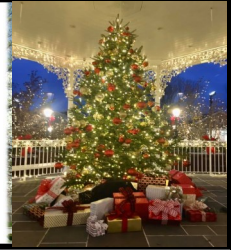


Heritage Happenings



A Publication of HUMC

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December 2022



Advent Message From the Pastor

Dear Ones,

As we once again come upon "the most wonderful time of the year", I wanted to take this opportunity to share some words of encouragement with our church family. With people shopping earlier and earlier, some of the gifts you wanted for your loved ones may be sold out soon. I hope you do not panic if that should happen. Someone has rightfully observed that we may have to get back to celebrating Christmas for what it's really all about, which is Jesus Christ!

Whether or not we can find what we want in time for Christmas is anyone's guess, but wouldn't it be great if Jesus came more into focus this year and beyond?

While the world has always needed Jesus, it seems that it has become more evident lately than ever before. I drive the same roads as you daily, and I'm usually a bit surprised with the decorations on many houses I see. Some of the houses are occupied by people who serve Christ, while others by folks who would never profess to be Christians. Yet, they seem to love this time of year with the gifts and goodies, lights and decorations, and of course, time with family and days off.

Yet, here's what it all comes back to: Luke 2:7 (NKJV) "And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." I would encourage you to make room for Christ in all you do this Christmas Season. For example, if you don't share the Christmas story on Christmas Day, why not carve out some time to do so and then invite His presence into your celebration time.

On behalf of all the leadership here at Ligonier UMC and our families, I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas!

Keeping Christ in Christmas,
Pastor Frank



ADVENT SERMONS

I will suspend the series on David during the Advent Season. The focus of my sermons during Advent will be to answer the question "What Child Is This?" We will look through the eyes of Apostle John for our answers. These are the sermon titles and dates.

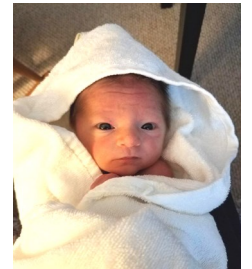
November 27	Jesus Is the Light of the World
December 4	Jesus is the Good Shepherd
December 11	Jesus is the Vine
December 18	Children's Program
December 24	Jesus is the Bread of Life
December 25	Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life

Vote Held to Move Forward with Disaffiliation

The first vote to disaffiliate happened Thursday, November 10th. We voted to disaffiliate by 86.8 percent. The final vote will not happen until after the New Year. More information will be coming in the weeks and months ahead.



Congratulations to Brian & Alicia (Orban) Goppman on the November 10th birth of Emma Madelyn Goppman. Grandparents are Paul and Nancy Orban.



Congratulations to Mason & Kayla Daugherty on the November 13th birth of Molly Ann Daugherty. Grandparents are Bill and Tracy Daugherty and Shawn & Kathee Stefee, and great-grandparents are Michael and Judy Stovall.

It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias!

\$10 for 6.5" red poinsettias. Order forms are available on the table in the stairway, on our website, and I'll email it to you with the weekly updates. Please place your order by Dec. 4th with checks only payable to Heritage UMC. The poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services and may be picked up following the 8 pm service.



Circle of Ruth & Fortified Survivors Meet Dec. 8th

Circle of Ruth and Fortified Survivors will meet Thursday, December 8 at 6:30 PM in the Heritage church lounge. This will be the annual Christmas cookie exchange so bring some cookies to swap and some to sample. We will be continuing our Bible study, Miracles of Jesus, by Jenny Allen with Pat Zimmerman leading the study. In addition, we will be putting together Christmas gift bags for Meals on Wheels recipients and signing Christmas cards for our card ministry. Please join us for fellowship, fun, and cookies!



The next Family Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 10th, 8 am at Carol & Dave's. \$10/person (pay there) and the guest speaker will be a surprise! Please sign up on the bulletin board by Wednesday, December 7th if you would like to attend.

RED KETTLE DRIVE DEC. 14th

Heritage will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at the Ligonier Giant Eagle on Wednesday, December 14th from 9 am—5 pm. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board for those who would like to volunteer.



Girls' Night December 14th



All girls in grades 6 -12 are invited to a fun night of baking, crafts, and games on Wednesday, December 14th from 6-7:30. RSVP to the church office by Friday, December 9th. We hope you can make it and feel free to bring a friend!

Combined 10:45 am Service Dec. 18th for Glory to God in the Lowest

Please join us on Sunday, December 18 at the combined 10:45 AM service, for our performance of the Christmas play "Glory to God in the Lowest." The kids have been working hard on this play and we can't wait for you to see it! We hope to see you there! Also, the children will be performing the play at the Bethlen Home on Dec. 17th at 1 pm.

Altar Flower Sponsor Needed For Dec. 18th

A sponsor for the Altar flowers is needed for December 18th. This is the day of the Children's Christmas Play where we will have one combined 10:45 am worship service. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$35. Please contact Marge Burns if interested: 724-238-9384.



Christmas Week Schedule

Sun., Dec. 18th 10:45 am Combined Worship (Glory to God in the Lowest Children's Play)

Office Closed Dec. 22th - Jan. 2nd

Christmas Eve 6 pm & 8 pm Candlelight Services

10 am Combined Worship Christmas Day

6 pm Contemporary Service New Year's Eve

10 am Combined Worship New Year's Day

2023 Bulletin Sponsors

If you would like to sponsor bulletins for 2023, please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Bulletins are \$10 and please be sure to put what you would like them in honor or memory of.

2023 Envelopes Available Soon

Your 2023 Contribution Envelopes will (hopefully) be available in the sanctuary the first week of December. Due to mechanical and staffing issues, the manufacturers are a bit behind this year but hope to have the envelopes to us by the end of November. If you can help us get them distributed to family, friends, neighbors and shut-ins, we would appreciate it. If you don't see your envelopes, please contact the office. Thanks!

Collecting for Christmas

Keeping our Neighbors Warm

We will be collecting new gloves, mittens, scarves and hats for the Salvation Army through the first week of December. A box is available in the vestibule for your donations.



It doesn't seem possible but another year has rolled around and the Fellowship Class is once again collecting money and food to be distributed during the regular food distribution in December. We purchase food items that they do not normally get from the food bank such as a canned ham, cooking oil, Christmas candy, baking items, etc. Checks can be made out to Heritage and marked "Ligonier food bank" and the food can be placed in the bin under the table in the stairway. Thanking you all in advance and we are wishing you a blessed holiday season!!!!!!!

Layette Items for Open Hands

The Circle of Ruth will be collecting donations for the Open Hands Layettes every Sunday in Advent. As in the past, the children will collect your items and place them in the manger in the front of the sanctuary before the Children's Message. Layette items include: 1 heavy blanket or quilt (36x46), 1 receiving blanket, 2 onesies, 2 sleepers, 1 pair of socks or booties, 1 hat, 1 bib, 12 disposable diapers.



Heritage filled five tags for the Salvation Army Angel Tree gift collection. Thank you so much to everyone who purchased gifts and returned them to the church quickly. The gifts were picked up Nov. 21st.

Thank you to all who filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. Ellen & Mike Yeskey delivered 47 filled boxes on November 15th. Thank you to Circle of Ruth for covering the shipping costs for the boxes that needed it.



Thank you to everyone who donated to and/or purchased soup for TBA Youth Group on Nov. 13th. We raised \$222 for our children & youth programs with our soup sale. We will be having another soup sale on February 9 – Super Bowl Sunday with the proceeds going to "Souper Bowl". If you're interested in donating soup for the sale, please contact Zach.



Thank you to everyone who donated candy for the trick or treaters. Every last piece was given out by Zach and Lindsey to the kids for Merchant Trick-or-Treating on October 31st.



TBA had a great time when they attended Chad's Corn Maze on October 30th.



Christian Adventure was very successful with 34 students signed up. Our attendance was in the 20's each week. The spring Christian Adventure will be held February 22 - March 29. More information to come.

Thank you to all those who helped with the Ski Swap on Nov. 12th. \$1,145 was raised for the LV Food Bank.

The Outreach Committee thanks everyone who supported our Auction on October 29, which was our most successful auction since I became chairperson of the committee. At least 34 members and/or friends of Heritage Church helped move, clean, arrange & sale the sale items, donated foods and/or helped with the luncheon. In addition, several members made significant purchases. Together we raised \$3,817 for missions. This would not have been possible without all of your support! Thank you again.

Chuck Shaffer, Outreach Chairperson

When Circle One closed down, we ended with a balance in our account of \$552. We distributed the money as following: A \$150 love gift to the fireman in memory of H Craig (longtime member), \$100 to Open Hands to support their layette program, \$150 to the LVSD to support their backpack program and the balance went to the Union Mission in Latrobe. *Betty Winters*

On behalf of Fort Ligonier Days, Inc., we would like to acknowledge your participation and "Thank You" for your support of the 63rd annual Fort Ligonier Days Celebration. Our three-day festival is enjoyed by over 100,000 people. We could not do it without you and your participation in making this a memorable community event for so many of our visitors.

Sincerely, The Fort Ligonier Days Committee



Congratulations to Judy Shaffer, who was the head of the kitchen for Meals on Wheels for many years, on her Nov. 11th retirement. A big welcome to George Heer, Jr., who took over on Nov. 14th. George previously worked as a banquet chef at Rolling Rock Club, and is very happy to be working with such a great team for a great program!

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Jurisdictional Conference was held November 2-5, 2022. Jurisdictional Conference meets for the purpose to elect Bishops. There were 13 new Bishops elected. The United Methodist Church has often boasted that there is plenty of room under the big tent for traditionalists, progressives and liberals. But this past Jurisdictional Conference proved that is not the case. Not one single traditionalist was elected Bishop. The elections declared the denominations present state. If there was truly room for the traditionalists wouldn't you think that at least one theological conservative would have been elected? Beginning January 1 the United Methodist Church will now have the most liberal Council of Bishops in its history. Let me share a few results of what happened at Jurisdictional Conference.

1. The **North Central Jurisdiction** elected Kennetha Bigham-Tsai. Bishop Bigham-Tsai will begin leading the **Iowa Conference** on January 1. During an interview with a delegation as she was campaigning, she said, "It is not important that we agree on who Christ is." She went on to further cast doubt on where she stands on the incarnation of Jesus when she said during the same interview "God became flesh, but not particular flesh."

2. The **Western Jurisdiction** elected Dottie Escobedo-Frank. Bishop Escobedo-Frank will begin leading the **Cal-Pac Conference** on January 1. In her biography she wrote, "I believe we are living in a time of epochal change, which requires the church find sacred ways to die in order to be reborn. She calls for heretics and edge-dwellers to lead the church forward. Now is the time, she says, to push these new leaders to the forefront of church restarts.

3. The **Western Jurisdiction** elected Cedrick Bridgeforth. Bishop Bridgeforth will begin leading the **Pacific Northwest, Oregon-Idaho, and Alaska Conferences** on January 1. Bishop Bridgeforth is a married, gay man. His husband is Christopher Hucks-Ortiz. The Western Jurisdiction now has two married, gay/lesbian bishops: Cedrick Bridgeforth and Karen Oliveto.

4. The **Southeastern Jurisdiction** elected Tom Berlin. Bishop Berlin will begin leading the **Florida Conference** on January 1. On the floor of the 2019 General Conference where he referred to the Traditional Plan (the legislation adopted upholding accountability for a traditionalist understanding of marriage and ordination) as a "virus" that would infect the denomination. The logical extrapolation was that people who supported the traditional plan (i.e., theological conservatives) were also a virus.

There were other important decisions made that will certainly affect the future of the United Methodist Church as we know it. *Pastor Frank*

Congratulations to Jim McGinnis, Sr., for bagging his first 6x6 bull elk at the age of 89! Jim was hunting with his sons, Jim and John in Colorado at the beginning of November. Way to go, Jim!!!



December 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal	3 2 pm Hauer/Wells Wedding 6 pm Contemporary Service: Rich Ziegenfus w/music by Wayne Shaffer
4 Holy Communion Poinsettia Orders Due 	5	6 5-7 pm Youth Game Night 6 pm Outreach Mtg. in Lounge	7 11 am Clergy Mtg. in Lounge	8 6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge 6:30 pm Fortified Survivors Mtg. in Lounge	9 Office Closed	10 8 am Prayer Breakfast at Carol & Dave's 6 pm Contemporary Service: Ardi Hill w/music by Reverent Heart Ministries
11	12	13	14 9 am–5 pm Bell Ringing at Ligonier Giant Eagle 6-7:30 Girls' Night	15 1 pm Linus Blanket Workday in Fellowship Hall	16 1 pm Newsletter Deadline Wedding Rehearsal	17 3 pm Funk/Moran Wedding 6 pm Contemporary Service: Adam Swiegart
18 10:45 am Combined Worship - Children's Christmas Play	19 5:30 pm TBA Christmas Party	20	21	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24 6 & 8 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 
25 10 am Combined Christmas Worship 	26	27	28	29	30	31 6 pm Contemporary Service: Rich Ziegenfus 

Regular and Weekly Meetings

Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 am Worship Services
9:40 am Sunday School/Fellowship Class
Monday 10:00 am Prayer & Praise Mtg. in Choir Room
5:30 pm TBA Mtg.
7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study in Lounge
Tuesday 7:00 pm Cub Scouts in Fellowship Hall
Weds 8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Thursday 9:00 am Bible Study at LV Senior Center
Friday 8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Saturday 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service

December Birthdays

Libby Marker – 3rd
Tyler Jones – 5th
Kyle Nicodemus – 10th
Lily Gilbert – 12th
Pastor John – 19th
Michael Weaver – 19th
Lucas Valentine – 20th
Sarah Meade – 22nd
Stephen Cieslo – 23rd
Matthew Gough – 23rd
Robert F. Smithley 24th
Ron Wagner – 26th
Tristan Schell – 31st
Ina Mae Smithley – 31st

December Anniversaries

Gene & Myra Appleby, Dec. 18th
Ina Mae & Robert F. Smithley, Dec. 23rd