

# Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage Church

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November 2023

Heritage family,

Where has the year gone?! Time has flown by and now we're entering November. Soon the holidays will be upon us. This season causes us to reflect and be thankful, all the while, praising God for his presence and blessing. Often in worship I'll have us rehearse our thankfulness by responding to a simple prompt: "I thank God for..." I wonder, in this season, what are you thankful for? Here's a few of mine. *I thank God for...*

*My wife, my sons, and my daughter-in-law  
A revitalized sense of purpose in ministry even  
after all the changes of 2023*

*My new friends at Heritage Methodist Church  
The privilege of coaching other pastors  
through some of their toughest moments  
Heritage Church's \$1000 gift to the Allegheny  
West Annual Conference of the Global  
Methodist Church for clergy education*

If you don't practice this regularly, take some moments and thank our God for his presence and blessings.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! Psalm 100:4**

Here are a few events happening in November. I hope you'll participate.

The Chiz Ryder concert at 6 pm on Nov. 4  
All Saint's Day on Nov. 5  
Community Thanksgiving service on Nov. 19  
Hanging of the Greens at 12 pm on Nov. 26

We'll see you in church!

Living On Purpose, Pastor Ron

## Chiz Rider Concert Nov. 4th, 6 pm



Invite your friends and neighbors for a special night out with Chiz Rider on Nov. 4th, 6 pm in the sanctuary! Chiz is a Christian musician who started many years ago with the purpose of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ through his God-given talents. Come and enjoy some incredible

music and restore your faith! A free will offering will be taken. Hope to see you there!

## Celebrating the Saints of Heritage

Join us at both services on Sun., Nov. 5th as we celebrate the members of Heritage who have passed away in the last year. We will be honoring the following: Rev.

Ben McKee, Debbie Corna, Walter & Shirley Fetzer, Bill Dickson, David Dunlevy, Dick Knupp, Brian Bloom, Jean Martin, Bill Downs, Bonnie Baker, Bernetha Pritts & Lloyd Tomlinson.



## Shoebboxes Due Nov. 5th

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are due November 5th. You can put your filled shoeboxes under the Communion Table (altar) in the sanctuary. Please return any unfilled boxes as well. Thank you so much to everyone who filled a box to bring joy to a child this year!



## Circle of Ruth Meets Nov. 9th

Circle of Ruth will meet Thursday, November 9th, 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are welcome to join us as we continue our study with chapter three of *Faith, Doubt and God's Mysterious Timing* by Laurie Polich Short. Dena Fritz will be leading the study and Sharon Shaffer will provide the dessert. We will also be signing Thanksgiving cards so hope to see you there!

## Ski & Snowboard Swap Nov. 11th

The SKI & SNOWBOARD SWAP will be held on Saturday, November 11. We will have drop offs on the Thursday & Friday before the swap for good used equipment and clothing. You can sell your items or donate, whatever you prefer. Every penny from items donated goes towards our food bank to help our neighbors in need. Any questions, please contact Diana Neiderhiser: 724-961-3185 or [Diana.Neiderhiser@yahoo.com](mailto:Diana.Neiderhiser@yahoo.com).



## THE DISAFFILIATION CHALLENGE!

While Heritage Church has successfully disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church and affiliated with the Global Methodist Church, we still have some leftover financial costs to the tune of \$48,000. **We need to free ourselves of this burden.**

Recently, a member of Heritage offered a challenge. They are willing to match any giving toward this debt up to \$25,000. If we all, as a church family, give up to \$25,000 before December 31, our disaffiliation debt will be eliminated once and for all!

Let's all pray for our generosity toward eliminating this debt before the end of the year. You can make your checks payable to Heritage Methodist Church and note it as "Disaffiliation Cost."

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

## Dinner For Disaffiliation Nov. 18th

The Ruth Circle is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, November 18, from 11 AM – 5 PM. The menu will be Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garden Salad, Italian Bread, Cake and Beverage for \$8. Gluten free options will be available. Eat in or take out. Please invite your friends and neighbors to help us move toward being debt-free. All profits will go to the Disaffiliation Fund. In addition, help will be needed throughout the day. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.



**Community Thanksgiving Service Nov. 19th.**

THANKSGIVING  
SERVICE

All are invited to our Community Thanksgiving Service that will be held Sunday, November 19th, 7 pm at St. James Lutheran Church (300 W Main St.). The service will be led by Pastor Jono Adams, and if you

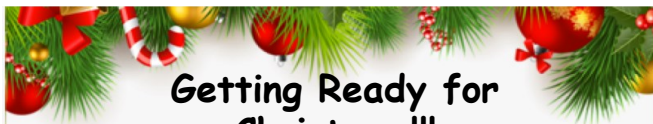
would like to participate in the community choir, contact Mariam Davies at 724-238-7242 or email [office@stjamesligonier.org](mailto:office@stjamesligonier.org).

**Order Your Heritage T-Shirt!**

If you missed the last T-shirt order drive, now's your chance! Order forms are available on the table in the stairway, on our website, and will be emailed in the weekly blasts. The cost is \$10/shirt and orders with checks payable to Heritage Methodist Church are **due November 30th**.

**Greeters Needed**

Interested in helping to make Heritage Church more welcoming? We are trying to be more intentional in welcoming everyone – members and guests – at the 10:45 AM worship service each Sunday. Several persons have signed up to serve as greeters semi-monthly; however, we are looking to have additional persons participate in this ministry. If you are willing to help, contact Chuck Shaffer (814-341-5550).

**Getting Ready for Christmas!!!****Hanging of the Greens Nov. 26th**

Help us decorate for Christmas! Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, November 26th after the 10:45 am service. A sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board. The youth will be having a soup fundraiser after church as well that day so come hungry!

**Angel Tree Tags for Salvation Army**

Heritage will soon have five Angel Tree Tags for the Salvation Army. If you would like to reserve a tag, please contact the church office.

**Mitten Tree Collection**

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

**Bell Ringing for Salvation Army Dec. 13th**

Save the date! Heritage will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at the Ligonier Giant Eagle on Wednesday, December 13th from 10 am—5 pm. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board soon for those who would like to volunteer.

**Full Armor of God Scarecrow**

Be sure to check out our TBA's "Full Armor of God" scarecrow right outside the sanctuary doors and vote for it when you get a chance!



**Game Night-** November 2nd 5-7pm. Grades 1-12 are welcome to join us for a fun filled night of board games, video games, and card games. Pizza provided by Ligonier Fox's.

**TBA Youth Group** continues each Monday from 5:30-7pm. TBA is for all students grades 6 and up. Join us every week for Christ centered talks, fellowship, and games. Every last Monday of the month we host a cooking class, teaching students how to make new dishes.

- TBA Youth Group Bowling– November 19th 1:00-3:00pm TBA will be meeting after church to go bowling at Ligonier lanes. Cost: \$15, food and drinks provided by TBA Youth Group.



- TBA Youth Group Friendsgiving- November 20th 5:00-7:00pm. All members of TBA will be bringing a dish from home for us to all gather and have a Thanksgiving dinner together. There will be themed games, and a movie.



- TBA Youth Group Soup Sale- November 26th after second service until 1pm. Families of TBA and friends of the church will be selling soup downstairs in the lounge. All donations support TBA.



**Girls' Night (A Night of Thanks)** - Join us downstairs on November 15th, 6:30-8:00pm where the girls will learn to bake, craft, and give thanks to God! Open to all girls grades 6-12. RSVP by Nov. 10th to the church office so we have enough supplies for everyone.

FREE Thanksgiving dinners for those in need! If you would like to bless a family that would benefit from a free Thanksgiving meal, please email Zach at [Heritage1Youth@gmail.com](mailto:Heritage1Youth@gmail.com) with a phone number for the family by Nov. 9th. No names please—this remains completely confidential. Food will be delivered, but not cooked.

**Thank you!**

Heritage church is extra special. Bob and I want to thank all of you for the support you have been to us following Bob's fall and my surgery. Thanks to Pastor Ron for making a visit to Westmoreland Hospital, to Chuck and Sharon for offering their support and for loaning their lift chair, which was a big help to Bob, who unfortunately had seven fractured ribs. Thanks also to Lay Leader Rich and Gina for keeping in touch and constantly offering support and also to secretary Beth for her kind words and offer to help. A big, big thank you goes out to Dan and Dena Fritz. Dena showed up at our door the afternoon I came home from the hospital not only with dinner, complete with her home-made apple pie, but with food for several more days as well! What a wonderful surprise! Thanks too, for the dozens of cards, calls, and many, many prayers. Heritage Church IS extra special.

Bob & Ina Smithley

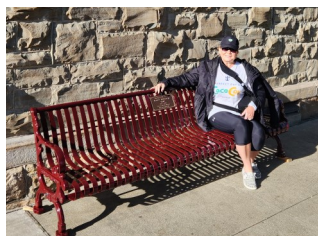




Dawn Gilbert and Gary Garrison were a few of the many helpers at the Pancake Breakfast this year. Thanks to Ellen Yeskey for the photo!

**Pancake Breakfast Thank You**

43 members and friends of Heritage helped with the Pancake & Sausage Breakfast during Fort Ligonier Days this year. The number of paying customers (538) was quite small likely because of the poor weather conditions on Saturday. Even though the Treasurer has not received all monies at this time, I estimate that we raised approximately \$1900 for the Ligonier Food Pantry. Thank you for your support! *Chuck Shaffer, Chairperson*



Did you notice the new bench outside the sanctuary doors? Thank you to Glenda Dickson for donating the bench in memory of her late husband, Bill. Thank you to Ron Wagner for getting this picture of

Glenda (recovering from shoulder surgery) on the day the bench was delivered on October 11th.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Bernetha Pritts, who passed away at the age of 94 on October 20th at Bethlen Home. A memorial service will be held on Nov. 5th, 3 pm at Snyder-Green Funeral Home.



Our condolences also to the family and friends of Lloyd Tomlinson, who passed away on Oct. 22nd at the Ligonier Gardens. He was 82.

**Allegheny West Inaugural Annual Conference Recap**



It was my privilege as your pastor to attend the first ever Allegheny West Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church. So many great and important

things happened. Rather than trying to convey the Spirit-led atmosphere of the weekend, I'd like to share a portion of John Lomperis' review in his article from *Juicy Ecumenism*.

"History was made last weekend as pastors and lay members from hundreds of Global Methodist congregations convened for the inaugural session of the Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference, encompassing Ohio plus the western third of Pennsylvania. "So many have been working and yearning for this day for years," enthused the Rev. Dr. Jessica LaGrone, [Asbury Theological Seminary's](#) Dean of the Chapel. This Global Methodist annual conference triumphantly concluded with reportedly the largest group of Methodist ministers ever ordained in North America, and perhaps the world.

The October 12-14 Global Methodist annual conference session, held at Reynoldsburg Community Church outside of Columbus, Ohio, was unlike any official United Methodist conference I have ever attended.

Participants were driven by a hunger to go deeper than what they often experienced in mainline United Methodism. As [President Pro-Tempore of the Annual Conference Jeff] Greenway put it, the main goal was never disaffiliation, but rather "to move forward as a movement of like-minded, warm-hearted, Spirit-filled, Jesus-loving, evangelical, orthodox, Wesleyan Christians committed to offering the whole Gospel to the whole world," to be "a movement of disciples who make disciples who make disciples!"

Several factors made this a very different sort of Methodist conference. First, there was clear unity on core doctrine.

Secondly, this Global Methodist annual conference has a much leaner bureaucracy, with a shift to focusing on empowering local congregations as the center of mission. Within each of its circuits (intentionally smaller versions of what United Methodists call districts) this Global Methodist annual conference is planning to soon have all congregations jointly support one international mission partnership, one national mission, one local mission, and one new church plant.

Thirdly, the break-out workshops were solidly biblically and theologically grounded, and should actually make a major, positive difference in how congregations approach their ministries. Speakers compassionately addressed the wounds almost everyone there had brought with them, and offered assurances of the GMC's commitment to not repeat the United Methodist Church's mistakes.

Speakers emphasized that we are not just saved in isolation, but into community. And what a wondrously large community this Global Methodist annual conference is! The Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference has received 539 congregations, with more incoming, and already has nine new church starts. This makes it larger than the majority of American United Methodist annual conferences, and the largest Global Methodist annual conference. A repeated proverb of Greenway's was to "be gentle with those who come early and gracious with those who come late." With such growth, now almost anywhere you go in Ohio or western PA (except for the city of Pittsburgh), there is probably a Global Methodist congregation within a half-hour drive.

Those gathered last weekend still face serious current and upcoming challenges. Lowry warned, "make no mistake: the road ahead will be difficult." Global Methodists must beware "that disease of cultural Christianity" which is presently "crashing down around us." As Greenway put it, "Serving God in a fallen world is not for the faint of heart—but we are not the faint of heart, we are the church of Jesus Christ!"

The Global Methodist annual conference session joyfully concluded with the ordination of a whopping 149 clergy set apart to lead the church serving God in this fallen world. This included some who were changing their category of clergy status, from licensed local pastor to deacon or elder, and from deacon to elder."





# November 2023

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			<b>1</b> 9:30 am MOW Mtg. in Lounge  11 am Clergy Mtg. in Lounge  4:15 pm Christian Adventure	<b>2</b> 5:30 pm Advisory Team Mtg. in Lounge	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6 pm  Chiz Rider Concert   Turn your clocks back
<b>5</b> Communion   All Saints' Day	<b>6</b> 6 pm LVAC Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	<b>7</b> 5-7 pm Youth Game Night	<b>8</b> 4:15 pm Christian Adventure  6 pm Membership Mtg. in Lounge	<b>9</b> 6:30-9 pm Ski Swap Drop off in Sanctuary  1 pm Linus Blanket Workday in Fellowship Hall  6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge	<b>10</b> 6:30-9 pm Ski Swap Drop off in Sanctuary	<b>11</b> 8 am Family Prayer Breakfast at Carol & Dave's  8 am - 12 pm Ski Swap  6 pm Saturday Night Worship: Chuck Shaffer w/music by Kasey Kisner
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4:15 pm Christian Adventure  6:30 pm Education Mtg. in Lounge  6:30 pm Girls' Night	<b>16</b> 6 pm Church Council Mtg. in Lounge	<b>17</b> 1 pm Newsletter deadline	<b>18</b> 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Rev. Dr. Paul McCracken  11 am-5 pm Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
<b>19</b> 7 pm Community Thanksgiving Service at St. James Lutheran Church  1-3 pm Youth Bowling at Ligonier Lanes	<b>20</b> 5 - 7 pm TBA Friendsgiving	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Office Closed  6:30 pm Light Up Ligonier  	<b>25</b> 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron  
<b>26</b> 10:45 am Children's Church Begins  12 pm Hanging of the Greens  TBA Soup Sale  	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5 pm Trustees Mtg. in Lounge	<b>30</b>		



**November Weddings**  
 Nov. 23rd Jerry & Kay Blank

**Regular and Weekly Meetings**  
 Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 am Worship Services  
 9:40 am Sunday School  
 Monday 5:30 pm TBA Youth Group  
 6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study  
 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 Sr. Center  
 Friday 8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall  
 Saturday 6:00 pm Saturday Night Service

**November Birthdays:**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Janis Shearer  
 5<sup>th</sup> Louise Wagner  
 6<sup>th</sup> Braden Marker  
 8<sup>th</sup> Gary Black  
 9<sup>th</sup> Zach Yeskey  
 10<sup>th</sup> Thomas Dowden  
 10<sup>th</sup> Emma Goppman  
 13<sup>th</sup> Elaine Steele  
 13<sup>th</sup> Mike Yeskey  
 13<sup>th</sup> Molly Daugherty  
 14<sup>th</sup> Katelyn Amond  
 14<sup>th</sup> Brittany Hoover  
 14<sup>th</sup> Mackenzie Plummer  
 16<sup>th</sup> Beth Caldwell  
 16<sup>th</sup> Dottie Johnson  
 16<sup>th</sup> Gene Appleby  
 20<sup>th</sup> Ryan George  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Johnson  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Eric Barth  
 24<sup>th</sup> Colin Smith  
 24<sup>th</sup> Jordan Smith  
 24<sup>th</sup> Lee Roehrig  
 28<sup>th</sup> Cameron Clark