

A night scene with a starry sky and a manger. The manger is made of a wooden frame with two legs, filled with straw and a white cloth. The background is a dark, starry sky with a gradient from dark purple to a lighter, hazy greenish-blue. The ground is dark and rocky.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*December 30, 2018*

*In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

John 1:1-5 (NLT)

### What do I do with the gift?

#### 1. I \_\_\_\_\_ with everyone...

*God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

John 1:6-9 (NLT)

#### 2. ...because the gift \_\_\_\_\_ ...

*But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*

John 1:12-13 (NLT)

#### 3. ... and because the gift \_\_\_\_\_ .

*From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.*

John 1:16-18 (NLT)

# GRACE NEWS

***If you want more information or to volunteer with any of these opportunities, please make a note on the Let's Connect card.***

**What's up with the 9:41?** Why do the church bells chime at 9:41 every day? Why does church start at 9:41 on Sunday? Matthew 9:37-38 says 'Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." We are praying for laborers and we are praying that God would equip us to be harvesters! Set your phone alarm and join us in praying at 9:41 every day for our community, and the (941) area code. Use the prayer card available at the Info Desk to pray scripturally.

**Year-end giving** – Thank you for your generosity! All gifts received at the church, given online, or postmarked by Monday, December 31, will be included on year-end contribution statements for 2018. The office will be open on December 31st from 9:00am – 1:45 pm. Beginning Monday, January 1, all gifts will be included on contribution statements at the end of 2019.

**Holiday office hours** – The church office will be closed Dec. 25-28th. Open on Monday, Dec. 31st 9:00 am – 1:45 pm. Closed Jan. 1-4th. If you have an emergency, please call church office. We will get back to you asap.

**Samaritan's Purse** – If you are planning on going to serve on January 3 – 5, please attend the informational meeting, TODAY at 11:00 after the service. If you cannot attend the meeting, and plan on going please let the office know.

**A Hunger for Healing for Women** – January 16th, Join Pastor Patti on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Learn how to apply the Twelve Steps to alleviate emotional pain and stress for practical spiritual growth in Christ. Indicate on your connect card or call the office to register.

# LET'S CONNECT

PLEASE TEAR OUT AND DROP IN BOXES AS YOU EXIT

Date:     /     /      1st Time Visitor

How did you hear about Grace Church?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday:     /     /      Male    Female

I would like to meet with the pastor.

## MY DECISION TODAY

- I said **YES** for the first time, and became a follower of Jesus.
- I decided to **RENEW** my relationship with Jesus.

*We have resources to help you with your decision.*



# PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Public Prayer List     For Pastors Only

I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT:

## SMALL GROUPS

I want to join a small group.

## SMART GIVING

go to: [egracechurch.com/give](http://egracechurch.com/give)

-OR-

text any amount + "Sarasota" to:

**239.205.3123**

(like this: 100 Sarasota)

An effective and time-saving way to give your tithes and offerings without carrying cash or writing checks.



# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Explore the Bible** – Sundays, 8:30am – 9:30am in the Gathering Place

**Pastor Bible study** – Tuesdays at 7:30 am, meets in the Gathering Place

**Fishing Club** – 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Gathering Place - Learn from a speaker and 'hook-up' with fellow fisherman. Dinner available for \$5.00.

**City Commit** – Men's group, Wednesday mornings 6:30am-8:00am in the conference room

**Prayer hour** – Wednesdays, noon – 1 pm in the Worship Center. Come join us in praying for our church, our neighborhoods, the 941, & the nations. Come if you are in need of prayer.

**Praise & Worship practice** – Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:30 in the Worship Center

**Sprout** - 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month - Food distribution by All Faiths Food Bank from 10:00 – 11:30.

**Community Clothing Connection** - Open the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month from 10:00 – 11:30 am. Most items are only \$1.00

**Grace on the Bay Kayaking** – 2nd Saturday of the month, leaving from Vamo Drive Park at 9:41am. Bring your own kayak or call the office and we will bring one for you!



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