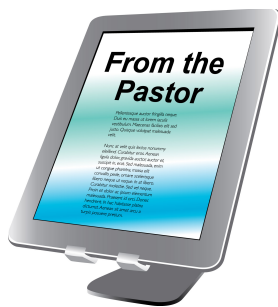




THE  
*Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

**August/September 2023**



**“How God Builds His Character into Our Lives”**

*“Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.” Proverbs 2:2 (NLT)*

Jesus came to earth to teach us about who God is and how he acts. Jesus showed us who God is by how he lived and acted. He continued to remind us that He and the Father are one. This was God’s plan to reveal to us his true character and how much he loved each human being – even when they sinned against him. Jesus continued to encourage his disciples to be more like him. The disciples, like us, were flawed human beings, and they found it difficult to follow through on that command.

In the Proverbs passage above, we are directed to “tune our ears” and to “concentrate” on wisdom and understanding. The reward for this diligent and serious search is that God will answer our prayer and reward us with wisdom and understanding. *“Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth comes knowledge and*

*understanding. He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him.”*

(Proverbs 2:4; & 6-8)

So, we can see that it requires faithful search and seeking on our part, but that kind of seeking is also rewarded by God’s answer to our prayer for our wisdom and search to be more like him. Throughout the Bible we are shown different pictures and teachings of how to be more like God in our character. We are reminded in Ephesians 5:9-10, *“The fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”* This describes people who are walking in the Light – actually following Jesus with all their heart. This kind of living comes from having the inner fruit of the Spirit at work in our lives (*“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”* – Galatians 5:22-23) and then radiating out in our actions toward others around us.

God also revealed a lot about how he builds his character into our lives by the lives of people in the Bible. Showing us how what seemed impossible was really God at work in their lives. We are going to look at several of these people over the next few weeks and try to understand how we can accept the character that God is building into each one of us. **Eric Bowman, Nancy Wadman, and Dwight Elliott** are preaching in August, and I will begin this series in September.

*David Brock*

## One Question After Another

We are in our sixth month of looking at a list of questions intended to stimulate our thinking and hearts as we live out our Christian Faith. Historically, early Friends brought up questions called "Queries." They were commonly used during worship to help turn hearts and minds toward God's thoughts. These questions are an excellent way for us to consider our personal faith journey. We are past the halfway mark of 2023. I pray that you continue to meditate sincerely on these questions in a way that brings closeness and confidence to your Christian walk.

Here is the question for August and September: When differences arise, do you earnestly try to end them speedily?

In today's divided world, it is extremely challenging for us to rectify differences and disagreements with one another. It is a challenge for several reasons. First, we just don't always set aside settling differences as a priority. There are plenty of other things in our day that we can lean on as distractions. Simply, we must prioritize settling differences as we plan our day. Second, we are not accustomed to discomfort. Approaching someone that we disagree with is difficult, even scary. Yet, we are called to settle our differences. God makes it clear in scripture that before we come to him in worship and prayer, we must first settle our differences with others.

*"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First, be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."* Matthew 5:23-24

*Eric Bowman*

## Report of the Brick Renovation Fund

A few weeks ago, the Monthly Business Meeting approved the Trustees' recommendation that we do some significant repairs to the bricks on the original Meeting House that is now going to be 150 years old next year. We asked our congregation to give extra money to enable us to do the brick repair. We needed to raise about \$33,000.00. We are very close to our goal. Thank you so much for your generosity and wonderful spirit of sharing to meet this need! The Trustees are finalizing the bid and perhaps making a few changes in the original bid but should be able to have the work begin before long.

– David Brock

## Sermon Topics for August and September

### August 6 (Nancy Wadman)

Sermon – "Are You a Great Example of Faith?"

Scripture – Hebrews 11:1-3 & 12:1-2

### August 13 (Nancy Wadman)

Sermon – "Discipline, Faith, and Holiness"

Scripture- Hebrews 12:5-6; 14, 18, 22-27

### August 20 (Dwight Elliott)

Sermon – "The Guilt Trap"

Scripture – Matthew 6:25

### August 27 (Eric Bowman)

Sermon – "Jesus Is . . ."

Scripture – Matthew 16:13-20

### September 3 (David Brock)

Sermon – "How Important Is Character?"

Scripture – Selected Scriptures

### September 10 (David Brock)

Sermon – "Transformed Character – Moses"

Scripture – Exodus 2 & Acts 7:20

### September 17 (David Brock)

Sermon – "Turning Our Fear and Weakness into Strength – Gideon"

Scripture – Judges 6

### September 24 (David Brock)

Sermon – "How God Rescues Us When We Get Off the Path – David"

Scripture – 2 Samuel 12 & Acts 13:22

## 200th Anniversary –

## We want to hear from you!

As we prepare to celebrate 200 years of Spiceland Friends Meeting, we want to know how you would like to see this significant milestone commemorated. Give us your thoughts and suggestions for the months and weeks leading up to the culmination of our celebration at the end of September 2024. We also would like for you to share a favorite memory, tradition, photograph, or testimony of the impact Spiceland Friends has had on your life. It would be wonderful to create a booklet of "What Spiceland Friends Meeting Means to Me"! You can drop a card in the Communication Box in the Welcome Center or email the church at [spicelandfriends@frontier.com](mailto:spicelandfriends@frontier.com).

## Worship Assistants for August and September



### Scripture Readers

August 6 – Barbara Lacy  
August 13 – Sandi Swann  
August 20 – Nancy Wadman  
August 27 – Eric Bowman  
September 3 – Barbara Meade  
September 10 – Priscilla James  
September 17 – Beth Carr  
September 24 – Judy Sadler

### Children's Story

August 6 – Janet Putnam  
August 13 – Linda Brock  
August 20 – Mike Van Osdol  
August 27 – Diana Bowman  
September 3 – Diana Bowman  
September 10 – Linda Brock  
September 17 – Mike Van Osdol  
September 24 – Janet Putnam

### Junior Church

August 6 & September 3 – Linda Brock  
August 13 & September 10 – David Lahr  
August 20 & September 17 – Linda Brock  
August 27 & September 24 – Claudia Garner

### Song Leaders

Aug. 6, Sept. 10 & 24 – Hayley Painter  
Aug. 13, 20, & 27, Sept. 3 & 17 – Tasha Crandall

**Greeters for August** – Weber Family – Paul & Debra Weber, Dylan & Monica Altman, Tom Weber

### Fall Study Is Coming in October

Be sure to mark each Wednesday in October and November 1 and plan to attend our great fall study fellowship meal and discussion groups. There will be something for everyone!



Save your October Wednesdays now.

## Please Remember in Prayer

### Church Family

Richard Ratcliff – health problems  
David Brock – recovering from fall  
Steve Stevens – radiation treatments  
Linda Brock – shoulder pain  
Beverly Reece – fell; broken hip; heart issues  
Janet Putnam – hip surgery on Aug. 11  
Marcia Byrket – fell; broken hip  
Wayne Bogue – aortic aneurysm  
Sandy White – skin cancer  
Judy Smith – at Stonebrooke  
Sarah Reiblein – cancer  
Steve Neal – liver cancer



### Extended Family and Friends

Susan Adams (Mary Ellen Van Osdol's daughter) – became ill while traveling; needs surgery  
Family of Norman Eckart (Virginia Bryson's brother)  
Family of Jeff Lowhorn  
Josie Weber (Debra Weber) – medical problems  
Evan Roberts (Lisa Knotts) – cancer  
Sherry Matney (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer  
John Strong – ankle surgery  
Misty Brett Steffen (Sarah Reiblein) – rare cancer  
Betty Kirtley (Marilyn Thompson's mother) – back pain  
Karsun Moffitt – at home; on feeding tube  
Gary Dice (Marilyn Thompson) – in need of heart transplant  
Mai Nguyen (Julia Bouslog) – breast cancer  
James (Donna Hall's son) – lymphoma; chemo  
Sherry Butler (Tasha Crandall) – kidney transplant  
David Butler (Helen Rust's brother-in-law) – in need of prayer  
Ed Cole (Debi Zimmerman) – pancreatic cancer  
Jan Hurst (Judy Stevens) – Parkinson's  
Susan Weaver (Kristen Davis) – lung cancer  
Carolyn Lantz – health problems  
Rita Beavers (Garners) – bladder cancer  
Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer  
People in Turkey and Syria  
People in Ukraine  
Our country and servicemen and women

### Directory Update

**Nancy Wadman**  
523 Linden Drive, P. O. Box 233  
Spiceland, IN 47385

## Ladies Night Out

Okay, girls, mark your calendars! We are having Ladies Night Out on Wednesday, August 16, at 6:00 p.m. We are going to have it at the church this year. It will be catered so you don't have to do anything except come. The cost will be \$10 per person to cover the food and our guest speaker. **Diana Bowman** will be giving a program on her recent trip to the Amazon Rainforest. Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors to join us for a delicious meal and an interesting evening. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Please indicate how many women will join you on the 16th. I will need to know by August 13 in order to have enough food.



– Nancy Wadman

## You Are Invited

“Please join us in celebrating **Lorelai's** miraculous 1<sup>st</sup> year of life. We will have an open house and birthday party on Saturday, August 12, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Hoover Hall. We would love to see our church family who supported and kept us in your prayers.”

– Dylan & Monica Altman

## Christmas Eve Choir

There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for those who plan to participate in our annual Christmas Eve choir. Please ensure you get signed up so we can choose our musical selection wisely. More details will be published when we know how many we have participating. Thanks for your participation!

## With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Gerald & Darlene Darling upon the passing of Darlene's sister, **Carmelle Jordan**, on June 28.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to Ginny & Ed Bryson and family upon the passing of Ginny's brother, **Norman Eckart**, on July 25.



## Your Opinion Counts



Do you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about anything regarding our church's facilities or ministries but don't know who to ask? A communication box has been set up in the Welcome Center. The comments will be passed along to the appropriate individuals or committees. For example, if the issue is related to the building and grounds, it will go to the Trustees, or if there is a particular hymn you would like to sing, write it down and it will be forwarded to the Music Committee, or perhaps you have thoughts of ways we could better reach out and minister to our community which should be considered by the Missions Committee or ministry and Oversight. Feel free to fill out a card and drop it in the box. As the body of Christ we are all called to do the work of God and each of us is equally important to the effectiveness of the church.

We Want Your Opinion

## Second Harvest Food Bank Giveaway

We will again be hosting a Second Harvest Food Tailgate Event. It will be Monday, August 21, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the church parking lot. Also, if you volunteered last time and were given a t-shirt, please wear it that day. Thank you!

## 199 Years and Counting

From the *New Castle Courier* in 1878: “The elders of the Friends church should caution the ministers not to continue their sermons until everybody is tired out and restless. The good effect of the sermon last Sabbath was lost by its continuing at least half an hour too long.”

## Notes of Thanks

“Thank you for your kindness, support and wonderful meal.”

– Family of Duane Smiley

“I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards sent during the illness and recent passing of my sister, **Kathy Gortner**.”

– Cindy Mitchell