

Heritage Happenings



A Publication of HUMC

office@ligonierhumc.org

www.ligonierhumc.org

724-238-2627

February 2023



LENT

Dear Ones,

Each year, as Lent approaches, many Christians find themselves asking what they should “give up for Lent.” Though it is not mandatory for a Protestant believer to do so, it has become a tradition in many denominations to fast or abstain from something (food, vices, or other daily enjoyments). Some congregants have asked where this idea came from. There’s a popular theory that because Christ gave up His life that we, too, should give something up. Another notion is that because Lent is often a time for reflective prayer and meditation that fasting should naturally take place. But truly, where did this idea come from? We can turn to the Old Testament and see an example in Daniel:

“Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.” —Daniel 9:3

In ancient times, it was common to fast following the death of a loved one; Jesus said that fasting would be appropriate for believers once he died. In the verse above, we see Daniel fasting out of concern for Judah and, later on, after receiving a mysterious vision. Spiritual fasting involves denying ourselves the natural desires we have (for food, for vice, for other daily enjoyments as stated earlier) so that we turn to God to fulfill our needs: God meets our hunger, satisfies our cravings, and becomes what we long for. Here’s what Jesus had to say about fasting:

“so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”—Matthew 6:18

If you choose to fast in any form or facet, it should be between you and the Lord, not on parade to show “how spiritual you are.” However, if you have any questions about fasting, partial fasting, or fasting during Lent in particular, feel free to get in touch with me about any questions or concerns that you may have.

Trusting in Christ,
Pastor Frank

Ash Wednesday February 22nd

Sanctuary Open 8 am—4 pm



Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. We will have an open sanctuary from 8 am - 4 pm for prayer and Communion.

WAILING WALL PRAYER REQUESTS

Susan Dominick will be going to Israel in a few weeks. If you would like her to put a prayer request in the Wailing Wall for you, please write it on a small piece of paper and give it to her or the church office no later than Sun., Feb. 26th.



REQUESTS
FOR
PRAYER

Circle of Ruth Meets Feb. 9th

Circle of Ruth will meet Thurs., Feb. 9th at 6:30 PM in the Heritage lounge. We will be continuing our Bible study, *Miracles of Jesus*, by Jenny Allen and signing Valentine’s Day cards. Brenda Sherbondy will be leading the study and Gina Ziegenfus will be bringing a dessert to share. Please join us for fellowship, fun, and dessert!

Circle of Ruth would like to thank everyone who donated items for the Union Mission. We were able to fill several boxes with donations.

Fortified Survivors News

(Women’s Cancer Support Group)
Talk with other survivors to discuss feelings, concerns, and resources. For more information call the church office at 724-238-2627 or email us at office@ligonierhumc.org.



Red Cross Blood Drive Feb. 10th



Heritage will host a blood drive on Friday, February 10th from 1 - 5 pm. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter HERITAGEUMC to schedule an appointment. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help. Thank you!

Heart & Soul Fair February 18th 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall

Start 2023 with a happy heart and peaceful
soul... SHOP, LEARN & EXPLORE

Roxanne Goins has organized a super cool event for Feb. 18th in the Fellowship Hall from 10 am—3 pm. The following vendors will be participating: local artist and photographer, Angela Marie, Ligonier Valley Hemp Company, Oils of Grace, LLC, Perfect Paws, DD Umbaugh will have a table with items from the Serrv Shop for sale, and Weathered by the STORM home furnishings. More information is located on the bulletin board or pick up a flyer on the table in the stairway. We hope you’ll come to check it out and bring a friend!

Family Prayer Breakfast March 11th

The next Family Prayer Breakfast will be held at Carol & Dave’s at 8 am on **Saturday, March 11th at 8 am**. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board soon. The cost is \$10/person. Please RSVP by March 8th.



Soup’s On in Ligonier March 18th

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased starting Feb. 1st at www.ligonier.com or at the Chamber office. Over 20 different soups will be available for you to taste around town. Tickets sell out fast so be sure to get yours asap!



TBA Youth meets every Monday at 5:30-7 pm in the Youth Room, February's lessons will be focused on "what it means to serve". All students grades 6-12 are welcome.

Game Night Feb. 7th, 5-7 pm

Join us for a night of board games, video games, and card games. Pizza provided by Ligonier Fox's. All youth are welcome!



**Souper Bowl
Soup Sale
Fundraiser
Feb. 12th**

The youth will be having a soup sale in the lounge on February 12 – Super Bowl Sunday - with the proceeds going to the Ligonier Valley Food Pantry. The sale will begin immediately following the second service at noon. \$4 for a bowl, \$6 for a quart. If you are interested in donating soup for this sale, or have any questions, contact Zach at Heritage1youth@gmail.com.

Christian Adventure Begins Feb. 22nd

The spring Christian Adventure will be held Wednesdays after school from 4:15 to 6 pm February 22 - March 29. Christian Adventure is a free after school program, open to all children K-5th grade.



Join us for crafts, music, fellowship and fun! The mission project for the kids will be the Ligonier Valley School District Food2Go4Kids program and we will be continuing with *The Gospel Project*. Transportation is available from RK Mellon and the Ligonier Y. Please go to our website at www.ligonierhumc.org to register or pick up a form at the church.

Calling all kids for Children's Church!

Lenten Children's Church will be held February 26 -March 26 after the children's moments during the second service. We will be using the curriculum "What's in Your Basket?". In addition, we will be practicing songs for "Raise a Hallelujah!" The kids will present this 20 minute Easter musical during a combined worship service on Palm Sunday, April 2. Go to our website for more information on the musical and to register your child or call the church office.



It's time to register for Summer Camp!

All children affiliated with Heritage can go to Camps Allegheny, Wesley Woods or Jumonville. Go to the www.wpaumc.org and go to the [Camping and Retreat Ministries | Western PA Conference of The UMC \(wpaumc.org\)](#) for more information and to register. Please let the church office know that your child is registered.



Girls' Night Feb. 15, 6-7:30 pm!

All girls in grades 6-12 are invited to a fun night of baking, crafts, and games on Wednesday, February 15th from 6-7:30. RS VP to the church office by Friday, January 10th. We hope you can make it and feel free to bring a friend! Pictured from the January Girls' Night: Emmy, Autumn & Elizabeth.



TBA Youth Group went to SkyZone on January 2nd. Pictured: Collin, Zach, Lindsey, Emmy and Autumn.

Save the date!
VBS will be
August 7-11,
2023!



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Our condolences to the family and friends of Ben McKee, who passed away at the age of 95 on Jan. 17th. Ben had been the pastor of Heritage from 1961-1975, served as superintendent of the Pittsburgh East District from 1975-1979, retired in 1989 after serving as pastor at Beulah UMC in Johnstown, but returned to Heritage to serve as assistant pastor from 1991 – until he officially retired in 2015. He and Mona then moved to Arbutus but returned to Ligonier in 2020. A celebration of life service is being planned for the spring.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Debbie Corna, who also passed away on Jan. 17th at the age of 73 in Las Vegas, surrounded by her children.

January 20, 2023

Letter to the Congregation - from the Information Team

Dear Members of Heritage Church,

The Information Team has been working behind the scenes to gather documents, research information and comply with the requirements set forth to pursue the Disaffiliation Process. It has been a learning experience as we all continue down this path.

We want to keep you informed as to the plans and the time-line involved.

Our team has divided into two groups to make the process as smooth as possible and to split the work involved. The first group is focused on the UMC Disaffiliation Process as specified by the Conference and includes Rich Ziegenfus, Ron Wagner, Greg Schaetzle and Tom Shearer. The second group is focused on the Affiliation Process and what avenues are open to us after disaffiliation, if the second congregational vote reveals that a 2/3 majority still wishes to disaffiliate. This group includes Larry Barth, Dan Fritz and Ryan Glista.

The disaffiliation group has a meeting scheduled for Feb 14 with the Conference Board of Trustees in Cranberry to finalize our financial commitment. Two professional real estate appraisers were engaged to assess the property value for the church building and the parsonage in preparation for that meeting. The results of those appraisals have been accepted by the Conference Trustees in preparation for the meeting. This acceptance has resulted in a significant reduction of the 2% payment on our property value. We have scheduled a Congregational Meeting for March 15 at 7:00 pm to explain the Disaffiliation costs, process, and timing and what the next steps are. That informational meeting will then be followed by the 2nd Congregational vote scheduled for April 16, at 1:30 pm.

Meanwhile, the Affiliation group has been exploring possible future options for Heritage Church, such as becoming an Independent Church, associating with another Wesleyan denomination such as Free Methodists, or joining a new denomination such as the Global Methodist Church.

The team met with Rev Chris Whitehead of Charter Oak Church on Jan 18 to learn more about the Global Methodist Church. Rev Whitehead is serving on the Transitional Leadership Team for the newly formed Allegheny/West Conference of the GMC. This area is comprised of Western Pa and Ohio.

The Affiliation group will present options and provide the pros and cons of the most likely and compatible affiliations at an informational Q&A Congregational Meeting to be scheduled on May 3.

A vote as to which option to pursue is tentatively scheduled for May 10. All activities are designed to be completed in time for the UMC Annual Conference, which takes place June 14-17. It is at this conference that a final formal approval is given to all churches who have elected to disaffiliate from the UMC.

The time-line below is for easy reading and for marking the dates on your calendar. Exact dates and times will be provided when confirmed.

Important Dates:

Feb 4-5 – Information Team Update Announcements given at all services.

Feb 14 – Meeting with Conference Board of Trustees in Cranberry.

March 15– Congregational meeting – explain Disaffiliation costs, process, and timing

April 16 – Second Church Conference conducted by the DS at 1:30 in the sanctuary.

May 3 – Affiliation Team – Info/Q&A session.

May 10 - Affiliation Team – vote on future direction.

June 14-17 – Western PA Annual Conference.

February 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 9:30 am MOW Mtg. in Lounge 11 am Clergy Mtg. in Lounge	2	3	4 6 pm Contemporary Service: Rich Ziegenfus
5 Holy Communion	6	7 5 pm Youth Game Night	8	9 6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge	10 1-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	11 6 pm Contemporary Service: Pastor Ardi Hill w/ music by Reverent Heart Ministries
12 10:45 am Holy Baptism 12 pm Souper Bowl Soup Fund Raiser for TBA	13	14 <i>Happy VALENTINE'S</i> — DAY —	15 5:30 Education Mtg. 6-7:30 pm Girls' Night	16 1 pm Linus Blanketeers in Fellowship Hall	17 1 pm Newsletter Deadline	18 10 am–3 pm Heart & Soul Fair in Fellowship Hall 6 pm Contemporary Service: Pastor Frank
19 10:45 am Holy Baptism	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday—Sanctuary Open from 8 am–4 pm 4 pm Christian Adventure Begins	23	24	25 6 pm Contemporary Service: Ken Clark from Clean Water Kenya
26 10:45 am Lenten Children's Church	27	28				

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.
Tuesday	6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study in Lounge
Wednesday	7:00 pm Cub Scouts in Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Friday	9:00 am Bible Study at LV Senior Center
Saturday	8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service

February Birthdays

Tom Shearer	1st
Lynne Flower	1st
Emily Kelly	4 th
Dylan Kuhn	5 th
Susan Dominick	8 th
Emilia Schirf	10 th
Madelyn Glista	12 th
Muriel Slade	17 th
Nathaniel Schaetzle	18 th
Gene Seiling	20 th
Evelyn Gilbert	20 th
Letty Goswick	21 st
Matt Barany	23 rd
Drew Neiderhiser	28 th

February Anniversary

Harry & Libby Marker February 26th