

Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage

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Note From The Pastor



I am sometimes asked a question which might go like this: "Why do you insist that I need to attend a local church when I get tremendous enjoyment in attending a different church often?" We live in a day which offers the message of the Gospel to the Sinner, and inspiration to the Christian in a vast variety of ways such as the internet, radio, television, cd's, MP3 files, and on and on it goes! Well, I wanted to take a few moments to share some thoughts regarding the importance and value of attending a local church. You may know of more reasons, but for now here are a few.

1. A place to call "home" – "Home" is usually where the "rubber meets the road". We get to know our "family" and they get to know our strengths and weaknesses, and as "iron sharpens iron", we become stronger both in the short and long term.

2. Accountability and Encouragement – A home church becomes a place for accountability, and also is a great place for receiving encouragement from brothers and sisters in our family.

3. Pastoral Care – We all encounter times of crisis such as sickness, deaths, divorce, family events, as well as times of joy such as marriages, job promotions, etc. It's wonderful to share these events with our families, and of course, it's always so comforting to have the local family of God surrounding you with prayers and support.

4. A Storehouse for regular Tithes/Offerings – Where would the local church be without regular Tithes and Offerings from it's members and adherents? Basically, wasting time with fundraiser after fundraiser to fund the church ministries. Tithing was commanded "before" the giving of the law, and was never stopped at the time of Christ even though the opportunity was there.

5. A place to get involved with a ministry on a consistent basis – As part of a community of believers, there is something powerful about having the faithful, consistent witness of a person in ministry not only in the good times, but also in the tough times. Impressionable children and youth often look up to those in ministry as examples for their own lives as they are young, and to be remembered and followed as they grow older.

6. Respectability and Acceptance in ministry endeavors – Most Pastors want to know what home church a person attends when they are asking for a place to minister in the church or community. To most pastors, this shows a teachable and servant spirit. In watching over the flock under their care, they are careful who speaks into the lives of the congregation.

7. Gives the local Church stability for more effective and impactful ministry – The church knows who can be depended upon for financial and ministry support. If everyone moved from church to church, there would be **no opportunity for effective ministry** whatsoever, and churches would have to close the doors due to lack of faithful attendees.

These are just a few reasons for the value of attending a local church and no doubt there are many more. I trust these will be of assistance to you as some may ask you this question I often am asked!

And, of course...there's always this powerful scripture from the Word in Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV) 25 Do

not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Frank

Heritage Votes to Disaffiliate

A journey that began July 20, 2022 with an Informational Meeting culminated in a final conclusive congregational vote on April 16, 2023 for Heritage Church to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Of the 100 voting members present, 85 voted in favor, 14 not in favor and 1 vote abstained. District Superintendent Paul Ritchey, who conducted the meeting, explained prior to voting that according to Roberts Rules of Order, an abstention vote is counted as a yes. A blank vote is counted in the total but not as a yes or no. Thus, the motion to disaffiliate passed 86 %. Passage required a 66.6% affirmative vote.

The final official vote will take place at UMC Western PA Annual Conference on June 14, 2023 where all churches who have elected to leave the UMC will be affirmed and, when payment of all financial obligations are fulfilled, the action is then official.

Rich Ziegenfus explained at the close of the meeting that the Information Team, who worked diligently to research and bring to the congregation all sides of the progressive versus traditional UMC viewpoints in slides presented at the meetings, and in handouts and letters, will be re-organized into a Transition Team. Anyone interested in helping out on this team should contact a current team member.

The next step will be to bring to the congregation the result of research and exploration into pursuit of other Wesleyan-based denominations and other protestant denominations as well as the pros and cons of becoming an Independent Church.

A presentation of the results of that research and comparison study will be held at an Informational Meeting and Q&A session on May 3, 2023 in the sanctuary at 7pm. The information to be presented will compare various denominations on topics such as doctrine, property trust clause, how bishops and clergy are appointed and length of service, apportionments, current size and historical background.

A congregational vote will be held on May 10, 2023 at 7pm to determine which option to pursue.

Since this vote was not unanimous, we recognize there will be some among us who are unhappy about the new direction taken. We hope that you will find peace in whatever direction you feel you must take but know that you will always have a home at Heritage.

The Transition Team

For anyone wishing to remain a member of the United Methodist Church, you must move your membership to a church that is not disaffiliating before the vote is ratified at the June 14th annual conference. For questions on how to move your membership, contact the office.

Heritage's Annual Diaper Drive

Mothers living in poverty cannot afford to purchase an adequate supply of diapers for their infants or toddlers. Some must choose whether to buy diapers, food or medications. This is further complicated by the fact that diapers cannot be purchased with food stamps or WIC. Because of this, Heritage will be once again holding a diaper drive through the month of May. Diapers can be placed in the bin under the table in the stairway. The diapers will be given to the Westmoreland County Diaper Bank. Thank you for any donations you can give.



Serrv Shop Opens May 6th!



The SERRV Shop will be reopening on Saturday, May 6th with lots of new merchandise! Volunteers are needed to run the shop so please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board if you can help. The Serrv Shop will be open Saturdays from 10 am—4 pm.

Ladies’ Luncheon for Judi Hodges

All ladies of the church are invited to a send off luncheon for Judi Hodges on Saturday, May 6th, 11 am in the Lounge. Please sign up on the bulletin board by Wednesday, May 3rd or contact the office.



National Day of Prayer Events

Thursday, May 4th



The National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 4th. A Prayer Breakfast will be held at The Barn at 7:30 am for those who made reservations. A prayer and praise event led by various community members will be held from 12- 1 pm on the Diamond with live music by Reverent Heart Praise Band. Bring your singing voice and prayer requests. There will be a Hymn Sing at the Ligonier Gardens from 2-3 pm with Kathe Nason playing. The sanctuary will be open from 9 am to 3 pm for individual prayer and reflection. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can sit in the sanctuary for an hour or two. “Pray fervently in righteousness and avail much.” James 5:16b

HONORING MOM

Mother’s Day May 14th

If you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of your Mother or Grandmother this Mother’s Day, please fill out a form (on the table in the stairway or have it emailed) and return it, along with your donation, earmarked Mother’s Day, to the Church office by **Sunday, May 7th**. Your loved one’s name will appear in our special Mother’s Day bulletin and your donation will help to send our youth to summer camp at Camps Allegheny, Jumonville and Wesley Woods. These camps give children the opportunity to make new friends, grow closer to God, experience new things and create memories for life.



We will have a special gift for all moms by the sanctuary doors at all services on Mother’s Day weekend, so be sure to pick yours up!

Circle of Ruth Meets May 11th

Circle of Ruth will meet Thurs., May 11th at 6:30 PM in the Heritage lounge. We will be signing Father’s Day cards and enjoying each other’s company before we take a break for the summer. Louise Wagner will be bringing a dessert to share. Please join us for fellowship, fun, and dessert.



**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR
PASTOR FRANK & JUDI
SUNDAY, MAY 28TH**

Pastor Frank’s last day in the pulpit will be Sunday, May 28th. **We will have a 10:00 am combined service** and a covered dish luncheon following in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the bulletin board by May 21st.



Game Night May 2nd

Game Night will be held May 2nd from 5-7pm. Grades 1-12 are welcome to join us for a night of board games, video games, and card games. Pizza provided by Ligonier Fox’s. Game Night will continue throughout the summer.

TBA Meets Every Monday Through May 22nd
TBA Youth continues to meet every Monday from 5:30 to 7 pm downstairs in the Youth Room. Open to any student grade 6-12. The last TBA of the season will be May 22nd.

GIRLS’ NIGHT MAY 17TH

The last Girls’ Night of the season will be held on Wednesday, May 17th from 6-7:30 pm. All girls 6th-12th grade are invited for an evening of fun and friendship. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, May 12th. These adorable solar light planters were made by the girls at their April 19th meeting.



BIKE DRIVE MAY 21ST



Zach is collecting bikes for the Bike Drive, which will be held on Sunday, May 21st. Drop bikes off from 12 pm—1 pm and pick bikes up from 1-2 pm. If you need help getting your bike donation to the church, contact the church office or heritage1youth@gmail.com.

GRADUATE SUNDAY MAY 28TH!

If you are affiliated with Heritage and are graduating from high school, college or graduate school this year, please let the office know by May 15th. We’d love to share with the congregation what your future plans are and celebrate your accomplishments. Graduation Sunday will be May 28th. The graduates will be recognized during the combined 10 am service. The service will be followed by a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall in honor of Pastor Frank and Judi’s retirement.



**Summer Children’s Church Begins June 11th
Volunteers Needed**



Summer Children’s Church will be held Sundays June 11th through July 30th. Join us in the Sunday School room following the children’s message at the 10:45 am service. A sign up sheet for volunteers to teach Children’s Church will be on the bulletin board soon. The curriculum and materials will be provided. Any help would be appreciated.

Family Day at Camp & Conference

All TBA Youth and their family members are welcome to join us for a night of outdoor festivities, cook-out, and laser tag at our annual Family Day on Sunday, June 11th from 5-7 pm at the Ligonier Camp & Conference Center. Families are welcome to bring any side dish they’d like.



Sign up for Summer Camp!



All children affiliated with Heritage can go to Camps Allegheny, Wesley Woods or Jumonville and Heritage will pay 75% of the cost of camp. Log onto www.wpaumc.org and go to the Camping & Retreat

Ministries tab for more information and to register. **Please be sure to let the church office know that your child is registered.**

Spring Mountain Match for Camp Allegheny

Benefactors of Camp Allegheny are issuing a challenge for a \$17,000 matching grant through June 1st. Your donation of \$100 becomes \$200, \$500 becomes \$1,000 and so on. Donations should be mailed to 100 Camp Allegheny Drive, Stoystown PA 15563 or give online at www.campallegheny.org.

Vacation Bible School Aug. 7-11

Vacation Bible School will be held August 7-11. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office. Register your child online at <https://ligonierhumc.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-child>.



Elizabeth Schaetzle, Arabella Rupert, Emilia Schirf, Avery Rupert and Nathaniel Schaetzle did a wonderful performance for the congregation on Easter Sunday. Photo by Ellen Yeskey.

Antiques on the Diamond Luncheon

Save the date! Saturday, June 3rd will be the Antiques on the Diamond luncheon. A sign up sheet for volunteers will be posted on the bulletin board soon.

Red Cross Blood Drive



The next blood drive is set for Friday, June 23, 1 to 5 p.m. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCross-Blood.org and enter HERITAGEUMC to schedule an appointment. A sign up sheet for volunteers will be on the bulletin board soon. Thank you!

Ligonier Valley Free Museum Day May 7th

Enjoy art and history through the Ligonier Valley on Sunday, May 7th from 10 am—4 pm. Pick up a passport at the first museum you visit, get it stamped at a minimum of 4 museums, turn it in at the last museum and you'll be entered to win a \$250 gift certificate to spend in the Ligonier Valley. Participating museums include: Lincoln Highway Experience, Ligonier Valley Rail Road Museum, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Compass inn Museum, Fort Ligonier and Antiochian Heritage Museum.



PowerPoint help needed!

Right now, Judi Hodges makes and runs the PowerPoints for the services but with Pastor Frank retiring, we need to fill her shoes. Please contact the office if this is something you'd be interested in doing.

Communion Set-Up Help Needed

If you are able to help with getting Communion set up for the 10:45 am service, please contact Birdie at 724-995-8298. We especially need help for May, June and December but could always use backup if you can help any other time. Thank you!

NEW HOME FOR CHURCH VAN NEEDED

Due to the sale of the building that housed our church van, VYN is allowing us to park our van in The Barn's lower parking lot. If you have or know of a place we might be able to store the van indoors, please let the office know.

Notes of Thanks....

Hello there, Thank you so much for the adorable handmade horse blanket you made for Project Linus. My daughter received it at a recent doctor appointment and it gave her so much comfort when she wasn't feeling well. And she uses it every time she gets into her car seat and wants to warm up. Thanks again for the beautiful gift! Kristi D.



The Spring Rummage Sale & Luncheon was truly an all-church mission project! At least 45 members & friends of Heritage Church supported the sale and luncheon by donating their time and/or luncheon supplies. Together we raised a record of \$4,000 toward our mission budget. Thank you to everyone who donated clothing, household items and/or furniture... to everyone who pitched in and helped set up & arrange sale items, assisted customers during the sale, and/or helped clean up on Saturday afternoon... to everyone who donated desserts, sandwiches, soda, water, etc. for luncheon. You are all very much appreciated.

Chuck Shaffer, Outreach Chairperson



Our condolences to the family and friends of Bill Dickson, who passed away on April 8th at the age of 75. He will be missed.

Women's Cancer Support Group

Fortified Survivors invite newly diagnosed, recovering or those currently being treated for cancer to reach out for support. 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.



Family Prayer Breakfast May 13th

The next Family Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 13th, 8 am at Carol & Dave's. The cost is \$10/person (pay there). Chuck Shaffer will be the speaker. A sign up sheet will be available on the bulletin board soon. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 10th.



May 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2 5 pm Youth Game Night 6 pm Outreach Committee Mtg. in Lounge	3 9:30 am MOW Mtg. in Lounge 11 am Clergy Mtg. in Lounge 7 pm Informational Q&A Session in Sanctuary	4 National Day of Prayer 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast at The Barn 9 am—3 pm Sanctuary Open for Prayer 12-1 pm Prayer & Praise on Diamond 2 pm Hymn Sing at Ligonier Gardens	5	6 11 am Luncheon in Lounge for Judi Hodges 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Frank w/music by Kasey Kisner																										
7 Holy Communion 10 am—4 pm LV Free Museum Day Deadline for Mother's Day donations	8	9	10 7 pm Vote in Sanctuary	11 6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge	12	13 8 am Prayer Breakfast at Carol & Dave's 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Susan Hans w/music by Reverent Heart Ministries																										
14 	15	16	17 5:30 pm Education Mtg. in Lounge 6 pm Girls' Night	18 1 pm Linus Blanket Workday in Fellowship Hall	19 1 pm Newsletter Deadline	20 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Adam Sweigart																										
21 Last Sunday School & Fellowship Class 12-1 Bike Drop Off, 1 –2 pm Bike Swap 2 pm Meals on Wheels Volunteer Tea in Fellowship	22 Last TBA for the season	23	24	25 Baccalaureate Service at the High School	26 Office Closed	27 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Guraiah Lingala (India) w/music by Scott Schmitt																										
28 10:00 a.m. Combined Worship & Graduation Sunday Retirement Celebration for Pastor Frank & Judi following service in the Fellowship Hall	29 Office Closed 	30	31		<div>Happy Birthday!</div> <table><tr><td>1st</td><td>Willa Keim</td></tr><tr><td>3rd</td><td>Birdie Roehrig</td></tr><tr><td>3rd</td><td>Lynn Keegan</td></tr><tr><td>3rd</td><td>Bradley Neiderhiser</td></tr><tr><td>3rd</td><td>Ginny Markle</td></tr><tr><td>4th</td><td>Ethan Neiderhiser</td></tr><tr><td>6th</td><td>Gary Garrison</td></tr><tr><td>7th</td><td>Donnie Gilbert</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Dick Markle</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Sherry Smith</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Ruth Burdick</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Gertrude Shaffer</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Brenda George</td></tr></table>		1 st	Willa Keim	3 rd	Birdie Roehrig	3 rd	Lynn Keegan	3 rd	Bradley Neiderhiser	3 rd	Ginny Markle	4 th	Ethan Neiderhiser	6 th	Gary Garrison	7 th	Donnie Gilbert		Dick Markle		Sherry Smith		Ruth Burdick		Gertrude Shaffer		Brenda George
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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.
6:30 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 Saturday Night Service

Happy Anniversary!
May 25th Bethanie Orban & Keith Gough
May 28th Barb & Roger Johnson