



THE *Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

October/November 2023



God Never Gives up on You

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” Psalm 51:10 (NIV)



Over the past few weeks in our worship services, we have considered how God builds his character into us. We studied Proverbs which taught us that we must always be on a search for God’s wisdom for our lives. We studied the life of Moses, Gideon, and David – all who did great things for God and for the people they led. **However, each one of them had their problems and their sin.** Each one of them would have been disqualified if we were doing the choosing. It was not that God overlooked their weaknesses and sins – no, he recognized their weaknesses, forgave their sin, and gave them his power to do his work. They became known for God’s power and direction in their lives rather than being defined by their weakness and sins.

Our theme for the next few weeks, “God Never Gives Up on You,” is borrowed from Max Lucado’s most recent book by the same title. His

book is about Jacob and the rest of the title is “what Jacob’s story teaches us about grace, mercy, and relentless love.” Throughout scripture, God many times identified himself as “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” All of them had their problems, but Jacob’s name means “Deceiver” and he lived up to his name – tricking his brother, his father, and his uncle. He was not a good leader to his growing family, and he seldom sought the wisdom of God. And yet, God did not give up on him and continued to pursue him and turn him into the person he wanted him to be.

We will be studying several people who, like Jacob, were flawed in many ways but God did not give up on them. Instead, he continued to love them and draw them to himself, he continued to forgive their sin, and he continued to build his character into them in spite of their flaws. Moses had blood on his hands, Abraham was an intentional liar, Elijah was a coward, Jacob was a liar and cheat, Esther kept her faith a secret, Peter was a betrayer, Paul was a murderer, and the list could go on from the Bible, but also including us here and now. We have a hard time believing that God can let go of our past problems and work with us in the many ways he wants to.

We can say along with Paul: “But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14 ESV) Come and prayerfully join us each Sunday for worship and consideration of what we can learn from these Biblical characters and how God can use us for his work in our world.

David Brock

One Question After Another

We are in our eighth month of looking at a list of questions intended to stimulate our thinking and hearts as we live out our Christian Faith. Historically, early Friends brought up questions called "Queries." They were commonly used during worship to help turn hearts and minds toward God's thoughts. These questions are an excellent way for us to consider our personal faith journey. We are past the closing in on the end of 2023. I pray that you continue to meditate sincerely on these questions in a way that brings closeness and confidence to your Christian walk.

**Here is the question for October and November:
Do you prayerfully seek the guidance and blessing
of the Lord in your efforts with family and friends
who need to know Jesus?**

We often forget the most essential step in our enthusiasm to tell our family and friends about Jesus. Prayer is crucial! As we seek God in prayer, we acknowledge that God draws our family and friends into a relationship with Himself. We quickly forget that we are simply an instrument for God to use in this process. As we seek to grow God's Kingdom and share the good news of Jesus with our friends and family, let's be obedient to Christ as we pray for them. May we be willing to be used by God for others to see Jesus. May we be subject to God's perfect timing as we live our lives in front of those who need the gospel. May we be God's instrument in this process and not his boss. It is Christ who has authority as we read Matthew 28:18-20.

"Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"



Eric Bowman

Fall Study Groups Start Soon!

Our Fall Fellowship and study groups will begin on Wednesday, October 4, and run for a total of five Wednesdays through November 1. We will have a meal with the main dish provided at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. If you are not coming for the meal, our studies will begin at 6:45. This fall you will have a choice of three different groups. There will be a study from the book of Esther, a discussion and video series about the Christian worldview, and a study of understanding and sharing essential Christian Truths. Please let **Eric Bowman** know if you need childcare for these five weeks. Currently, no childcare is planned. We are excited to continue to grow this discipleship ministry.

Monthly Youth Study Is Planned

We will kick off a monthly youth study on Sunday, October 1, from 6:00-8:00 P.M. This is intended for 8th-12th grade students and will include a study/discussion time, snacks, and fun. Mark your calendars for the first Sunday of each month as we kick off our youth group study. Invite your friends and family members. See **Eric Bowman** for details.

DON'T MISS TRUNK OR TREAT!



Our annual Trunk or Treat is being planned for Tuesday, October 31, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Family Center. If you want to pass out candy, please arrive by 5:45. Candy donations can be dropped off anytime in the Welcome Center. This is our highest traffic event of the year. Join us as we welcome our community. Come and visit with your friends and neighbors. Opportunity for Christ knocks!

Advent Nights Set

Mark your calendars now for our annual advent nights activities. They will be held on Wednesday, December 6 and 13. Details will be in the December newsletter.

Many Hands Make Light Work

We've all heard this adage. Even Moses' father-in-law used it. Well maybe not those exact words, but essentially that was his advice to his son-in-law. We read in Exodus that Moses alone was responsible for acting as judge for all the people. When Jethro saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "Why do you sit alone . . . ? You will certainly wear yourself out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone." Jethro went on to tell Moses that he needed to look for good men to share this burden of settling matters among the people. Moses saw the wisdom in his father-in-law's advice and we should also.

As a congregation we are charged with guiding young people to come to know and love God. A few faithful people have been dedicated to this important work but they can't do it alone. More are needed to share this great responsibility. There are opportunities to help with all age levels during both Sunday school and worship. You could volunteer for one Sunday a month or maybe one month per quarter. Perhaps you could find one or more people to serve with you and create a schedule that works for everyone. Easy to use lessons and materials are available so no planning is necessary. With enough people to share the responsibilities, this would give everyone the opportunity to also attend an adult Sunday school class and worship at times.

Jethro's wise counsel to Moses reminds us of the danger of burnout when too few are trying to do all the work alone. If you are willing to help share in the ministry with our children talk with **Jessica Noteboom** or **Eric**. They will find a place and a schedule that works for you. With many hands the work is lighter for everyone and God is glorified.

– Janet Putnam

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

Once again you will have the opportunity to make a child's life brighter this Christmas season. Shoe boxes will be available in the Welcome Center by October 15 and will be due back November 12. We will provide a list of things inside the box you might want to purchase. Please see **Nancy Wadman** or **Vickie Richardson** if you have questions.



Spiceland Friends 54th Annual Holiday Bazaar



Our bazaar this year is November 11, and it promises to be the biggest and best yet! **Marilyn Thompson** continues to book vendors who will be in both the church and the Spiceland gym. Rumor has it that Santa will be visiting the gym from 10:00 to 12:00. The doors will be open 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and we will start serving lunch at 11:00. Sign-up sheets for workers and donations will be on the table in the Welcome Center on October 22. Items for the Attic Treasures booth may be brought in anytime from Sunday, November 5, until Friday the 10th. We will be selling soup in quart jars in the Deli this year and not out of the kitchen. If you have questions about the vendors, please contact **Marilyn Thompson**. If you have questions about anything else, please see **Nancy Wadman**.

Thursday Bible Study

The Thursday Bible Study will continue to meet each Thursday in October and November with the exception of Thanksgiving Day. We will take a break in December and then start again on January 4, 2024. There is always room for anyone to join us at any time! We will at 11:00 to study and then go out to Lunch. We have great discussions and wonderful fellowship! See **Nancy Wadman** if you have any questions.

Tea Time for Ladies

We have a wonderful small group of ladies who meet once a month to discuss life after losing their husbands. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. for tea, coffee, treats, laughter, and tears. In November we are going to meet on the second Tuesday, November 14, to have lunch at Lakeview Restaurant. We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. Please join us and feel free to invite friends.



Sermon Topics and October and November

October 1

Sermon – “Trusting God When He Seems Nonexistent – Esther”
Scripture – Esther 5

October 8

Sermon – “Finally, Forgiveness – Jacob”
Scripture – Genesis 33

October 15

Sermon – “Success That Matters – Solomon”
Scripture – 1 Kings 3

October 22

Sermon – “God Appears to Two Ordinary Women – Mary & Elizabeth”
Scripture – Luke 1

October 29

Sermon – “Standing Up for Jesus – Peter”
Scripture – Acts 4

November 5

Sermon – “Spreading the Word of God – Paul”
Scripture – Acts 20

November 12

Sermon – “Unusual Saint – Rahab”
Scripture – Hebrews 11

November 19

Sermon – “Standing Up for What is Right – Abigail”
Scripture – 1 Samuel 25

November 26

Sermon – “Trusting God in Difficult Times – Joseph”
Scripture – Exodus 39

199 Years and Counting

The Keystone Sunday School Class was organized in 1912 and continued to meet until shortly after its 100th anniversary in 2012. Some of the class teachers over the years were Loring A. Eilar, Emma Kendall, Mabel Boyd, Lena Leighton, Ruth McGinnis, Robert V. Mathes, and Kathy Painter.



Worship Assistants for October and November



Scripture Readers

Oct. 1 – Nancy Wadman
Oct. 8 – Barbara Lacy
Oct. 15 – Amanda Judge
Oct. 22 – Gerald Darling
Oct. 29 – Debra Weber
Nov. 5 – Kevin Weber
Nov. 12 – Debra Weber
Nov. 19 – Eric Bowman
Nov. 26 – Josie Weber

Children's Story

Oct. 1 – Diana Bowman
Oct. 8 – Linda Brock
Oct. 15 – Mike Van Osdol
Oct. 22 – Amanda Judge
Oct. 29 – Janet Putnam
Nov. 5 – Linda Brock
Nov. 12 – Mike Van Osdol
Nov. 19 – Janet Putnam
Nov. 26 – Diana Bowman

Junior Church

Oct. 1 & Nov. 5 – Linda Brock
Oct. 8 & Nov. 12 – David Lahr
Oct. 15 & Nov. 19 – Linda Brock
Oct. 22 & Nov. 26 – Claudia Garner
Oct. 29 – No Junior Church

Greeters – Chris & Claudia Garner – October
Kevin & Josie Weber - November

Christmas Eve Community Service/Choir

Tasha Crandall, Hayley Painter, and Connie Brown have been working diligently to plan our



annual Christmas Eve choir and service. Practices will be November 7, 14, 28 and December 5, 12, and 19 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The choir will

sing arrangements of familiar carols mixed with a storyline and scripture to help us worship Christ on Christmas Eve. Please mark your calendars and invite other singers in our community to join us. See **Tasha Crandall** for details.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

David Lahr – shoulder surgery
Pam Reno – arm surgery
Hank Chandler – health issues
Richard Ratcliff – health problems
Steve Stevens – radiation treatments
Libby Henshaw – at Glen Oaks
Judy Smith – at Stonebrooke
Sarah Reiblein – cancer
Steve Neal – liver cancer



Extended Family and Friends

Valerie Darling – health concerns
Family of Marc Allhands
Steve Cloud (V. Richardson) – stroke
Judah (Marilyn Thompson) – health issues
Deal Family – house fire
Susan Adams (Mary Ellen Van Osdol's daughter) – heart surgery
Timmy Vanmatre (Cindy Mitchell's grandson) – MS
Tamara Cook (Tasha Crandall's grandmother) – health issues
Evan Roberts (Lisa Knotts) – cancer
Sherry Matney (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Misty Brett Steffen (Sarah Reiblein) – rare cancer and treatment
Karsun Moffitt – at home; on feeding tube
Gary Dice (Marilyn Thompson) – in need of heart transplant
Mai Nguyen (Julia Bouslog) – breast cancer; has spread
James (Donna Hall's son) – lymphoma; chemo
Sherry Butler (Tasha Crandall) – kidney transplant
David Butler (Helen Rust's brother-in-law) – in need of prayer
Ed Cole (Debi Zimmerman) – pancreatic cancer
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

Congratulations on the Baby Girl!

Congratulations and best wishes to **Rachel & Chris Johnson** on the birth of their daughter, **Adalynn Leighann**, born on August 1. Congratulations also to the proud grandmother, **Donna Tauber**, and great-grandmother, **Barbara Meade**.

With Sympathy



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Marcia G. Byrket** upon her passing on August 12.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Wayne Bogue** upon his passing on August 17.

Notes of Thanks



“Thank you so much for the shawls for Alyse & I and the blanket for Zach. It was very kind of you to think of us.”

– **Linda, Alyse, & Zach Emerson**

“I'd like to say thank you for your cards and prayers after my accident. A special thank you to Jim Putnam for taking over the sound system. And I'm trying to be more careful and not trip again!”

– **Beverly Reece**

“Thank you very much for the money and for the bible! I have not yet decided how I will use the money in the Lord's grace, but when I do I will let you know. Thanks again.”

– **Ryan Craft**

“We wish to thank everyone for the many beautiful cards and warm messages of love and caring. They brought back so many beautiful memories. Thank you so much. May God bless each of you.”

– **Arthur Whitaker**

“Thank you for the student devotional you gave me. It'll help me every day to focus on what's important.”

– **McKenna Speer**

“I just wanted to say thank you for the chance to get closer to God with this book. I appreciate it and am glad I get a chance to get closer with him and become a better person.”

– **Jada Woolard**