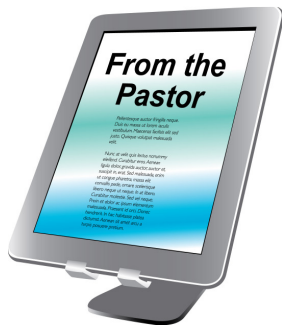




# THE *Spiceland Friend*

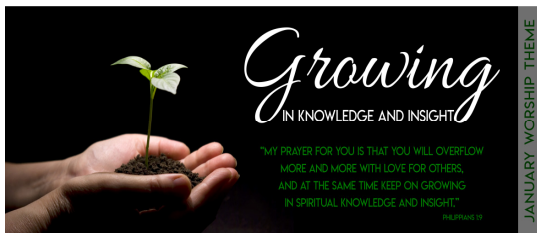
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## JANUARY 2021



### **“Growing in Knowledge and Insight”**

*“My prayer for you is that you will overflow more and more with love for others, and at the same time keep on growing in spiritual knowledge and insight.” Philippians 1:9 (TLB)*



The above verse was our text for the first Sunday in 2021. It will also be a guide for us throughout the year. Paul’s prayer for the followers of Christ in Philippi is my prayer for you – the followers of Christ at Spiceland Friends. I hope it will also be a prayer that each of you will pray for the others around you. We know that prayer is powerful, and we have felt the results of prayer in our lives. 2021 is a good year to spend more time in prayer for each other.

What would it look like if our lives began to “overflow more and more with love for others” throughout this year? We see a lot of this kind of love exhibited already in the lives of our congregation, but what if we really focused our prayer and activity on this particular trait? We would begin to see new opportunities to love. We would begin to notice some new people that need some extra love. We would begin to look for opportunities to spread this love of Jesus around our community and to many people in our lives.

What would it look like if we all began to “grow in spiritual knowledge and insight”? Growth in spiritual knowledge and insight will take work on our part. It will require extra time reading the Bible at home and studying the Bible with others. It will require some extra time waiting before the Lord in a prayerful attitude in order to determine his guidance for us as we weigh various decisions that face us. The results will be similar to the early church in the Book of Acts. They were led by the Holy Spirit into new areas of ministry and into new challenges. We will be surprised by the thoughts and the direction that God will give us through the Holy Spirit who constantly lives within us.

I will continue to pray this prayer for each of you throughout 2021. It is my hope that each of us will find ways to allow Christ to be more and more at home in our lives and to encourage our roots to go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love. (Ephesians 3:17)

*David Brock*

## Greetings and Happy New Year!!!

Diana and I are grateful that you have welcomed us as part of your SFC ministry. We see this opportunity as a direct reflection of the amazing grace God provides. We sense strongly that God has put all of us together, and we look forward to serving God's kingdom with each of you throughout the new year.

Many of us have great hope for the coming new year. 2020 has definitely been a challenging year for many. It is often hope for better days that carries us through and gives us the ability to move forward. The start of a new year gives us each hope.

Hope of a new season and celebration of Jesus' birth lead us to Isaiah 9. Isaiah is expressing THE TRUE HOPE that will come to a gloomy, dark land. The house of Jacob was experiencing hostile takeover, an unforeseeable end of a tyrannical government, famine, and even spiritual darkness. With this backdrop of darkness Isaiah shares God's promise of hope through the prophecy of the birth of Christ.

In this familiar prophecy Isaiah places true hope in Christ alone. The advent of the person of Christ would produce a ruler, a wonderful counselor, mighty God, and the prince of peace. The true hope of this passage points to Jesus Christ and only Jesus Christ. True hope is not placed in a New Year or season. True hope is not placed in relief from famine, or freedom from a tyrannical government. True hope is not placed in more food, a better economy, a protective vaccine, or a change in leadership. TRUE HOPE is placed firmly in the coming Jesus Christ! Like everyone I am hopeful that 2021 brings a better season than 2020. However, if it doesn't, we must remember that we place our true hope in the person of Jesus Christ. It is this TRUE HOPE that we are called to share with the world around us. It is the true HOPE we place in Christ that our family, friends, and surrounding community so desperately need. It is hope in Christ that causes us to move our eyes from ourselves and place our eyes on a surrounding world that is unknowingly desperate for the true hope Christ offers.

*(Continued next column)*

The song writer Hellen Lemmel clearly stated it this way:

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His Wonderful Face,  
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
in the light of His Glory and Grace."*

We are all looking forward to a great 2021 at SFC. Let us all place our HOPE in Jesus Christ. He alone is our TRUE HOPE!

Happy New Year!!!

– Eric & Diana Bowman

## Office Hours for New Associate Pastor

**Eric & Diana Bowman**

8943 E Co. Rd. 200 N

Hagerstown, IN 47346

Office Hours: Sunday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Monday, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Available by text or phone at any time.

## Sermon Topics for January

**David Brock** will be preaching the first four Sundays of January, and **Nancy Wadman** will be preaching the fifth Sunday.

### January 3

Sermon – "My Prayer for You"

Scripture – Philippians 1:1-11

### January 10

Sermon – "Joy in Every Circumstance"

Scripture – Philippians 1:12-30

### January 17

Sermon – "The Mind of Christ"

Scripture – Philippians 2:1-11

### January 24

Sermon – "Joy in Serving"

Scripture – 2:12-29

### January 31

Sermon – "Are We Done Growing?"

Scripture – 2 Peter 1:1-4, 3:11-18

## Please Remember in Prayer

### Church Family

Family of Max Jessup  
Tom Weber – health concerns  
Judy Smith – health problems  
George Lacy – lung cancer; chemo  
Steve Stevens – health concerns  
Rick Little – recovering from cancer  
Darlene Darling – at home  
Gary Stegner – recovering from surgery for aortic aneurism  
Linda Rutherford – breast cancer; chemo  
Kathy Painter – at home recovering  
Janice Radcliff – recovering from rotator cuff surgery  
Marilyn Thompson – Bell's palsy  
Don & Barbara Meade – health problems  
Irene Goodwin – health problems  
Pat Bogue – problems with both eyes  
Darrell & Janet Craft – Janet – ankle surgery; Darrell – knee surgery



### Extended Family and Friends

Shelly Carrera (Sandy White) – breast cancer  
Family of Priscilla Davis  
Jan Hurst (Sister of Judy Stevens) – health issues  
Emma – 8-year-old with brain tumor (Marilyn Ingle)  
Davina Starke (Daughter of David & Rita Reeves) – COVID-19  
Daughters of Cindy Mitchell – Amy – COVID-19; Brooke – cancer  
Michelle McKullip (Marilyn Thompson) – cancer  
Julie Delay (Kandi Rutledge) – cancer  
Family of David Baker – COVID-19  
Jill Stansberry (Claudia Garner) – mass removed from spine  
Jay French (Linda Ratcliff) – cancer  
Shelly McIntosh – breast cancer  
Grandson of Ray & Naomi Wagner (David Baker) – in hospital in critical condition  
Sue Engle (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer  
Brooke Runyon (Cindy Mitchell) – cancer on her face  
Alice Womack – heart issues  
Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – cancer has returned  
Megan (Kandi Rutledge's granddaughter) – health issues

Brother of Chris Garner – testing for possible tumor  
Jennifer (friend of Debi Zimmerman) – breast cancer  
Juan (Beverly Reece) – 7-year-old whose organs are failing  
Angela Thompson (Priscilla James) – health issues  
Charlene Haugh (Claudia Garner) – recovering from bad stroke  
Claire Wallace (Pam Pyle) – back surgery  
Parents of Teresa Batt  
Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer  
Joyce Butler (Sara Jane Stegner) – COVID-19  
Doug Schweikhardt – cancer  
Cain Kneply (Brian Thomas) – surgery on both hips  
Catherine Scott (Amie Thornburg) – ALS; severe lung infection; is on ventilator  
Connie Smith (Linda Ratcliff's sister) – cancer  
Byron Hanes (Relative of Pam Reno) – radiation  
Sarah Maley (Kandi Rutledge) – advanced breast cancer  
Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – uterine cancer  
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

## Save the Date!



We are going to have a Spring Bible Study! It will start Wednesday, February 17 and continue through March 24. We are working on both an in-person study and Facebook Live for those who do not feel comfortable coming to church. Watch for more details in the February newsletter.

## Last Call for Directory Information



We are in the process of preparing and printing the 2021 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.

## Christmas Eve at SFC

I want to thank everyone who participated in our Christmas Eve Service! It was a beautiful service even though it was modified quite a bit from past years. We had beautiful music from Tim Wilkinson and Hayley Painter and meaningful scripture from Eric Bowman and Nancy Wadman. David Brock gave a really nice message about "Presents or Presence." The Rust family greeted and the Garner family lighted candles during the singing of "Silent Night." Tom Pyle was in charge of lights, and Jim Putnam took care of the sound system. Carol Fox typed the bulletin and helped me in more ways than she knows. We were blessed by people attending live as well as those watching from home. Thank you all for being part of this most Holy Night!

– **Nancy Wadman**  
Ministry Coordinator

## Worship Assistants for January

### Scripture Readers

January 3 – Nancy Wadman  
January 10 – Dale Albertson  
January 17 – Barbara Lacy  
January 24 – Mike Van Osdol  
January 31 – Libby Henshaw

### Children's Story

January 3 – Linda Brock  
January 10 – Mike Van Osdol  
January 17 – Janet Putnam  
January 24 – Mike Van Osdol  
January 31 – Linda Brock

**Greeters** – Bob, Helen, Lane & Breanna Rust

## Come and Join the Walkers – We Welcome More Walkers



Now that the holidays are behind us, you are invited to add some exercise to your weekly routine. The group meets each Monday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Center. You walk at your own pace and take a break when needed. About 10:30 we enjoy fresh fruit, cookies, coffee, tea, or water provided by **Pam Pyle**. All are welcome.

## With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Max Jessup** upon his passing on December 26.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of **Marcia Ash** upon her passing on December 1. She was the mother of **Jason Ash** and sister of **Sandy White**.

## Notes of Thanks

"Thanks to all who prayed for and sent cards in the passing of my sister, Marcia."  
– **R. J. & Sandy White**

"We are grateful to all of you for the wonderful cards, good wishes, and gifts during Christmas and during the time we were recovering! You are a wonderful group and you know how to encourage others and pray for them regularly. We are blessed to be a part of Spiceland Friends!"

– **David & Linda Brock**

"I want to thank Spiceland Friends Church for the monetary gift at Christmas and also for the beautiful arrangement of fresh flowers that appeared on my desk on my birthday. You are a special group of people and appreciate all of you and your kindness."

– **Carol Fox**

"Thank you so much for your very generous donation to Heaven's Bread Basket. Your generosity has helped to provide food and Christmas gifts to many deserving families in the South Henry area."

– **Lewisville Presbyterian Church  
& Heaven's Bread Basket**

