



A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

March 2022



"Strengthening Our Faith"

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Beginning about 100 AD the early church began a tradition of using the six weeks leading up to Easter as a time to deepen and strengthen their members' faith. It was also used as a time to teach new converts about their faith and the principles of living that Jesus had taught when he was here on earth. Along with millions of other Christians in the world today, we have continued that tradition. I looked back at some old March Newsletter articles that I had written and each year we have been challenged to take some special time and specific steps to grow our faith in Christ during this time before Easter.

This year we began early with Eric and me preaching a series of sermons on Ephesians titled, "Friends, Faith, and Fruit." We have been focusing on what are the basics of our belief and how that belief changes our actions. We will be continuing that series this month and will conclude it the Sunday before Easter.

In addition to our study of Ephesians, we are beginning a Spring Study Group on Wednesday, March 9. (See details of the Study in Nancy's article elsewhere in this Newsletter.) The book we are using as a guideline is an intriguing story and told well by Mitch Albom, but it is more than a good story. He raises all kinds of questions about our faith and how we come to believe. We will be focusing on those questions. Below are some of those issues.

If God Appeared to Us, What Would He Look Like? Jesus was God, but many did not believe him because he was born an illegitimate son of a poor couple who lived in Nazareth – a town no one seemed to respect. Surely God would not appear like that. The scriptures show us that God appeared to others in many different forms – many very surprising.

What Causes or What Prevents Belief in God? Would seeing a miracle cause you to believe or would you pass it off as coincidence or try to find a scientific explanation? What about asking God to help you in time of need – for many that is a sign of weakness and they feel that they can take care of themselves. What are some ways that God leads each person to faith?

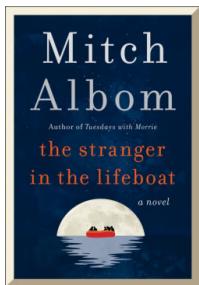
What Kind of Transformation Happens in Our Life because of Our Decision to Follow Christ? Many people experience a radical transformation because of deciding to believe in God and follow his ways. Some may be at the point of suicide or giving up completely and suddenly they find themselves being transformed by God and they

become people who live productive lives and find themselves reaching out to help others because of their faith.

There are many other questions raised in the book that we will discuss. Buy a book and join us on Wednesday night in our discussion about the presence of God in our lives and how that changes us. Join us each Sunday for worship and study of Ephesians.

David Brock

Spring Bible Study Begins Soon!



Would you invite a stranger claiming to be the Lord into your already crowded lifeboat? Starting March 9 and continuing through April 6, we will have our Wednesday night Bible Study, reading and discussing Mitch Albom's book, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*. The story is narrated by a lonely passenger named Benji who recounts the events in a notebook that is discovered a year later. Paced like a thriller, yet full of Albom's signature life wisdom. "The stranger in the lifeboat" is a uniquely uplifting story that will leave you examining your own beliefs, while suggesting that answers to our prayers may be where we least expect them. (and yes, I did steal some sentences from the inside flap of the book.)

We will only be meeting for five weeks this year but the format is the same. We will have a meal from 6:00-6:45 p.m. with the church providing the main dish and drinks, and attenders bringing side dishes and desserts. **David Brock** will be leading the study and discussion that will start at 6:45 and be finished by 7:45. It will be on Facebook Live as well. The cost of the book is \$16.00 and is available in the Welcome Center. It is also available on Kindle. Please see **Nancy Wadman** if you have any questions.

— Nancy Wadman

Let's Hang Out

I recall my 1st grade teacher sending home old retired readers so that I could enjoy reading. My 2nd grade teacher sat with me while I turned the hands on a clock in her room to better understand "telling time." My 6th grade basketball coach opened the gym early so that he could help me shoot free throws. My 8th grade science teacher who became my first wrestling coach walked me through video after video after each wrestling match. My first varsity wrestling coach awarded me as a freshman for "harboring the most potential." The list goes on and on of adults, peers, relatives, parents, grandparents, youth leaders, pastors, professors, colleagues, school administrators, and even random strangers on occasion encouraging me to stay the course and meet the goals at hand.

Our life in Christ is no different. Our faith walk is directly related to those who come around us with words of encouragement, inspiration, and expertise. We would all quickly agree that it is our closest relationships with others that enable every success in life. We desire to be on a team to learn a sport as a child. We seek out quality coaches, tutors, and mentors for our children. As adults we attend meetings and conferences and take courses to learn and be inspired and encouraged by others. Yet, in our faith journey, we often make every attempt to go it alone.

We sit at a meal and discuss trivial events of the day yet never connect with our family about our walk with Christ. We lay in bed at night next to our spouse trying desperately to stay awake while praying yet rarely reach over, grab their hand and pray with them. We arrive at church moments before the service begins and sit anxiously for an hour only engaging in "small talk" or the "business at hand." We depart quickly shaking a few hands and passing around a hug or two. But connect . . . really encourage and mentor one another as Christ followers. . . We are not as intentional in this pursuit.

Scripture and experience tell us over and over again the importance of setting aside regular time to come together with other believers. Let's make this a priority at SFC for 2022.

(Continued on next page)

Hebrews 10:24, 25 “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much more . . .”

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Psalm 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

Eric Bowman

Sermon Topics for March

David Brock will be preaching March 13 and 27. **Eric Bowman** will be preaching March 6 and 20.

March 6

Sermon – “Just Like Dad”
Scripture – Ephesians 5:1-2; 5:15-6:9

March 13

Sermon – “The Mystery of Our Faith”
Scripture – Ephesians 3:1-13

March 20

Sermon – “Happy Dad, Proud Dad”
Scripture – Ephesians 5:3-14

March 27

Sermon – “A Prayer for You”
Scripture – Ephesians 3:14-21

Lenten Devotionals Are Available

Wednesday, March 2, is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Ministry and Oversight will be providing devotionals, “Drawn to the Cross,” Inspiration from Henri J.M. Nouwen. These devotions will be an excellent way to prepare you for Easter and keep you engaged in scripture. They are available in the Welcome Center. We will be glad to mail them to our members that aren’t able to attend church right now. Please call **Carol** or **Nancy**, and we will get them in the mail to you.

Worship Assistants for March



Scripture Readers

March 6 – Bob Rust
March 13 – Nancy Wadman
March 20 – Barbara Lacy
March 27 – Gerald Darling

Children’s Story

March 6 – Mike Van Osdol
March 13 – Linda Brock
March 20 – Diana Bowman
March 27 – Janet Putnam

Junior Church

March 6 – Linda Brock
March 13 – David Lahr
March 20 – Linda Brock
March 27 – Claudia Garner

Greeters for March – Joe & Priscilla James

Baby Bottle Boomerang Begins!

It’s time to pick up a baby bottle in the Welcome Center at church and fill it with coins, cash, or a check. All the money raised will help Henry County Pregnancy Care Center provide diapers, clothing, formula, and other items to families in need in our county. Please pick up a bottle and return it to the church by Sunday, March 27. They are also in need of donations of disposable diapers (size 5 and 6, and Pull-Ups), baby wipes, baby lotion, and baby shampoo. These items can be brought to the church as well. If you have any questions, contact **Vickie Richardson** or **Nancy Wadman**.



Don’t forget to set your clocks forward an hour on Saturday, March 12, before you go to bed.



Tea and Time to Visit

I would like to give the ladies in our church who have lost their husbands the opportunity to visit with and support one another through this difficult time in their lives.

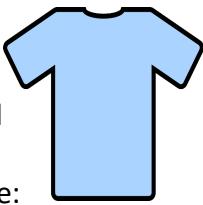


We will meet once a month on the third Tuesday, starting March 15, at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Center. We will have refreshments and a very short devotional. It will be a time to discuss issues that affect only women in your situation. It does not matter when your husband passed away. If you have questions or concerns, contact me.

– Nancy Wadman

T-Shirts Are Being Ordered

We are ordering new heather gray T-shirts with the following information in a blue and white circle with a tree in the middle like a previous shirt we have:



Spiceland Friends Church
Friends Faith Fruit

T-shirt order forms are on the table in the Welcome Center at church. Orders and money are due by March 13. The cost is \$20. Please see **Bob Rust** or **Nancy Wadman** if you have any questions.

Nancy Wadman will be out of the office March 20-26 to go on a Mission Trip with the New Lisbon Christian Church to Waverly, Tennessee. The team will be repairing homes, and Nancy will be cooking breakfast and supper for the volunteers.

Nursery Help Needed

Are you interested in helping in the nursery once or twice a month? Call or text **Jessica Noteboom** (765-571-0681) if you'd like to help out.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family



Family of Faye Crowell
Tom Weber – upcoming surgery
Marilyn Biehl – shoulder surgery
Pat Bogue – recovering from back surgery
Judy Smith – health problems
Marilyn Thompson – Bell's palsy
Irene Goodwin – health problems
Janet Craft – health problems
Steve Neal – liver cancer

Extended Family and Friends

Marc Allhands (Cindy Mitchell) – sepsis and other health issues
Kelly Bush (Claudia Garner) – colon cancer
Eric Roth (Darlings) – at home; recovering from COVID
Vickie Vaccaro (Helen Rust) – cancer
Jackie Clendenin (Pat Bogue) – swallowing issues
Ruthann Pittman (Kandi Rutledge) – cancer
Susan Weaver (Kristen Davis) – lung cancer
Daniel Sears (Kristen Davis) – stomach cancer
Geoff Ostler (Nancy Wadman) – liver cancer
Par Sung (Bob Rust) – kidney problems
Tivon Lee (grandson of Sadlers) – health issues
Carolyn Lantz – health problem
Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – health issues
Franka Dick (Pyles) – health issues
Rita Beaver (Garners) – bladder cancer
Melissa Humerickhouse (Jenny McDaniel) – brain tumor
Parents of Teresa Batt
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



With Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Barbara Lacy** and family upon the passing of **George** on January 12 after a valiant battle with cancer.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of **Don Meade** upon his passing on January 27.

Our sympathy also goes out to the family of **Faye Crowell** upon his passing on February 13 in Greenfield.

Notes of Thanks



"The family of Larry MacFarlane would like to thank you for the cards and prayers. The love and support we are receiving is unmatched. It is what gives us strength. Also a thank you for the food that was prepared for us with loving hands."

– Peggy Brooks MacFarlane

"A special thank you for the delicious meal following Don's service. The flowers were beautiful and the thought was precious."

– Barb Meade & family

"Thank you all for your kindness and prayers during this difficult time. Many thanks to all who served and provided the meal following dad's funeral."

– Donna Tauber & family

"Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and will always be remembered."

– The Lacy Family

Congratulations on the Baby Boy!

Congratulations and best wishes to **Tyler & Abigail Little** upon the birth of **Atlas James** on January 9. Congratulations also to the proud grandma, **Lisa Little**, and great-grandparents, **Gary & Sara Jane Stegner**.

Donation Made to Indy Honor Flight

A donation was made by the church in lieu of flowers to the Indy Honor Flight in memory of **Faye Crowell** who passed away on February 13, 2022. Faye and his daughter were supposed to go on the Honor Flight this April. The Honor Flight is a non-profit organization created to honor Indiana Veterans for their service. They take veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials that were created to honor them.

Church Directory Is Available



The 2022 Church Directory has been printed and is available at the church. If you haven't picked up one yet, you can get a copy in the Welcome Center. Changes and additions will be printed in the newsletter as they are received.

Directory Change

Bill & Connie Brown
233 Bundy Avenue
New Castle, IN 473623

Candy Donations Are Needed for Easter Egg Hunt



It's hard to believe, but Easter will be here before you know it, and that means that our Easter Egg Hunt will be taking place on Saturday, April 16, at noon, and we need your help. We will need candy and also plastic egg donations. Candy and egg donations can be brought any time to the Welcome Center at SFC. As always, **candy should be individually wrapped and small enough to fit into the plastic eggs**.