



THE  
*Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

## January 2025



### “Happy Same Year!”

When it gets right down to it – we all look forward to a fresh start. Some of us are more exuberant than others, but the reality is that each of us needs new beginnings. Not one of us is thinking “HAPPY SAME YEAR!” We each look forward to the opportunity to become a better person or get past the challenges that may have marked our previous year. Often, we see a new start as “starting something new.” Although beginning something new does temporarily motivate us, scripture teaches us that we are not only called to start something new but also to discard the old. Paul tells us through Ephesians 4:22-24 to “*Put off the old man and put on the new man.*” We are to take off the old clothes that hinder us and put on the new clothes of Christ. This applies to all new things in our lives.

As we embark on that 2025 healthy eating plan, we can’t just start eating fresh vegetables. At the same time we must stop eating lots of sugar and indulging in that can of pop. If we just do one without the other we will find ourselves having the same year as before. As we build our relationship with God during the new year we must balance both sides of the equation. Paul calls us to continue

shedding off our old man and putting on our new creature in Christ. This is a lifelong process! The New Year is a great time to react to His faithfulness by engaging deeper in our relationship with Jesus. Spend less time on frivolous activities such as a fast-paced life pace, too much entertainment, or meaningless time scrolling through our phones, or watching the news. Let’s engage in more time with Christ by increasing our quiet times, meditating on His word, building relationships with other people, and serving where we see need.

No matter what your goals are for the New Year, it is important to remember that real growth requires us to work on both sides of the equation. Applying what Paul tells us in taking off the old as well as putting on the new. May we each avoid a Happy Same Year. May we each experience the growth of a Happy New Year!

*Eric Bowman*

### Thursday Bible Study Starts Back Up!

I can’t wait to start again! I have missed all of you and am eager to have our learning and fellowship again in 2025. We will finish Max Lucado’s book, *In the Eye of the Storm*, on Thursday, January 2, at our regular time (11:00 a.m.). We will start a new book on January 9. The title is *Jesus at Walmart* by Rick Leland. I will be honest. I have not read it, but it sounds intriguing. If you have any questions, please let me know.

**Nancy Wadman**  
Ministry Coordinator

## Sermon Topics for January

**David Brock** will preach on January 5. Beginning January 12, **Eric Bowman** will be sharing our messages through Easter, April 20. On January 12 he will begin a series of messages on the book of Romans in the New Testament. Paul reveals many lessons to us in his book of Romans. Paul gives us a complete picture of what God has done from the time of creation to the time of our modern-day Christian living. Eric hopes you are enriched and encouraged through this series as he approaches it through the eyes of those who ask us big questions about our faith life.

### January 5

Sermon – “Morning Mercies”  
Scripture – Lamentations 3

### January 12

Sermon – “My New Buddy”  
Scripture – Ephesians 4:12-16; Romans 1

### January 19

Sermon – “Why God?”  
Scripture – Romans 1

### January 26

Sermon – “Why Jesus?”  
Scripture – Romans 2 – 3

### February 2

Sermon – “Can’t I Just be Good?”  
Scripture – Romans 4 – 5

## Digging Deeper Studies

**Eric Bowman** will be offering a new small group Bible Study and discussion as he begins his series on the book of Romans. Each session will allow for a deeper study, questions, and discussion about the previous Sunday’s message. There will be two opportunities offered each week. The discussions will be available on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. **Digging Deeper Studies** will begin on Thursday, January 16, and Sunday, January 19. Sign-up sheets are posted on the table in the Welcome Center

## Please Remember in Prayer

### Church Family

Gerald Darling – upcoming heart surgery  
Family of Scott Swann  
Jack Tague – health problems  
Don Painter – recovering from knee surgery  
Marilyn Biehl – upcoming surgery  
Irene Goodwin – back pain  
Gary Stegner – recovering from surgery  
Dennis Stamper – recovering at home  
Donna Hall – in need of prayer  
Libby Henshaw – at Glen Oaks  
Judy Smith – at Stonebrooke  
Johnny Strong – hip pain  
Sarah Reiblein – cancer

### Extended Family and Friends

Mike Owens (Sara Jane Stegner’s son) – health issues  
Marge (sister of Claudia Garner’s friend) – tonsil cancer  
Kevin Mulherin (Claudia Garner) – 2 fingers cut off  
Mike Clapp (Janet Putnam) – liver cancer  
Belinda Jones (Tasha Crandall) – cancer  
Gary Fairchild (Tasha Crandall) – heart attack  
Hogan (Carly Griggs) – cancer  
Christina Miller (Marilyn Thompson) – liver biopsy  
Lorene Larrimore (Julia Bouslog) – broken pelvis  
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  
Susan Weaver (Kristen Davis) – lung cancer  
Carolyn Lantz – health problems

## With Sympathy



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Steve Stevens** upon his passing on November 7.

We also extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Tony & Sandra Swann** and family upon the sudden passing of their son, **Scott Swann**, on December 15.



## Worship Assistants for January



### Worship Leaders

January 5 – Sandra Swann  
January 12 – Bob Rust  
January 19 – Sandra Swann  
January 2 – Bob Rust

### Song Leaders

January 5 – Tasha Crandall  
January 12 – Tasha Crandall  
January 19 – Hayley Painter  
January 26 – Tasha Crandall

### Scripture Readers

January 5 – Amanda Judge  
January 12 – Priscilla James  
January 19 – Debra Weber  
January 26 – Nancy Wadman

### Children's Story

January 5 – Mike Van Osdol  
January 12 – Janet Putnam  
January 19 – Diana Bowman  
January 26 – Amanda Judge

### Junior Church

January 5 – Kristin Davis; Jessica Noteboom  
January 12 – Kristin Davis; Jessica Noteboom  
January 19 – Josie Weber; Jessica Noteboom  
January 26 – Diana Bowman; Jessica Noteboom

## Free Firewood

A former resident of Spiceland who still owns property in Spiceland had some trees cut down on his property. He called the church and is offering free firewood to anyone who wants it, but they will have to cut the wood and take it away. For more information, call Ron at 317-498-9778.



## Directory Information Needed

We are in the process of preparing the 2025 Church Directory. If you have changes or additions, please turn them in to the church office or email them to [spicelandfriends@frontier.com](mailto:spicelandfriends@frontier.com). Please do this before January 15.



## Notes of Thanks

“Our church is so good to people. The sanctuary was the perfect place for Steve’s service, and the flowers that were sent were a beautiful reminder of your care for our family. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.”

– **Judy Stevens & Family**

“Thank you to the Spiceland Friends family for so many wonderful cards and gifts over Christmas. SFC is very generous to Diana and I. It does not go unnoticed. Thank you for the blessings during 2024. We look forward to serving in 2025.”

– **Eric & Diana Bowman**

“We are fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful congregation! We received so many gifts, cards, and well wishes from you at Christmas time! Thank you for your encouragement and generosity. You are truly a group of people who care for each other and pray for each other.”

– **David & Linda Brock**

“Thank you so much for your love and support in 2024. I truly appreciate all the prayers, cards, food and Christmas gifts that you so generously bestowed on me this last year. I cannot begin to imagine going through this part of my life without God’s love and that He shared all of you with me. I pray for Him to bring each of you peace and love in 2025.”

– **Nancy Wadman, Ministry Coordinator**

“Thank you, Spiceland Friends, for the very generous monetary gift you gave me for Christmas. David and I enjoyed the Christmas Cheer plate of cookies very much that Nancy and Amanda delivered to us. We also appreciated the love and concern shown to us before and after Carol’s surgery and weeks of radiation.”

– **Carol Fox**