



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

January/February 2022



“New Every Morning”

***“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”
Lamentations 3:22-23 (NRSV)***



January/February worship theme: **Friends, Faith, & Fruit**

Last Sunday, January 2, I preached on **“Great is Thy Faithfulness,”** and the choir sang the beautiful hymn of the same name. I used the above scripture as the text for my message. It is the same scripture that inspired the hymn. I have written about this same theme in some of our previous January newsletters. I don’t usually repeat newsletter articles, but I think it is a good spiritual practice to begin each year reflecting on God’s faithfulness and compassion over the past year. It helps us think beyond our problems of today and take a longer look at our life and see how God has actually worked closely with us through unexpected problems, sickness, or

stressful issues. As Eric said in his testimony before the choir sang on Sunday: “Many people are complaining about how bad their 2021 was, but for me it was the best year of my life.” He went on to explain how God had worked through different problems in his life and brought him out with a whole new openness to God’s love and compassion.

As we reflect back on 2021, all of us have experienced unexpected difficulties. As Linda and I reflected on our own difficulties and setbacks in 2021, we were suddenly overwhelmed with how God had been so faithful to us and had walked with us through unexpected and difficult times, He not only walked with us, but He provided unexpected miracles of friendship, encouragement, gracious help, and compassionate prayer partners. His promises and faithfulness certainly held true for us. I read through a devotional book last year. The title is *“New Morning Mercies”* by Paul David Tripp. The author explains why he used that title. It is based on the well-known scripture above and the better-known hymn, *“Great is Thy Faithfulness.”*

***“Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided -
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!”***

The author’s goal is that the reader will experience God’s mercies in a new way each day and recognize that those mercies are present and never fail us. He puts it this way:

“One of the stunning realities of the Christian life is that in a world where everything is

in some state of decay, God's mercies never grow old. They never run out. They never are ill timed. They never dry up. They never grow weak. They never get weary. They never fail to meet the need. They never disappoint. They never, ever fail, because they really are new every morning. Form-fitted for the challenges, disappointments, suffering, temptation, and struggles with sin within and without are the mercies of our Lord.

"God's mercies don't come in one color; no, they come in every shade of every color of the rainbow of his grace. God's mercies are not the sound of one instrument; no, they sound the note of every instrument of his grace. God's mercy is general; all of his children bask in his mercy. God's mercy is specific; each child receives the mercy that is designed for his or her particular moment of need."

David Tripp's words are reminders to us that God's mercies will never fail us. Many times we have to work at seeing those mercies and understanding them, but they are there and specifically designed for us by God himself. Join me in prayer that each one of us will experience God's new mercies each morning and each day during this new year that is just beginning.

David Brock

Sermon Theme for January/February

Nancy Wadman will be preaching January 9 on "Are Your Headlights On?" with scripture from John 8:12 and 9:1-5. **David Brock** and **Eric Bowman** will be preaching the other Sundays in January and February. Their series is titled: "Friends, Faith, and Fruit." Some Sundays both will do part of the sermon, and some Sundays it may be one or the other.

Thursday Bible Study Resumes

The Thursday Bible Study group will resume meeting on Thursday, January 6, at 11:00 a.m. in the Mary M Room. We will be doing a study of Philippians called "Relentless Joy." It is a guide on how to live a joyful life. After the study, we will go out for lunch. Please join us! If you have any questions, see **Nancy Wadman**.

Just Give Up

Most of us do not like "surprises." We like to be in control. But, if we are honest, there is very little that we are actually in control over. As our lives march forward, we notice more and more that we are less and less in control. From a biblical perspective this makes us normal. Every role model of great faith had to relinquish control of their lives to God. In most cases this transpired over years. As a congregation, we can look back over 2021 and see that God poured out many blessings on us as we turned over control to Him. David Brock encouraged us last year to sincerely engage ourselves in prayer for one another. Prayer in itself forces us to admit we are not in control. As we open up the coming year, let's continue to look to and submit to God both on a personal and congregational level. Like every year, 2022 will not be without challenges. But let's remember that it is through these challenges that God gives us the opportunity to turn more and more of our lives over to his control. Reality is that the more we let go and give to God, the more hope we have for the best year of our lives in 2022. When we GIVE UP more of ourselves, we make room for more of HIM. This gives us great HOPE in the coming year.

"For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when our endurance is fully developed, you will be complete, needing nothing." James 1:3,4 (NLT)

Eric Bowman

Last Call for Directory Information



We are in the process of preparing and printing the 2022 church directory. If you have changes or additions, please turn them in to the church office or email them to spicelandfriends@frontier.com so the directory will be accurate and up to date.

Mark Your Calendar

Ministry & Oversight Meeting – January 3
Music Committee – January 4, 10:00 a.m.
Fold Newsletters – January 6, 9:30 a.m.
Walkers – Mon. & Wed. at 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study – Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve 2021

Christmas Eve at SFC is a wonderful tradition that has been carried on for 66 years. It was a memorable evening this year with the return of our choir after not having one in 2020 due to COVID. We had beautiful solos, great narration, amazing music and an inspiring message by David Brock. Eric Bowman celebrated his one-year anniversary with us by coordinating and directing this beautiful service. I want to thank all the people who came and those who gave their time to make this a very successful night. There are too many people to list each one, but like so many things with our congregation, our members gave freely and lovingly of their time to share God's words and love to the people in our community. Thank You!

Nancy Wadman
Ministry Coordinator

A Debt of Gratitude

The last two months have taught me what it means to owe a "debt of gratitude." Until I experienced the generosity, the prayers, and the love of our fantastic congregation over the past season of my life, owing someone a "debt of gratitude" was just another "saying." During November and December you have been overwhelmingly generous with cards, gifts, and even scheduling flexibility. Your sincere prayer and continual expression of love and concern for my parents and family over the past few months is something I've not experienced before. Diana and I are inexplicably grateful for your outpouring of love as we walked through a difficult time in our lives. There is absolutely nothing we can ever say or do to express what the Spiceland Friends Meeting has meant to our family. I now comprehend what the phrase "debt of gratitude means." Thank you for your love!

– Eric, Diana and family

Spring Bible Study

There will be a Spring Bible Study. The dates and topic will be determined at a later date. Easter is late in April this year so we don't need to start a Bible Study until early March. Watch for information in emails and bulletins.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Tom Weber – recovering from hip surgery
Marilyn Biehl – broken shoulder
Irene Goodwin – sciatica
Shirley Fort – sciatica
Chris Garner – neck infusion
Brad Knotts – shoulder surgery
Marilyn Ingle – knee replacement;
kidney stone



**Prayer
Requests**

Debi Zimmerman – recovering from stroke
Pat Bogue – recovering from back surgery
George Lacy – lung cancer; chemo
George Fort – recovering from back surgery;
Parkinson's
Judy Smith – health problems
Marilyn Thompson – Bell's palsy
Don & Barbara Meade – health problems
Irene Goodwin – health problems
Janet Craft – health problems
Steve Neal – liver cancer

Extended Family and Friends

Family of Jim Bowman
Family of Larry MacFarlane
Corey Riggs (Cindy Mitchell) – COVID-19 and
pneumonia
Charles Kirtley (Marilyn Thompson) – possible
stroke
Eric Roth (Darlings) – COVID-19; pneumonia
Jay Knotts (Ruth's son) – pneumonia
Vickie Vaccaro (Helen Rust) – cancer
Jackie Clendenin (Pat Bogue) – health problems
Tammy Cook (Tasha Crandall's grandmother) –
pneumonia; COVID-19
Kristal (granddaughter of Cindy Mitchell)
Ruthann Pittman (Kandi Rutledge) – cancer
Susan Weaver (Kristen Davis) – lung cancer
Daniel Sears (Kristen Davis) – stomach cancer
Geoff Ostler (Nancy Wadman) – liver cancer
Wayne Schatzle (Bob Rust) – COVID-19
Par Sung (Bob Rust) – kidney problems
Abeba Darling (Darlings' granddaughter) – in need
of prayer
Tivon Lee (grandson of Sadlers) – health issues
Carolyn Lantz – health problems
Abby (God daughter of Bob & Helen Rust)

(Continued on back)

Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – health issues
 Franka Dick (Pyles) – health issues
 Rita Beaver (Garners) – bladder cancer
 Melissa Humerickhouse (Jenny McDaniel) – brain tumor
 Sue Engle (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
 Parents of Teresa Batt
 Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer
 Byron Hanes (Relative of Pam Reno) – radiation
 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

Worship Assistants for January & February

Scripture Readers

Jan. 2 – Bob Rust
 Jan. 9 – Sandi Swann
 Jan. 16 – Doris Hoover
 Jan. 23 – Ron Reece
 Jan. 30 – Linda Ratcliff
 Feb. 6 – Bob Rust
 Feb. 13 – Breanna Rust
 Feb. 20 – Dale Albertson
 Feb. 27 – Debra Weber



Children's Story

Jan. 2 – Linda Brock
 Jan. 9 – Mike Van Osdol
 Jan. 16 – Janet Putnam
 Jan. 23 – Diana Bowman
 Jan. 30 – Linda Brock
 Feb. 6 – Mike Van Osdol
 Feb. 13 – Janet Putnam
 Feb. 20 – Diana Bowman
 Feb. 27 – Linda Brock

Junior Church

Jan. 2 and Feb. 6 – Linda Brock
 Jan. 9 and Feb. 13 – David Lahr
 Jan. 16 and Feb. 20 – Linda Brock
 Jan. 23 and Feb. 27 – Claudia Garner
 Jan. 30 – No Junior Church

Greeters for January – Ed & Virginia Bryson
Greeters for February – Joe & Priscilla James

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **James Bowman** upon his passing on December 27. Jim was the husband of Shirley and father of Eric Bowman.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Larry MacFarlane** upon his passing on December 29. He was the husband of Peggy and son-in-law of Rex & Mildred Brooks.



Notes of Thanks

“Thank you all for the Christmas gifts, the Christmas cards, notes, and all the encouragement! This is a wonderful congregation and we are blessed to be a part of it.” – **David & Linda Brock**

“I truly appreciate all the notes, cards, gifts, and support that I received this year. You are such a blessing to me and I am so happy to be part of your family. Thank you so much!”

– **Nancy Wadman**, Ministry Coordinator

“Thank you, Spiceland Friends, for the generous monetary gift you gave me for Christmas. I truly appreciate it as well as all of you.”

– **Carol Fox**

“Thank you all so much for the prayers, thoughts and cards during the loss of our dear mother. Also thank you for the wonderful food after the service.”

– **Family of Leona Blake (Bob, Helen, Lane & Mikala)**

“A great big thank you, virtual hugs to everyone involved with the Community Christmas Cheer Fund! Thank you so much for thinking of us this Christmas with the cookies and fruit gift. We really appreciate it. It's so nice to be remembered!”

– **Pat & Amie Thornburg**

“Thank you for all that you have done over the years for my grandmother (and grandfather). Having your church be their home means an awful lot. Thank you also for your hospitality following her funeral.” – **Matthew Alber & Colleen Alber**, grandchildren of Janet Copeland)