



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

December 2022

God Leads Us in the Way Everlasting

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24



David Brock used this scripture in his message several weeks ago, and I have become quite taken with it. It just says so much to my heart about my motives, my worries and how I should act. **I truly believe that if I let God take over my heart, then I don't need to worry and can be a blessing to others by following in His footsteps.**

Even though it is still November, I am thinking about the end of the year and what an amazing year it has been. We are preparing for God's most Gracious and Wonderful gift, the birth of Our Savior. Both November and December bring to mind the many blessings that God bestows upon us, and how thankful we should be each and every day of the year. I just wanted to thank all of you for the blessings you have bestowed on others in the year 2022.

We have celebrated births, weddings, funerals, retirements, monumental birthdays, and graduations. We have supported each other and our community through grief and joy, successes,

and failures. We have donated money, time, and energy for Easter Egg Hunts, Vacation Bible School, desserts for The Guest House, Baby Bottles full of money for the Henry County Pregnancy Care Center, Trunk or Treat, clothes for the school nurse and food for a new student pantry at Tri, food for Heaven's Bread Basket, and helped distribute food for Second Harvest Food Bank. Seventy shoe boxes were filled with the help of the owners of Spiceland Fuels, and prayed over before being sent overseas to children through the Franklin Graham Ministries. We have financially helped people in our community and some who have passed through and needed help when their cars broke down on the highway.

We have opened our church to Draper Shade for meetings. We have raised money through a Ham and Bean Supper and a breakfast served during Freedom Days, then turned around to donate it back to the community and our church. We had a record-breaking attendance and money raised from our 53rd annual bazaar.

We have strengthened our faith through Bible Studies, Sunday School Classes, and Sunday morning Worship Services both in person and online. Our Wednesday night Bible Studies this fall were very well attended, and I am sure we will see continued growth from these activities. We had a Saturday night service that was fun for both adults and children. We have added new members and mourned for those we lost. **We have cried, laughed, smiled, and worked, but most of all we are grateful and thankful for God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit being in our lives and urging us to be more and more like Jesus.**

God Leads Us in the Way Everlasting (Cont.)

Well . . . we have one more month in this year's calendar, and it is filling up quickly with opportunities for receiving and showering blessings on others.

I want to thank each and every one of you for being such an integral part of this church's mission to be God's hands and feet on this earth! We are blessed, and we need to continue to share those blessings with others!

Nancy Wadman,
Ministry Coordinator

Christmas Morning

Merry Christmas! Come join us for a worship filled service at 10:30. We will not be having Sunday School, so enjoy an extra cup of coffee with your family while you open presents. David will be giving the message, and I am sure we will sing some carols.



Christmas Dinner with Your Church Family

On Sunday, December 11, we will be having our annual church Christmas Dinner. **Eric Bowman** will be giving the message that day, and we will eat immediately after the service in the Family Center. The church will provide the meat, drinks, and table service. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. If you would prefer to just donate money towards the meat, that is fine too. We look forward to this time of celebration and fellowship.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



We will be having our traditional community candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 9:00 p.m. **David Brock** will be giving a devotional message entitled "Yes, Lord." This traditional evening of worship is for us to set aside some moments to reflect and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It's a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family to worship with us as we glorify God together.

Annual Family Advent Nights

All are encouraged to attend our annual family advent nights. On Wednesday, December 7, we will meet at Glenn Oaks at 5:45 p.m. for caroling and then move to Raintree Square. After caroling, we will caravan back to SFC to enjoy a meal together. On Wednesday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. we will enjoy dinner and fellowship followed by cookie decorating, crafts, and Christmas music. All ages are encouraged to attend and join in the joy.

– **Jessica Noteboom**

The Longest Night Gathering Wednesday, December 21, at 6:00 p.m.

On this longest night of the year, Jesus comes to shine light into our darkness. We are offering a time of reflection, shared community, and words of comfort, hope, and love that come to us from God. **David Brock** will share a devotional message on "Out of the Silence." We will share scripture, hymns, and a quiet time of prayer and reflection where you are welcome to light a candle in the memory of a loved one. Feel free to invite friends and family to join us. There will be a light soup and dessert supper afterwards. If you have questions, please see **Nancy Wadman** or **Janet Putnam**.

Cookie Donations Are Needed for Christmas Cheer Baskets

The Missions and Evangelism/Community Concerns Committee will be doing Cheer Baskets for people in our community this year. We have at least 30 names on our list again this year so we will need lots of cookies. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Please sign your name and tell how many cookies you are willing to make. We will pack and deliver the cookies and fruit on Saturday, December 17, at 9:00 am.

If you have any questions, please see **Tommie Hunt** or **Nancy Wadman**. We thank you in advance!



Quaker Beliefs, Part 7

What do YOU believe about baptism?

Introduction – In our series of “Early Quaker Beliefs” we have discussed God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Scripture, and fallen man’s state of need, and salvation. If you haven’t caught these topics, you can see the articles in previous newsletters or on our website at spicelandfriends.org. The topic this month is what we believe about baptism. Below is the statement from “Faith and Practice” as well as a simple explanation.

Belief Statement from Faith and Practice about our salvation

“We reverently believe that, as there is one Lord and one faith, so there is, under the Christian dispensation, but one baptism, whereby all believers are baptized in the one Spirit into the one body. This is not an outward baptism with water, but a Spiritual experience; not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but that inward work which, by transforming the heart and settling the soul upon Christ, brings forth the answer of a good conscience toward God. No baptism in outward water can satisfy the description of the apostle, of being buried with Christ by baptism unto death. It is with the Spirit alone that any can thus be baptized. In this experience, the announcement of John the Baptist is fulfilled, “He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” (Matthew 3:11,12) We would express our continued conviction that our Lord appointed no outward rite or ceremony for observance in His church. We accept every command of our Lord in what we believe to be its genuine import, as absolutely conclusive. The question of the use of outward ordinances is with us a question, not as to the authority of Christ, but as to his real meaning.”

Summary of Belief Statement – Spiceland Friends believes faith in Jesus Christ is represented in a simple, internal change of heart (a repentance and faith decision). This heart change is brought about through a confessing faith in Jesus Christ as one’s personal Lord and Savior. This faith continues to grow through an actively cultivated, lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:11; Acts 11:16).

Baptism – There is a common misunderstanding that Friends “do not believe in baptism.” It is better said that Friends commonly do not practice outward water baptism as we believe the Scriptures teach that a believer, once acknowledging his/her fallen nature, having a repenting heart, and accepting the atoning work and lordship of Christ is baptized inwardly by the Holy Spirit as they live out a committed, Christian walk. Friends hold this baptism of the Holy Spirit in high esteem and thus downplay the ritual of outward physical water baptism (Matt 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33, Acts 1:5)

If you have questions about the next steps of your faith in Jesus Christ, always seek out one of your pastors. We would be thrilled to discuss your relationship with Christ with you.

Eric Bowman

Sermon Topics for December

Eric Bowman will be preaching December 4, 11, and 18. **David Brock** will be preaching December 25 and January 1.

December 4

Sermon – “Peace in Prophecy”
Scripture – Matthew 1:18-25

December 11

Sermon – “Love in Loss”
Scripture – Matthew 2:1-18

December 18

Sermon – “Joy in Jesus”
Scripture – Matthew 3:13-4:11

December 25

Sermon – “On a Silent Night”
Scripture – Luke 2:8-20

January 1

Sermon – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
Scripture – Lamentations 3:22-33



Worship Assistants for December

Scripture Readers

December 4 – Janet Putnam
December 11 – Carly Griggs
December 18 – Dale Albertson
December 25 – Nancy Wadman

Children's Story

December 4 – Linda Brock
December – Mike Van Osdol
December 18 – Janet Putnam
December 25 – Diana Bowman



Junior Church

December 4 – Linda Brock
December 11 – David Lahr
December 18 – Linda Brock
December 25 – Claudia Garner

Greeter – Pam Pyle

Women's Book Study Is Starting in January

Tasha Crandall is starting a women's book of the book, *Really Bad Girls of the Bible*. This will be an 8-week study starting on Tuesday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Family Center. Books will be available at the end of December in the Welcome Center. All are welcome to join! Hope to see you there!

– Tasha Crandall

Bazaar Report for 2022 😊

We are happy to report a most successful holiday bazaar this year. A total of \$4,514.50 was made and is broken down as follows: Booth rental for the vendors \$495.00; Kitchen \$1,708.00; Sweet Shop and Deli \$472.00; Attic Treasures \$733.50; and Quilt \$798.00. The Crochet Group made \$308.00 on their afghans and will use that money to purchase more yarn for their ongoing projects. A huge thank you to everyone who donated, worked, and purchased items. Without you the Holiday Bazaar would not be as successful as it is each year.

Marilyn Thompson
Nancy Wadman

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Beverly Reece – broken knee cap
R. J. White – health issues
Doris Hoover – shoulder surgery
Kathy Painter – bursitis
Bill Byrket – back pain
Sandy White – osteoarthritis in feet; eye injections
Monica, Dylan & Lorelai Altman – premature birth
Gary Stegner – radiation treatment
Sarah Reiblein – cancer
Bowman family – auto accident
Tom Weber – Addison's House #133
Steve Neal – liver cancer



Extended Family and Friends

Family of Landon Eden (Tasha Crandall's nephew)
Zaelyn (Lacey Thompson) – co-worker's daughter
Family of Jerry Murray
Mai Nguyen (Julia Bouslog) – breast cancer; has spread
James (Donna Hall's son) – lymphoma; chemo
Frank & Robin Bianchi (Claudia Garner) – F – bladder-cancer – Robin mass in breast
Niece of Shirley Fort – surgery
David Jones (brother of Brenda Reece) – bladder surgery
Sherry Butler (Tasha Crandall) – kidney transplant
Family member of Barbara Meade
Great grandson of Cindy Mitchell – respiratory issues
Tammy (Vickie Richardson's sister) – heart surgery
Todd Reece (Beverly Reece) – stroke
Hunter Smolek (Garners) – tree fell on truck; paralyzed
David Butler (Helen Rust's brother-in-law) – in need of prayer
Nancy Jordan – heart issues
Franka Dick (Tom Pyle's sister) – health issues
Ed Cole (Debi Zimmerman) – pancreatic cancer surgery
Kathy Gortner (sister of Cindy Mitchell) – kidney failure
Carmelle Jordan (Darlings) – stroke
Rick (Linda Wittmayer) – cancer
Jan Hurst (Judy Stevens) – Parkinson's
Naomi Wagner (David Baker's sister) – lung cancer
Betty Kirtley (Marilyn Thompson's mother) – severe back pain
Kelly Bush (Claudia Garner) – colon cancer
(Continued on next page)

Please Remember in Prayer *(Continued)*

Eric Roth (Darlings) – at home; recovering from COVID
Jackie Clendenin (Pat Bogue) – swallowing issues
Susan Weaver (Kristen Davis) – lung cancer
Daniel Sears (Kristen Davis) – stomach cancer
Par Sung (Bob Rust) – kidney problems
Tivon Lee (grandson of Sadlers) – health issues
Carolyn Lantz – health problems
Abby (God daughter of Bob & Helen Rust)
Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam’s mother) – health issues
Rita Beaver (Garners) – bladder cancer
Melissa Humerickhouse (Jenny McDaniel) – brain tumor
Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer
Byron Hanes (relative of Pam Reno) – radiation
People in Ukraine
Students, teachers, and school administrators
Our country and servicemen and women
Prison Staff and Prisoners

A Note on Giving to Those of You Who Are Over 70

It’s nearing the end of the calendar year, and I wanted to remind you that you can take advantage of the IRA qualified charitable distribution law to help manage both your charitable intent and your tax liabilities.

The law allows you to “count” charitable contributions made from your traditional IRA toward your required minimum distributions beginning the year you turn 70 ½. By directing your distribution from your IRA administrator directly to a charity, it moves without tax consequence to you or the charity. This is a very tax-efficient way to support the church and other causes you care about!

With the new tax laws in effect that greatly increase the personal deduction, more people will not be filing the long form that enabled them to deduct charitable contributions. The IRA direct distribution keeps those funds from being counted as income to you so there are no taxes due on that distribution.

More information is available from your tax advisor, attorney, or administrator of your IRA.

– **David Brock**

Recognizing Accomplishments

Special congratulations to **Derek Carrera**, grandson of R. J. & Sandy White. Derek graduated from Troy School of Welding in November and will move to Joliet, Wyoming, in January to start a career with Caterpillar. We are very proud of Derek and his parents, Chris & Michele Carrera. Please pray for the White and Carrera families during this exciting adjustment time.

Note of Thanks

We want to thank you for your donation of food and \$100.00. Your gifts have helped us serve 46 households in the South Henry area!

– **Heaven’s Bread Basket**

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.

New Year’s Eve at SFC – Come Celebrate!

Where: Family Center

When: Sat., December 31 at 6:00 p.m. to ?

For: Anyone over 25

Bring: Favorite Party Food and Games

A Christmas Harvest

Christmas is the harvest time of love. Souls are drawn to other souls. All that we have read and thought and hoped comes to fruition at this happy time. Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange, subtle force, a new kindness, animates man and child. A new spirit is growing in us. No longer are we content to relieve pain, to sweeten sorrow, to give the crust of charity. We dare to give friendship, service, the equal loaf of bread and love. – **Helen Keller**