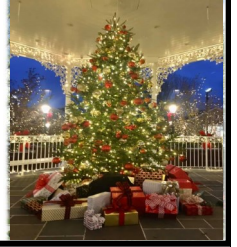




Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage Church

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December 2023



Heritage family,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The Diamond is beautifully decorated, and like you, I look forward to seeing all the lights on the houses around

town. For many reasons, this is the best time of the year.

Unfortunately, we live in a time when it's easier to focus on events that cause fear rather than the hope brought on by the coming of Jesus. Some of our fears are caused by events outside our control: inflation, war in the Ukraine and Israel, disruptive politics, personal health diagnosis, or family challenges. We fear the unknown. We fear a loss of control.

This is not new. People throughout history have lived through their fearful times. Even the New Testament records faithful people of God confronted by situations that had the potential to be filled with fear and uncertainty: angelic visits, political instability, unexpected pregnancy, and public ridicule. You are not alone!

The Scriptures of Advent and Christmas offer a unique perspective on how you and I can manage fearful situations. In the birth narratives of Luke and Matthew we encounter a familiar phrase: "Fear not!" This short phrase was always spoken when people were afraid. Our Advent messages will walk us through some of these passages but for now, let me offer this hope.

The presence of Jesus banishes fear!

This may seem too simple or trite for you. But I stand on the power of this promise. And so should you! The presence and power of Jesus is the antidote for whatever fear you are facing. Jesus is our God who promises peace. In Jesus, fear is replaced with confidence. His presence in your life is the power of God. Imagine how your fear will run away when the King of kings is the power and confidence that permeates your very soul! Do you remember when the disciples were caught in a great storm? Jesus comes to them and reveals that his presence calms all storms. Jesus even said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Matthew 14:27).

Yes, there is plenty that we could be afraid of. But I encourage you to pray, "Jesus banish my fear by your powerful presence."

Join me during the Sundays of Advent and Christmas as we explore more of this promise.

On behalf of your Heritage Church staff,

Merry Christmas.



Advent Teaching Series: **Fear Not!**

December 3 – Luke 1:5-20

December 10 – Luke 1:26-38

December 17 – Matthew 1:18-20

December 23 & 24 – Luke 2:8-11

(Combined 10 am service December 24)

Christmas Eve (6pm & 8pm) – Matthew 1:22-23

Advent
A Season of Hope & Expectation



Helping our Neighbors at Christmas

ANGEL TREE TAGS

We have a few tags left and the date the gifts need to be returned is Nov. 26th. Please let the office know if you would like a tag.



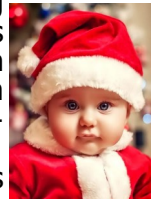
MITTEN TREE COLLECTION



We are collecting new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the Salvation Army through November 26th. A collection box is available in the vestibule. Thank you for helping to keep our neighbors warm this winter!

Layette Items Needed for Open Hands

The Circle of Ruth will be collecting donations for Open Hands Layettes every Sunday in Advent. 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: heavy blankets or quilts (36x46), receiving blankets, onesies, sleepers, socks or booties, hats, bibs, disposable diapers.



RED KETTLE DRIVE DEC. 13th



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 is on the bulletin board for those who would like to volunteer. If you can help out any other time, please contact Marge Burns at 724-238-9384.

COLLECTION FOR LIGONIER FOOD PANTRY

The Fellowship Class is collecting monetary donations for the Ligonier Valley Food Pantry through December 15th. Please make checks payable to Heritage Methodist Church, earmarked Fellowship Class. Thanks!



Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child! We collected a total of 50 shoeboxes. Thank you to Mike and Ellen Yeskey for delivering the boxes to the collection site.

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS



The red, 6.5" poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Services in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias are \$10 each and payment must accompany your order form. CHECKS

ONLY PLEASE payable to Heritage Methodist Church. Orders are due by Sunday, December 3rd. Poinsettias may be picked up following the 8:00 p.m. service. Order forms are available in the church and on our website.

ORDER YOUR HERITAGE T-SHIRT!

Order forms are available on the table in the stairway or contact the office if you need one sent to you. The cost is \$10/shirt and orders with checks payable to Heritage Methodist Church are due **November 30th**.

**Town Wide Open House Dec. 3rd
Kids' Games & Crafts in Fellowship Hall**

Come out on Sunday, December 3rd from 12-5 pm for the Ligonier Wholidays "Town Wide Open House!" Heritage will be hosting a Whoville craft & game station for the kids in the Fellowship Hall, and there are lots of other activities hosted by the Ligonier Merchants, along with sleigh rides, painted rock scavenger hunt and more! More information is posted on the bulletin board.



Circle of Ruth Meets Dec. 14th

Circle of Ruth will meet Thursday, December 14th 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, *Faith, Doubt and God's Mysterious Timing* by Laurie Polich Short (chapter 4). Diane Dennis will be 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!



2024 Bulletin Sponsors

If you would like to sponsor bulletins for 2024, 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.

Contribution Envelopes Coming Soon!

Your 2024 Contribution Envelopes will soon be available in the sanctuary. **Please note that your number will have changed if it was higher than 150.** If you can help us get envelopes distributed to family, friends, neighbors and shut-ins, we would appreciate it. If you don't see your envelopes, please contact the office. Thanks!

No Coffeehouse in December, but save the date for Jan. 19th! Hope to see you there!



Our condolences to the family and friends of Fred Nipps, who passed away on October 26th at the age of 87. Fred will be missed by all.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us for a combined service in the morning at 10 am on December 24th, and our candlelight services at 6 pm and 8 pm.



Christmas Themed Game Night

December 5th, 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 NEWS

TBA Youth Group continues each Monday from 5:30-7pm. TBA is for all students grades 6 through 12. 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 Christmas Party- Monday December 18th, 5:30-7pm.**



Girls Night "Ugly Sweater" Get Together

Join us downstairs on December 13th, 6:30-8:00pm where the girls will bake, and craft. We will make ornaments for Meals on Wheels! Open to all girls grades 6-12. **Wear an ugly sweater!** RSVP to the church office by Dec. 8th.



Stuffed Teddy Bears & Friends Needed

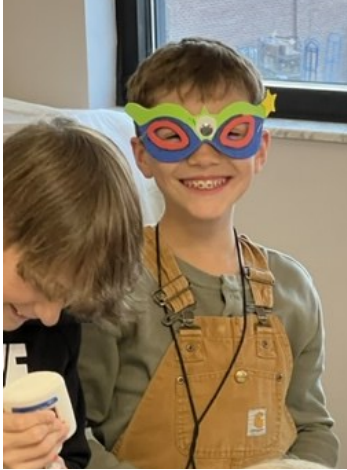
Children and youth will be assisting at the 10:45 Advent service on December 17th. Kids of all ages are welcome to attend our practices at Children's Church during the 10:45 Service. The kids will be lighting the Advent candles, and singing. Following the service there will be a light lunch for students and families in the Fellowship Hall from 12-12:45, then off to Bethlen Home for caroling and passing out teddy bears to residents starting at 1pm.



Please bring in Teddy Bear donations for our caroling at Bethlen Home. Stuffed animals of all sorts can be placed in the first pew closest to the Christmas tree. Thank you!



Thank You



A special thank you to all that helped make another great Christian Adventure. We had an average of 15 attendees and we learned a lot about how God made us super and unique. The children and their families filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes that they contributed to our

church collection. The Spring Christian Adventure will be February 21 through March 27. Any adults that would like to volunteer please contact Ellen or Zach.

Thank you for all the prayers for my niece, Sylvia King. She finished chemo and radiation and is back to work. Myra Appleby

30 members and friends of Heritage Church donated food and/or time to make the Spaghetti Dinner a success. We served 198 dinners and made a profit of \$1,615. All proceeds have been donated to the Disaffiliation Fund to help reduce our debt.

Happy 70th Birthday to Mike Yeskey!

The Monday Night Bible Study Group celebrated Mike's birthday with tiny hats and yummy cheesecake on Nov. 13th. Thank you, Mike, for letting me publish this picture of you! Love it!



GREETERS NEEDED

If you can help out with the Greeting Ministry at the 10:45 AM worship service, please contact Chuck Shaffer or the office.

HELP NEEDED FOR 8:30 AM SERVICE

Please let the office know if you would be willing to serve for the 8:30 am worship service in any of the following positions: **greeter, worship leader, PowerPoint, sound & livestream.**

Welcome to our new church members!



Ken & Roxanne Goins with Pastor Ron



Sue Morrison



Evelyn Lemmon with Pastor Ron



Tricia Bynum with Pastor Ron

December 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Rich Ziegenfus | |
| 3 12-5 pm Who-ville Event in Fellowship Hall  | 4 | 5 5-7 pm Youth Game Night | 6 11 am Clergy Mtg. in Lounge | 7 | 8 | 9 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Ardi Hill w/music by Glory Guys | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 10 am–5 pm Bell Ringing at Giant Eagle 6:30-8 pm Girls' Night | 14 6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge | 15 1 pm Newsletter Deadline | 16 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Adam Sweigart | |
| 17 No Children's Church 12 pm Lunch for youth & parents 1 pm Youth Caroling at Bethlen Home | 18 5:30 pm TBA Christmas Party | 19 | 20 | 21 Linus Blanket Workday 1 pm | 22 | 23 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron | |
| 24 10 am Combined Worship 6 & 8 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | 25  | 26 | <i>Office Closed Dec. 25th - Jan. 1st</i> | | | 29  | 30 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Paul McCracken w/music by Amy Clarke |
| 31 | | | | | | | |

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

Happy Anniversary!

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

December Birthdays

Libby Marker – 3rd
Tyler Jones – 5th
Luke Fritz - 6th
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 Smithley 24th
Ron Wagner – 26th
Tristan Schell – 31st
Ina Mae Smithley – 31st

