



# THE *Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

## DECEMBER 2020



### “Responding to God”

*“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)*



It is approaching the end of 2020 and what do we say to God as we conclude this year and look forward to another year? We all know it has been a difficult year and one that will always be remembered for the many unexpected changes and cancellations of anticipated events. Most of us know of someone who has lost a loved one to Covid or perhaps you know the grief of losing someone yourself. We have all experienced the disappointment of traditional family, church, and community events that have been cancelled or changed dramatically. How do we respond to God at such a time as we make plans to turn the calendar over and begin a New Year?

Paul wrote the above verses at the conclusion of his letter to the Thessalonians. This was likely his first letter, and here we have a very

simple conclusion of instructions to the church members as they face persecution, uncertainty, confusion, and death. This advice in these short verses is simple and direct – kind of like advice a parent might give their child as they are getting out of the car to go visit friends – very familiar and expected, but very meaningful if we really listen. The parent’s words would be different from Paul’s words. Parents may say things like “Say please and thank you, pick up after yourself, call me if you need anything.” All common words that the child may not really listen to.

Paul tells us to **rejoice, pray, and give thanks – all the time**. These are common and ordinary phrases around church, but we may want to pay close attention to this advice. Why? Because it is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. That is what makes the difference – Christ Jesus. He came and died for us and then rose from the dead. His purpose was to show every person in the world that God loves them and is drawing each person closer to himself. That is why we can be calm in the midst of difficult circumstances, grief, and uncertainty. We know that Jesus is guiding us and is with us comforting, guiding, and showing us the way.

Maybe we can make that our New Year’s Resolution for 2021 – **Rejoice, pray, and give thanks all the time**. It might change the way we react to people and circumstances around us. And we may want to focus on the good news that this is possible because of Jesus in our lives. I hope you can join us for worship all four Sundays in December!

*David Brock*

## Christmas 2020

Even though so many events at Spiceland Friends Church are being canceled this year, we must not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. As I have been reading and researching about the Advent Season, I am finding that the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that the Advent candles represent are the foundations of our faith that the birth of Christ brought to us. Please do not let the frustrations of Covid-19 disturb or replace these wonderful gifts that were given to us with the birth of Christ.



– **Nancy Wadman**,  
Ministry Coordinator

## Breakfast, Christmas Cards, and Prayers

On Tuesday, December 8, I would love to have volunteers join me to write and address Christmas cards to everyone in our church directory. I will provide breakfast, Christmas cards, stamps, return labels, and addresses. We will eat breakfast at 9:00 and then address cards and pray silently for each family as you sign the cards. Let me know if you have questions.



– **Nancy Wadman**  
Ministry Coordinator

## Thursday Bible Study

We decided to have one meeting in December! We will meet on Thursday, December 17, at 11:30 a.m. Feel free to join us. We will have a pitch-in lunch and discuss Proverbs 16.

## Christmas at SFC

As of right now we are planning on having a Christmas Eve Service! Details will be announced a little later.

The Children's Christmas Program and our Holiday Dinner have been canceled this year due to Covid-19.

## Sermon Topics for December

**Nancy Wadman** will be preaching two Sundays in December (6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>) and **David Brock** will be preaching two Sundays (13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>).

### December 6

Sermon – “Comfort for God’s People”  
Scripture – Isaiah 40:1-11

### December 13

Sermon – “Basic Instructions”  
Scripture – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 20

Sermon – “Astounding News!”  
Scripture – Luke 1:26-38; Romans 16:25-27

### December 27

Sermon – “What Are You Packing in your Suitcase for 2021”  
Scripture – Proverbs 3:1-35



## Worship Assistants for December

### Scripture Readers

December 6 – Barbara Lacy  
December 13 – Pam Pyle  
December 20 – Sandi Swann  
December 27 – Lisa Knotts

### Children’s Story

December 6 – Mike Van Osdol  
December 13 – Janet Putnam  
December 20 – Mike Van Osdol  
December 27 – Linda Brock



**Greeters** – Dale & Jane Albertson

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Amid all the secular trappings of the holidays, we can lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, until we lament with Charlie Brown, “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?” These reminders call us back to where it all began – in the heart of God.

## Please Remember in Prayer

### Church Family

David Brock – heart attack; heart catheterization  
Linda Brock – broken wrist  
Helen Rust - surgery  
Tom Weber – health concerns  
Judy Smith – health problems  
George Lacy – lung cancer; chemo  
Steve Stevens – health concerns  
Rick Little – recovering from cancer  
Darlene Darling – at home  
Gary Stegner – recovering from surgery for aortic aneurism  
Linda Rutherford – breast cancer; chemo  
Kathy Painter – at home recovering  
Janice Radcliff – recovering from rotator cuff surgery  
Marilyn & Mark Thompson – Marilyn – Bell’s palsy;  
Mark – loss of job  
Max Jessup – continuing to decline  
Don & Barbara Meade – health problems  
Irene Goodwin – health problems  
Pat Bogue – problems with both eyes  
Darrell & Janet Craft – Janet – ankle surgery; Darrell – knee surgery



### Extended Family and Friends

Jay French (Linda Ratcliff) – cancer  
Family of Jack Pew  
Lori Elliott (Linda Brock) – Covid-19  
Kelsey (granddaughter of Judy Smith) – automobile accident  
Shelly McIntosh – breast cancer  
Grandson of Ray & Naomi Wagner (David Baker) – in hospital in critical condition  
Family of Eula Faye Ward (Imogene Miers’ mother)  
Steve & Karen Jackson (Vickie Richardson) – Covid  
Sue Engle (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer  
Brother and sister-in-law of Gerald Darling – Covid  
Aunt of Karen Winchester  
Brooke Runyon (Cindy Mitchell) – cancer on her face  
Marcia Ash (Jason Ash) – liver cancer  
Alice Womack – heart issues  
Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – cancer has returned  
Megan (Kandi Rutledge’s granddaughter) – health issues

Brother of Chris Garner – testing for possible tumor  
Brian, Nephew of Gerald & Darlene Darling – has Covid  
Jennifer (friend of Debi Zimmerman) – breast cancer  
Juan (Beverly Reece) – 7-year-old whose organs are failing  
Angela Thompson (Priscilla James) – health issues  
Charlene Haugh (Claudia Garner) – recovering from bad stroke  
Claire Wallace (Pam Pyle) – back surgery  
Kirk Albertson – ankle/foot surgery  
Parents of Teresa Batt  
Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer  
Joyce Butler (Sara Jane Stegner) – Covid-19  
Doug Schweikhardt – cancer  
Cain Kneply (Brian Thomas) – surgery on both hips  
Catherine Scott (Amie Thornburg) – ALS; severe lung infection; is on ventilator  
Leona Blake (Mother of Helen Rust) – heart attack  
Connie Smith (Linda Ratcliff’s sister) – cancer  
Byron Hanes (Relative of Pam Reno) – radiation  
Sarah Maley (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer  
Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam’s mother) – cancer  
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-19

### 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

## With Sympathy



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Imogene & Ken Miers** and family upon the passing of Imogene’s mother, **Eula Faye Ward**, on November 24.

## Christmas Cheer Plates Distribution Canceled

Unfortunately we will not be delivering Christmas Cheer Plates this year. **Tommie Hunt** has contacted the other churches who usually participate in this activity with us, and they decided not to join us this year. We feel that with the Covid-19 restrictions that it would not be wise to take the chance of delivering germs with the cookies and fruit. Our senior members are the most vulnerable right now, and we want to keep them as safe as possible. Hopefully next year we can again deliver cheer plates.

## 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.



## Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to **Brian & Jessica (Mitchell) Thomas** who were married on Saturday, November 7. We wish them much happiness.

Congratulations also to **Brandon & Deepa Kiger** upon the birth of a baby girl on October 31. **Eva Christine** weighed 5 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19.25" long. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents, **Judy & Lin Sadler**.

Congratulations also to **Priscilla & Joe James** upon the birth of a great-granddaughter, **Layla Skyler Jones**, on November 12.

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

## Thanks for Your Help!

The Missions Committee is truly thankful for all you have done this year. With your help we have provided desserts for The Guest House men's shelter, filled 27 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and assembled and delivered Blessing Sacks in the spring for people living alone. We couldn't have done this without your prayers and support!

– **Nancy Wadman**,  
Missions Committee

## Bazaar Report for 2020 😊

In spite of Covid-19 and decreased attendance at the bazaar, we took in almost as much this year as in 2019 – **\$3,627.22**. A breakdown is as follows: Kitchen – \$1,155.22; Booths – \$465.00; Quilt – \$2,027.00. We took in \$3,911.30 in 2019. A big thank you to everyone who donated, helped, and purchased items.

## Change of Address



**Bill & Amy Upchurch**  
Ch: Max & Gus  
627 Clearview Drive  
New Castle, IN 47362

## “Be born in us today”

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” The hymn's final stanza addresses the town's most famous newborn:

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad  
tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*