



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020



“New Every Morning”

*“It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”
Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV)*

When we began 2019, I used the above scripture in our January-February Newsletter, and I used the quote that is below from a devotional book I had been reading. I don't usually repeat Newsletter articles, but I thought it would be a good spiritual practice to begin each year reflecting on God's faithfulness and compassion over the past year. It helps us think beyond our problems of today and take a longer look at our life and see how God has actually worked closely with us through unexpected problems, sickness, or stressful issues. For Linda and me, 2019 was filled with unexpected events and challenges just like 2018 had been that I wrote about last year.

As I reflected on each of those events of 2019, I was suddenly overwhelmed with how God had been so faithful to us and had walked with us through unexpected and difficult times. He not only walked with us, but He provided unexpected miracles of friendship, encouragement, gracious help, and compassionate prayer partners. His promises and faithfulness certainly held true for us. I read a devotional book last year that Cathy Harris had given me last Christmas. I plan to read through that book

again this year. The title is “*New Morning Mercies*” by Paul David Tripp. The author explains why he used that title. It is based on the well-known scripture above and the better-known hymn, “*Great is Thy Faithfulness.*”

*“Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided –
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!”*

The author's goal is that the reader will experience God's mercies in a new way each day and recognize that those mercies are present and never fail us. He puts it this way:

“One of the stunning realities of the Christian life is that in a world where everything is in some state of decay, God's mercies never grow old. They never run out. They never are ill timed. They never dry up. They never grow weak. They never get weary. They never fail to meet the need. They never disappoint. They never, ever fail, because they really are new every morning. Form-fitted for the challenges, disappointments, suffering, temptation, and struggles with sin within and without are the mercies of our Lord.

“God's mercies don't come in one color; no, they come in every shade of every color of the rainbow of his grace. God's mercies are not the sound of one instrument; no, they sound the note of every instrument of his grace. God's mercy is general; all of his children bask in his mercy. God's mercy is specific; each child receives the mercy that is designed for his or her particular moment of need.”

(Continued)

David Tripp's words are reminders to us that God's mercies will never fail us. Many times we have to work at seeing those mercies and understanding them, but they are there and specifically designed for us by God himself. Join me in prayer that each one of us will experience God's new mercies each morning and each day during this new year that is just beginning.

David Brock

Another Wonderful Service!

The 64th Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service once again saw the church filled to capacity. The choir sang a number of beautiful numbers, and for the second year in a row, guitars were used during the service. Rita Reeves directed the choir with Virginia Cripps serving as the accompanist. Ginny Bryson played a number of traditional Christmas carols at the beginning of the service. Attendees filled the sanctuary, the balcony and the rear of the sanctuary. All told, 350+ were in attendance. David Brock had an inspirational message with his grandson Ben Brock assisting him. The candlelight service originated with Earl J. Prignitz, one of our former pastors who served at Spiceland Friends from 1953-1960. Weather caused the service to be canceled on two occasions several years ago. Choir members were Ralph Adams, Dale Albertson, Jason Ash, Linda Brock, Ed Bryson, Tasha Crandall, Doris Hoover, Priscilla James, Janet Putnam, Rachel Putnam, Richard Ratcliff, Breanna Rust, Judy Smith, Judy Stevens, Nancy Wadman, R. J. White, and Debi Zimmerman. Special numbers were performed by Gus Upchurch, R. J. White, Rachel Putnam, and Derek Carrera. Steve Stevens provided our scripture lesson.

– Richard Ratcliff

Directory Information Needed

We are in the process of preparing and printing the 2020 church directory. If you have changes or additions, please turn them in to the church office or email them to spicelandfriends@frontier.com so the directory will be accurate and up to date.

Sermon Topics for January and February

Nancy Wadman will be preaching February 23. David Brock will be preaching the other Sundays in January and February.



January 12

Sermon – “God’s Grace”

Scripture – Ephesians 3:1-12; Isaiah 42:1-9

January 19

Sermon – “Come and See”

Scripture – John 1:29-42

January 26

Sermon – “The Lord’s Shelter”

Scripture – Matthew 4:12-23; Psalm 27:1; 4-9

February 2

Sermon – “The Early Years”

Scripture – Luke 2:22-40

February 9

Sermon – “Spiritual Insight”

Scripture – 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

February 16

Sermon – “Messages from God”

Scripture – Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 12:1-9

February 23

Sermon – “Who Is in Your Hall of Faith?”

Scripture – Hebrews 11

**Come and Join the Walkers –
We Welcome More Walkers!**



Now that the holidays are behind us, you are invited to add some exercise to your weekly routine. The group meets each Monday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Center. This past Monday we had 16 walkers! All are welcome. You walk at your own pace and take a break when needed. About 10:30 we enjoy fresh fruit, cookies, coffee, tea, or water provided by Pam Pyle.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Darlene Darling – at Glen Oaks, Room 207 for rehab
Family of Bertie Darling
Chris Garner – recovering from neck surgery
Rita Reeves – arthritis in foot
Shirley Fort – fell; injured foot; limited mobility
Max Jessup – continuing to decline
Elaine Wilson – recovering from blood clots in legs
Rick Little – receiving chemo
Amy Upchurch – having radiation
Judy Smith – health problems
Irene & Monte Goodwin – health problems
Pat Bogue – problems with both eyes and knee
Barbara Meade – finishing radiation treatments
Don Meade – very weak; at home
Janet Craft – broken shoulder and ankle; breathing problems
Pastoral search for a new co-pastor

Extended Family and Friends

Family of Jackie Jones
Brad Coffey (Joe James) – diagnosed with cancer
Rev. Gene Bennett and his wife Martha (Lisa Knotts) – Martha is in declining health
Byron Hanes (Pam Reno's step-sister's husband) – lymphoma
Irene Hudelson (Pat Bogue) – heart problems
Pat Shelton (Wyatt Thompson's grandmother) – wrist and hand surgery
Kurt Ernstes (Jason & Lisa Ash) – car accident in Alabama
Sarah Maley (Kandi Rutledge) – advanced breast cancer
Young mother of 4 children diagnosed with cancer (Pat Bogue)
Newborn with problems (Helen Rust)
Jimmy Watson (Harper Chandler) – has lung cancer
Caleb Kinnard – possible heart issues
Bob Jones (V. Newkirk) – problems with diabetes
John Reno (uncle of Pam Reno) – health issues
Steve Clearwater – recovering from open heart surgery
Joe & Debbie Whitesett (friends of Darlene Darling) – multiple health problems
Carolyn Lantz (Teresa Batt) – diagnosed with B-Cell lymphoma

Cousin of Jason Ash – chemo treatments
Mother of Jason Ash – not doing well
Isabel Cummins (Claudia Garner) – back surgery; has a lot of pain
Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – uterine cancer
Mary Kay Lacy (Vickie Richardson) – lung cancer
Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – brain cancer treatments
Our country and servicemen and women

You're Invited!

Wedding Ceremony of Chris Harris and Sayuri Saito

Please join us for the wedding ceremony of **Chris Harris** and **Sayuri Saito** on Sunday, February 16, at 3:30 p.m. at Spiceland Friends Church. Please stay for a wedding reception and baby shower immediately following the ceremony in the Family Center.

Chris and Sayuri had been waiting for 16 months for the marriage visa to be approved, allowing her to come to the U. S. from Japan and for them to get married. The visa was approved the week before Christmas, and Sayuri came just before Christmas. They were legally married right away to fulfill visa requirements and because Sayuri's parents are unable to come to the U. S. until mid-February for the wedding.

We would love to have you join us for their long-awaited church wedding at SFC and to stay for a wedding reception/baby shower.

– Tom & Cathy Harris

Valentine Dinner – Saturday, February 8

Save this date on your calendar. The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a delicious Valentine Dinner in the church Family Center on February 8. Time and details will be announced later. This dinner is for everyone – tell your friends and bring them along.



Worship Assistants for January and February



Scripture Readers

January 5 – Ralph Adams
January 12 – Sandi Swann
January 19 – Renee Adams
January 26 – Dale Albertson
February 2 – Gerald Darling
February 9 – Judy Smith
February 16 – Judy Sadler
February 23 – Bev Elliott

Junior Church

January 5 – Jason Ash & Marcia Byrket
January 12 – Linda Brock & Judy Smith
January 19 – Linda Brock & Brenda Reece
January 26 – Linda Brock & Judy Smith
February 2 – Jason Ash & Marcia Byrket
February 9 – Linda Brock & Judy Smith
February 16 – Linda Brock & Brenda Reece
February 23 – Linda Brock & Judy Smith

Host for January – Tony Swann

Hosts for February – Duane & Beverly Elliott

Children's Messages –

Mike Van Osdol – Jan. 12 & 26; Feb. 9 & 23.
Linda Brock – Jan. 5; Feb. 2
Janet Putnam – Jan. 19; Feb. 16

Contribution Reports Are Available \$\$

Due to changes in income tax laws, it is likely that fewer people will be itemizing this year. Because of this, I won't be automatically sending out contribution letters. This will save Carol and me some time and the church some money. However, these statements are definitely available. If you would like a statement of your giving for 2019, please let me know.

– Tom Pyle

Congratulations!

The adoption of **Gabby** by **Megan Harris** was finalized on December 23! Her name is now officially **Ariana Elizabeth Harris**. We wish them all much happiness in the years to come.

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Gerald & Darlene Darling** and family upon the passing of Gerald's mother, **Bertie Darling** on December 25.



Notes of Thanks

"Thank you so much for the shawl. It has been a true blessing. I put it around my back and arms. Thank you very much."

– Gerald Darling

"Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. We are so blessed with the love and support of our church family."

– Rick & Lisa Little

"Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement. Our family appreciates everything the church did for us during this difficult time."

– Family of Eleanor Painter

"I just wanted to thank everyone for the thoughtful gift of Christmas cookies and fruit. So nice to know people are remembering me and my family during the holidays. Thank you to everyone!"

– Amie Thornburg

"I want to thank Spiceland Friends Church for the monetary gift at Christmas and also for the restaurant gift certificate for my birthday. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are appreciated."

– Carol Fox

"Thank you all for the Christmas gifts, the Christmas cards, notes, and all the encouragement! Thanks for the year-end gift from the church. This is a wonderful congregation, and we are blessed to be a part of it!

– David & Linda Brock

Address Change

Randy & Michelle Clapp
152 Grady Lane
Albertville, AL 35950