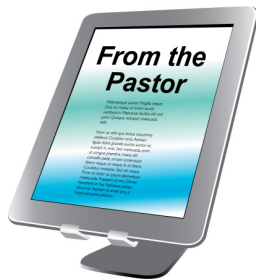




THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

DECEMBER 2019



“New Life is Nearby”

*“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.”
Isaiah 11:1 (NRSV)*

It is only nine miles away. Nine miles goes by quickly if you are on a highway and driving 65 miles per hour. It goes by a little more slowly if you are on a bicycle, and it goes by much more slowly if you are walking. Bethlehem is only nine miles from Jerusalem. Why did God arrange to have baby Jesus born in Bethlehem instead of Jerusalem? It would seem much better in Jerusalem – the capital city and the place where everything happened. Jerusalem had leaders, the Temple, activity, and lights. Bethlehem was not a place on any tourist map at the time. Bethlehem had shepherds and flocks of sheep. It was a small village and not a place anyone would think of going for something important.

However, that is where God chose to enter the human race. That is where He decided to bring new life and new light to the whole world - starting in little Bethlehem. The light of the angels shone brightly on that dark night and the angels announced to the shepherds that the Messiah was born. Shepherds instead of religious leaders.

Bethlehem instead of Jerusalem. A baby born of two ordinary, common people instead of a royal birth. Jesus was born in a stable instead of a palace or the Temple. The religious leaders and the political leaders in Jerusalem knew nothing about the birth and were going about their business as usual. The population of Jerusalem had no idea that God had just sent the long-awaited Messiah to earth as a baby and not as a king. And he was only nine miles away.

That is how we are sometimes – oblivious that God is nearby and not realizing that he is at work to bring each of us a better life. He is working to give us a life of hope and a life filled with His love and peace. He is working to bring hope back into our lives when we have lost hope because of loss and grief. He is working to bring His love and forgiveness to us when we are consumed with hate and feelings of anger toward others. He is working to grow a new branch in our lives. We can feel far away from God at times, but He is really close by. We can feel that God has forgotten us and our circumstances, but He is really aware of what is going on in our lives and is working to bring about wholeness and hope.

The Christmas season is a time to recognize God at work. It is a time to allow him to draw close to us. It is a time to allow new life and new hope to spring forth in our own lives.

David Brock

All-Church Christmas Dinner

Everyone is invited to our annual all-church Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 8, immediately following worship. Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share – or make a monetary donation to help with the cost of the meat. 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!

Children & Youth Christmas Program

Join us on Sunday, December 8, as the children and youth 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 Sunday 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 following their program.

Please bring your family for this enjoyable time of worship and stay for our all-church Christmas dinner immediately following worship on December 8.

Family and Friends Advent Nights

Wed., Dec. 4 – Eat a delicious dinner at 6:00 p.m. Lee's Famous Recipe chicken will be provided. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Activities will include making Advent calendars, decorating cookies, and singing Christmas carols with **Libby Henshaw** at the piano.

Wed., Dec. 18 – Join us for a light meal at 6:00 p.m. and then we will go Christmas caroling at Glen Oaks Nursing Home and Raintree Square Apartments to share the joy of the Christmas season. You are invited to bring a friend!

Community Christmas Cheer Committee Is Preparing Plates

Gifts for community elderly, shut-ins, nursing home residents and families suffering losses in 2019 will be prepared and distributed on Saturday, December 14, 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 Worship and Candlelight Service

The singing of Christmas carols . . . beautiful music . . . a Christmas Eve meditation . . . and the lighting of the candles will all be a part of our Christmas Eve worship service. The Spiceland Friends choir will sing three special selections, and **David Brock** will have a meditation on "Socks Under the Tree." Invite family and friends as we sing carols and take time from the busyness of the Christmas season to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child – the Light of the World. The service will begin at 9:00 p.m.



Choir Practice for Christmas Eve

The remaining rehearsals for the Christmas Eve Service will be Tuesday, December 10 and 17. It's not too late to join us as we practice three selections for the Christmas Eve Service.

Email Address for Prayer Requests – spicelandfriends@hotmail.com or call/text/email **David Brock** at 524-4428 or dbrock@defur.com

The Quilting Group will not meet in December and January and will resume meeting on February 6 at the home of Beth Carr.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Renee Adams – back pain
Darlene Darling – Methodist Hospital with serious infections
Pam Pyle – recovering from Afib episode
Shirley Fort – fell; injured foot
Family of Eleanor Painter
Max Jessup – continuing to decline
Elaine Wilson – recovering from blood clots in legs
Rick Little – began chemo on Dec. 2
Amy Upchurch – having radiation
Steve Stevens – prostate cancer of the bones; doing well
Richard Ratcliff – receiving radiation
Judy Smith – health problems
Irene & Monte Goodwin – health problems
Bertie Darling – 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

Sarah Laley (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
Family of Bill (nephew of Joan Holt)
Bob & Jackie Jones (V. Newkirk) – Bob – problems with diabetes; Jackie – battling cancer
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
Mother of Jason Ash – not doing well
Isabel Cummins (Claudia Garner) – back surgery; has a lot of pain
Draper – computers hacked

Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – uterine cancer
Rhonda Meade Brown – broken ankle
Ron Bryan (Presiding Clerk of FUM) – significant pain
Colleen Wallace (Marcia Byrket) – cancer
Mary Kay Lacy (Vickie Richardson) – lung cancer
Cathy Chamberlin Smith (Tasha Crandall) – breast cancer surgery
Franka Dick (Pam Pyle) – recovering from surgery
Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – brain cancer treatments
Our country and servicemen and women

Quaker Missionaries/Missions/FUM

Friends United Meeting
Native American Friends Centers – Mesquakie (Mac & Bernie McDonald), Kickapoo, Mowa-Choctaw
Belize Friends School and New Friends Church (Oscar Mmbali, Nikki Holland)
Ramallah Friends School in Palestine (Adrian Moody)
Shawn & Katrina McConaughy – Kenya Missionaries

Worship Assistants for December

Scripture Readers

December 1 – Barbara Lacy
December 8 – Doris Hoover
December 15 – Nancy Wadman
December 22 – Jason Ash
December 29 – Linda Ratcliff



Junior Church

December 1 – Jason Ash & Marcia Byrket
December 8 – Christmas Party for Jesus
December 15 – Linda Brock & Judy Smith
December 22 – No Junior Church
December 29 – No Junior Church

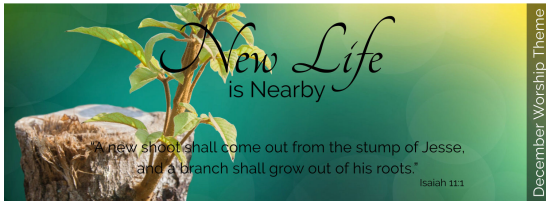
Hosts – Bill, Amy, Max & Gus Upchurch

Children's Messages

December 1 – Mike Van Osdol
December 8 – No Children's Message
December 15 – Mike Van Osdol
December 22 – Janet Putnam
December 29 – Mike Van Osdol

Sermon Topics for December

David Brock will be preaching four Sundays in December. On December 22, Rev. Art Whitaker will be preaching. On December 8 we will enjoy a program by our children and youth and all have a Christmas dinner together in the Family Center right after worship.



December 1

Sermon – “A Different Community”
Scripture – Colossians 3:18-4:18

December 8

Children and Youth Program and
Brief Devotional Message, “New Life Springs Up”
Scripture – Isaiah 11:1-10

December 15

Sermon – “Choices We Don’t Understand”
Scripture – Matthew 11:2-11

December 22

Sermon – “The Minimum Essential Ingredients
of a Happy Home”
Scripture – Matthew 1:18-25

December 29

Sermon – “Running for Your Life”
Scripture – Matthew 2:13-23

Bazaar Was a Huge Success 😊

The 50th 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 follows (amount in parenthesis indicates what was made in 2018): Booth Rental \$510.00 (\$495.00); Kitchen \$1,436.70 (\$1,287.00); Deli \$622.80 (\$550.50); Quilt \$492.00 (\$492.00); Attic Treasures \$849.80 (\$610.50).

– Linda Ratcliff

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.

Directory Address Changes

Tom & Cathy Harris
207 S. East Street
Plainfield, IN 46168-1223



Faye Crowell
2068 South Jacobi Road
Greenfield, IN 46140-9103

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Eleanor Painter** upon her passing on November 12 after a courageous battle with cancer. A Celebration of Life service was held at Spiceland Friends on November 16.

Notes of Thanks

“The Missions Committee is truly thankful for all you have done this year. We have served meals for Brianna’s Hope, provided desserts for the men at The Guest House in New Castle, filled 29 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and went on a mission trip to Iowa. We couldn’t have done this without your prayers and support!”

– Nancy Wadman,
Missions Committee

“The family of L. J. Murray, Phil Alexander and Sandra Alexander would like to thank the Spiceland Friends Church for all the care and support you have provided our family during this past year. Your love and concern has made a difficult time less difficult. You have demonstrated what loving God and your neighbor really means.”