



THE *Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

March 2021



“Rejoice in the Lord Always!”

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” Philippians 4:4 (NIV)



We have been studying the book of Philippians the last couple of months on Sunday mornings. This month we will conclude that study as we consider the last chapter. We started this year with this study because Philippians is a book about **Joy**. As we began 2021, we all thought we needed some joy in our lives since 2020 had been a year filled with setbacks, lockdowns, political turmoil, and racial demonstrations.

Our theme for this month is **“Rejoice in the Lord Always”** and it is taken from Philippians 4:4. Note that in this verse Paul says to rejoice twice in the same verse. He also says to rejoice in chapter 3, verse 1. For him to repeat this statement over and over, it must have been an important principle that he wanted us to apply to our lives as we grow in Christ.

Paul is not suggesting that we attend a seminar on positive thinking or that we force our-

selves to think positive thoughts. He is suggesting that we can rejoice in all things because our lives are grounded in Christ and he is dwelling inside of us. It is because of the work that Jesus has done in our lives that enables us to rejoice in all circumstances. It is our deeply held conviction that Jesus is in charge and that he is strengthening us. He will be present in our lives no matter what.

One of the ways that followers of Christ learn to rejoice always is by being in a community of believers who encourage each other. Scripture admonishes us to gather together to worship God and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Our goal as we gather to worship in these weeks leading up to Easter Sunday on April 4th is have everyone come back to in-person worship services. Many people have received their second vaccination shot, and we continue to practice recommended safe habits (masks, social distance, hand sanitizer, etc.) We will all be enriched by seeing each other in person and being able to laugh together, pray together, and celebrate God’s grace in our lives together. We will continue to broadcast our services via Facebook Live for people who are out of town or unable to attend for other reasons, but we want to have a big Easter celebration with most of our congregation attending in person. Pick a couple of Sundays between now and Easter to come in person and check it out and then plan to be present on Easter Sunday at our Early Service (8:00 a.m.) and/or at our Easter Celebration Worship at 10:30. Let’s come together and rejoice in what the Lord has done in our lives and in our community.

David Brock

Please Watch Your Step

Playing a child's game of tag in the cover of night is a dream come true for every 16 year old boy. My confidence had grown throughout the night as I was able to out maneuver and out distance my neighborhood friends. It grew, that is, until I received a SURPRISE that has remained with me to this very day. While racing confidently through the dark as fast as possible, I had decided it would add an element of excitement to the game if I ran backwards when suddenly I ran surprisingly into a hole. It was not just any hole. It was deep – customized to fit my speeding, arrogant foot perfectly. The surprise step into that hole not only did enough damage to my knee to change the next 12 weeks of my life, it altered the course of my physical activity to this very day. The repair and replacement of my entire knee as a 16 year old has continued to impact my daily life today as a 55 year old. This was a surprise that has rippled through my life for nearly four decades. Sometimes surprises enter our lives that create ripples that last a lifetime.

We never know what hole we will step in. It could be a heart attack or the death of a child or spouse. It could be a surprise job loss or a divorce. It could be a financial strain or just the stress of day to day living. We just don't know where the hole will be, how deep it will be, or when we will step in it. We never know if the hole will be one we dig ourselves or a hole that someone else digs for us. All we know is that there will be surprise holes at some point. All we know is that when we are falling in, we have an advocate, a friend, a counselor, a physician who will catch us at some point during our fall. We know that Jesus is perfect in his reaction to our step in the hole. He may alert us to a hole that is near and approaching or he may allow us to step in so blindly and aggressively that we experience a life altering fracture. Either way, he is present to catch us or lift us up from the bottom. He loves us with an everlasting love! In Deuteronomy 31:6 we read: *"Be strong, do not panic before them. For the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."*

Often, when we are surprised, we are disoriented and flooded with emotions; even panic and anxiety fill our minds. When surprises strike,

we must remind ourselves that Christ is present. His presence can calm us. His presence can catch our fall. His presence can heal the wounds of the fall when we've crashed to the bottom. His presence can lift us back out of the hole. His presence can save us in every sense of the word.

– Eric Bowman



Sermon Topics for March

Eric Bowman will be preaching on March 7.
David Brock will be preaching the other three Sundays in March.

March 7

Sermon – "Seeing Is Believing"
Scripture – Psalm 19:1-14

March 14

Sermon – "Rejoice in the Lord Always"
Scripture – Philippians 3:20-4:7

March 21

Sermon – "Your Mental Attitude"
Scripture – Philippians 4:8-9

March 28

Sermon – "Contentment in All Circumstances"
Scripture – Philippians 4:10-23

Worship Assistants for March

Scripture Readers

March 7 – Janet Putnam
March 14 – Dale Albertson
March 21 – Helen Rust
March 28 – Breanna Rust



Children's Story

March 7 – Mike Van Osdol
March 14 – Janet Putnam
March 21 – Mike Van Osdol
March 28 – Linda Brock

Greeters – Virginia Newkirk and Debbie Denny

Upcoming Easter Services

Sunday, April 4 – Easter!

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

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School at SFC

10:30 a.m. – Special Easter Worship Service
at SFC

There may be an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 3, but no details are available at this time. Watch for information in the bulletin and SFC emails.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family



David Lahr – recovering from hip surgery
George Fort – recovering from back surgery
Barbara Lacy – cataract surgery
Jenny McDaniel – recovering from surgery
Tom Weber – health concerns
Judy Smith – health problems
George Lacy – lung cancer
Steve Stevens – health concerns
Rick Little – recovering from cancer
Darlene Darling – at home
Kathy Painter – at home recovering
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

Larry MacFarlane – hospitalized
Parents of Eric Bowman – recovering from COVID-19
Neighbors of Claudia Garner
Randy Helderbrand (Dale Albertson) – stomach cancer
Donnie Pyle (brother of Tom Pyle) – back surgery
Darrin Poore (Nancy Wadman) – was stabbed

Abby (God Daughter of Bob Rust)
Kenon Gray (Nancy Wadman) – Covid-19; on ventilator
Becky Muse (Marilyn Thompson) – back surgery
Robert Kleeman (Linda Van Osdol's brother) – Post COVID-19 issues
Shelly Carrera (Sandy White) – breast cancer surgery
Jan Hurst (Sister of Judy Stevens) – health issues
Emma – 8-year-old with brain tumor (Marilyn Ingle)
Daughters of Cindy Mitchell – Amy – COVID; Brooke – cancer
Jill Stansberry (Claudia Garner) – mass removed from spine
Jay French (Linda Ratcliff) – cancer; chemo & radiation
Shelly McIntosh – breast cancer
Grandson of Ray & Naomi Wagner (David Baker) – in hospital
Sue Engle (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Brooke Runyon (Cindy Mitchell) – cancer
Alice Womack – heart issues
Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – cancer has returned
Megan (Kandi Rutledge's granddaughter) – health issues
Jennifer (friend of Debi Zimmerman) – breast cancer
Juan (Beverly Reece) – 7-year-old whose organs are failing
Charlene Haugh (Claudia Garner) – bad stroke
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
Byron Hanes (Relative of Pam Reno) – radiation
Sarah Maley (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – uterine cancer
Our country and servicemen and women
Prison Staff and Prisoners
Long-term care facilities staff and residents dealing with COVID-19

Nancy Wadman will be out of the office from March 20-27 to go on a mission trip to Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Notes of Thanks

“Thanks to all for your years of support and kindness during my years as organist at SFC. The reception was very special to me. Thanks again.”

– Virginia Bryson

“I would like to thank everyone for their prayers following my back surgery and also for all of the birthday cards. They were very much appreciated.”

– George Fort

Linda Rutherford would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concern as she was going through her cancer treatment. She is feeling much better now.

Baby Bottle Boomerang Begins!

It's time to pick up a baby bottle in the Welcome Center at church and fill it with coins, cash, or a check. All the money raised will help Henry County Pregnancy Care Center provide diapers, clothing, formula, and other items to families in need in our county. Please pick up a bottle and return it to the church by Sunday, March 14.

They are also in need of donations of disposable diapers (size 5 and 6, and Pull-Ups), baby wipes, baby lotion, and baby shampoo. These items can be brought to the church as well. If you have any questions, contact **Vickie Richardson** or **Nancy Wadman**.



Church Directory Is Available

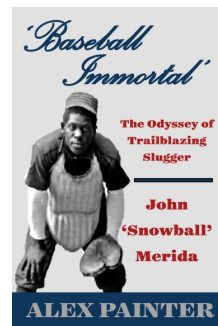
The 2021 Church Directory has been printed and is available at the church. If you haven't picked up one yet, you can get a copy in the Welcome Center. Changes and additions will be printed in the newsletter as they are received.

Don't forget to set your clocks forward an hour on Saturday, March 13, before you go to bed.



Get Your "Baseball Immortal" Book

"Snowball" played for Spiceland Academy from about 1895 until 1903. Then he played for various area teams, finally entering the ranks of Black pro baseball, playing for the Indianapolis ABC's, the Cincinnati Black Tourists, the Minneapolis Keystones and the Kansas City Royal Giants. He died in Kansas City in 1911. A hardback copy of Alex Painter's book is \$23; paper-back is \$15. You can order by contacting Richard Ratcliff.



When God Giggles

Before dinner, our family was preparing to pray, which we do by holding hands. Upon discovering that one child hadn't washed his hands, my husband struck a contorted pose to avoid physical contact. The mealtime blessing quickly dissolved into laughter as we each peeked at him. Afterward, as we passed around the food, I asked, "What do you imagine God thought about us laughing during prayer?" One child quickly replied, "I think he was laughing right along with us."

Yes! Although prayer is reverent, God invites us to converse with words, emotion – and even giggles! – Janna Firestone