



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

January/February 2024



“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)*

This coming Sunday, January 14, I will be preaching on “Great is Thy Faithfulness” and we will sing the well-known, beautiful hymn of the same name. The above scripture will be my text for my message. 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. Two years ago – January 2022 – Eric shared his testimony with the congregation. He said: “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. I am sure that it was not enjoyable when he was going through those problems, but in retrospect he saw God’s hand of mercy and compassion at work in many ways.

As we reflect back on 2023, all of us have experienced unexpected difficulties. As Linda and I reflected on our own difficulties and setbacks in 2023, 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 hope that all of us will look carefully at how God worked in our lives in the past. Meditate on the scripture above and the words of the well-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!”*

Thomas Chisholm is the author of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” and 1200 other poems. He was born in a log cabin in Kentucky in 1866. While some hymns have dramatic stories about how the author wrote the words, this hymn was inspired by the simple realization that God is at work in our lives on a daily basis. Thomas wrote, “My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me until now. Although, I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that he has given me many wonderful displays of his providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness.”

(Continued on back)

New Every Morning *(Continued)*

These 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. As Rachel Helm reminded us on Sunday, one of the names for God in the Bible is "He sees me." Wherever we are and whatever we are experiencing, God sees us and will love us and help us. Join me in prayer that each one of us will experience God's new mercies each morning and each day during this new year.

David Brock

Flintstones and Ferraris

The Bible is not just a book that we read and forget about. We can experience transforming power in the Word of God. In *Hebrews 4:12*, we read, "*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*"

The power of God's Word lies in its coming alive. It's active and effective. No other book in the world has this kind of power. The Bible penetrates the deepest parts of our being – our soul, spirit, and mind. Isaiah gives us God's voice in chapter 55, verse 11. "*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*"

As we turn the page from 2023 to 2024 at Spiceland Friends, I would like to challenge you to increase your intake of God's Word. If you read it every day, try twice per day. If you don't read it during the week at all, make a commitment to read it a couple of times each week. Wherever your habit of spending time in His Word is, make it a goal to sit and hear Him more often. Without hearing from God through His written Word, we miss out on the real power of our Christian life while we are still here on this beautiful earth. Why continue kicking our feet along in our Fred Flintstone car when we have a Ferrari with the keys in it sitting in our garage? The living power for our Christian life is in God's Holy and living Word.

Eric Bowman

Spring Bible Study Starts February 21



Mark your calendars for the last two weeks of February and the first three weeks of March. We will gather for food, fellowship, and Bible study on February 21 and 28 and March 6, 13, and 20. **David Brock** and **Nancy**

Wadman will be leading a discussion of Mitch Albom's new book, *The Little Liar*. The books will be available in the Welcome Center in the near future. **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 you friends and neighbors!

The First Spiceland Quaker Meeting House

Hubert Fox wrote a brief historical background of the Spiceland Friends Meeting House with a foreword by Roger Clark which was printed in England. All proceeds were to go to the English Spiceland Meeting House Repair Fund. "Too many of our precious old Meeting Houses have been discarded. Let us save this one."

The Spiceland Meeting House is located a few miles west of the town of Wellington on the Devonshire border on a high ridge of hills nestled between the River Culm and the market town and castle of Tiverton. The building was completed in 1682, but this period in English history was perilous for the Quakers who refused to pay allegiance to the Crown. During a period that began with The Civil War, continued to The Restoration, The Persecution and finally ended with the Monmouth Rebellion.

Many Quakers were ridiculed, imprisoned, murdered and buried in unmarked graves because of their faith. At this time the Crown reigned supreme so our Quaker forefathers were extraordinarily brave and extremely persistent but eventually many were forced to leave their homes for the New World. Perhaps some of these first settlers eventually made their way to our quiet town of Spiceland, Indiana.

Today the Spiceland Meeting House stands serene and peaceful in the English countryside, a symbol of courage in the struggle of the human race for tolerance, freedom and peace.

Amanda Judge

Family Game Night

When: January 13, at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Family Center at SFC

Please bring games, snacks, and beverages to share. This is a time of fellowship when we can have fun and get to know one another better. All ages are invited and encouraged to attend.

Sermon Topics for January and February

David Brock will be preaching each week through Easter, March 31. On January 21 he will begin a series of messages on the book of Acts in the New Testament. As we celebrate our 200th anniversary, we will be looking back at the ways God has blessed us and worked through us down through the years. As part of that celebration, we also want to look forward to the future and consider what God is calling us to do in the future. Acts is the story of how the early church began and there could be no better guide for us to use for our future than how the Holy Spirit worked through the early followers of Christ, the early Quakers, and then us today.

January 14

Sermon – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Scripture – Lamentations 3:17-26

January 21

Sermon – “The Transition”

Scripture – Acts 1

January 28

Sermon – “The Power and The Boldness”

Scripture – Acts 2

February 4

Sermon – “Sharing”

Scripture – Acts 4

February 11

Sermon – “Miracles Abound and Persecution”

Scripture – Acts 5

February 18

Sermon – “God Uses Evil for Good”

Scripture – Acts 6-7

February 25

Sermon – “This Good News Is for Everyone”

Scripture – Acts 8

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.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Cindy Mitchell – back surgery; infection
Brad Knotts – surgery
Dale & Jane Albertson – health problems
Gary Stegner – at home
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

Charles & Betty Hall Kirtley – Covid
Calvin Oren (Bill & Connie Brown) – open heart surgery
Carol McLemore – health issues
Craig (cousin of Judy Stevens) – in need of prayer
Angela (sister of Priscilla James) – ill
Jennifer Upchurch (sister of Bill Upchurch) – health problems
Valerie Darling – health concerns
Judah (Marilyn Thompson) – health issues
Timmy Vanmatre (Cindy Mitchell's grandson) – MS in brain
Sherry Matney (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Misty Brett Steffen (Sarah Reiblein) – rare cancer
Karsun Moffitt – at home; on feeding tube
Gary Dice (Marilyn Thompson) – in need of heart transplant
James (Donna Hall's son) – lymphoma; chemo
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

Worship Assistants for January and February



Scripture Readers

January 7 – Lisa Knotts
January 14 – Gerald Darling
January 21 – Amanda Judge
January 28 – Sandra Swann
February 4 – Nancy Wadman
February 11 – Bob Rust
February 18 – David Reeves
February 25 – Libby Henshaw

Children's Story

January 7 – Mike Van Osdol
January 14 – Janet Putnam
January 21 – Diana Bowman
January 28 – Amanda Judge
February 4 – Mike Van Osdol
February 11 – Janet Putnam
February 18 – Diana Bowman
February 25 – Amanda Judge

Junior Church

Jan. 7 & Feb. 4 – Linda Brock,
Assistant – Josh Pew
Jan. 14 & Feb. 11 – Jessica Noteboom,
Assistant – Josh Griggs
Jan. 21 & Feb. 18 – Linda Brock,
Assistant – Josh Pew
Jan. 28 & Feb. 25 – Jessica Noteboom,
Assistant – Josh Griggs

Greeters for January – New Horizons S. S. Class
Greeter for February – Josh Pew

Directory Information Is Needed



We are in the process of preparing the 2024 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.

Notes of Thanks

“Please extend our thanks for the Christmas cheer gift we received. We are so grateful and do appreciate being remembered this Christmas.”

– **Pat & Amie Thornburg**

“Thank you for all 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**

“What a nice surprise for the Christmas Gift Bag of cookies and fruit. I sure appreciate it as my baking days are over. Thanks.”

– **Ruth Knotts**

“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 2024 brings each of your families many blessings and opportunities to serve God and our community. I apologize for not sending individual thank you notes, but I am still in the process of unpacking. They just finished putting in new windows in my house two days before Christmas. I promise to do better next year!”

– **Nancy Wadman**

“Thank you to the Spiceland Friends family for so many wonderful cards and gifts over Christmas. SFC is very generous to Diana and I. It does not go unnoticed. Thank You and Blessings for 2024.”

– **Eric & Diana Bowman**

“Thank you, Spiceland Friends, for the very generous monetary gift you gave me for Christmas. David and I really enjoyed the Christmas Cheer bag of cookies and fruit. It was a nice surprise! We also appreciated the love and concern shown to us before and after David's surgery.”

– **Carol Fox**

“Thank you so much for your contribution to Heaven's Bread Basket. Your generosity helped to serve over 60 families this Thanksgiving and Christmas. The need is great, and your kindness has provided for many. God bless you!”

– **Heaven's Bread Basket
Joyce Winchester**