



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

December 2018



“Jesus Is Willing”

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.”

Hebrews 1:1-2

Unwillingness seems to come quite naturally to all of us. Beginning when we are about two years old, we find it easier to say “No” than to say “Yes.” It just seems better to have things our way rather than the way of the person asking us to do something. This continues on into our adult life as we resist interrupting what we are doing to help someone else or resist changing plans to conform to someone else’s plans. Unwilling to change; unwilling to help; unwilling to forgive; unwilling to give our time; unwilling to give our money – all of these seem to spring up in our lives.

In contrast to our attitude, Jesus was and is willing. He was willing to leave heaven and come to earth as a baby without power, without prestige, and without honor. He was willing to live life as a human being – all the pains of growing up, the agony of being rejected by the very people he was sent to help; the pain of being betrayed by his best friends; suffering the cruelty of an unjust convic-

tion; and the humiliation of death on a cross. All of this Jesus took on willingly. He was willing to show the world that God’s love encompasses everyone and that His forgiveness is endless. He was willing to conquer death and sin by his resurrection even though it cost him so much.

At Christmas we celebrate the Christ child being born. It is more than just a miraculous birth, however. It was God’s plan from the very beginning as we see from early prophecies in the Old Testament about the coming of the Messiah. It was God’s plan from the beginning to constantly find ways to reach out to humanity and to show them that He loves every one of us and that He is working to bring forth His image that has been stamped on each of us. Only His love and forgiveness can shape and mold our lives into His likeness. Jesus came to earth to teach and to illustrate how God’s image and likeness can be developed and experienced in our daily lives.

“You see, the Christmas story reminds us that our past, present, and future home rest not on our willingness, but on the willingness of the One for whom the angels sang, the shepherds worshiped, and the magi searched. Willing Jesus is the only hope for unwilling sinners!” (*Come Let Us Adore Him* by Paul David Tripp, p. 21)

David Brock

The Quilting Group will not meet in December and January and will resume meeting on February 7 at the home of Beth Carr.

All-Church Christmas Dinner

Everyone is invited to our annual all-church Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 9, 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. 5 – 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. 12 – 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 Service

Join us on Sunday, December 9, as the children and youth (toddlers through high school students) lead a special Christmas-themed worship service.

Children and youth will have a variety of ways to participate – 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 2 and 9, 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 9.

Please bring your family for this enjoyable time of worship and stay for our all-church Christmas dinner immediately following worship on December 9.

Community Christmas Cheer Committee Is Preparing Plates

Gifts for community elderly, shut-ins, nursing home residents and families suffering losses in 2018 will be prepared and distributed on Saturday, December 8, 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.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



"Hallelujah! God's Light and Love Have Come!" is the theme for this year's Christmas Eve candlelight service, which will be presented by our choir. 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 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!

Sermon Topics for December

December 9 is our annual Family Christmas Sunday with a program by the children and youth during worship and an all-church Christmas dinner afterward. December 23 will be a special time of singing Carols and Christmas hymns along with special music from our musicians as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

December 2

“God’s Final Answer”

Scripture – Jeremiah 33:14-16;

Psalm 25:1-10; Hebrews 1:1-4

December 9

“The Messenger”

Scripture – Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:67-79

December 16

Sermon – “Rejoice in the Peace of God”

Scripture – Isaiah 12:2-6;

Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Sermon – “A Mother’s Perspective”

Scripture – Luke 1:46-56

December 30

Sermon – “A New Year’s Resolution”

Scripture – Colossians 3:12-17

Worship Assistants for December

Scripture Readers

December 2 – Doris Hoover

December 9 – Christmas Program

December 16 – Amy Upchurch

December 23 – Max Upchurch

December 30 – Linda Ratcliff

Junior Church

December 2 – Chris Harris & Brenda Harris

December 9 – Linda Brock, Chris, Jr./Sr.
High Youth

December 16 – Megan Harris & Darlene
Darling

December 23 & 30 – No Junior Church

Hosts – Jason, Lisa & Mallory Ash

Children’s Messages – Mike Van Osdol

Please Remember in Prayer



Church Family

Sandy White – cancer surgery

Charlie Byrket – knee surgery; fall and broken leg

Family of L. J. Murray

Tom Pyle – testing; meeting with cardiologist

Marcia Byrket – eye & knee injury

Barbara Meade – rotator cuff injury

Helen Rust – knee injury

Pete Kiger (Judy Sadler) – serious illness

Family of David French

Beverly Elliott – eye surgery

Doris Hoover – cancer treatments

Linda Brock – recovering from surgery and
radiation treatments

Brian Thomas – surgery

Pat Bogue – eye problem

Phil & Sandy Alexander – significant health
problems

Eleanor Painter – upcoming cancer scan

Bobby Thompson – recovering from pneumonia

Irene & Monte Goodwin – Monte recovering from
bad fall

Youth Groups & College Students

Unspoken prayer requests

Extended Family and Friends

Cathy Chamberlin Smith (Tasha Crandall) – breast
cancer

Carol Wiley (Virginia Cripps) – fell, broke wrist; cut
hand

Aaron Reed – chemo treatments

Pansy Pyle – health problems

Franka Dick (Pam Pyle) – health problems

Family of Tom Applegate

Aaron Reed (Susan Waymire) – teen with bone
cancer

Gary Sickle (Cathy Harris) – liver cancer

Lesley Reece (Beverly Reece) – hip replacement
surgery

Mack Davis (Kristin Davis) – emergency surgery,
cancer, chemo

Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – brain cancer treatments

Ron Cox (R. J. White) – cancer

Jan Hurst (Judy Stevens) – fell; broke hand

Our country and servicemen and women

(Continued on next page)

Please Remember in Prayer *(Continued)*

Quaker Missionaries/Missions/FUM

Friends United Meeting
Native American Friends Centers – Mesquakie,
Kickapoo, Mowa-Choctaw
Belize Friends School and New Friends Church
Ramallah Friends School in Palestine
Dale Graves – cancer treatments
Shawn & Katrina McConaughy – Kenya Missionaries

Bazaar Was a Huge Success! 😊

The 49th 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: Booth Rental \$495.00; Kitchen \$1,287.00; Deli \$550.50; Attic Treasures \$610.50; Quilt \$492.00.

– Linda Ratcliff

Notes from the Missions Committee

We really appreciated those who filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We turned in 30 boxes this year.

We are providing a meal for Brianna's Hope in New Castle on December 4. We still need crock-pots of soup and desserts. The sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center at church. I will be glad to pick up any donations. If you have questions, please contact **Nancy Wadman** at 765-524-3731. If you have extra cookies and candy for Christmas, we will be putting together a couple trays of goodies for The Guest House on December 20. If you could have those to the church by 11:00 a.m. that Thursday, we will fix the trays and deliver them.

Thank you so much for your donations and prayers!

– Nancy Wadman



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. We also need information for college students addresses as well.



Youth Group Thanksgiving Party

The Elementary Youth Group kicked off the Thanksgiving festivities on November 18 with a Thanksgiving Party. We played "Stuff the Turkey," had a candy corn relay, played Thanksgiving Bingo, and decorated cookies. It was a fun Sunday afternoon where we were able to enjoy each other's company and remember all of the things in life we are thankful for.



– Chris Harris

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Linda & Richard Ratcliff** and all of their family upon the passing of Linda's father, **David French**, on November 6.

Our sincere sympathy is also extended to the family of **L. J. Murray**, who passed away on November 16.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of **Tom Applegate** upon his passing on October 31 in Dayton, Ohio. He was the brother of **David Applegate**.

Note of Thanks

"I wanted to thank everyone for the meals, snacks, cards and phone calls. The surgery went well and I am on the road to recovery. Marcia and I appreciate our church family."

– Charlie Byrket



“The Longest Night” Service

Friday, Dec. 21 – 6:00 p.m.

Advent and Christmas can be a painful time for some -
Whether it's a broken relationship, a difficult financial situation, health problems,
or the loss of a loved one.

Any of these circumstances can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and
spending.

It's also such a busy time of year that
We could all use some quiet time with God.

For those reasons,

Spiceland Friends Church

Is offering a community-wide
“Longest Night Service” (also known as a “Blue Christmas” service)
December 21st at 6:00 p.m.

**All are welcome as we gather together on the
darkest/longest night of the year**
for a time of reflection, shared community,
and to hear the words of comfort and hope that come to us from God.
Jesus comes to shine light into our darkness.

Feel free to invite friends and/or family member to attend with you.

**Following the service, you are invited to join us in the Family Center of the
Church for a light meal of soup and cookies.**

www.spicelandfriends.org *** Phone: 765-987-7835 or Cathy's Cell: 765-465-0994