christmas!

-00Pastor Ben

