



THE  
*Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

*January/February 2023*



**“What Did Jesus Teach?”**

*Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” Mark 1:14b&15*

Next Sunday, I will begin a new sermon series titled “What Did Jesus Teach?” We are going to base those sermons on the book of Luke, the gospel that focuses on the lessons that Jesus taught. These lessons taught 2,000 years ago still apply to us today. Our theme scripture above was the text for last Sunday’s sermon. We talked about why Jesus and the early disciples continued to call their message “the good news” and what we could learn from that term.

Good news is in short supply these days – it seems like there are too many murders, wars, lack of respect for the value of life, and much more. We search for good news. When we find some good news – especially if it is something that happened to us personally, we want to tell others about it. We want to share it with everyone we see even if they don’t really understand it.

Good news always has a backstory. Someone may burst into a coffee shop where you

are talking with a friend and enjoying a cup of coffee and shout, “I have good news!” Maybe he says there is a new factory coming to town or my daughter is going to get well. But you don’t know the backstory that gives that good news such important meaning to the person who burst in. Perhaps the backstory of the factory is that the area has been in constant decline and the lack of jobs is affecting many in the community so the good news of a factory gives everyone hope for new opportunities and new possibilities. Then you can understand why the person was so excited. Or perhaps the backstory of his daughter is that she has been in hospital for several weeks and not expected to live and now a new treatment has been found that is working and there is good hope that she will recover and be able to return home and to her normal activities. Then you can understand why the father is so excited that he had to burst in and tell everyone about his good news.

The backstory of the good news that Jesus was proclaiming was that several hundred years ago, Isaiah and other prophets who wrote in the Old Testament, had predicted exactly how Jesus would be born and how John the Baptist would prepare the way for him. Earlier in this chapter one of Mark, we see the prophecy and that John fulfilled that prophecy. God had planned this event - Jesus, His Son, coming to earth as a human being, hundreds of years earlier and now was the time that he broke onto the world scene. It was not random and it was not an accident – God planned this intervention for a long time.

## What Did Jesus Teach?" (Continued)

God drew near to us as human beings and sent Jesus to live among us and to experience our life, be tempted as we are, and to feel the emotions we feel. He did not sin, but he died for our sins and rose from the dead to show that he conquered death. He offers us this Good News and offers us a transformed life because of his presence in our lives.

This is the good news that Jesus taught. This is the good news that the early disciples taught. This is the good news that we believe. This is the good news that still has the power to transform our lives. This is the good news that empowers us to share this good news with others around us.

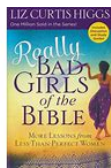
Come and join us each week as we study the life lessons that Jesus taught us.

*David Brock*

## Spring Bible Study

Mark your calendars for the first four Wednesdays in March. We will gather for food, fellowship, and Bible study on March 1, 8, 15, and 22. **David Brock** and **Nancy Wadman** will be leading a discussion of John, chapters 14, 15, 16, and 17. We will study one chapter each week, so bring your favorite Bible. **Eric Bowman's** group will gather at these times as well. We will have supper at 6:00 p.m. and Bible study from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors.

## Really Bad Girls of the Bible By Liz Curtis Higgs



**Tasha Crandall** will be leading a group discussion of the *Really Bad Girls of the Bible* on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. This will be great fun and an interesting study of women in the Bible that might not have had a really good reputation, yet God used them to further His Kingdom! If you want to join this group and do not have a book, contact

**Nancy Wadman**, and she will order one for you. They are also available on Kindle. This study will be every Tuesday evening, ending on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Tea Time for Ladies



Tea Time is a gathering of women who have lost their husbands. We will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Mary M Room. If you have questions, please see **Nancy Wadman**. We have a great time discussing problems, solutions, and memories. There is lots of laughter, empathy, and occasionally some tears.

## Sermon Topics for January and February

**David Brock** will be preaching all of the Sundays in January and February.

### January 15

Sermon – “Triangular Living”  
Scripture – Luke 2:39-52

### January 22

Sermon – “Now Is the Time”  
Scripture – Luke 4:14-30

### January 29

Sermon – “Transformation”  
Scripture – Luke 4:31-44

### February 5

Sermon – “Meaningful Worship”  
Scripture – Luke 6:1-16

### February 12

Sermon – “A New Way of Living”  
Scripture – Luke 6:20-49

### February 19

Sermon – “Unconditional Love”  
Scripture – Luke 7:36-50

### February 26

Sermon – “Listen Carefully”  
Scripture – Luke 8:4-15

## Stuck in the Middle

Over the holidays, I had a chance to sit with my son and investigate his love life. I felt my parental duty was to harass him with my investigative probing. During our conversation, he explained how much he and his girlfriend enjoyed spending time with each other. He mentioned several things that seemed to connect them. One surprise was that both were middle children throughout their childhood years.

Usually, this spot in the family is viewed as a negative, but they both reflected on how being the middle child had helped them be better people. Because they were stuck in the middle, they experienced the demand from older siblings to “fall in line” and “know their place in the food chain. But, they also developed leadership skills because they had younger siblings they could mentor. They recognized that being stuck in the middle of their siblings was a blessing.

As children of God, we, too, are called to live in the middle. From our new birth, until we pass from this earth, we should have someone mentoring and growing our faith. We should seek to establish and maintain a strong relationship with someone with a stronger relationship and walk with Christ than ourselves. We all need that encourager who pours wisdom by words and example into our lives. Likewise, from the day of our salvation, we should be searching for and mentoring those who have a newer walk than we have. Even from the beginning, we have friends, family, and coworkers who need Jesus. We must also be seeking these people out.

As Christians, we should always be searching for a mentor and someone who we can also mentor. We are called to live a life that is in the middle. This year make it a personal goal to get in between these two people. Reach in both directions, extending one hand to someone who can help you grow and the other hand out to someone you can pull along. Some of us may not have benefited from being the middle child, but we should all choose to become one in our faith journey.

*Eric Bowman*



## Please Remember in Prayer

### Church Family

Megan Chandler – recovering from surgery  
Kandi Rutledge – knee replacement Jan. 18  
Sandy White – multiple eye injections  
Sarah Reiblein – cancer  
Steve Neal – liver cancer

### Extended Family and Friends

John Eaton (Chris Garner’s friend) – heart attack  
Family of Naomi Wagner  
Erin Branham (Vickie Richardson) – health problems  
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  
Franka Dick (Tom Pyle’s sister) – health issues  
Ed Cole (Debi Zimmerman) – pancreatic cancer  
Kathy Gortner (sister of Cindy Mitchell) – kidney failure  
Carmelle Jordan (Darlings) – stroke  
Jan Hurst (Judy Stevens) – Parkinson’s  
Betty Kirtley (Marilyn Thompson’s mother) – severe back pain  
Jackie Clendenin (Pat Bogue) – swallowing issues  
Susan Weaver (Kristen Davis) – lung cancer  
Carolyn Lantz – health problems  
Rita Beavers (Garners) – bladder cancer  
Melissa Humerickhouse (Jenny McDaniel) – brain tumor  
Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer  
People in Ukraine  
Students, teachers, and school administrators  
Our country and servicemen and women  
Prison Staff and Prisoners



## New Address

**Charlie & Marcia Byrket**, 210 W. Main Street, P. O. Box 245, Spiceland, IN 47385  
(Phone numbers same as in directory)

## Worship Assistants for January & February

### Scripture Readers

January 1 – Janet Putnam  
January 8 – Sandra Swann  
January 15 – Barbara Lacy  
January 22 – Nancy Wadman  
January 29 – Bob Rust  
February 5 – Gerald Darling  
February 12 – Bob Rust  
February 19 – Barbara Lacy  
February 26 – Linda Ratcliff

### Children's Story

January 1 – Linda Brock  
January 8 – Mike Van Osdol  
January 15 – Janet Putnam  
January 22 – Diana Bowman  
January 29 – Linda Brock  
February 5 – Mike Van Osdol  
February 12 – Janet Putnam  
February 19 – Diana Bowman  
February 26 – Linda Brock

### Junior Church

Jan. 1 and Feb. 5 – Linda Brock  
Jan. 8 and Feb. 12 – David Lahr  
Jan. 15 and Feb. 19 – Linda Brock  
Jan. 22 and Feb. 26 – Claudia Garner

**Greeters for January** – Butch & Linda Rutherford

**Greeter for February** – Vickie Richardson

## Game Night for the Young at Heart, 50 Years and Older!



Since New Year's Eve was canceled due to so many being ill, I think we should try again! Bring your favorite party food or snacks, and the church will provide the drinks. We will have table tennis, cornhole, dominoes, Scrabble, card games, and any other game you want to bring. So, mark your calendar for Friday, January 27, and

come around 6:00 p.m. and stay until you have had all the fun you can handle. If you have questions, please see **Nancy Wadman**.

## Directory Information Is Needed



We are in the process of preparing the 2023 church directory. If you have changes or additions, please turn them in to the church office or email them to [spicelandfriends@frontier.com](mailto:spicelandfriends@frontier.com) so the directory will be accurate and up to date.

## Notes of Thanks



“Thank you! Thank you to everyone involved in the Spiceland Cheer group this year! It is always a surprise to receive so many goodies with the Cheer package. Words cannot express how nice it is to be remembered, especially at Christmas! We appreciate this so very, very much!”

– **Pat & Amie Thornburg**

“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**

“I truly appreciate all the Christmas cards and gifts that I received this year! I am so blessed to have such a loving and generous church family. I pray that 2023 brings each of your families many blessings and opportunities to serve God and our community.”

– **Nancy Wadman**, Ministry Coordinator

“Thank you for all the Christmas gifts, 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**