



THE  
*Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

**February/March 2025**



**Keep Our Faith – Encourage Others**

Our days seem increasingly turbulent. Struggle and strife abound. This rattles the emotions, mental health, and spiritual health of even the strongest of the faithful. In sight of this, there is little more to say than these two statements: Keep the faith! Encourage those around you!

We MUST keep our faith! The word “faith” reminds us that it will not be easy. In Hebrews 11, the very definition of “faith” is a trust and belief in things that we cannot see. As we march through time, struggle and strife always ebb and tide. The greater the challenges in our world, the more difficult it is to see God working. It challenges us to keep our confidence in him. The less we can see, the more difficult it is to remain filled with faith. In Hebrews 10:23, we read, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.” Believe, trust, hope, KEEP THE FAITH!

We MUST be a source of encouragement to others! During times of struggle and strife, our Christian witness has the opportunity to shine bright in a dark and fear-filled world. Proverbs

12:25 says, “Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.” As faithful followers of Christ, we are to be a source of light and encouragement to the world around us. We must encourage our spouses, children, grandchildren, co-workers, and neighbors. Good words, simple gifts, a listening ear, time, and a smile each have the ability to soothe a troubled heart.

In such a time as this, we are called to stay faithful and filled with hope. We are to encourage others moment by moment and day by day. Let’s make this a habit this spring.

*“Be of good courage, and He will strengthen your heart, all ye who hope in the Lord.” Psalm 31:24 (KJV)*

*Eric Bowman*

**Spring Study Starts February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Mark your calendars for the last week of February and the first four weeks of March. We will gather for food, fellowship, and faith building. Spring study groups will meet each Wednesday evening from February 26 through March 26. **David Brock** and **Nancy Wadman** will team facilitate the book study, *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado; **Eric Bowman** will lead the “Welcome to Spiceland Friends 101” class; and **Janet Putnam** and **Mike Van Osdol** will team lead the “Truth Project” video discussion class if there is enough interest. We will have a meal at 6:00 p.m., and our break-out groups will follow from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Join us as we

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## Spring Study Starts February 26 *(Continued)*

deepen friendships and encourage your heart. These groups are designed for early high school through adults. If you wish to attend and will need child care arranged, please let Eric know ASAP so that arrangements can be made. At this time, our regular Thursday Bible studies will continue as scheduled at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. More details coming soon.

– Eric Bowman

## Sermon Topics for February and March

**Eric Bowman** will be preaching all Sundays during February and March.

### February 9

Sermon – “Can’t I Just Remain the Same?”  
Scripture – Romans 6

### February 16

Sermon – “Is It Hard to Keep God’s Law?”  
Scripture – Romans 7

### February 23

Sermon – “Don’t You Still Feel Bad About Yourself?”  
Scripture – Romans 8

### March 2

Sermon – “What’s Up with Israel?”  
Scripture – Romans 9, 10, 11

### March 9

Sermon – “How Do I Love God?”  
Scripture – Romans 12

### March 16

Sermon – “How Do I Love Others” (part 1)  
Scripture – Romans 13

### March 23

Sermon – “How Do I Love Others?” (part 2)  
Scripture – Romans 13

### March 30

Sermon – “What’s Up with All of These Denominations?”  
Scripture – Romans 14

## Dear Congregation,

Happy New Year, and welcome to the year 2025. We had a good year last year getting ready for our 200th Anniversary. Here at Spiceland Friends, we the trustees have big plans for the new year. Some large projects, some small. We have a good team this year with some new members, three maintenance specialists – plumbing, electrical, and machinery; and three general maintenance people with a wide variety of experience and years under their belt.

Our job as the trustees is to keep the building up and running. A new system is being put in place, and we are recording all maintenance repairs at our meeting house. Something we are focusing on this year is communication between the congregation and the committee. The saying goes, if you see something say something. We can't do our duty if we are not informed about things. We love seeing and appreciate all the congregation does to help us out, but please talk with a committee member or ministry staff before performing the task yourself. We may have a contractor on the way to look at the problem to fix it, or a committee member may be in the middle of fixing the situation, or we are just waiting on a certain part or more help.

I enjoy talking with the congregation on problems and figuring out how to fix a situation. If you can't find a committee member or ministry staff to talk about the problem, we have a communication box in the front of the church that gets checked weekly after Sunday Service. If it's something more serious, you can contact the Clerk of the Committee, a committee member or our Associate Pastor.

– **Joey Heindl**  
Clerk of Trustees

## Game Night for All Ages

On March 1 starting at 5:00 p.m. we will meet in the Family Center for fellowship and to play games. Please bring yourself and if possible, a game, card or board games, and a snack, appetizer, or dessert to share.



– **Jessica Noteboom**

## Worship Assistants for February and March



### Worship Leaders

February 2 – Sandra Swann  
February 9 – Bob Rust  
February 16 – Sandra Swann  
February 23 – Bob Rust  
March 2 – Sandra Swann  
March 9 – Bob Rust  
March 16 – Sandra Swann  
March 23 – Bob Rust  
March 30 – Sandra Swann

### Song Leaders

February 2, 9, 23 – Tasha Crandall  
February 16 – Hayley Painter

### Scripture Readers

February 2 – Debra Weber  
February 9 – Sandra Swann  
February 16 – Josie Weber  
February 23 – Nancy Wadman  
March 2 – Amanda Judge  
March 9 – Ron Reece  
March 16 – Doris Hoover  
March 23 – Barbara Lacy  
March 30 – Janet Putnam

### Children's Story

Feb. 2, March 2 and 30 – Mike Van Osdol  
Feb. 9 and March 9 – Janet Putnam  
Feb. 16 and March 16 – Diana Bowman  
Feb. 23 and March 23 – Amanda Judge

### Junior Church

Feb. 2 & 23, March 2, 23, & 30 – Claudia Garner; Jessica Noteboom  
Feb. 9 & March 9 – Kristin Davis; Jessica Noteboom  
Feb. 16 & March 16 – Josie Weber; Jessica Noteboom

**Greeters for Feb.** – Nona Edwards, Ceci Houchins

**Greeters for Mar.** – Lance & Monica Sparks

## Please Remember in Prayer

### Church Family

Nancy Wadman – health issues  
Pam Pyle – health concerns  
Linda Ratcliff – recovering from broken hip; at home  
Gerald Darling – recovering from heart surgery  
Vickie Richardson – recovering from knee surgery  
Ed Bryson – illness  
Betty Moffitt – recovering from fall  
Don Painter – recovering from knee surgery  
Irene Goodwin – back pain  
Libby Henshaw – at Glen Oaks  
Judy Smith – at Stonebrooke  
John Strong – health issues  
Sarah Reiblein – cancer

### Extended Family and Friends

Mother of Rosemary Hill – brain tumor  
Matthew Frost (Virginia Newkirk's grandson) – upcoming brain surgery  
Family of Susan Weaver  
Lori Elliott (David & Linda Brock's daughter) – fall  
Ray Wagner (brother-in-law of David Baker) – valve replacement  
Mike Owens (Sara Jane Stegner's son) – health issues  
Marge (sister of Claudia Garner's friend) – tonsil cancer  
Mike Clapp (Janet Putnam) – liver cancer  
Belinda Jones (Tasha Crandall) – cancer  
Hogan (Carly Griggs) – cancer  
Stephanie Nelson (Cindy Mitchell) – stage 4 lung 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



## Baby Bottle Boomerang!

It will soon be 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. The bottles will be put out by March 2. Please pick up a bottle and return it to the church by Sunday, March 30.



They are also in need of donations of disposable diapers (sizes 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**.

## 200 Years and Forward

In September, we had the long-anticipated celebration of the time 200 years ago that Friends first met under the trees for worship in Spiceland. The celebration was a fun and inspiring time. Having 180+ people attending Meeting for Worship that Sunday was fantastic. Much has happened within this Meeting during those 200 years and within the walls of our 150-year-old meetinghouse. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Friends who came before us for their dedication to the Lord which inspired them to build and maintain this organization and this meetinghouse. They persevered through wars, a great depression, and numerous other upheavals within our world, our country, and within our Meeting. They knew they needed to listen for and follow God's still small voice. We must persist in that same level of dedication, patience, and trust as we continue with His sometimes challenging work in the years ahead.

– Ron Reece

## Note of Thanks

"Thanks for remembering me at Christmas. I enjoyed the cookies and all. It was very much appreciated."

– Ruth Knotts

## Last Call for Directory Information



We will soon be in the process of preparing and printing the 2025 church directory. If you have any changes or additions, please turn them in to the church office or email them to [spicelandfriends@frontier.com](mailto:spicelandfriends@frontier.com) so the directory will be accurate and up to date.

## Let's Be Positive and Hopeful!

I think we all struggle some with keeping a positive attitude and a hopeful heart so I wanted to share the following with you!

– Nancy Wadman

## From Prayers to Share by DaySpring.com

"I asked God to bring you hope today and I am sure He heard my prayer. So Keep your eyes and heart open because good things – and better days – are on the way, Soon."

*Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all You who hope in the Lord.  
Psalm 31:24 (NKJV)*

## With Sympathy



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Jamie Jones** who passed away on January 7. She was the daughter of **Peggy MacFarlane**.

We also extend our sympathy to **Mike & Linda Van Osdol** and family upon the recent passing of Mike's father.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Kandi Rutledge** upon the recent birth of a new great-grandson, **Rylan James**.