



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

May 2021



“When God Is Silent”

“Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.” 1 Kings 19:11b-12 (NIV)



The above scripture verses describe God meeting Elijah at a time Elijah had given up hope and was certain that God had deserted him and that his fellow believers had all deserted God. He went into the wilderness and sat under a broom bush. He prayed that he would die. Elijah felt alone and afraid. It is hard to understand why Elijah felt this way. He had just come from seeing God work in a miraculous way in several circumstances. In a contest with priests of Baal, Elijah had prayed a simple prayer and God sent fire down from heaven to burn up the sacrifice that Elijah had prepared. The priests of Baal had prayer and danced all day and

their God did not answer. Then Elijah prayed again, and it began to rain and ended a severe drought.

These were dramatic manifestations of God’s presence and action in Elijah’s world. Elijah had experienced dramatic miracles all through his life, but now he was discouraged. He gave up and quit looking for God to act. We have been studying Esther in our Sunday sermons and will continue through this month. Esther and her uncle knew the stories of their people and how God had saved them over and over, but they gave up and became like the faithless people around them. In both of these stories, God made his presence known in very quiet and very subtle ways. Elijah was looking for the spectacular, and he was sure that God would speak to him from the wind or the earthquake or the fire. But God chose to speak in a gentle whisper. Esther had given up expecting God to act. God got her attention through a strange set of circumstances that involved a murder plot, racial hatred, and many secrets coming to light.

God met both of these Bible characters very quietly and very personally. He knew their motives and their circumstances. He cared about their needs. He came to comfort them and encourage them. God does the same for us. Sometimes, the circumstances of our lives are overwhelming and the problems seem insurmountable, but if we keep looking and keep our hearts open, we will begin to sense God’s love and presence with us. We will begin to see that he is not silent after all, but he cares deeply for us. He is constantly extending his love to us.

Where will you see God at work this week?

David Brock

A Whole New Outfit

As a teacher I experienced frequent leadership changes. Getting a new school leader with new ideas that would call us into a new direction was as common as pizza for school lunch. Observation has led me to see that we handle change in one of four ways:

1. Sometimes we completely refuse change. Our mindset doesn't change, and we don't even try to hide it or "dress it up." We just keep dressing in the same clothing outside as well as the same undergarments. Eventually, we isolate ourselves and lose all influence. When we get to the end of this attitude, we usually quit or are asked to leave the organization.
2. Sometimes we just "look" like we accept the change but never really change our mind on the inside. It's like we change up our outside appearance by putting on a new shirt and a different style of pants but underneath we are still wearing the same old brand of underwear that we've relied upon for a lifetime.
3. On occasion we accept the change at the heart level but are afraid to get a new style on the outside. We accept the new direction in theory but not in practice. New underwear where no one can see . . . but same old style of shirt and pants outside so that no one will notice and ask questions. We change for our leader but not for the world around us. We play it safe.
4. Finally there are those who after some research, some careful study, and some new knowledge accept the change not only in their heart but follow up by changing their outside, visible behavior. They put on new everyday basics and also change their external dress. They proudly wear the new company colors and logo to represent the change of mindset. They undergird their entire wardrobe with new underwear and even socks. They are new all the way through! They've accepted the change offered!

Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Colossia because they were having trouble making a full change. Colossia had a culture of great diversity. People were very accepting of everything. Knowledge and culture reigned. It was a challenge for new believers to fully immerse themselves into Christ. Things of pre-Christian life remained and were mixed with their new faith. Their hearts changed but not their actions. New underwear, but the same old shirt for the world to see. They fit in without notice.

In chapter 3 of Paul's letter to them he writes this: Colossians 3: 2 - 12 (NIV paraphrased)

"Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things because the old you has died, and your life is now with Christ.

"Since your heart has changed, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another. If any of you has a grievance against someone, forgive them. And with all these put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

As believers we are to fully accept the change Christ makes in our lives. Christ will certainly change our heart, our mindset, but we must also allow him to fully change our actions so that others see Him through us. We are to undergird ourselves with love and then clothe ourselves externally by how we act in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness. How are you dressed today? Are you real? Do your hands match your heart? Does everyone around you recognize you as a believer in Christ?

Eric Bowman

Reminder!



REMINDER

Don't forget that we are honoring our friends, **Ralph & Renee Adams**, on Sunday, May 2. Ralph will be singing, and there will be a pitch-in afterwards. The church will provide the meat, drinks, and tableware. If you don't want to cook, feel free to donate money for the meat but please join us for this time of fellowship.

Honoring Our 2021 High School and College Graduates



On Sunday, May 23, we will recognize and honor our 2021 high school and college graduates. Each graduate will be recognized during our church service, and we will have a short reception with cookies and refreshments afterwards. Each high school graduate attending will receive a Bible from the church, and each college student attending will receive a devotional book.

Please turn in names of your graduates to **Nancy Wadman** by May 9 so she has time to buy the appropriate books and plan the reception. Also, please list the school they are graduating from and some of their activities. Even if your child or grandchild is unable to attend church on May 23, we will be glad to recognize this special time in their lives. Please see Nancy if you have any questions.

Sermon Topics for May

Eric Bowman will be preaching on May 23. **David Brock** will be preaching the other four Sundays in May.

May 2

Sermon – “The Girl with Two Names”
Scripture – Esther 2:7-18

May 9

Sermon – “Resistance”
Scripture – Esther 2:13-3:5

May 16

Sermon – “The Plot”
Scripture – Esther 3:6-15

May 23 – Graduate Recognition

Sermon – “It Is What It Is”
Scripture – Galatians 6:4-9 (NLT)

May 30

Sermon – “The Silence of God”
Scripture – Esther 4

The June/July summer issue of *The Spiceland Friend* newsletter will be printed on June 1.

With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Kathy Ellis** upon her passing on April 4. She was the sister of **Jenny McDaniel**.

Worship Assistants for May

Scripture Readers

May 2 – Priscilla James
May 9 – Diana Bowman
May 16 – Gerald Darling
May 23 – Dale Albertson
May 30 – Linda Ratcliff



Children's Story

May 2 – Mike Van Osdol
May 9 – Janet Putnam
May 16 – Mike Van Osdol
May 23 – Linda Brock
May 30 – Mike Van Osdol

Greeter – Cindy Mitchell

Welcome to New Member

On April 11 **David Lahr** was accepted into the membership of Spiceland Friends Church. We welcome David to our church family.

Notes of Thanks

“Thank you to everyone who sent cards and messages during my recent illness. I am happily on my way to a full recovery!”

– **Donna Tauber**

“On behalf of Westminster Community Center, I wish to thank you for your donation of \$100.00. . . . Please express our thanks to all for your support of Westminster!”

– **Jeff Kundert**, Executive Director

Directory Addition

Marilyn Biehl
1004 Crescent Drive
New Castle, IN 47362
Phone: 765-5
Email: mbiehl@defur.com

Easter Flower Memorials

We would like to thank everyone who donated an Easter flower as a memorial for our Easter Sunday worship service. They were beautiful!



MILDRED & REX BROOKS

Given by Peggy & Larry MacFarlane

BETH ALBERTSON

Given by Dale & Jane Albertson

BOB & MARCIA ASH – PARENTS

Given by Jason, Lisa & Mallory Ash

LEWIS GUERIN & FAMILY

MELVIN BARCUS & FAMILY

Given by R. J. & Sandy White

BOB & MARCIA ASH – SISTER

AND BROTHER-IN-LAW

Given by R. J. & Sandy White

MAX AND DAVID MOFFITT

Given by Betty Moffitt

RON ZIMMERMAN

Given by Debi Zimmerman

DAVID & MARY JANE FRENCH,

REA H. & WINIFRED RATCLIFF,

THOMAS R. RATCLIFF,

JAMES R. PICKERING

Given by Richard P. & Linda S. Ratcliff

MONTE GOODWIN

Given by Irene Goodwin & boys

THE KIRKWOOD FAMILY,

THE LACY FAMILY,

AND JILL & LOREN FITZHUGH

Given by George & Barbara lacy

HOMER & NELL DENNY,

SHANNON BLESSINGER, MIKE BLESSINGER,

KEITH DALTON,

WAVA & RON GREGORY

Given by Glen & Debbie Denny

DAVID NEWKIRK,

BOB & BETTY NEWKIRK

Given by Virginia Newkirk & Family

PAUL, JR. & JUANITA REECE,

FLOYD & ADA HINSHAW,

PAUL, SR. & GOLDIE REECE

Given by the Reece Family

PHILIP THEODORE APPEGATE,

BETTY L. (RENFRO) APPEGATE

Given by Judy Lee & family

and Marilyn Ingle & family

PHILLIP & DOROTHY B. APPEGATE,

EARL D. APPEGATE, ESTHER APPEGATE

Given by Judy Lee & family

and Marilyn Ingle & family

CATHERINE EICHENBERGER

Given by Carolyn Lantz,

Daughters and Families

DR. & MRS. RALPH McCOY

Given by Carolyn Lantz,

Daughters and Families

GARY BAUGHAN

Given by Carolyn Lantz

Daughters and Families

Field Trip to Anderson University

The Thursday Bible Study Group will be taking a field trip to Anderson University on May 6 to visit their Art Collection. The visit will include the Warner Sallman Collection and the Jeeninga Museum of Near Eastern and Biblical Archaeology. The Sallman Collection consists of many paintings of Christ. My friend and former student, Tai Lipan, will give us a guided tour of both galleries. She is the director of the galleries and teaches art at Anderson University. However, she is taking another position in Indianapolis so this is our only opportunity for her to give us a guided tour.

We will leave from our church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 6. After touring the galleries, we will have lunch at one of the restaurants in Anderson. Anyone is welcome to join us!

See **Nancy Wadman** if you have questions.

Harvest Food Bank Distribution

The Harvest Food Bank will be distributing food for local people on Monday, May 17, in our church parking lot. They will be here from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and are in need of 6-8 volunteers to help distribute the food. If you are willing to help, please let **Nancy Wadman** know, and she will give you more information.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Debbie Denny – recovering from surgery
Pat Bogue – back surgery on May 10; eye problems
Marcia Byrket – health issues
Sandi Swann – knee replacement surgery
Rick Little – cancer has returned; more chemo
George Lacy – lung cancer; chemo
George Fort – recovering from back surgery
Tom Weber – health concerns
Judy Smith – health problems
Steve Stevens – health concerns
Darlene Darling – at home
Kathy Painter – at home recovering
Marilyn Thompson – Bell's palsy
Don & Barbara Meade – health problems
Irene Goodwin – health problems
Janet Craft – ankle surgery



Extended Family and Friends

Family of Larry Breckenridge (Cindy Mitchell's brother)
Carolyn Lantz – health problems
Abby (God Daughter of Bob & Helen Rust)
Claire Wallace (Pyles) – serious back surgery
Family of Barbara Smith
Family of Sarah Maley
Franka Dick (Pyles) – health issues
Aunt of Josh Griggs – possible colon cancer
Linda Dunfield (Tommie Hunt) – health issues
Jeff Snyder (Marilyn Biehl's nephew) – cancer; mass on brain
Larry & Peggy MacFarlane – Larry - in hospital
Larry & Peggy MacFarlane's son – COVID-19
Danny Darling (brother of Gerald) – toe amputated
Steve Neal (Brenda Reece) – esophageal cancer
Melissa Humerickhouse (Jenny McDaniel) – brain tumor
Randy Helderbrand (Dale Albertson) – stomach cancer
Robert Kleeman (Linda Van Osdol's brother) – Post COVID-19 issues
Jan Hurst (Sister of Judy Stevens) – health issues
Emma – 8-year-old with brain tumor (Marilyn Ingle)
Jill Stansberry (Claudia Garner) – mass removed from spine
Jay French (Linda Ratcliff) – cancer; chemo & radiation

Rita Beaver (Garners) – bladder cancer
Shelly McIntosh – breast cancer
Grandson of Ray & Naomi Wagner (David Baker) – in hospital
Sue Engle (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Brooke Runyon (Cindy Mitchell) – cancer on face
Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – cancer has returned
Jennifer (friend of Debi Zimmerman) – breast cancer
Juan (Beverly Reece) – health issues
Charlene Haugh (Claudia Garner) – stroke
Parents of Teresa Batt
Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer
Byron Hanes (Relative of Pam Reno) – radiation
Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – health issues
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

New Library Books Are Available

Two new books have been added to our church library. The first one is Jack's Life by Douglas Gresham. It is a biography of C.S. Lewis written by his stepson. This gives a lot of background on Lewis' life and insights on how he became the famous author we all know and love.

The second book is Divine Collision by Jim Nash. It is the true story of an African boy and an American lawyer. It tells of their remarkable battle for justice and freedom in Uganda. Jim met a 16-year-old Ugandan prisoner on one of his trips to Uganda. They developed an unlikely friendship. Jim realized that Henry had been unjustly arrested by the corrupt criminal justice system in Uganda. Through his unrelenting persistence he is able to secure Henry's freedom and reforms the Ugandan criminal system which leaves a lasting impact on hundreds of thousands of lives.

Both of these books are compelling narratives that will show how God is at work among us giving us hope in every circumstance.

– Linda Brock

You Are Invited . . .

to a Graduation Party in honor of **Holden B. Thomas** on Saturday, May 29, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at Hoover Hall in downtown Spiceland.