

Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage Church

ligonierheritage@gmail.com

www.ligonierheritagemc.org

January 2024

From the Pastor

Heritage family,

It's always exciting to begin a new year. Flipping the calendar page does wonders to re-energize and re-focus me. What about you? Are you glad 2023 is over? Are you excited about the blank slate a new year brings?

When approaching a new year, I try to be sensitive and aware of what the Holy Spirit is saying to me and the local church. I began praying about our 2024 ministry in November and when I did so I heard the Holy Spirit speak the word of Scripture found in 2 Corinthians 3:18.

*And we all, who with unveiled faces reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
2Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)*

This is a powerful portion of God's word, and I will preach on it the first weekend of January. But for now, I want you to focus on the phrase I highlighted: "...are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory..." Transformation is normal for the Jesus-follower. You and I are being made more and more like Jesus through the transformative work of the Holy Spirit. The word we use for this process is called *sanctification*. God does this work in you. You should welcome transformation and expect it! You and I, however, have a role to play in this sanctifying process. We must put ourselves in the right position.

In our Methodist tradition, we have a phrase describing what it means to "put ourselves in the right position." We call this the **means of grace**. The means of grace are actions we can engage in that place us in a position to have the Holy Spirit make us more like Jesus. It all begins with a willing heart and spirit where you simply pray, "Holy Spirit make me more like Jesus." But it also includes actions like reading the Bible, praying, fasting, serving, and worshipping just to name a few.

To help all of us experience the transformative work of the Holy Spirit we will begin creating opportunities in 2024 intended to equip you to take your **next right step** with Jesus.

I'm very excited about the possibilities of 2024 and what it means not only to be a part of Heritage Methodist Church but also the Spirit-led movement of God called the Global Methodist Church. I hope you make yourself available to the Holy Spirit and what he wants to accomplish in and through you as you are being transformed into the image of Jesus.

Living On Purpose,

Pastor Ron



January Sermon Series Beginning January 7, 2024 "Living a God-first Life"

Everyone has priorities. We arrange our schedules, budgets, and relationships according to perceived importance. Putting God first means we give Him top priority over everything else. He is the principal figure in our lives and central to all we do and think. When we choose to put God first, we determine that He is more important than any other person, His Word is more valuable than any other message, and His will is weightier than any other imperative.



Putting God first means that we keep the greatest commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). In other words, we are totally invested in our relationship with God. Everything we have and everything we are is devoted to Him. We hold nothing back.

The University of the Holy Spirit "Making Sense of Your Bible" Class Sunday, January 28th, 2 - 4 pm Heritage Church Lounge (RSVP on the bulletin board by January 21)

Reading and understanding the Bible can be challenging. While there might be challenges, we can admit that regular reading of the Bible helps us know God better, live a more fulfilling life, know God's will, and obey Him.



In this first session of the University of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Ron will be teaching us a great, easy plan for reading and understanding our Bibles. It's called the SOAP process.

You're invited to sign up for this 2-hour class and walk away with resources to help you practice regular, helpful Bible reading.

The University of the Holy Spirit New Member Class

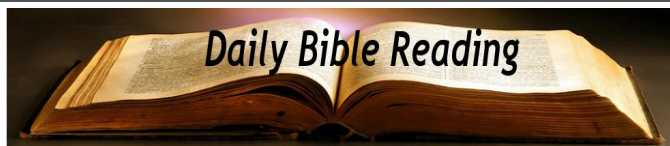
Coming up Next! On Sunday, February 18th from 2-4:30 pm in the lounge, Pastor Ron is offering a class on partnering with Heritage Church as a member! If you would like to join Heritage Church, this is the class for you! A sign up sheet will be available on the bulletin board soon, or contact the office if you would like to sign up.

New
Member
Class



Need a New Directory?

If you are in need of an updated church directory, please order one through the church office. There won't be pictures in it, but it will be much more updated than the last directory we did in 2018. If you have changed your contact information please let the office know. The new directory will include your name, address, phone, cell phone and email. If there is something you don't want published, please contact the office asap.



January S.O.A.P. Readings

Do you have a regular practice of reading your Bible? While it's challenging, reading the Bible regularly helps us know God better, live a more fulfilling life, know God's will, and obey him. If you don't have a regular Bible reading plan, you're invited to use this SOAP process. **SOAP is an abbreviation that stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, & Prayer.** Read the passages below and answer the following questions. You'll need your Bible, a journal/notebook, and a pen. SOAP bookmarks are available on the table in the stairway if you would like one.

Scripture – which passage am I reading?
Observation – what stands out to me in this passage?
Application – how will I apply these truths to my life?
Prayer – what is my prayer as it relates to this?

January 1	Matthew 6:31-33
January 2	Proverbs 16:2-3
January 3	Matthew 6:19-21
January 4	Galatians 2:20-21
January 5	Colossians 3:1-4
January 6	Romans 8:5-8
January 7	Romans 8:9-11
January 8	Matthew 22:37-40
January 9	Philippians 4:12-13
January 10	Exodus 20:1-3
January 11	Luke 14:25-27
January 12	2Corinthians 3:16-18
January 13	2Corinthians 8:7-9
January 14	James 4:1-3
January 15	James 4:4-6
January 16	James 4:7-10
January 17	Luke 12:22-26
January 18	Luke 12:27-31
January 19	Luke 12:32-34
January 20	Luke 13:22-30
January 21	Romans 12:1-2
January 22	Romans 12:3-8
January 23	Romans 12:9-13
January 24	Romans 12:14-21
January 25	Psalms 1
January 26	Matthew 5:1-12
January 27	Matthew 5:13-16
January 28	Matthew 5:43-48
January 29	Matthew 7:7-12
January 30	Matthew 16:24-26
January 31	Psalms 27:4

Circle of Ruth Meets Jan. 11th

Circle of Ruth will meet Thursday, January 11 at 6:30 PM in the Heritage church lounge. We will be continuing our Bible study, *Faith, Doubt and God's Mysterious Timing* by Laurie Polich Short (chapter 5). Brenda Sherbondy will be leading the study and bringing a dessert to share. Please join us for fellowship, fun, and dessert!

Collection for Union Mission

Circle of Ruth is collecting items for the Union Mission now through the end of January. "The Union Mission is a Christian organization located in Latrobe, that provides a temporary haven for men in need and assists them in building lifelong relationships." They are in need of new and gently used men's clothing, coats, winterwear (hats, gloves, etc.), tennis shoes, white socks and men's new underwear; hygiene and cleaning items; paper products; towels and washcloths; small and XL garbage bags. A bin will be available under the table in the stairway for your donations. Thank you very much for supporting this mission project!!



Church-Wide Study

Perfect Love is a wake-up call to the people called Methodists. According to John Wesley, God raised up Methodism to spread the central teaching of entire sanctification. This book calls all Methodists back to who we have been at our best, in times when we have been a growing, vibrant, and Spirit-filled movement.

Pastor Ron will be leading a study using this resource by Kevin Watson. You're invited to join him for this 8-week journey into the heart of Methodism.

Choose a class...

Tuesdays at Heritage Church
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Beginning January 30th

Thursdays at the Senior Center
9 am – 10 am
Beginning February 1st

The book is available in the church office. **Read the Forward and Chapter 1 before the first session.** Sign up on the bulletin board to reserve your spot by Jan. 23rd. If you are able to reimburse the church, each copy is \$10. Don't let the price prohibit you from attending.

Red Cross Blood Drive Feb. 9th

Heritage will host a blood drive on Friday, February 9th from 1 - 5 pm. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit Red-CrossBlood.org and enter our zip code to schedule an appointment. A sign up sheet for volunteers is on the bulletin board. Thank you!



Weekly Lenten Services Return to the Valley

Save the dates! The Ligonier Valley Association of Churches is bringing back the Wednesday Lenten Services. The first three will be held at Heritage on February 14th, 21st and 28th beginning at noon. St. James Lutheran Church will host the services on March 6th, 13th, and 20th. More details to come.



Youth Game Night

Tuesday, January 2nd from 5-7 pm
 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.

Girls' Night New Year, New Light

Join us downstairs on Tuesday, January 9th from 6:30-8:00pm where the girls will bake, craft, and have a devotional. Open to all girls grades 6-12. RSVP to the church office by Jan. 2nd.



Lenten Children's Church will begin Sunday, February 18th during the 10:45 am service.

Christian Adventure Begins Feb. 21st

The spring Christian Adventure will be held February 21 - March 27. Christian Adventure is a free after school program, open to all children K-5th grade. More info to come!

\$370 was collected for the TBA soup sale on November 26th. Thank you to everyone who supported us!

Thank you!

Hello! We want to send a very warm thank you to the kind people at Heritage Methodist Church who have given so generously to our work in Australia. It has made such a difference for us over the years and has always been a source of encouragement as Heritage has supported us for so long. We wanted to let you know that 2023 is the last year that we will be on staff with Youth with a Mission. I will continue to do pregnancy support and birth education with women who are refugee-background but I will do that through other avenues that will (hopefully) be self-supporting. We hope that your church continues to feel God's presence leading and guiding you!

With love, Becca & Chris De Souza

(See the full letter on the Mission Bulletin Board)



The Ligonier Unit of the Salvation Army thanks the Heritage Mission program for their support ... this will help many in need. For their donation of 100 Linus Blankets; the Red Kettle ringers... monies from these kettles stays in the Valley; to all who donated mittens, scarves and gloves. This year our Angel Tree will provide 121 children with toys and clothing. Heritage is a true blessing to us all

God Bless You All. Marge Burns



Thank you so much to everyone who donated baby items for the Open Hands Layettes!



Thank you to everyone who brought in stuffed animals for the kids to distribute to the residents at Bethlen Home on December 17th. They were adorable and I'm sure much appreciated.

DD's Craft Class

All are welcome to join in the next Craft Class (date to be determined). A class led by Jane Perkins was held on Nov. 29th and we made these awesome lighted bottles.





A class was held on Dec. 12th and they made these beautiful picture frame Christmas decorations. If you are interested in finding out when the next class will be or have an idea for a craft project you'd be willing to lead, contact the office or DD Umbaugh.



Thank you to all the children who participated in the 10:45 am service on December 17th! You did a great job! Thank you also to the adult volunteers for your help as well.

January 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 	2 5-7 pm Youth Game Night	3 11 am Clergy Mtg. in Lounge 6 pm Discipleship Planning Team Mtg. in Multipurpose Rm.	4	5	6 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Rich Ziegenfus
7 Communion	8	9 6:30 pm Girls' Night	10	11 6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge	12	13 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Matt Barany
14	15 Office Closed 	16	17 5:30 pm Education Mtg. in Lounge	18 1 pm Linus Blanket Workday in Fellowship Hall	19 12-5 pm Ligonier Ice Fest 1 pm Newsletter Deadline	20 12-5 pm Ligonier Ice Fest
21 12-5 pm Ligonier Ice Fest	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 2-4 pm Making Sense of Your Bible Class in the Lounge	29	30 6:30 pm Perfect Love Bible Study in Lounge	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
Friday 8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Saturday 6:00 pm Saturday Night Service

January Birthdays

Dylan Jackman – 2nd
Dean Marks, II – 2nd
Rob Wagner – 6th
Westen Nicodemus – 6th
Celena Valentine – 10th
Christian Petrilla – 11th
Peregrine Woolridge – 14th
Andrew Geisler – 17th
Hannah Yeskey – 17th
Tyler Neiderhiser - 18th
Andrew Flower – 19th
Howard Behrhorst- 22nd
Heather Flower – 24th
Pam Stablein - 25th
Vivienne Burson – 25th
Joshua Gruending – 27th

January Anniversaries:

Floyd & Dorothy McConnaughey, 5th
Ron & Louise Wagner, 23rd
Rick & Maggie Hildebrand, 24th