



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

March 2018



“Draw Nigh to God”

*“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”
James 4:8a (KJV)*

Last Sunday we talked about the scripture verse above and tied it into the story of Jesus healing a man by the Pool of Bethesda (John 5). This man had been unable to walk for 38 years and had been reduced to begging from people passing by. Jesus told him to get up, take his mat and walk. He was instantly healed. However, he did not move toward Jesus and try to find out more about him. Instead, he moved away from him and tried to distance himself from Jesus - even offering to turn him in to the religious leaders who were upset that Jesus healed him on the Sabbath.

We would probably never be that ungrateful, but we do allow many barriers to block our movement toward Jesus. It could be packed schedules, feelings of unworthiness, uncertainty if Jesus will accept us, or unwillingness to follow his leading. In the remaining four weeks leading up to Easter, we are going to explore several themes from the Bible that will lead us closer to Jesus and his example and teaching.

The passage from James above has two parts. First, a command – we should try to draw

nigh to God. Second, a promise – God will draw nigh to us. This promise that God will move toward us is throughout the scripture. God’s reaching for us is not dependent on our actions, but our actions can enhance that movement and relationship. Two people who fall in love suddenly want to be together all the time, they begin to think of ways to please the other person and think of things to do that will bring them closer to each other. The same is true of our relationship with Jesus. He wants our love for him to be great enough that we work to spend more time with him (listening and studying). He wants us to find ways to do his work (helping others in a variety of ways). Moving toward Jesus is not always doing “religious” things. Many times, it involves a transformation of our attitude, a helping spirit, or an encouraging personality.

Let’s work on moving toward God and watch as he moves toward us.

David Brock



Don’t forget to set your clocks forward an hour on Saturday, March 10, before you go to bed or you’ll miss church!

Lenten Book Study Begins March 7

More and more people who have disabilities or are terminally ill are choosing assisted suicide. Joni Eareckson Tada knows what it's like to wrestle with this issue – in her own life as well as when she sat by her father while he was dying. Behind every right-to-die situation is a family like yours – longing for hope, answers, and a release from suffering.

David Brock will be leading our Lenten study of the book, *When Is It Right to Die? . . . A Comforting and Surprising Look at Death & Dying*. The author, Joni Eareckson Tada, shares her own journey of choosing life-giving alternatives to assisted suicide. She also shares stories of others who have wrestled with the heartache of end-of-life questions. The book provides encouragement and compassion to help make the difficult decisions with the hope of a caring, loving God.

The study begins Wednesday, March 7. We will have a pitch-in dinner (main course, drink, and table service provided) at 6:00 p.m. with the study taking place from 6:45-7:45 p.m. The study will last four weeks and go through March 28 (Wednesday evenings).

Cost of the books is \$10. A Kindle version is available from Amazon.

A class for children will be led by **Linda Brock** with lots of fun activities (different topics).

Upcoming Easter Activities



Thurs., March 29, at 6:00 p.m. – Help the Christian Education Committee stuff Easter eggs

Sat., March 31, at 1:00 p.m. – Easter Egg Hunt

Sun., April 1 – Easter!

8:00 a.m. – Community Early Easter Service and breakfast at Spiceland Friends Church

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School at SFC

10:30 a.m. – Special Easter worship at SFC

Community Early Morning Easter Service

This year's Community Early Morning Easter Service will be held right here at **Spiceland Friends Church** at 8:00 a.m. Join us for a special time of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus as well as forgiveness, hope, joy, and new life God offers us each day! **David Brock** will bring the message. Immediately following the service, join us for a delicious breakfast. Bring your family and friends.

Special Easter Service Is Planned

On Easter Sunday – April 1 – we will have a special Easter service at 10:30 a.m. **David Brock** will bring an Easter message of hope and new life in Christ, and a variety of inspiring special music will be shared. Come and sing your favorite Easter hymns and bring a friend or invite your family. Sunday School classes will meet at the regular time of 9:30 a.m. that day.



Easter Egg Hunt – March 31

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 31, at 1:00 p.m. The children (ages toddler through 5th grade) will be divided into different age groups to hunt for eggs. Bring the kids for a wonderful family gathering. Refreshments will be available. The event is sponsored by the Christian Education Committee. Prizes will be awarded for each age category. The event will be held rain or shine – outside in nice weather and indoor if raining. Each child that participates will receive a gift bag.

Candy Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunt

It's hard to believe, but Easter will be here before you know it, and that means that before long our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be taking place, and we need your help! We need to fill over 1,000 plastic eggs. **Candy should be individually wrapped and small enough to fit** into the eggs. Please place donations in the box in the Welcome Center.

Cookie Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunt



Cookie donations are needed to help serve refreshments at the Easter Egg Hunt on March 31. Cookies can be homemade or store bought. Please bring them to the church any time the week before Easter and by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 31. A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center.

Help Decorate Our Church for Easter

If you would like to furnish a flower or plant for Easter Sunday, April 1, please fill out a form available in the Welcome Center at the church and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. The flowers need to be at the church by 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, so the



Easter Flowers

Decorating Committee has time to arrange them. A memorial list will be printed in the April newsletter. All types of flowers or plants are welcome! You can take them home with you after worship on Easter Sunday.

Sermon Topics for March

David Brock will be preaching all four Sundays in March.

March 4

Sermon – “Living by the Spirit”
Scripture – Romans 8:1-11

March 11

Sermon – “Trust”
Scripture – Psalm 66

March 18

Sermon – “Transformation”
Scripture – Exodus 3 & 4

March 25

Sermon – “Hope”
Scripture – Lamentations 3

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.” *1 John 4:9 (NIV)*

Please Remember in Prayer



Church Family

Richard Ratcliff – having defibrillator implanted
Eleanor Painter – starting chemo treatments
Doris Hoover – recovering from surgery
Bobby Thompson – heart valve surgery and fall
Matthew Miller – harassment & threats on campus
Judy Smith – car accident injuries
Chris Garner – back surgery
Carolyn Lantz (Teresa Batt) – stage 3 cancer
Lonnie Murray – chemo & radiation treatments
Phil Alexander – dialysis
Irene & Monte Goodwin – health problems
Youth Groups
Unspoken prayer requests

Extended Family and Friends

Jack Holder (Steve & Judy Stevens) – heart problems
Family of William Robertson
Susan Cadle (Marcia Byrket) – hip surgery
Norman (Barb Meade) – broken shoulder
Jeremy Hicks (Judy Sadler) – colon cancer
Lana Mathews – surgery for broken wrist
Barbara Hoover Keen (Pat Bogue) – lung cancer
Natalie Young (Cathy Harris) – severe headaches, tremors
Jackie Jones – chemo treatments
Jan Hurst (Judy Stevens) – Parkinson’s disease
Peace and stability in North & South Korea
Our country and servicemen and women
Kenya – political upheaval

Baby Bottle Boomerang Continues!



There’s still time to pick up a baby bottle, fill it with coins, dollars, or a check! Please return bottles by Sunday, March 18. Donations of disposable diapers and new or gently used blankets and baby clothing are welcome as well. This outreach is sponsored by the Missions Committee.

M&O Welcomes New Interim Youth Pastor – Chris Harris

Ministry & Oversight is pleased to announce that at a called Monthly Business Meeting we extended a ministry call to **Chris Harris** to serve as our Interim Youth Pastor. Chris is very excited about working with our youth and serving on our ministry team. He will be leading our Elementary and Jr./Sr. High youth groups, starting a Jr./Sr. High Sunday school class, and will serve as one of our Jr. Church leaders for the elementary. Chris will be serving as our Interim Youth Pastor from March 1 to December 31 this year.

Chris first became involved in youth ministry in high school as a Quaker Haven Camp Counselor. In college, he did a youth ministry internship with Western Yearly Meeting (WYM). As an intern, he developed Vacation Bible School (VBS) lessons and programming for several churches around the state. Chris is currently serving on the Friends United Meeting (FUM) General Board of Directors as a Young Adult representative. He has been a Member of Spiceland Friends since 2016. We are very excited to have Chris join the Spiceland Friends Church pastoral team.

If you have questions or would like to talk with Chris, you can reach him by e-mail at harrisct@umail.iu.edu or by phone at 317-498-9058.

– Lisa Ash, Clerk of M&O

Youth Group Call-Outs

Following the worship service on Sunday, March 4, there will be an information session on



upcoming youth group activities and other programming. Students, parents, and grandparents are all encouraged to

attend. A light lunch will be provided. This is a great opportunity to meet our new Interim Youth Pastor and also for him to meet you and your students, and learn about their activities and interests.

A Vision for the Youth of SFC

The youth of a church are one of the greatest sources of inspiration and joy for people of all ages within a church. And a Christian education and upbringing is one of the greatest gifts we can give the children and youth of Spiceland Friends. My goal is to equip our youth with the tools and faith needed to face today's world. This means preparing them spiritually and intellectually to handle and rise above whatever life throws at them. As a part of that, I am hoping to foster a sense of community and camaraderie with not only their peers, but also with every age group within the church. It is my hope that the entire congregation can participate in and enjoy the youth program of Spiceland Friends.

– Chris Harris

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class



A new Sunday School class for the Jr./Sr. High School students will begin on March 18. The class will be meeting in the Youth Group Room on the second floor of the church. The class will be led by **Chris Harris**.

Upcoming Dates for the Youth Group – Mark Your Calendar!

March 4 – Youth Group Call-out following worship
March 18 – Elementary Youth – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
March 18 – Jr./Sr. High Youth – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
March 25 – Elementary Youth – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
March 25 – Jr./Sr. High Youth – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
March 31 – Jr./Sr. High Youth (6th-12th) –
Volunteering at Easter Egg Hunt and
Pizza Party following for the Youth Group –
12:30-4:00 p.m.

Elementary Youth Group is for students in grades 1-5. Jr./Sr. High Youth Group is for students in grades 6-12. All students are welcome and encouraged to bring friends.

SFC Movie Nights with Friends



Saturday, March 10 – We will showing the movie, “Wonder,” the inspiring true story of the Pullman family, whose youngest child, Auggie, is a boy born with facial differences. When Auggie enters mainstream elementary school for the first time, his extraordinary journey unites his family, his school, and his community, and proves that you can’t blend in when you were born to stand out. Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, and Jacob Tremblay star in this heartwarming and uplifting film.

Saturday, April 21 – big screen featured film will be “The Shack,” which takes us on a father’s transformative spiritual journey. After a family tragedy, Mack spirals into a crisis of faith, and questions God’s existence and life’s purpose. Mack is unable to move on, until he gets a mysterious invitation to an abandoned shack. There, God reveals Himself in the form of three strangers led by Papa. Sam Worthington, Octavia Spencer, and Tim McGraw star in this film, which is based on the book we studied a few years ago.

These movies will be shown in our Family Center on our big screen at 6:30 p.m. each evening.

The movie is free. Popcorn and drinks provided. Feel free to bring other snacks to share and bring your friends and family! Everyone’s welcome!

Church Directory Is Available

The 2018 Church Directory has been printed and is available at the church. If you haven’t picked up one yet, you can get one in the Welcome Center. Changes and additions will be printed in the newsletter as they are received.



Missions & Evangelism Committee Report

The Missions and Evangelism Committee met on January 31, 2018. It was agreed that **Nancy Wadman** would be the Clerk for the 2018 year. We are excited about the possibilities for both financial support and outreach activities for our community. We will be promoting Baby Bottle Boomerang for Henry County Pregnancy Care Center through March 18. The bottles are currently available in the Welcome Center. This money is used to give local women hope and help when often they feel they have no choice. The Center provides pregnancy tests, confidential counseling, community referrals and information on options. They also help with baby food and material needs.

We also took desserts to the men at The Guest House for Valentine's Day. We would like to make this a monthly activity. The Guest House is the local men’s shelter. They don’t usually have enough money in their budget to provide desserts for the men on a regular basis. We thought it would be a nice treat for us to take dessert to them once a month. If you would like to help, there will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Welcome Center. March 15 is the next opportunity for us to be a blessing to someone less fortunate. They usually have between 20 and 25 men staying at The Guest House so we will need 3-4 people to provide a dessert each time. Please put it in a container that you don’t need returned. Cookies, cakes, pies, brownies – anything your family would eat for dessert will be greatly appreciated.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

– **Nancy Wadman**, Clerk

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Rex Brooks** upon his passing on January 20 at the home of his daughter. He was 95 years of age.

We have been informed of the passing of **William Robertson** on January 25. He was the son of the late Dr. Robertson, well-known physician here in Spiceland.

Boiler Replacement Update

At a special Called Monthly Business Meeting, we approved the recommendation from the Trustees to replace our boiler (50 years old and in very poor condition). The boiler heats the water to provide hot water heat to all of the original building. The building addition completed in 2006 has a separate forced air heating system. The total cost to replace our boiler with two high efficiency boilers is \$24,400, and includes parts, labor, as well as dismantling and cleanup of the old boiler.

Our goal is to raise the whole amount of \$24,400 so that the General Fund will not have to be impacted by this capital expense. In a wonderful unexpected expression of generosity and commitment, we have received a total of \$19,250 to date. We would like to raise the additional \$5,150 by March 7, 2018, and we are asking for your help to finish the job. Checks may be made payable to Spiceland Friends Church and marked – "New Heating System" or "Boiler." They can be mailed to the church, put in the offering, handed to Tom Pyle, Assistant Treasurer, or dropped off at the church. You also can contribute online through our website and either mark it for the "Heating System" or let us know that is how you want it designated.

I am constantly amazed by the deep commitment of our congregation and the deep commitment to God's work through Spiceland Friends. I am certain that each one of us will consider what we can do to help with this need and then follow through as God leads us. It continues to be a wonderful experiment in faith.

If you have any questions, you can direct them to Cathy Harris or me. Also, Tom Harris, Clerk of the Trustees, and any other Trustee member can answer questions about the boiler and scope of the work.

– David Brock

Mark your calendar for this year's "Shipwrecked" Vacation Bible School – June 18-22. It will be 6:00-8:30 p.m. each evening.

Worship Assistants for March

Scripture Readers

March 4 – Gerald Darling
March 11 – David Reeves
March 18 – Janet Putnam
March 25 – Ralph Adams



Junior Church

March 4 – Amanda Huss
March 11 – Linda Brock
March 18 – Megan Harris
March 25 – Amanda Huss

Hosts for March – Ralph & Renee Adams

Children's Messages – Linda Brock

Walking Groups Continue

Interested in adding some exercise to your weekly routine? We invite you to come to the church Monday and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and walk with your friends. Everyone is welcome!



Walk at your own pace and for the length of time that works best for you. It's an opportunity to not only get some exercise, but to encourage and support one another. You can also enjoy a cup of **Pam Pyle's** fresh, hot coffee or a cup of tea and some fresh fruit or snacks and spend some time visiting with one another.

Directory Changes

Doris Hoover – E-mail address
dorishoover@outlook.com

Brad & Lisa Knotts – E-mail address
blknotts@outlook.com

Tony & Sandi Swann
Phone Number: 765-591-6728

Nancy Wadman
Clerk of Missions & Evangelism Committee

Notes of Thanks

"Vickie and I truly appreciated your prayers and financial support for our recent trip to Florida. It was sad to see the devastation the hurricane caused and yet it was heartwarming to see strangers, neighbors and friends working together to repair the damage. Thank you so much for your support!"

– **Vickie Richardson & Nancy Wadman**

"We would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers during Chris' recovery from his back surgery. We really appreciate it, and it means so much."

– **Chris & Claudia Garner**

"We would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers and the wonderful meal you provided. The love and compassion shown to our family was amazing. We feel blessed to be a part of the Friends church family."

– **Family of Rex Brooks
Peggy MacFarlane & Jerry Brooks**

"I have thought about this for a while, most recently as I was serving at the funeral dinner for Rex Brooks. I hope we continue to prepare funeral meals for a very long time to come. The meals are an excellent time for the family and friends to reflect and visit with each other. We lift the burden of the family trying to find a place to hold such a dinner, let alone how to organize and prepare the food. The people on the committee benefit by sometimes getting to hear stories about the person that has passed. All the while I was preparing my contribution of a pie and a Crock Pot of green beans I was thinking of Rex. It was not a chore at all; it was my way of saying good-bye to a very nice man that I will very much miss seeing now. I am sure I speak for all of those who have sometime prepared and served those meals. There is a goodness on several levels when we share our best. Together we reap the rewards of our sharing, physically & spiritually."

Sincerely, **Renee Adams**

"Thank you so much for your contribution in the amount of \$485.00 to **Heaven's Bread Basket.**"

Notes of Thanks *(Continued)*

"Thank you very much for your donation of \$200 to The Guest House in 2017. This will help the men who live here at the shelter. . . ."

"Thank you for your donation of \$100.00 to Victory Lane Camp in 2017."

Quaker Haven Camp Dates for 2018



Quaker Haven Church Camp is a wonderful camp, which is located in northern Indiana on beautiful Dewart Lake. There are lots of fun activities, and it's a great opportunity to get to know other Quaker youth from around Indiana. It's also a great time to learn more about God and to deepen our relationship with God.

Our church pays half of the cost for each camper to attend camp (half of the cost listed below). If the cost of the remaining balance is a concern, please see Chris or Cathy Harris for additional help. Questions? Contact **Chris** or **Cathy Harris**.

You can register online at
<http://www.qhcyouthprogramming.com/>

Below are the dates for 2018:

Live Your Life Camp – June 8-10 (Ages 20-30)
Cost: \$50

Jr. High Camp – June 10-15 (entering grades 7 & 8)
Cost: \$296

Sr. High 1 Camp – June 17-22 (entering grade 9 – 2018 Grads) Cost: \$296

Beginner Camp – June 15-17 (entering K-2nd grade with parent/grandparent/guardian) Cost: \$156

Adventure Camp – June 24-29 (entering grades 5 & 6) Cost: \$296

Little Friends Camp – July 8-11 (entering grades 2, 3 & 4) Cost: \$196

Sr. High 2 Camp – July 15-20 (entering grade 9 – 2018 Grads) Cost: \$296