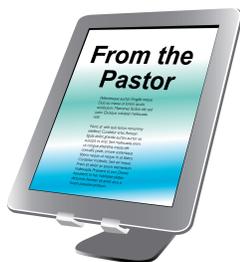




THE *Spiceland Friend*

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December 2021



“In the Fullness of Time”

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son . . .” Galatians 4:4 (NRSV)



TIME – it always seems to be in short supply – especially during the Christmas season when there are so many special activities. We spend a lot of our time worrying about the past and what we could have done better or worrying about the future and wondering what might happen to us. Of course, we know that we can’t change the past and we can’t control the future, but we can live this day that we have been given. We can make every effort to be the best person that we can be today with the circumstances in which we find ourselves. **We can be joyful; we can pray; and we can be thankful.** We can spend the 24 hours of this day being the very best person that we can be with God’s help and guidance.

God is not like us when it comes to time. He is never worried about the past or concerned about the future, and he is never in a hurry. **He has a plan for the world and for you and me, and he is always on time.** Our theme verse above helps us understand how God thinks about time. The scriptures make it clear that God intended to send Jesus to earth from the very beginning of time, and he intended that Jesus would experience a human life with all of our limitations. This verse from Galatians states that God sent Jesus at exactly the right time. Another translation says: “When the set time had fully come. . . ” We do not know why God waited so long to send Jesus or why he didn’t wait longer. God has a whole different perspective on time. **What is clear is that God had a plan from the very beginning and for reasons known only to him, he sent Jesus at just the right time.** The passage goes on to say that he sent Jesus to redeem us and to give us the right to be adopted into God’s own family as children of God.

We celebrate the coming of Jesus during this Advent season each year. We celebrate that Jesus comes to each of us at exactly the right time. He does not come too early or too late. Just as we tell our small children that they must wait for Christmas to come, God is telling us that we must wait for him to “gather up all things, listening, trusting, transforming.” (from Day 1 in our Advent Devotional Book). These things take time and God is gracious in taking the time to forgive us and to make us into the person he wants us to be.

Come each Sunday in December and celebrate the love that Jesus brought into the world and into our lives.

David Brock

Blessings from Our Church

As I am writing this article it is still November and Thankfulness is on my mind. However, you will read this in December when we are preparing for God's most Gracious and Wonderful gift of the birth of Our Savior. Both of these months bring to mind the many blessings that God bestows upon us. I just wanted to thank all of you for the blessings you have bestowed on others in the year 2021.

I was looking at Carol's calendar for 2021 the other day and was in awe of all the blessings that our congregation has shared with others in our community. We have celebrated births, weddings, funerals, retirements, monumental birthdays, and graduations. We have supported each other and our community through grief and joy, successes, and failures. We have donated money, time, and energy for Easter Egg Hunts, Vacation Bible School, desserts for The Guest House, Baby Bottles full of money for The Pregnancy Care Center, Trunk or Treat, clothes for the school nurse and a new student boutique at Tri, food for Heaven's Bread Basket, and helped distribute food for Second Harvest Food Bank. Thirty-seven shoe boxes were filled and prayed over to be sent overseas to children through the Franklin Graham Ministries.

We have financially helped people in our community and some who have passed through and needed help when their cars broke down on the highway.

We have opened our church to the Boy Scouts and Draper for meetings. We have raised money through a rummage sale and our annual bazaar, and then turned around to donate it back to the community and our church.

We have strengthened our faith through Bible Studies, Sunday School Classes, and Sunday morning Worship Services both in person and online. We have welcomed a new associate pastor and his wife who have both been a wonderful blessing to our church. We have added new members and mourned for those we lost. We have cried, laughed, smiled, and worked, but most of all we are grateful and thankful for God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit being in our lives and urging us to be more and more like Jesus.

Well, we have one more month in this year's calendar, and it is filling up quickly with oppor-

tunities for receiving and showering blessings on others.

I want to thank each and every one of you for being such an integral part of this church's mission to be God's hands and feet on this earth! We are blessed and we need to continue to share those blessings with others!

Nancy Wadman
Ministry Coordinator

Celebrate Christmas with Your Church Family

On Sunday, December 12, the choir and our children will be presenting a special song to celebrate Christmas. **David Brock** will be giving the message, and after the service we will have our annual Christmas Dinner in the Family Center. The church will provide the meat, drinks, plates and eating utensils. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. If you would prefer to just donate money towards the meat, that is fine too. We look forward to this time of celebration and fellowship!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



SFC Choir, directed by **Eric Bowman** and accompanied by pianist **Tim Wilkinson**, will present "For He Alone Is Worthy" on Christmas Eve at 9:00 p.m. There will be beautiful solos by **Hayley Painter**, **Connie Brown**, and **Meghan Bowman**. The congregation will join us in singing traditional carols, and **David Brock** will deliver a short message to inspire our hearts during this season of joy. Come join us for our traditional service to celebrate the Birth of our King and Savior.

New Year's Eve at SFC – Come Celebrate!

Where: Family Center

When: December 31 at 6:00 p.m. to ?

For: Anyone over 25

Bring: Favorite Party Food and Games

Sermon Topics for December

Eric Bowman will be preaching on December 5, and **David Brock** will be preaching December 12, 19, and 26.

December 5

Sermon – “The Deep End”
Scripture – Ezekiel 47:1-13

December 12

Sermon – “The Joy of Serving God”
Scripture – Luke 3:7-18; Philippians 4:4-7

December 19

Sermon – “Peace for Our Lives”
Scripture – Luke 1:39-55

December 26

Sermon – “Looking for Jesus”
Scripture – Luke 2:41-52; Colossians 3:12-17

Worship Assistants for December

Scripture Readers

Dec. 5 – Bob Rust
Dec. 12 – Breanna Rust
Dec. 19 – Eric Bowman
Dec. 26 – Teresa Batt

Children’s Story

Dec. 5 – Linda Brock
Dec. 12 – Mike Van Osdol
Dec. 19 – Janet Putnam
Dec. 26 – Diana Bowman

Junior Church

Dec. 5 – Linda Brock
Dec. 12 – David Lahr
Dec. 19 – Linda Brock
Dec. 26 – Claudia Garner

Greeters for December – Gib & Doris Hoover

Service for Janet Copeland

Janet Copeland, 98 years of age and widow of Dr. Max Copeland, passed away on November 22. She was the oldest member of Spiceland Friends and the oldest graduate of Spiceland High School. Calling will be at SFC Dec. 6 from 1:30-2:00 p.m. with **David Brock** presiding at the funeral at 2:00 p.m. Burial will be in Circle Grove Cemetery. A meal will follow.



Mark Your Calendar for December Events

Mondays and Wednesdays – 10:00 a.m. – Walkers
Thursdays – 4:00-6:00 p.m. – Crochet Group
Dec. 1 – 6:00 p.m. – Advent Night
Dec. 5 – Monthly Business Meeting after church
Dec. 5 – 6:30 p.m. – Seasonal Choir Practice
Dec. 6 – 6:30 p.m. – Ministry & Oversight Meeting
Dec. 7 – 9:00 a.m. – Address Christmas Cards at SFC
Dec. 8 – 5:30 p.m. – Caroling and Soup back at SFC
Dec. 12 – Youth Christmas Service and Christmas Dinner after church
Dec. 12 – 6:30 p.m. – Seasonal Choir Practice
Dec. 18 – Fill and Distribute Cheer Baskets
Dec. 19 – 6:30 p.m. – Seasonal Choir Practice
Dec. 24 – 9:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 31 – 6:00 p.m. – New Year’s Eve at SFC

Bazaar Report for 2021 😊

We are happy to report that we took in **\$3,703.25** at the Holiday Bazaar this year as follows: Deli \$459.00; Quilt \$609.00; Kitchen \$1,613.50; Football \$35.00; Booth Rentals \$465.00; Attic Treasures \$521.75. A big thank you to everyone who donated, helped, and purchased items.

Christmas Cheer Baskets

The Community Concerns Committee and the Missions Committee have merged together and



will be doing Cheer Baskets for people in our community again this year. Due to COVID-19 we didn’t do them last year, but we are excited about spreading a little Christmas cheer this year. We have at least 30 names on our list so we will need lots of cookies. On Saturday, December 18, we will package and deliver the baskets. We are in desperate need of cookie bakers! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Please sign and tell how many cookies you are willing to make.

If you have any questions, please see **Tommie Hunt** or **Nancy Wadman**. We thank you in advance!

– Nancy Wadman

Note of Thanks

“Thank you so much for all the support during the illness and passing of Rick. I appreciate all the cards, prayers, funeral dinner, and help that we received.”

– Lisa Little

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of **Leona Blake** upon her passing on November 16. She was the mother of **Helen Rust**.

A Note on Giving to Those of You Who Are Over 70

It's nearing the end of the calendar year, and I wanted to remind you that you can take advantage of the IRA qualified charitable distribution law to help manage both your charitable intent and your tax liabilities.

The law allows you to “count” charitable contributions made from your traditional IRA toward your required minimum distributions beginning the year you turn 70 ½. By directing your distribution from your IRA administrator directly to a charity, it moves without tax consequence to you or the charity. This is a very tax-efficient way to support the church and other causes you care about!

With the new tax laws in effect that greatly increase the personal deduction, more people will not be filing the long form that enabled them to deduct charitable contributions. The IRA direct distribution keeps those funds from being counted as income to you so there are no taxes due on that distribution.

More information is available from your tax advisor, attorney, or administrator of your IRA.

– David Brock

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Marilyn Ingle – knee surgery
Pam Pyle – recovering from heart procedure
Family of Janet Copeland
Kathy Painter – skin cancer on arm
Kenny Miers – sepsis and pneumonia; at home
Debi Zimmerman – recovering from stroke

Pat Bogue – recovering from back surgery
George Lacy – lung cancer; chemo
George Fort – recovering from back surgery;
Parkinson's
Judy Smith – health problems
Marilyn Thompson – Bell's palsy
Don & Barbara Meade – health problems
Irene Goodwin – health problems
Janet Craft – health problems
Steve Neal – liver cancer



Extended Family and Friends

Parents of Eric Bowman
Family of Leona Blake (Helen Rust's mother)
Cate Brock (Brocks) – injured heel
Donna Lowhorn (Sandi Swann) – fell; fractured ankle
Kristal (granddaughter of Cindy Mitchell)
Ruthann Pittman (Kandi Rutledge) – cancer
Jan Hurst (sister of Judy Stevens) – fractured tailbone
Terri Butler (Rusts) – heart bypass surgery
Susan Weaver (Kristen Davis) – lung cancer
Daniel Sears (Kristen Davis) – stomach cancer
Geoff Ostler (Nancy Wadman) – liver cancer
Wayne Schatzle (Bob Rust) – COVID-19
Par Sung (Bob Rust) – kidney problems
Amie Thornburg – kidney stones
Larry & Peggy MacFarlane – Larry at home
Jayna Womack (Virginia Newkirk) – health problems
Abeba Darling (Darlings' granddaughter) – in need of prayer
Tivon Lee (grandson of Sadlers) – health issues
Carolyn Lantz – health problems
Abby (God daughter of Bob & Helen Rust)
Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – health issues
Franka Dick (Pyles) – health issues
Rita Beaver (Garners) – bladder cancer
Melissa Humerickhouse (Jenny McDaniel) – brain tumor
Jill Stansberry (Claudia Garner) – mass on spine
Sue Engle (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – cancer has returned
Charlene Haugh (Claudia Garner) – recovering from bad stroke
Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer
Byron Hanes (Relative of Pam Reno) – radiation
Students, teachers, and school administrators
Our country and servicemen and women
Prison Staff and Prisoners
Long-term care facilities staff and residents dealing with COVID-19