



THE
Spiceland Friend

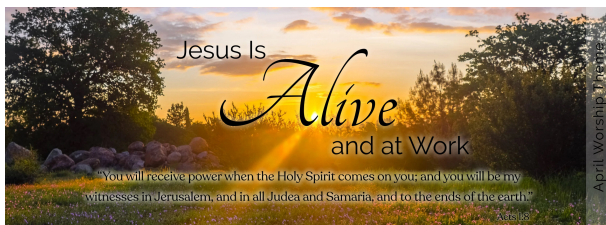
A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

March/April 2024



“Easter Celebration!”

“The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.” (NIV)



On the very last day of this month, March 31, 2024, we will celebrate Easter. We will celebrate the day that Jesus rose from the dead, fulfilling what he had said while he was walking on the earth and fulfilling what the Old Testament prophets had said. We will celebrate how that act of God changed the world and how that changed our own lives. Jesus was born as a baby and then lived 33 years as a human being before being crucified and then rising from the dead. All of this was done by God to show us how much he loved us and to reconcile us to him by forgiving our sins.

In preparation for that Easter celebration, I suggest that each of us take some time to read about Jesus’ life before his death and resurrection. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the four gospels and each of them contains an account of Jesus’ teaching and his healing actions. They recount how Jesus promised forgiveness for everyone who would come to him and accept it. **He promised that his message of a new life in him was for everyone and for all time.**

You could choose to pick one gospel and read all the way through that book during this month. You could choose to read the account of the crucifixion and resurrection in each of the gospels and compare how the different writers told the story. You could read John 14 through the end of the book to see how Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure and how he promised the Holy Spirit would always be with us.

A celebration requires preparation so I am suggesting that rather than just waiting for Easter to arrive that we prepare in advance by reading God’s word and meditating on its meaning to us today. We have been talking about knowing God instead of just knowing about Him – this is a good way to move in that direction by reading and meditating on his word. Come each Sunday prepared to worship God and to open our hearts to him and his message to us.

David Brock



Red Hot

Are you comfortable, or are you challenged, in your spiritual walk? Do you thirst for more of God, to know Him better? How far have you come since you first trusted Christ? Is your spiritual temperature cold, room temperature, or RED HOT? How is the light of God operating in your life? Do you want to know God more? Are you seeking passionately to KNOW HIM through prayer, deep study of who He reveals Himself to be through his letter to you, and through listening quietly to the Holy Spirit? As we study the early church in the Book of Acts, these questions keep coming to me.

The spiritual temperature was RED HOT in the Book of Acts! They had become Christ followers and demonstrated a constant, daily passion to know Him more. They prayed powerfully together. They ate together. They dedicated themselves to the study of scripture and knowing God. THERE WAS RED-HOT PASSION and desire to KNOW HIM BETTER.

As the early church grew and time passed, their passion slowly faded. Many of the faithful were stunted in their growth. Many were falling away. The writer of Hebrews warns us sharply not to be complacent in the care of our soul. Early Friends clearly believed that our repentance and faith in Christ would produce a transformed, passionate life day in and day out. God's light, the Holy Spirit living in us, and studying His Word would produce a transformed life internally and externally. We can KNOW HIM, not just know about Him. This is a deep privilege as Christ's light shines in us. How deeply and passionately are we pursuing the one who created us?

Hebrews 5:11 – 6:6 practically screams at us: *"In fact, brothers, though you ought to be teachers by this time, you still need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You still crave milk, not solid food. Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death and of faith in God."*

We ponder the questions as we return to the first paragraph. Are we truly passionate about KNOWING HIM? Is He RED HOT in our daily life?

Eric Bowman

Good Friday Gathering



Good Friday

The Christian Education Committee invites you to join us as we remember Christ's Crucifixion. They will be hosting a soup supper on Friday, March 29, at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Center, followed by the Max Lucado video, "Resurrection." The entire church is invited. The meal is provided!

– Jessica Noteboom

Annual Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 30, at noon – rain or shine. We are asking for donations of candy and cookies. Candy is needed by Monday, March 25. Cookies are needed March 30 by 11:30 a.m.



Community Early Easter Service

This year's community early Easter service will be held at Spiceland Friends Church at 8:00 a.m. (March 31). Join us for a time of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, as well as the hope, joy, and new life God offers us each day. Join us for a delicious breakfast sponsored by our Social Committee immediately following the service. Bring your family and friends!

Easter Service is Planned – Sunday, March 31

We will celebrate Easter at 10:30 a.m. **David Brock** will bring the message, "Jesus Is Alive and at Work." Our choir will provide special music and help lead us in our celebration. Come and sing your favorite Easter hymns and bring your family and friends. Let's fill up our pews on Easter Sunday! Sunday School classes will meet at 9:30 a.m.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Family of T. J. Richardson
Steve Stevens – heart issues; upcoming chemotherapy
Richard Ratcliff – health problems
Darrell Craft – upcoming surgery
Linda Brock – knee problems; broken leg
Donna Hall – in need of prayer
Dale & Jane Albertson – health problems
Gary Stegner – at home
Libby Henshaw – at Glen Oaks
Judy Smith – at Stonebrooke
Sarah Reiblein – cancer
Steve Neal – liver cancer



Extended Family and Friends

Tara (Monica Altman) – high-risk pregnancy
Family of Shirley Raines
Family of Dollie Snyder
Caroll Ware (John Strong) – liver failure
Danny Williams (Rust family) – stage 4 cancer
Andy Denny (Debbie Denny) – Hodgkins Lymphoma
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

Sermon Topics for March and April

David Brock will be preaching each Sunday in March. Eric Bowman will be preaching each Sunday in April.

March 3

Sermon – “A New Chapter”
Scripture – Acts 9

March 10

Sermon – “Peter Breaks the Rules”
Scripture – Acts 10

March 17

Sermon – “The Church Continues to Expand”
Scripture – Acts 11

March 24

Sermon – “The Church Prays”
Scripture – Acts 12

March 31

Sermon – “Jesus Is Alive and Working in our Lives”
Scripture – Matthew 28:1-10

April 7

Sermon – “Turn”
Scripture – 1 Peter 1

April 14

Sermon – “Spurn”
Scripture – 1 Peter 2:1

April 21

“200th Anniversary Series”
Sid Martin, Speaker

April 28

Sermon – “Yearn”
Scripture – 1 Peter 2:2

May 5

Sermon – “Learn”
Scripture – 1 Peter 2:3

VBS Is Coming Up! – Mark Your Calendar

VBS children will be diving into friendship with God with SCUBA this summer. Vacation Bible School will be June 24-28 and wrapping up on Sunday, June 30, with a church program and pitch-in meal afterwards. **Nancy Wadman** is the director this year, and she will be contacting lots of people to help with this important outreach event for our church.

Save the Date!

This year marks 200 years that Quakers have been worshipping in Spiceland and 150 years of Friends gathering in our beautiful brick meeting-house. This milestone is being marked in several ways throughout the year, culminating with a celebration on Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29. We invite all members and attenders, past and present, to come and be part of an event that not only celebrates the past but also looks forward to an exciting future of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

– Janet Putnam

Baby Bottle Boomerang

It is time to pick up a baby bottle in the Welcome Center at SFC 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 church by Sunday, March 24. 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, see **Vickie Richardson** or **Nancy Wadman**.



Graduation Sunday is Coming Up

It's hard to believe but May is right around the corner and that means we will be celebrating graduating seniors from both high school and college on May 19. Please let **Nancy Wadman** know if you have a senior this year, so she can order a Bible for high school students or a devotional for college graduates. We will also need information such as what school they attended, their activities, their future plans, and family names. If your senior can't attend that Sunday, we will still announce their information.



Tea Time for Ladies



The third Tuesday of every month has been a special time for ladies who have lost their husbands to come and drink tea and coffee, enjoy something sweet and have great conversations. We ask each other for advice and freely share any helpful hints we know that have worked for us. We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Mary M Room at SFC and have room in our hearts and extra chairs in the room, so bring a friend and join us!

– Nancy Wadman,
Ministry Coordinator

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Vickie Richardson** and family upon the passing of her husband, **T.J.** on February 20.

Congratulations



Congratulations and best wishes to **Andrew & Emily Pence** upon the birth of **Waylon Barry** on February 23. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents, Glenn & Ceci Houchins.

Note of Thanks

"Many thanks for accepting me into the church. I feel like I've found a friend in my search for a strong foundation. I started out at the Friends Church in Mooreland as a baby and I've come full Circle back to the Friends Church in Spiceland. I look forward to many years serving here."

– Nona Edwards

Christ Has Triumphed!

Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
Death is strong, but life is stronger,
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

By Phillips Brooks

Behind and Above

“Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, ‘sit here while I go over there and pray.’”

All of us appreciate the beautiful stained glass windows in our meetinghouse. The windows were installed in 1928 when the meetinghouse was remodeled. Kenneth R. Pickering said in 1974, “How well I remember when the windows were installed. There was no little fuss about getting them for the plain glass windows seemed most appropriate to many; but finally memorial stained glass windows were agreed upon.”

Today we find scattered through the meetinghouse 19 different windows presented by various individuals, Sunday School classes and church groups. Most windows, however, memorialize former members of the meeting. About 20 years ago the windows were removed and repaired and the framing for each was refinished.

All of us especially admire the beautiful stained glass window in the meeting room, located behind and above the pulpit, that was presented by Luther O and Emma (Griffin) Draper. The window portrays Johann Heinrich Hoffman’s beautiful painting of Christ in the garden of Gethsemane.

Here was probably one of the loneliest spots that could be found. The window portrays Jesus kneeling with outstretched clasped hands. The up-turned face of Jesus is beautiful and catches the eye of everyone entering the meeting room.

– Richard P. Ratcliff

Directory Changes and Additions

Jim & Charlene Williams

125 Gina Lynn Drive, New Castle, IN 47362

Kandi Rutledge

Email: kanderutledge50@gmail.com

Andrew & Emily Pence

Ch: Hayden & Waylon

4132 W U.S. 40

Knightstown, IN 46148

Email:abpence@gmail.com



My First Memory of Spiceland Friends

My first memory of Spiceland Friends is the sound of the “chimes” drifting over Spiceland on Sunday morning in the early 1950s. The “chimes” were organ music played over loud speakers on the side of the meetinghouse, not bells. You can see the round openings where these speakers were near roof on the sides of the building. My two sisters and I would get into our parent’s 1950 Plymouth for the journey from our home on South Pearl Street to the Meetinghouse for Sunday School; on nice days, we walked. We all met in the large (or so it seemed at the time) upstairs room to the left at the top of the steps in the original front entrance. I believe some now call it the bowling alley. I cannot believe how that room has shrunk in size since the early 1950’s; we filled that room. We were the beginning of the Baby Boomer generation. We sang songs, recognized birthdays, and listened to Bible stories. After the opening, we went to individual classes for the lessons. If I remember correctly, we had a separate class for each grade in elementary school.

– Ron Reece

Worship Assistants for March and April

Scripture Readers

March 3 – Amanda Judge

March 10 – Priscilla James

March 17 – Sandra Swann

March 24 – Debra Weber

March 31 – Barbara Lacy

April 7 – Nancy Wadman

April 14 – Gerald Darling

April 21 – Debra Weber

April 28 – Amanda Judge



Children’s Story

March 10 & April 21 – Amanda Judge

March 17 & April 14 – Diana Bowman

March 24 & April 7 – Janet Putnam

March 31 & April 28 – Mike Van Osdol

Song Leaders

Tasha Crandall and Hayley Painter

Greeters for March – Glenn & Ceci Houchins

Greeter for April – Jane Rose