



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

DECEMBER 2017



“The Right Time”

*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)*

“It is Christmas time!” “It is the season of Advent!” “It is time to open the gifts!” “It’s time for Christmas dinner!” These are all phrases we will say and hear others say over the next few days and weeks. We complain about stores that display Christmas items too early – it does not seem like the right time. We rush to get our packages all bought and wrapped “in time for Christmas” because that is the right time to open them. Timing and finding the right time are intertwined in all aspects of our lives.

In our worship services over the next four weeks, we will be thinking about themes of Advent – a season of waiting and expectation. We wonder at God’s timing – why did it take so long for him to send Jesus? Why is it taking so long for the second coming of Christ? Why do we have such a hard time following the example of Jesus in our own circumstances? We wonder a lot about time and usually find ourselves in short supply of enough time to do everything – especially during this season of the year.

These four weeks before Christmas give us time to reflect on the meaning of Jesus coming to earth, time to renew his presence in our daily lives, time to read the traditional scriptures and wonder at God’s love and care for his people.

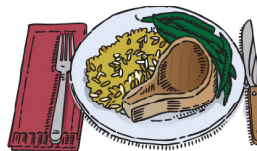
Jesus came into the world at just the right time. Jesus comes into our lives at just the right time. God will bring people across our path at just the right time so we can share his love and forgiveness.

Take some extra time this Christmas season to renew your relationship with Jesus. Take some extra time to reflect on the love God shows for the whole world and especially for you. Take some extra time to listen to the Holy Spirit’s gentle whispering and little nudges as he encourages you to take some extra steps toward being the hands and feet of Jesus.

David Brock

All-Church Christmas Dinner

Everyone is invited to our annual all-church Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 10, immediately following worship. Chicken, drinks, and table service will be provided. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share – or make a monetary donation to help with the cost of the chicken. The children will be leading worship that morning, so invite your family and friends for a special worship service and to join us for dinner and a time of fellowship during this Christmas season. Don’t miss it!



Family & Friends Advent Evenings

Wed., Dec. 6 – Eat a delicious dinner at 6:00 p.m. (everything provided) with activities beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be a lot to do! Decorate cookies, paint a Christmas ornament, watch the movie, “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” and some other activities, too! We’ll have baked ham, oven roasted potatoes, baked beans, and more.

The Made in Muncie (pottery company) will be bringing a variety of Christmas ornaments, and everyone gets to paint an ornament or use your ticket toward the purchase of another item. Items will be back in plenty of time for Christmas, and you can purchase additional pieces of pottery to paint as well.

Wed., Dec. 13 - Join us for a light meal – everything is provided – and then we will head out to go Christmas caroling to share the joy of Jesus’ coming to be with us. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. We will have hot dogs, sloppy joes, and baked potatoes with all the fixins (and dessert, of course!). After dinner, we will head out to Glen Oaks Nursing Home and Raintree Square Apartments to go caroling. Bring a friend and join us!

Children & Youth Christmas Program

Join us on Sunday, December 10, as the children and youth lead a special Christmas-themed worship service. The service will feature a youth bell choir, special music, and a special telling of the Christmas story.

Children and youth will have a variety of ways to participate – a handbell choir, sharing special music, ushering, reading scripture or poems, and telling the Christmas story as they dress up as angels, wise men/women, and shepherds.

We will practice December 3 and 10 at 9:30 a.m. and will meet in the Worship Center. The children will have a birthday party for Jesus in the Family Center during the second half of worship on December 10.

Please bring your family for this enjoyable time of worship and stay for our all-church Christmas dinner immediately following worship (Dec. 10).

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

“Noel! Noel! – The Story of Amazing Love” is the theme for this year’s Christmas Eve Candlelight Service to be presented by the combined choirs of Spiceland First Church of the Nazarene, Spiceland Friends, and Spiceland United Methodist churches. The service will also feature an opportunity to sing many of your favorite Christmas carols as well as a lovely candlelight service symbolizing the light and life that Jesus brought into the world and brings into our lives each day. So, put the kids in their P.J.’s and join us Christmas Eve at 9:00 p.m. Bring your family or invite a friend to this very special community worship service. Come! Light a candle! Come! Celebrate God Emmanuel – God With Us! Come! Celebrate Christmas!



Community Christmas Cheer Committee Is Preparing Plates

Gifts for community elderly, shut-ins, nursing home residents and families suffering losses in 2017 will be prepared and distributed on Saturday, December 16, at 9:00 a.m. We need your help!

Cookie donations are needed and should be at the church by 9:00 that morning. Volunteers are also needed to assemble the cookies and fruit as well as volunteers to deliver them. Contact **Tommie Hunt** at 987-7226 for questions and to let her know if you’ll be able to make deliveries.

Directory Information Needed



After the first of the year, we will be preparing and printing a new church directory. If you have changes or additions, please turn them in to the church office so that the directory will be accurate and up-to-date.

Bazaar Was a Huge Success! 😊

The 48th Annual Holiday Bazaar has come and gone, but what a day it was! A big thank you to everyone who donated, helped, and purchased an array of items. A breakdown by booths is as follows: Deli \$525.60; Kitchen \$1,335.45; Attic Treasures \$554.26; Quilt \$612.00; Booth Rental \$510.00, for a Grand Total of \$3,537.31.

Yarn Donations Needed for Crochet Group

Our crochet group will begin making red baby hats in January at the request of local hospitals. The hospitals need them by February 14 (Valentine's Day), and they will use them to educate new parents to help prevent child abuse. Donations of red yarn (or the so soft yarn) would be appreciated and can be put in the church office or given to **Marilyn Thompson**.

The crochet group is busy right now making hats for cancer patients in New Castle, and they will be donating those soon.

Worship Assistants for December

Scripture Readers

December 3 – Nancy Wadman
December 10 – Christmas Program
December 17 – Sandi Swann
December 24 – Rita Reeves
December 31 – Linda Ratcliff

Junior Church

December 3 – Linda Brock
December 10 – No Junior Church
December 17 – Amanda Huss
December 24 – Kids in Worship
December 31 – No Junior Church

Hosts – Wyatt & Lacey Thompson

Children's Messages – Charlene Williams

Sermon Topics for December

David Brock will be preaching four Sunday in December. On December 10 the children and youth will present their program on the message and meaning of Christmas. David will conclude the service with a short devotional before we all enjoy a meal together in the Family Center.



December 3

Sermon – “A Time for Thanksgiving”
Scripture – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

December 10

Sermon – “A Time for Patience”
Scripture – 2 Peter 3:8-15

December 17

Sermon – “A Time for Humility”
Scripture – John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24

Sermon – “A Time for Joy”
Scripture – Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 31

Sermon – “A Time for Fulfillment”
Scripture – Revelation 21:1-6

Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Thanks to everyone who put together shoeboxes filled with delights and treasures for children as part of our Operation Christmas Child missions project. This year we had **43** boxes filled and delivered!



The Quilt Group will not meet in December and will resume on January 4 but will not meet on January 25.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Ruby Katherine Barker – multiple health issues
Pam Pyle – medical testing
Josh & Carly Griggs family & newborn baby
Barbara Ward – ankle injury
Lonnie Murray – home now
Phil Alexander – dialysis
Irene & Monte Goodwin – health problems
Unspoken prayer requests
Shawn & Katrina McConaughy – Quaker missionaries planning to leave for Kenya

Extended Family and Friends

Quentin Thomas (Kandi Rutledge) – pancreatitis surgery
Ann Muncy (Marilyn Thompson) – balance problems; testing
Rex & Wendy Norris & newborn baby (Teresa Batt's daughter)
Wright family (Marilyn Ingle) – tree fell on car causing injuries; father has cancer
Aunt of Gerald Darling – had heart attack
Candace (granddaughter of Faye Crowell) – thyroid surgery
Robby Witham (Charlene Williams) – knee injury
Natalie Young (Cathy Harris) – severe headaches, tremors
Jackie Jones – chemo treatments
Stephanie Langston (Bob Rust) – breast cancer
Jan Hurst (Judy Stevens) – advancing Parkinson's disease
Peace and stability in North & South Korea
Our country and servicemen and women
Kenya – political upheaval

Change of Address

Nancy Coleman
108 Village Glen Way
Mount Holly, NC 28120-9151



News from the Trustees

The Trustees recently completed replacing the light fixtures in the Family Center. The newer lights will be more cost effective, come on as soon as you turn the light switch on, and provide better lighting. Thanks to **Jim Williams, Tony Swann, George Lacy, Gerald Darling, and Tom Pyle** who worked hard for a week replacing the lights!

Coming Soon – the Trustees have ordered a new light fixture for the parking lot which should provide a lot more light. The new, bigger fixture will be placed on the existing pole in the parking lot. Once it is installed, the town will maintain it.

The Trustees have obtained an estimate to replace the boiler, which was installed in the 1960's. They will be making a recommendation to Monthly Business Meeting at the end of December to replace it.

The Trustees recently approved the use of an upstairs classroom by a homeschool group (Amanda Huss). They will begin using that in January once or twice per week. The Ministry & Oversight Committee had also discussed this and made the recommendation to the Trustees to move forward with approval, which they were glad to do.

Thanks to **Gerald Darling and Tony Swann**, who applied multiple coats of sealer to the front (East) wood door. It had weathered significantly. The sealer is to keep it from getting worse over the winter, and next spring the Trustees will do some extensive repair work on the door.

If you have a concern about the building or see something that needs to be addressed, please speak with one of our Trustees or **Tom Harris**, Clerk of the committee.

Enjoy a Tax Benefit – Make a Difference

This benefit is only for people who are 70 1/2 or older and people who have an IRA from which they are required to take minimum distributions each year. If you are in that category, you can make a difference in people's lives by making a gift to the church or another charity that you support.

(Continued on next page)

Enjoy a Tax Benefit *(Continued)*

The "IRA Charitable Rollover" allows you to direct the custodian of your IRA to make a direct rollover to the church and count that as a part or all of your required minimum distribution. Any amount from \$100 to \$100,000 (the maximum allowed) can be rolled over to the church or charity. You do not have to pay income tax on this distribution as you would if you had the distribution paid to you. This method is particularly tax advantageous to people who want to give to the church, but do not itemize their deductions.

If you have questions, see your financial advisor, tax advisor, **Tom Pyle**, or **David Brock**.



Grief Support Group Starts January 18

A new GriefShare grief support group will be starting on Thursday mornings beginning January 18. The class will offer support and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend.

The class will provide a warm, caring environment, and includes three parts – encouraging, information-packed videos, small group discussion about the weekly video content, and a guidebook for your personal use that includes additional information on each week's theme, scripture readings, and questions to reflect on that week.

Some of the topics included are the following: Is this normal? The challenges of grief. The journey of grief. Grief and your relationships. Why? Guilt and anger. Complicating Factors. What do I live for now?

You are welcome to begin attending our GriefShare group at any point. Each session is "self-contained," and you can pick up missed sessions later.

The class is led by **Cathy Harris** and **Janet Putnam**, and meets 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Mary M Room. The class is free and open to anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. Contact Cathy if you'd like more information.

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to **Dakota & Audrey Peavie Davis**, who were married November 18 at Spiceland Friends. Their new address is 1502 H Avenue, New Castle, IN 47362.

Congratulations to **Josh & Carly Griggs** on the birth of their daughter on November 17. **Amelia Jane** weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20½" long. Congratulations also to big brother **Miles** and proud grandparents, **Mike & Linda Van Osdol**.

Congratulations to **Teresa Batt** on the birth of her granddaughter, **Cambrie Grace**, on November 17. Cambrie weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20" long. Parents are **Wendy & Rex Norris**.

Weather Delays and Closings

Just a reminder that we plan to have worship and other church activities as scheduled unless government officials state that residents are to stay off the road. If it does become necessary to cancel or delay Sunday school, worship, or any other church activities, you will be able to find information about closings four ways:

1. RTV6 (ABC) – you can check for closings on this TV channel, or online at www.theindychannel.com (click on the "weather" tab, then click on "closings").
2. WTHR Channel 13 – www.wthr.com
3. Spiceland Friends Facebook page – we will post the information on our Facebook page.
4. SFC Friend to Friend – an email will be sent out to inform you of any closings or delays.

Monthly meeting established a weather closing policy a few years ago – that we will be open in the event of bad weather – unless government officials close the roads. If the weather is bad and you do not feel comfortable getting out and driving, then please stay home. We want you to be safe. You are welcome – any time – to drive under the awning and come in the doors. Someone will go park your car for you and then get your car for you afterwards.