



THE
Spiceland Friend

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

April 2025

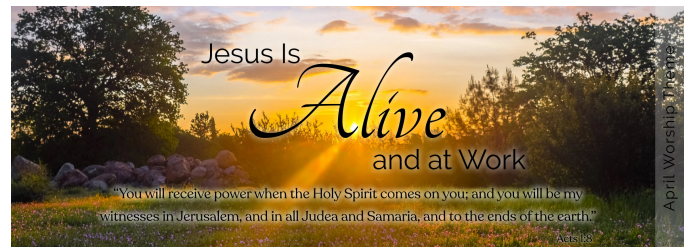


Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11:25 (ESV)

Over the past few years, our meeting has spent a significant amount of time grieving the loss of several wonderful people who were not only faithful to their families, our community, and our church but were also faithful followers of Jesus. It is always difficult to experience this kind of loss in our personal lives.

As we celebrate their well-lived lives we often focus on stories and events that occurred over their lifetime. These stories emphasize their commitment to family, their kindness, their servanthood, and even their faith walk. But as we reflect on these stories and events we often forget to step back and reflect on the deep and significant meaning that these stories point to in the life of a Christian. In [1 Corinthians 15:22](#), Paul assures, "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." This hope provides comfort and a reason for celebration for those of us who remain here in our physical lives. **The memories, stories, and events we celebrate don't just point to the believer's earthly life, they point to their life in eternity in the presence of a living God.**

As we move closer to our celebration of Easter we should likewise not only focus on the stories of Jesus' life and the event of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. **We should also reflect on what an empty tomb really means. An empty tomb means His life was authentic! The stories and events of his life mean that scripture is authentic – the story is REAL! The stories and events surrounding the sadness of His death, burial, and resurrection exclaim Christ is ALIVE! He is who He claimed to be, He is doing what He claimed He would be doing. He IS ALIVE, sitting at the right hand of the Father, and He is returning.**



Praise God that as we celebrate the stories and events of the lives of our loved ones who lived lives as Christ followers we can have peace, comfort, and assurance that those stories and memories point to eternity. Likewise, **as we celebrate Easter we can move our hearts beyond the stories and events of Jesus' life to the realization that His life, death, and resurrection provide that same eternity for us if we place our faith in Him and walk with him day by day.**

Eric Bowman

Good Friday Gathering

The Christian Education Committee invites you to join us as we remember Christ's Crucifixion. They will be hosting a soup supper on Friday, April 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Center, followed by a 40-minute video titled, "The Easter Story, the Life of Jesus." The entire church is invited. The meal will be provided.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 19, at noon – rain or shine. We are asking for donations of candy (candy must fit in plastic Easter eggs), cookies, and punch. Sign-up sheets for cookies and punch will be in the Welcome Center. Candy is needed by Monday, April 14, at 6:00 p.m. Cookies are needed Saturday, April 19, by 11:00 a.m.



Community Early Easter Service and Breakfast

This year's Early Easter Service will be held at Spiceland Friends Church at 8:00 a.m. (April 20). 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

On Sunday, April 20, we will celebrate Easter at 10:30 a.m. **Eric Bowman** will bring the message, "The REAL Big Deal." **Derek Carrera** 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. following the 8:00 a.m. Community Early Service and our annual Easter Breakfast. It's a big day for a BIG DEAL!



Sermon Topics and Scripture for April

Eric Bowman will be preaching all four Sundays in April.

April 6

Sermon – "Love Leads"
Scripture – Romans 13:8-14

April 13

Sermon – "Love Leaves Room"
Scripture – Romans 14:1-23

April 20 – Easter

Sermon – "The REAL Big Deal"
Scripture – Luke 24:1-7

April 27

Sermon – "Love, the Reason I Write"
Scripture – Romans 15:14-16

Worship Assistants for April

Worship Leaders

April 6 – Sandi Swann
April 13 – Bob Rust
April 20 – Sandi Swann
April 27 – Bob Rust



Song Leaders

April 6, 13, 27 – Tasha Crandall
April 20 – Hayley Painter

Scripture Readers

April 6 – Amanda Judge
April 13 – Priscilla James
April 20 – Barbara Meade
April 27 – Sandi Swann

Children's Story

April 6 – Janet Putnam
April 13 – Diana Bowman
April 20 – Amanda Judge
April 27 – Mike Van Osdol

Junior Church (Preschool/Kindergarten)

April 6 & 13 – Kristin Davis & Julia Bouslog
April 20 – Josie & Kevin Weber
April 27 – Diana Bowman

Greeters – New Horizons Sunday School Class

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Family of Pam Pyle
Cindy Mitchell – cancer
Marilyn Biehl – upcoming surgery
Jenny McDaniel – eye surgery
Don Painter – health issues
Ed Bryson – fractured vertebrae
Randy Reece – recovering from stroke and flu
Correna Thompson – broken leg; PT at The Willows
Gerald Darling – recovering from heart surgery; at home
Joyce Rossman – serious injuries from accident
Betty Moffitt – recovering from fall
Irene Goodwin – back pain
Libby Henshaw – at Glen Oaks
Judy Smith – at Stonebrooke
Sarah Reiblein – cancer



Extended Family and Friends

D. J. Shumaker (nephew of Eric & Diana Bowman) – brain aneurysm
Great-nephew of Sue McDonough – upcoming surgery
Cathy Chamberlin Smith (Tasha Crandall's aunt) – multiple blood clots
Mother of Rosemary Hill – brain tumor
Marge (sister of Claudia Garner's friend) – tonsil cancer
Mike Clapp (Janet Putnam) – liver disease
Belinda Jones (Tasha Crandall) – cancer
Hogan (Carly Griggs) – cancer
Gary Dice (Marilyn Thompson) – recovering from heart transplant
Danny Williams (Rust family) – stage 4 cancer
Andy Denny (Debbie Denny) – Hodgkins Lymphoma
Craig (cousin of Judy Stevens) – in need of prayer
Timmy Vanmatre (Cindy Mitchell's grandson) – MS in brain
Sherry Matney (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
David Butler (Helen Rust's brother-in-law) – in need of prayer
Carolyn Lantz – health problems

Save the Date!

Ruth Knotts will celebrate her **100th Birthday** on **Saturday, May 24**, from 1:00-6:00 p.m. at the home of her daughter, **Janice Radcliff**, at 4606 W Co. Rd. 825S, Knightstown. It is requested that gifts be omitted – just come and help Ruth celebrate this milestone birthday!

Graduation Sunday Is Coming Up

Spring is here and students are looking forward to summer. We will be honoring High School and College students on **May 18**. If they are local and will be attending church that day, we would like to present them with a Bible or devotional. If you have a high school or college graduate who you would like recognized, please let **Nancy Wadman** know by April 27. Forms are available in Nancy's office for information you would like mentioned that day. If your child or grandchild lives too far away to attend, we would be glad to recognize their accomplishments that day.



You Are Invited

You are invited to a Belated Birthday Celebration in honor of **Butch Rutherford's 80th** birthday. The celebration will be **Saturday, April 5**, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Family Center at SFC. Please come and wish him a happy birthday. Hope to see you then!

With Sympathy

Our hearts were saddened by the passing of **Pam Pyle** on March 5. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **John Painter** upon his passing on March 2 in Fort Wayne. He was the son of Lowell & Eileen Painter and brother of Janet Craft.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of **Jerry Pence** upon his passing on March 6. He was the grandfather of Andrew and Alex Pence.

Christ has risen!