



THE *Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

November/December 2024



Come Out into the Light

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5 (NIV)

You may remember the opening scene of Andy Andrews' book, *The Noticer*, that we studied in a Wednesday book study a few years ago. Jones, the main character, offered his hand to the homeless young man living under the pier and said, "Come out into the Light, son." The light was a bright street lamp that was lighting up the pier. But Jones had more in mind. He wanted to talk to the young man and help him get his life back on track. He wanted to point out some things that he had noticed and help the young man piece the parts of his life into an order that would help him go forward.

In the above verse from 1 John, the apostle John is telling us that they (the apostles) heard directly from Jesus that God is light and that Jesus came to bring that light into the world and into our lives. The gospel of John expands on this theme and talks about how God along with Jesus created the light in the beginning and then separated the light from darkness. Then God sent Jesus into the world to bring his light into the world and our

lives. The scripture says that the darkness could not prevail or extinguish the light. However, many people, then and now, do not accept that light that could help their lives in so many ways.

The short book of 1 John reminds us of many of the basic principles of our faith. Come and join us on Sunday mornings and consider how the light of Jesus could lead you into a more fulfilling life and a closer relationship with Jesus.

David Brock

Come to the 55th Annual Holiday Bazaar on November 9

Vendors are booked! The Menu is ready! The Quilt is on display! The handmade Crocheted Afghan is finished and on display! Come visit, shop, have lunch, and fellowship with locals and people from far and wide! We will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Candlelight Service



Our traditional community candlelight service will be on Christmas Eve at 9:00 p.m. **Eric Bowman** will be bringing the devotional. This

traditional evening of worship allows us to set aside some moments to reflect and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It's a beautiful opportunity to invite family and friends to worship with us as we glorify God together.

Hold on Hustle

As we enter what can easily become our busiest time of year, I urge you to put a “hold on the hustle.” It is a great time of year to SLOW DOWN and remember our roots of SIMPLICITY.

As Christ followers, we often pursue obedience to Jesus’ words. We work to serve others, love others, have a good devotional life, read our Bible, and do many other things that help strengthen our relationship with Christ. However, we often skip looking at Jesus’ lifestyle itself. Observing how Jesus lived his days can give us some insight on how to hold back on the holiday hustle.

Jesus always took his time. Can you think of one single moment or story in which Jesus seemed rattled, uptight, or in a hurry? I can’t either. We always see him moving slowly and at a peaceful pace. He always withdrew from the crowds to find solitude with the Father. He always slowed his pace to engage in healing, encouraging conversations with those along the way. We even see Jesus take his time before showing up to heal his friend’s daughter. Jesus was NEVER hurried! Let’s do our best to not only live out his words over the coming months but let’s also live out his lifestyle. He moved about slowly, peacefully, healing bodies, and souls as he ministered to others. He spent time with the Father, took naps on the boat. He exuded God’s peace. We can do the same during this season. Let’s just breathe, return to simplicity, and put a hold on the hustle. Live out the example Jesus left us. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas. May the gentle, calming peace of Christ be with you and show through you this season.

“He says “Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted above the earth.” Psalm 46:10

Eric Bowman



Annual Family Advent Nights



All are encouraged to attend our annual family advent Nights. On Wednesday, December 4, we will enjoy some soup and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. Following our meal we will work on ceramic crafts. This is for all ages. On Wednesday, December 11, we will meet at Raintree Square for Christmas Caroling. Join us as we bring joy to others!

Christmas Dinner with Your Church Family



Christmas Dinner

On Sunday, December 8, we will be having our annual church Christmas Dinner. **David Brock** will be giving the message that day, along with a short children’s program. We will have dinner immediately following the service. The church will provide the meat, drinks, and table service. Please bring your favorite side or dessert to share. If you prefer to donate towards the purchase of the meat, that is fine too. We look forward to this time of celebration and fellowship.

Cookie Donations Are Needed For Christmas Cheer Baskets

The Missions and Evangelism/Community Concerns Committee will be doing Cheer Baskets for people in our community this year. We have at least 35 families on our list again this year so we will need lots of cookies. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Please sign your name and tell us how many cookies you are willing to make. We will pack and deliver the cookies and fruit on Saturday, December 14, at 9:00 a.m. If you have questions, please see **Nancy Wadman** or **Tommie Hunt**. We thank you in advance!



Tea Time for Ladies



We have a wonderful small group of ladies who meet once a month to discuss life after losing their husbands. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. for tea, coffee, treats, laughter, and tears. On December 17 we will meet at the home of **Nancy Wadman** at the normal time for a Christmas Brunch.

Sermon Topics for November and December

David Brock will be preaching in November and December. **Nancy Wadman** will wrap the year up by preaching on December 29.

November 10

Sermon – “Come into the Light”
Scripture – 1 John 1:6-10; 2:1-6

November 17

Sermon – “Blinded by Darkness”
Scripture – 1 John 2:11; 4:7-21

November 24

Sermon – “Commissioned by Jesus”
Scripture – 1 John 2:15-29

December 1

Sermon – “Discerning Truth & Practicing Love”
Scripture – 1 John 3

December 8

Children’s Program & Advent Devotional;
All Church Christmas Dinner following worship

December 15

Sermon – “Not Burdensome”
Scripture – 1 John 5

December 22

Christmas Carol Sing & Advent Devotional

December 29

Sermon – “Reflections and Remarkable Things”



Worship Assistants for November and December



Worship Leaders

Nov. 3 & 17; Dec. 1 & 15 – Sandra Swann
Nov. 10 & 24; Dec. 8 & 22 – Bob Rust
Dec. 29 – Nancy Wadman

Song Leaders

Nov. 3, 10, 17; Dec. 1, 8, 22 – Tasha Crandall
Nov. 24; Dec. 15 – Hayley Painter
Dec. 29 – Debra Weber

Scripture Readers

Nov. 3 – Josie Weber
Nov. 10 – Gerald Darling
Nov. 17 – Ron Reece
Nov. 24 – Bill Rutherford
Dec. 1 – Nancy Wadman
Dec. 8 – Sandra Swann
Dec. 15 – Diana Bowman
Dec. 22 – Debra Weber
Dec. 29 – Monica Altman



Children’s Story

Nov. 3 – Amanda Judge
Nov. 10 – Mike Van Osdol
Nov. 17 – Janet Putnam
Nov. 24 – Diana Bowman
Dec. 1 – Amanda Judge
Dec. 8 – Mike Van Osdol
Dec. 15 – Janet Putnam
Dec. 22 – Diana Bowman
Dec. 29 – Amanda Judge

Junior Church

Nov. 3, 24; Dec. 1, 22, 29 – Claudia Garner
& Jessica Noteboom
Nov. 10; Dec. 8 - Kristin Davis & Jessica
Noteboom
Nov. 17; Dec. 15 – Josie Weber & Jessica
Noteboom

November Greeters – Joe & Priscilla James
December Greeters – David & Rita Reeves

Christmas Eve Community Service/Choir

Connie Brown, Tasha Crandall, and Hayley Painter have been diligently working to plan our annual Christmas Eve choir and service. Practices will be every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. The choir will sing arrangements of some new songs mixed with a few familiar favorites. We will feature some devotionals and scripture from our very own **Barbara Meade**. The message will be delivered to us by **Eric Bowman**. This is a wonderful night to help us worship Christ on Christmas Eve! Please mark your calendars and invite others in our community to join us. See Connie, Tasha, or Hayley for more details.



Thursday Bible Study

We will meet on November 14 at 11:00 a.m. and will be finishing Max Lucado's book, *In the Eye of the Storm*. On November 21 we will meet at the church at 11:15 to go to the Kopper Kettle in Morristown for lunch at 12:00. We will take December off and start up again on January 2, 2025. If you have any questions, please see **Nancy Wadman**.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Gary Stegner – recovering from surgery
Dennis Stamper – recovering at home
Steve Stevens – rehab at The Waters
Judy Stevens - vertigo
Donna Hall – in need of prayer
Libby Henshaw – at Glen Oaks
Judy Smith – at Stonebrooke
Johnny Strong – hip pain
Sarah Reiblein – cancer



(Continued in next column)

Please Remember in Prayer *(Continued)*

Extended Family and Friends

Belinda Jones (Tasha Crandall) – cancer
Gary Fairchild (Tasha Crandall) – heart attack
Hogan (Carly Griggs) – cancer
Christina Miller (Marilyn Thompson) – liver biopsy
Lorene Larrimore (Julia Bouslog) – broken pelvis
Stephanie Nelson (Cindy Mitchell) – lung cancer
Gary Dice (Marilyn Thompson) – recovering from heart transplant
Dawn Mogg – bone cancer
Danny Williams (Rust family) – stage 4 cancer
Andy Denny (Debbie Denny) – Hodgkins Lymphoma
Craig (cousin of Judy Stevens) – in need of prayer
Timmy Vanmatre (Cindy Mitchell's grandson) – MS in brain
Sherry Matney (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Misty Brett Steffen (Sarah Reiblein) – rare cancer
David Butler (Helen Rust's brother-in-law) – in need of prayer
Susan Weaver (Kristen Davis) – lung cancer
Carolyn Lantz – health problems
Farmers as they harvest

New Year's Eve at Spiceland Friends Church

Let's ring in the New Year with food, fellowship, and fun! This evening is designed for the more mature but yet young at heart members of this church. Please join us at 6:00 p.m. and bring your favorite party food and be ready to play some fun games and activities. You never know what I will come up with! We usually stay up until 9:00 or so! If you have questions, see **Nancy Wadman**.

Food Bank Giveaway

The Second Harvest Food Bank will be giving away food here at the church on Monday, November 18, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Please see **Nancy Wadman** if you are interested in helping that day. Also, PLEASE spread the word about the food drive. We know there are more people in Spiceland who really could use the help.

200 Years – Looking Forward

On September 28 and 29, 2024 Spiceland Friends Meeting Celebrated 200 years of worship and ministry. It is impossible to name all who planned and worked for nearly a year and a half, from the general committee whose membership varied over time, to those who gathered and archived old photographs and the ones who made sure that new pictures were taken. Trustees and volunteers repaired and cleaned the meetinghouse, planted spicebushes, and erected the historical marker. Others arranged for souvenirs, special entertainment, and displays, or helped prepare the program and send invitations and flyers. Many hands labored in the kitchen to ensure there was a delicious meal and cake reception for us to enjoy time to fellowship with one another. Several contributed financially which covered all extra expenses so there was no strain on the church's other obligations. And of course, all those who shared their memories of what Spiceland Friends has meant to them showed the work God has done in and through our meeting. We are thankful for each and every one, and although we've not listed names, God sees and knows your name.

As grateful as we are for our history, we must not rest contented with what was accomplished for the Lord in the past. The work of "proclaiming and practicing the central message of the Christian faith, a personal relationship with God through Christ" (Richard Jones, "The Friends Way"), must continue to be our purpose today and into the future.

The account of Elijah and Elisha in II Kings 2 can provide a lesson for us. The great prophet, Elijah, had done mighty works for the Lord but his time was ending. Elisha, leaving his former life behind, followed Elijah, even asking for a double portion of his spirit. As Elijah was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind, his cloak, the symbol of his calling, fell to the ground. Elisha then took up the cloak of Elijah, signifying the passing of the calling as God's prophet, to Elisha.

So our challenge today is this: Will we take up and continue the work started among Friends at Spiceland? How will we fulfill our calling to share the wonderful truth of God's mercy and grace, made available through Jesus, to the next generation?

– Janet Putnam

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to **Holden Thomas** and **Makayla Campbell** who were married on October 26.

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Libby Henshaw** upon the passing of her sister-in-law, **Shirley Henshaw**, on October 28.

Note of Thanks

"I want to thank everyone who sent me get well cards and wished me well following my recent surgery. I also appreciated those who stopped by my office and offered words of encouragement."

– Carol Fox

Year End Giving \$\$\$

Just a quick reminder to take note of our 2024 giving totals that are a part of each newsletter. Please pray about your year-end giving. As costs increase in our personal lives, costs also increase in sharing the light of Christ through-out our community. Remember that you can give once or regularly on our website at www.spicelandfriends.org

"Be born in us today"

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem." The hymn's final stanza addresses the town's most famous newborn:

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings
Tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!