



THE *Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

October 2025



“Hold Fast” – October Series

Some seasons of life test our grip on faith more than others. Guilt creeps in and whispers that we are unworthy. Questions arise in our minds that we can’t easily answer. The world around us shifts, and suddenly, what we once held as certain feels contested. Other voices and beliefs press in, asking us to loosen our hold on Christ.

But into that swirl of pressure and uncertainty comes this steady call: *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful”* (Hebrews 10:23).

This October, as we continue our Hold Fast series, we will walk together through these very real struggles. We’ll see that guilt does not have the last word – grace does (Romans 8:1). We’ll remember that our questions can actually become doorways to deeper faith, because Jesus Himself is *“the way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6). And when culture shifts, or when other beliefs challenge us, we’ll rest in the unshakable promise that *“the word of our God will stand forever”* (Isaiah 40:8).

You don’t have to face these battles alone. Week by week, we’ll learn together what it truly means to cling to Christ when life shakes our grip. The storms are real. So is our Savior. He is faithful.

This October, come and be strengthened to *Hold Fast*.

Eric Bowman

Join Us for Our Fall Study

Each Wednesday in October we will meet for our Fall Study. The meal will be at 6:00 p.m. followed by the study at 6:45 p.m. Most days feel like a race with emails, work, errands, deadlines, and family commitments. By evening, my soul feels thin and restless. John Mark Comer, in *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, names the problem clearly: hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. Jesus promised “life to the full” (John 10:10), not a calendar crammed with endless activity. This October we invite you to join us as we explore five practices that slow us down and draw us closer to God: silence and solitude, Sabbath, simplicity, and living in step with Jesus. Come discover a better, unhurried way with Christ.



Spiceland Friends 56th Annual Bazaar Is Coming Up Soon

Our bazaar this year is November 8, and it promises to be the biggest and best yet! **Marilyn Thompson** continues to book vendors who will be in both the church and the Spiceland gym. The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. and will run until 2:00 p.m.; lunch will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. Sign-up sheets for workers and donations will be on the table in the Welcome Center on October 12. Items for the Attic Treasures booth may be brought in anytime from Sunday, November 2, until Friday the 7th. We will be selling soup in quart jars in the Deli this year and not out of the kitchen. If you have questions about the vendors, please contact **Marilyn Thompson**. If you have questions about anything else, please see **Nancy Wadman**.

Missions Committee Activities

In the past the Missions Committee has sponsored and promoted Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Ministry. We decided at our last meeting that we would like to focus more this year on local families that are in need of food. So we will not have a display of shoeboxes in Oct./Nov. If you are passionate about filling and sending a shoebox, please see **Nancy Wadman**. We have boxes and she can give you the information on where and when to take them.

Our focus this fall is to encourage our congregation to bring in canned food items to be distributed on Monday, November 17, when we have Second Harvest here for their food distribution. The cost of groceries is increasing all the time and Second Harvest is limited to items that are donated to them by big box stores. The last time we gave out over 30 bags of canned food (with 10-15 items) and that was just one bag per car and oftentimes there are more than one family being picked up for in a car. We would like to have 45-50 bags prepared for that Monday. You can bring food to the church and would like to have it by November 14.

Items to be donated: Canned – corn, peas, green beans, fruit, pork & beans, great northern beans, potatoes, tomatoes, mixed veggies, yams, carrots, evaporated milk, gravies, meats (chicken, tuna, beef, spam, etc.), stews and soups, pumpkin pie filling, spaghetti and ravioli. Boxes or packages — mac & cheese, instant potatoes, noodle or rice



mixes, powdered milk, cake and brownie mixes, Jiffy cornbread.

(Please be careful about not bringing dented cans or expired items)

See **Nancy Wadman** if you have questions.

You Are Invited to Join the Christmas Choir



Christmas time is quickly approaching. Choir practice for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will begin in mid-November. Dates and more information will be coming soon. Please consider joining our choir – all are welcome! Questions? See **Connie Brown** or **Tasha Crandall**.

Please Join Us October 12

Please join us Sunday, October 12, as we honor **Carol Fox** for her 40 years of faithful service as our church secretary. She will be recognized during our meeting for worship, along with her son, **Alan**, who has managed our website for several years. Following worship there will be a reception to thank Carol and Alan. Plan to stay and enjoy some delicious desserts while expressing your gratitude for all that Carol has done for our meeting and to wish her well on her retirement.

Sermon Topics for October

Eric Bowman will be preaching all four Sundays in October.

October 5

Sermon – “Hold Fast, Through Guilt

Scripture – Romans 8:1

October 12

Sermon – “Hold Fast, Through Intellectual Questions”

Scripture – John 14:6

October 19

Sermon – “Hold Fast When Culture Shifts”

Scripture – Isaiah 40:8

October 26

Sermon – “Hold Fast When Other Beliefs Bring Questions”

Scripture – John 6:68

Membership at SFC

Several have expressed the desire to join us in membership at Spiceland Friends. This is the simple expression of officially linking arms in love and unity to live out their Christian Faith, with emphasis on Friends' values as we serve Christ together. **Eric Bowman** will be holding a Friends 101 course in the month of November for those interested in membership. Contact one of our staff members if you have an interest.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Gib Hoover – recovering from knee surgery
Monica Altman – recovering from surgery
Lacey Thompson – rotator cuff surgery
Halle Chandler – recovering from surgery
Peggy MacFarlane – recovering from broken hip
Bill Byrket – now at home
Betty Moffitt – at Addison House, Room 130
Tom Weber – health issues
Barb Meade – health issues
Irene Goodwin – health issues
George Fort – Parkinson's issues
Cindy Mitchell – cancer
Jenny McDaniel – eye surgery
Jada Woolard – recovering from broken legs
Marilyn Biehl – recovering from surgery
Libby Henshaw – at Glen Oaks
Judy Smith – at Stonebrooke
Sarah Reiblein – cancer



Extended Family and Friends

Family of David Reeves
Sherri Stockton (Nona Edwards) – health concerns
Jenson Shank (Nona Edwards) – childhood cancer
Chris Garner's brother – gall bladder problems
John Hickman (Nancy Strong's brother) – tumor
Mark Haynes (Virginia Newkirk's cousin) – liver cancer
Elizabeth Burroughs – health issues
Pansy Pyle (Tom Pyle's mother) – in hospice
Great-nephew of Sue McDonough – upcoming surgery
Marge (sister of Claudia Garner's friend) – tonsil cancer
Belinda Jones (Tasha Crandall) – cancer
Hogan (Carly Griggs) – cancer
Danny Williams (Rust family) – stage 4 cancer
Craig (cousin of Judy Stevens) – in need of prayer
Timmy Vanmatre (Cindy Mitchell's grandson) – MS in brain
Sherry Matney (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer



Worship Assistants for October

Worship Leaders

October 5 – Sandra Swann
October 12 – Nancy Wadman
October 19 – Bob Rust
October 26 – Sandra Swann

Song Leaders

October 5 – Debra Weber
October 12 – Hayley Painter
October 19 – Tasha Crandall
October 26 – Tasha Crandall



Scripture Readers

October 5 – Barbara Lacy
October 12 – Billy Rutherford
October 19 – Ron Reece
October 26 – Nancy Wadman

Children's Story

October 5 – Amanda Judge
October 12 – Mike Van Osdol
October 19 – Janet Putnam
October 26 – Diana Bowman

Junior Church Leaders

October 5 – Claudia Garner
October 12 – Kristin Davis
October 19 – Josie Weber
October 26 – Claudia Garner

Greeter for October – Diana Bowman

VBS Help Needed!

After 20 years of directing VBS, **Carly Griggs** will be retiring from the position. We are actively working to either find a replacement director or find a group of individuals to form a committee to ensure VBS takes place. VBS is our one major community outreach for children each year. If you would like to either be the VBS director or be a part of the committee, please reach out to **Jessica Noteboom** (765-571-0681). Some jobs that need to be filled would be communications/publicity, volunteer recruitment, and various administrative tasks.

Whole Church Game Night Is Coming Up

On Saturday, October 4, starting at 5:00 p.m., we will meet in the Family Center at SFC for fellowship and games. We invite you to bring a card or board game and a snack, appetizer, or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided.

Trunk or Treat Coming Up

Trunk or Treat will be Friday, October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Spiceland Friends. We will be passing out candy, hot dogs, and hot chocolate. Come to enjoy trick or treating, fellowship and outreach during this time. Candy donations will be collected in a bin in the Welcome Center. Please look for sign-up sheets for hot dogs and hot chocolate in the Family Center as well.



"A Moment of Encouragement"

Some days, the weight of life feels extra heavy. Pain, anxiety, loss, and the relentless uncertainty of the world we live in leave us wondering what's next. Jesus never promised us an easy path. In fact, He told us plainly: "In this world you will have tribulation." But He also gave us a gift far greater than temporary comfort. He gave us His peace. Not the kind the world gives, but a deep, anchoring peace that holds fast in the storm. When everything else shakes, Jesus remains unshaken. "Take heart," He says. Why? Because *He has overcome the world*. Not might. Not someday. *Has!!!* Past tense. The battle is already won. Take heart and be of good courage! He promises to be with his people when we pass through times that weigh heavily on us. Romans 8:37 *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*



Wishing All of You a Fond Farewell!

It has been my joy to serve in the church office for the past 40 years. I am so grateful for the caring and kindness that so many of you have shown to me during my time here at SFC. In addition to my office duties, it was such a pleasure for me to be a friendly and welcoming presence for you. These friendships are what I will miss the most. If you would like to keep in touch – either to talk on the phone or to perhaps meet for coffee or lunch sometime – I can be reached at 765-465-0350.

– Carol Fox



Notes of Thanks

"We want to say 'thanks' for the lovely planter sent by the meeting. Your outreach and kindness are appreciated."

– Rita Reeves and family

"Thank you all so much for your care and support through Mom's illness and passing. We appreciate you all very much. Thank you for lovely flowers and the delicious dinner after her service as well. Mom loved being a member of Spiceland Friends."

– Family of Pat Bogue

"Thank you for the donation to Victory Lane for camp this year. We appreciate your continued blessings to our ministry."

– Beth for Victory Lane Camp

