



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

April 2021



“Living Our Faith in an Unpredictable World”

*“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”
Esther 4:14b (NIV)*



“Unpredictable” is a word that pops up often in our conversations about 2020. On a national level, things like the spread of the pandemic, lockdowns, mask mandates, race riots, and intense political turmoil were only some of the things that were surprising to us as they unfolded. On a personal level, things like cancer diagnosis, cancer recurrence, heart attack, death of a loved one, and financial setbacks were only some of the things that surprised us as they unfolded. Unpredictable times leave us shaken and uncertain because suddenly the future does not seem as clear and stable as it once seemed.

During these kinds of times, our faith in God is either shaken or strengthened. We may be so shattered by the events of the nation or the events in our personal lives, that we turn to God for help and

deepen our faith relationship with Him. We may pray more, read the Bible more, join a Bible study, or spend more time meditating on God’s love and care. On the other hand, for some, these kinds of times shake our faith in God and make us wonder why He does not act to stop the craziness going on around us. We may begin to wonder if He really loves us and wonder what we did to cause all of this.

The Book of Esther in the Old Testament speaks clearly about these issues. It seems unlikely since the setting is in the ancient Persian Empire about 2500 years ago. There are radical differences in the political structure, human rights, and technology between Persia and our country. And yet, the challenges to Esther and her uncle, Mordecai, are similar to our challenges today. **They, like us, found themselves living in a culture that did not share their values of faith in God and living a moral life.** Throughout the book, the reader can see the hand of God working in various circumstances, but God is never mentioned in the book. His presence remains hidden to the reader and to the characters. Like us, Esther and Mordecai struggle with what it means to be a person of faith and how that should show up in their life choices as they face unpredictable and overpowering events. The story is not a typical Sunday School lesson – it is filled with murder, double cross, sex, greed, hidden motives, and an unexpected ending. Christian writer, Mike Cospo, put it this way: the story in Esther is less “Veggie Tales” and more “Game of Thrones.”

Join us in worship each Sunday as we apply the lessons of this ancient book to our lives today.

David Brock

“April Showers Bring May Flowers”

As I age I reflect frequently on the life lessons my parents taught me. Many of the lessons that my mom taught were through rhymes, songs, and each April she would be fully prepared with an April Fool’s joke followed by the adage “April Showers Bring May Flowers.”

In our recent book study, *Begin Again*, the author, Max Lucado, set aside a chapter advising us to not judge our struggles (April showers) too early. The strong storms of April seem damaging at the time. Debris falls into our yards, days are cloudy, and on occasion we can experience serious property damage from high winds and flooding. We can easily become discouraged as we spend time inside our homes watching the storms pass by day after day. When we survey the storm damage, it is easy to pass judgment and wonder why God allows significant loss into our lives. Weeks later we realize that those rains, winds, and floods propelled life in a new direction. We begin to see new life all around. The grass is greener, and the skies are bluer. An old tree that had the top blown out of it suddenly produces foliage after years of



dormancy. An old shed or barn is replaced with a newly painted, fresh structure. “April Showers, truly bring May

Flowers.” They go hand in hand much like the cross and the resurrection.

So goes our life – during the trials and struggles of life we must remember that our real hope is in eternity. When storms blow through our earthly life, it is best not to judge the moment. We must step far enough back to see that God’s offer of eternity with Him far outweighs any earthly struggle. We begin to see the real hope we are given through Christ. We must remember when we find ourselves in an April storm to take a step back, reserve judgment of our struggle, and recognize that there are May flowers just beneath the soil. Let’s be reminded of Paul’s strong encouragement in Romans 8: 38, 39.

“I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s

compelling love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Eric Bowman

Upcoming Easter Events

Saturday , April 3 – Easter Egg Hunt – 12:00 noon

Sunday, April 4 – Easter!

8:00 a.m. – Community Early Easter Service
and breakfast at Spiceland Friends

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School at SFC

10:30 a.m. – Special Easter Worship Service

Community Early Easter Service

This year’s community early morning Easter service will be held right here at Spiceland Friends Church at 8:00 a.m. (April 4). Join us for a time of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus as well as the hope, joy, and new life God offers us each day.

Pastor Josh Robertson will bring the message entitled “The Same Power,” and **Amy O’Brien** will provide special music. They are both from the Spiceland Church of the Nazarene. Join us for a delicious breakfast immediately following the service. Bring your family and friends!

Special Easter Service Is Planned

On Easter Sunday – April 4 – we will have a special Easter worship service at 10:30 a.m. **David**



Brock is bringing an Easter message entitled “Hidden in Plain Sight” with scripture from Matthew 28:1-15. **Haley Painter** will provide special music, **Virginia Bryson** will be organist, and **Eric Bowman**, Associate Pastor, will

play trumpet accompaniment with the hymns. Come and sing your favorite Easter hymns and bring a friend or invite your family. Sunday School classes will meet at the regular time of 9:30 a.m. that day.

Sermon Topics for April

Nancy Wadman will be preaching on April 18. David Brock will be preaching the other three Sundays.

April 4 – Easter

Sermon – “Hidden in Plain Sight”
Scripture – Matthew 28:1-15

April 11

Sermon – “A World Gone Mad”
Scripture – Esther 1

April 18

Sermon – “Are You Taking Advantage of the Holy Spirit”
Scripture – 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20;
2 Corinthians 3:4-11

April 25

Sermon – “Living Among the Faithless”
Scripture – Esther 2

Worship Assistants for April

Scripture Readers

April 4 – Bob Rust
April 11 – Diana Bowman
April 18 – Ron Reece
April 25 – Debra Weber

Children’s Story

April 4 – Mike Van Osdol
April 11 – Janet Putnam
April 18 – Mike Van Osdol
April 25 – Linda Brock

Greeter – Charlie Byrket

An Easter Prayer

From the grave’s depths, Lord Jesus, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin and death, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life, and beloved community with God the Father. We bow in awe before you, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they may know your saving grace. Amen.



Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Sandi Swann – knee replacement surgery
Rick Little – cancer has returned
Claudia Garner – broken shoulder
George Lacy – lung cancer; chemo
George Fort – recovering from back surgery
Tom Weber – health concerns
Judy Smith – health problems
Steve Stevens – health concerns
Darlene Darling – at home
Kathy Painter – at home recovering
Marilyn Thompson – Bell’s palsy
Don & Barbara Meade – health problems
Irene Goodwin – health problems
Pat Bogue – problems with both eyes
Janet Craft – ankle surgery



REQUESTS
FOR
PRAYER

Extended Family and Friends

Larry MacFarlane – moved to rehab
Danny Darling (brother of Gerald) – cancer on foot
Donna Tauber – kidney stone surgery 3/22
Steve Neal (Brenda Reece) – esophageal cancer
Rita Beaver (Garners) – bladder cancer
Family of Carolyn Wolski
Great nephew of Bob & Helen Rust – liver problems
Claire Wallace (Pam Pyle) – successful surgery
Friend of Breana Rust – various problems
Melissa Humerickhouse (Jenny McDaniel) – brain tumor
Randy Helderbrand (Dale Albertson) – stomach cancer
Donnie Pyle (brother of Tom Pyle) – back surgery
Abby (God Daughter of Bob Rust)
Robert Kleeman (Linda Van Osdol’s brother) – Post COVID-19 issues
Shelly Carrera (Sandy White) – breast cancer
Jan Hurst (Sister of Judy Stevens) – health issues
Emma – 8-year-old with brain tumor (Marilyn Ingle)
Jill Stansberry (Claudia Garner) – mass removed from spine
Jay French (Linda Ratcliff) – cancer; chemo & radiation
Shelly McIntosh – breast cancer
Grandson of Ray & Naomi Wagner (David Baker) – in hospital
Sue Engle (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Brooke Runyon (Cindy Mitchell) – facial cancer

Please Remember in Prayer *(Continued)*

Alice Womack – heart issues

Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – cancer has returned

Jennifer (friend of Debi Zimmerman) – breast cancer

Juan (Beverly Reece) – health issues

Charlene Haugh (Claudia Garner) – recovering from bad stroke

Parents of Teresa Batt

Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer

Joyce Butler (Sara Jane Stegner) – COVID-19

Byron Hanes (Relative of Pam Reno) – radiation

Sarah Maley (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer

Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – health issues

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-10

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of **Carolyn Wolski** upon her passing on March 20. She was the sister of Betty Moffitt and Ed and John Bryson and aunt of Beth Carr and Lisa Knotts.

It's a Boy!



It's
a
Boy!

Congratulations and best wishes to **Tanner & Anna Little** upon the birth of a son, **Lockridge "Lock" Lee Little**, on March 12. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents, Rick & Lisa Little, and great-grandparents, Gary & Sara Jane Stegner.

Directory Change

Kandi Rutledge

Email: kandirutledge50@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 765-623-5827

Church Dinner Is Planned for Renee and Ralph Adams

We would like to celebrate our friendship with **Renee and Ralph** as they have decided to move to Minnesota to be closer to their daughter, **Laura**, and also enjoy the many fishing opportunities that the lakes in that area provide. Ralph is especially excited about the fishing! They have been long-time members of Spiceland Friends, and we will miss their friendship and participating in our activities.

Ralph has agreed to sing for us on Sunday, May 2, and we will have a pitch-in dinner afterwards with the church providing the meat, drinks, and table service. So mark your calendars and plan on joining us that Sunday for great music and fellowship.

– **Nancy Wadman**
Ministry Coordinator

Baby Bottle Boomerang a Success!



We raised \$697.96 this year for Henry County Pregnancy Care Center! That is over \$200.00 more than last year! We did a great job of filling baby bottles with coins, bills and checks, plus we had several packages of diapers donated.

Thank you so much,
Missions Committee

Notes of Thanks

"Thanks to all who prayed, texted, made food, and sent cards to me since I broke my arm! I greatly appreciate it. God is good all the time. All the time, God is good!"

– **Claudia Garner**

"I would like to thank everyone for their prayers throughout my surgery and recovery. The prayer shawl was a physical and spiritual comfort which was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Sandi Swann for insights that were invaluable. Thank you Spiceland Friends Church."

– **Michelle Carrera**