



THE *Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

December 2023



A Gift for TODAY!

As a child, one of my favorite things about Christmas was having time to play with the gifts I was given. After the gifts were opened and the mess was picked up, my parents would always begin to prepare our family Christmas breakfast. It was during this time that my brother and I would begin to assemble new toys and test out the new gifts. Often, I would find myself ready to skip breakfast – I was so excited to use my new gifts IMMEDIATELY. It was exciting to wear new clothes as we prepared to go to my grandparents' home for the remainder of our celebration. The gifts were purchased, made, and planned for immediate use. So it is with the gift of Christ.

Don't get me wrong. I am as thankful and excited about the prospect of heaven as anyone. **However, Christ comes to bring us hope TODAY.** The arrival (Advent) of Christ that we celebrate each December reminds us that our relationship with Jesus is not just about our future in heaven. It is about NOW! **Today, as we celebrate our relationship with Christ in his birth, we have HOPE. Today, we have Peace. Today, we have Joy. Today, we have and can share his Love.**

This December, let's remember that our celebration and life in Christ is not just for some-

thing in the future. **The coming of Jesus into the world and his coming into our lives gives us hope, peace, joy, and love TODAY!**

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Eric Bowman

Christmas Service

Merry Christmas! Join us for a worship-filled service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 24. We will not be having Sunday School. Celebrate with us!



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. 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 beautiful 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 6, we will meet at Glen Oaks Health Campus 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 13, at 6:00 p.m. we will enjoy dinner and fellowship after we work on ceramic crafts. All ages are encouraged to attend and join in the joy.



Christmas Dinner with Your Church Family

On Sunday, December 10, we will be having our annual church Christmas Dinner. **Eric Bowman** will be giving the message that day, along with some kids being involved in our worship service. We need all children to meet in the Worship Center for practice at 9:30 a.m. We will have Christmas dinner immediately in the Family Center after the service and children's program. The church will provide the meat, drinks, and table service. Please bring your favorite side or dessert to share. If you prefer to donate towards the purchase of meat, that is fine too. We look forward to this time of celebration and fellowship.



Christmas Dinner

Spiceland Christmas Tree Lighting



You are invited to join our choir in caroling during the community tree lighting this year on December 2, at 6:00 p.m. in downtown Spiceland. Dress warmly, bring a friend, and represent SFC well in the celebration. Sing some carols and have some fun!



Cookie Donations Are Needed for Christmas Cheer Baskets

The Missions and Evangelism/Community Concerns Committee will be filling Cheer Baskets for people in our community again this year. We have at least 30 families on our list 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 us how many cookies you will make. We will assemble and deliver the cookies and fruit on Saturday, December 16, at 9:00 a.m. If you have questions, please see **Nancy Wadman** or **Tommie Hunt**. We thank you in advance!



Christmas Tea Time

Our Ladies' Grief Support group will meet on Tuesday, December 19, at **Nancy Wadman's** home at 10:00 a.m. Come join us for great discussion of holidays past and new traditions for the future. Bring a friend and celebrate this Joyous Holiday with us!



Thursday Bible Study

The Thursday Bible Study group will not meet during the month of December. We will start up again on January 4 at the normal time of 11:00 a.m. We will be starting a new book by John Eldredge called *Resilient – Restoring Your Weary Soul in These Turbulent Times*. "Resilient leads you to the peace only God can give you in a world gone mad – and helps you discover in Jesus himself the strength that prevails." Please see **Nancy Wadman** if you are interested in joining this small group so she can order enough books. The cost of the book is \$15.00.



December Sermon Topics

Eric Bowman will be preaching the first four Sunday in December, and **Nancy Wadman** will be preaching on the last Sunday of the year.

December 3

Sermon – “Hope Is Offered”

December 10

Sermon – “Peace Is Offered”

December 17

Sermon – “Joy Is Offered”

December 24

Sermon – “Love Is Offered”

December 31

Sermon – “Jesus’s Hands”

Worship Assistants for December

Scripture Readers

December 3 – Debra Weber
December 10 – Amanda Judge
December 17 – Barbara Lacy
December 24 – Carly Griggs
December 31 – Ron Reece

Children’s Story

December 3 – Linda Brock
December 10 – Mike Van Osdol
December 17 – Janet Putnam
December 24 – Diana Bowman
December 31 – Linda Brock

Junior Church

December 3 – Linda Brock
December 10 – David Lahr
December 17 – Linda Brock
December 24 – Jessica Noteboom
December 31 – No Junior Church

Song Leaders

December 3 – Hayley Painter
December 10 – Tasha Crandall
December 17 – Hayley Painter
December 24 – Tasha Crandall
December 31 – Janet Putnam

Greeters – Steve & Judy Stevens

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Dale Albertson – recovering from knee surgery
Gary Stegner – at home
Pam Reno – arm surgery
Richard Ratcliff – health problems
Steve Stevens – radiation treatments
Libby Henshaw – at Glen Oaks
Judy Smith – at Stonebrooke
Sarah Reiblein – cancer
Steve Neal – liver cancer



Extended Family and Friends

Craig (cousin of Judy Stevens) – in need of prayer
Tammy Tucker (Vickie Richardson’s sister) – heart attack
David Fox (husband of Carol Fox) – heart surgery
Jennifer Upchurch (sister of Bill Upchurch) – health problems
Jamie (daughter of Peggy MacFarlane) – head injury from fall
Valerie Darling – health concerns
Judah (Marilyn Thompson) – health issues
Timmy Vanmatre (Cindy Mitchell’s grandson) – MS in brain
Tamara Cook (Tasha Crandall’s grandmother) – health issues
Evan Roberts (Lisa Knotts) – cancer
Sherry Matney (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Misty Brett Steffen (Sarah Reiblein) – rare cancer and treatment
Karsun Moffitt – at home; on feeding tube
Gary Dice (Marilyn Thompson) – in need of heart transplant
Mai Nguyen (Julia Bouslog) – breast cancer; has spread
James (Donna Hall’s son) – lymphoma; chemo
Sherry Butler (Tasha Crandall) – kidney transplant
David Butler (Helen Rust’s brother-in-law) – in need of prayer
Jan Hurst (Judy Stevens) – Parkinson’s; stroke
Susan Weaver (Kristen Davis) – lung cancer
Carolyn Lantz – health problems
Rita Beavers (Garners) – bladder cancer
Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer

2024 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.

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 from your traditional IRA toward your required minimum distributions beginning the year you turn 70 1/2. 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 tax-efficient way to support the church and other causes you care about!

With the new tax laws in effect that significantly 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 no taxes are due on that distribution.

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

– **David Brock**

Christmas Eve Choir – December practices will be December 5, 12, and 19 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Christmas Crackups

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!



- Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?
Because he went down in history.
- What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?
Cookie sheets.
- What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh?"
Santa walking backwards.
- How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing. It was on the house!
- What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?
Elfies

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Debi Zimmerman** upon the passing of her brother, **Ed Cole**, on September 28.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to **Bob & Helen Rust** and family upon the passing of Bob's mother, **Phyllis Rust**, on October 21.

Note of Thanks

"The family of **Marcia Byrket** would like to thank everyone for everything that was done for our family. This was greatly appreciated during this difficult time."

– **Charlie Byrket**

A Prayer for Christmas

The internet reveals little about Wilda English – only that she lived from 1916 to 1997 and once resided in California. No details exist about her family, work or interests. Just this prayer, widely shared online. And it is no small thing. Indeed, the prayer tells much about her faith.

God bless Wilda English for sharing these words with the world. May they continue to inspire many!

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas which is love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas which is Christ.

New Year's Eve at Spiceland Friends Church

Let's ring in the New Year with food, fellowship and fun! This evening is designed for the more mature but yet young at heart of this church. Please join us at 6:00 p.m. and bring your favorite party food and be ready to play some fun games and activities. You never know what we will come up with! We usually stay up until 9:00 or so! If you have questions, see **Nancy Wadman**.