

Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage Church

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www.ligonierheritagemc.org

February 2024

Heritage family,

Discipleship matters! If worship is the heart of the church, then discipleship is the blood flowing through its veins. That's why I'm excited to tell you that our **Discipleship Planning Team** is up and running. This team has two purposes 1.) to learn what discipleship is and how people become and grow as disciples of Jesus, and 2.) to assist in creating a process of discipleship that we can apply here at Heritage Church. Continue to pray for this team and how the Holy Spirit uses each of us to advance the Kingdom of God.

Recently, the team discovered why we're talking about discipleship at all. What is it and why does it matter? First and foremost, discipleship is the witness of the church. According to research by George Barna, nearly half of Americans claim to be "born again," but only about 13% reflect the behaviors and attitudes that are different than the world. I hope we all can agree that there should be a difference between the way Christians and non-Christians engage their world.

Secondly, the church seems to have bought into the philosophy that education solves everything. If we could just teach people more about the Bible and Jesus and spiritual disciplines, everything would be better. People would behave and think like Jesus. But the evidence suggests that we are not becoming more like Jesus. We've replaced discipleship with Christian Education. They are not the same thing. Discipleship is not just about information. It is about behaviors. Discipleship is not just about education. It is about transformation!

Finally, the state of discipleship is the direct result of the misdirected focus in the larger church. We get what we measure. And in our most recent history, we've not measured discipleship. We've measured "butts in pews," envelopes in the offering plate, and the amount of activity we do. These do not necessarily measure how people are being transformed into the image of Jesus.

In closing, let me offer a clear description of the marks of the disciple of Jesus (George Barna, *Growing True Disciples*):

- Disciples accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and the Christian faith as their defining philosophy of life.
- Disciples undergo a changed lifestyle that is manifested through Christ-oriented values, goals, perspectives, activities, and relationships.
- Disciples mature into a changed worldview brought about by a relationship with Jesus. Truth becomes an entirely God-driven reality to a disciple.

Pray with me that we are willing to explore and adopt all that Jesus shows us about being his disciple.

Living On Purpose,

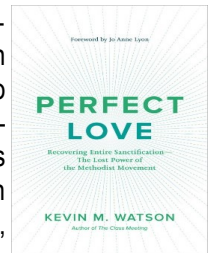
Pastor Ron

NOT TOO LATE!

Church-wide Study

Perfect Love: Rediscovering Entire Sanctification – The Lost Power of the Methodist Movement

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 one...**

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. If you are able to reimburse the church, each copy is \$10. Don't let the price prohibit you from attending.

February Sermon Series


Beginning February 18, 2024

"Give It Up!"



Many of us give up certain things for the forty days of Lent, and doing so can be a very beneficial thing for us. Pastor Ron's Lenten sermon series takes that idea one step further and shows us the things that God wants us to give up, not just for forty days, but forever. Let's give up more than chocolate this year!

"Membership/Partnership with Heritage"

What is Heritage Church about? What's our priority? What are the University requirements and responsibilities of the Holy Spirit of membership? How can you become a member? 

These are the questions we'll answer in our next installment of the University of the Holy Spirit.

You're invited to sign up for this event and walk away with resources to help you decide if membership with Heritage Church is right for you.

Sunday, February 18, 2024
2 pm-4:30 pm
Heritage Church Lounge
(RSVP on the bulletin board)

February 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 for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Read the passages below and answer the following questions. You'll need your Bible, a journal/notebook, and a pen.

- 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?**

February 1	Romans 12:1-2
February 2	Ephesians 5:1-2
February 3	Psalms 51:17-19
February 4	John 3:16-18
February 5	Romans 5:1-5
February 6	Romans 5:6-11
February 7	Romans 5:12-14
February 8	Romans 5:15-17
February 9	Romans 5:18-21
February 10	Romans 6:1-4
February 11	Romans 6:5-10
February 12	Romans 6:11-14
February 13	Romans 6:15-18
February 14	Romans 6:19-23
February 15	Romans 8:1-4
February 16	Romans 8:5-8
February 17	Romans 8:9-11
February 18	Romans 8:12-17
February 19	Romans 8:18-21
February 20	Romans 8:22-27
February 21	Romans 8:28-30
February 22	Luke 6:20-23
February 23	Luke 6:43-45
February 24	Luke 6:46-49
February 25	Luke 9:57-62
February 26	Luke 10:25-28
February 27	Luke 12:13-21
February 28	Luke 12:22-26
February 29	Luke 12:27-31

Circle of Ruth Meets Feb. 8th



Circle of Ruth will meet Thursday, February 8th 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 6). Gina Ziegenfus will be leading the study and Sue

Hilf will be bringing a dessert to share. We will be signing Valentine's Day Cards for our card ministry. Please join us for fellowship, fun, and dessert!

Red Cross Blood Drive Feb. 9th

Heritage will host a blood drive on Friday, February 9th from 1 - 5 pm. The need for blood is urgent! Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.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

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. Services are 1/2 hour long. We hope to see you there!

COFFEE HOUSE FEB. 16th, 7 pm



The next Ligonier Community Coffee House is scheduled for February 16th, 7 pm, upper level of The Barn. The February Coffee House lineup is shaping up to be quite a special evening of music: One of the area's most favorite performers, Cathi Rhodes (Patsy Cline) and her new husband Lou Bafile will be performing for us! To bring us some toe-tapping bluegrass we have the group, Crazy Creek. Another coffee house favorite, Dan Becker, will be providing a set of his inspirational and soothing faith-filled originals; and we will be welcoming back the talented Adam Fitz, performing a mix of originals and well-known favorites. You don't want to miss this evening of fun, great desserts, coffee, and music! For more information, call Lynn or Pat Keegan at 724-537-6139, or visit the Ligonier Community Coffee House Facebook page.

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH ICE SKATING

Jan. 28th at Kirk S. Nevin from 2-4 pm. Elementary school aged children must be accompanied by an adult. \$10/person. The church van will be leaving the church at 1:30 pm.



Youth Game Night

Tuesday, February 6th 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 Feb. 13th

Join us downstairs on Tuesday, February 13th from 6:30-8:00pm where the girls will bake, craft, and have a devotional. Open to all girls grades 6-12.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SOUP SALE
 Sunday, February 11th from 12-1 pm in the Lounge. Funds raised will be given to the local Food Pantry. \$4 bowl and \$8 quart. Eat in or take out.

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. Register on our website by Feb. 16th. Transportation will be available from RK Mellon and the Y.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE



You can now make your contribution to the church's general fund, mission and/or memorial fund on our website!

Go to www.ligonierheritagemc.org and find the Online Giving link.

Update to the Ski Swap Total

The most recent Ski Swap raised just over \$1000 and we hope to sell a few more pieces of equipment before the season is over.



Thanks to everyone who donated and/or helped with the swap! It's wonderful to be helping the community then contributing back to our local food bank too! It is a win-win! If you are in need of ski or snowboard equipment, contact Diana at 724-961-3185 or diana.neiderhiser@yahoo.com.

"Brian's Baskets"



In memory of Brian Bloom we are going to put together baskets for those in need for Christmas this year. We will be including items that are not typically available from the food bank or food pantries such as

baking supplies, detergents, etc. There will be more information later in the year.

The one thing I was wondering is if we have any church members that crochet, and could possibly start making some dish cloths. It is too early to have the number of families we will be helping, but I am sure we will be reaching out for help. I will also be writing a grant or two to help cover costs, and we may set up a few fundraisers this year.

Thank you all so much and feel free to reach out to me with any questions. "Brian's Baskets" will be a nice way to remember and honor such a great guy who was always willing to help the church and our community as well. Diana Neiderhiser: diana.neiderhiser@yahoo.com or 724-961-3185.

CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GOAL MET



Not sure if you heard, but Pastor Ron's goal was to have 300 attend over the four Christmas services, and we had 302 attend in person with 66 online views.

DISAFFILIATION GOAL MET

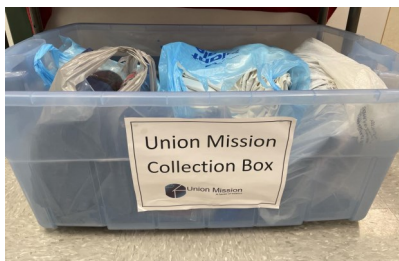
Also, we met the \$25,000 disaffiliation challenge and that loan is officially paid off!!! A huge thank you to everyone who helped us reach that goal! The "Grow Heritage" envelopes were intended to help us get that loan paid off (who knew we could do it in six months??). The Finance Committee will be meeting soon to let us know what those envelopes will be used for. I will keep you posted on that.



THE UNION MISSION

UNION MISSION COLLECTION

The Circle of Ruth would like to thank everyone who brought in donations for the Union Mission. So much came in that Rich and Gina took two big boxes and one



garbage bag full of things to the Union Mission one week into the collection! The Union Mission does a lot of good for the homeless men in our area, helping many of them get back on their feet. The collection runs through the end of January for men's clothing, cleaning supplies, paper products, etc. For questions, contact the office.

Updated address for Sierra McConnaughey

The Circle of Ruth recently send a handmade Linus quilt to Sierra McConnaughey. Sierra is the young granddaughter of Floyd and Dot McConnaughey and is battling cancer for the second time. If you would like to send Sierra and her family a card, the updated address is:



The Ronald McDonald House, c/o Michelle McConnaughey, Room 1224, 341 Erkenbrecher Ave., Cincinnati OH 45229.



Our condolences to the family and friends of Jack Berger, who passed away on December 19th at the age of 76.

Please Update the Prayer List

Please remember to give the office updates for those you have placed on our prayer list. If we've gotten no updates in a year, we will assume prayers have been answered and remove that person's name so we have room for others. Thank you for your help with this!

Hope everyone had a great time at the Ice Fest! Perfect weather for it.



February 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Rich Ziegenfus w/music by Amy Clarke
4 Communion	5	6 5-7 pm Youth Game Night 6:30 pm Perfect Love Study in Lounge	7 9:30 am MOW Mtg. in Lounge 11 am Clergy Mtg. in Lounge 6 pm Discipleship Team Mtg. in Multi-purpose Rm	8 6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge	9 1-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	10 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron
11 Souper Bowl of Caring	12	13 6:30 pm Perfect Love Study in Lounge 6:30 pm Girls' Night	14 12 pm Lenten Service at Heritage 5:30 pm Education Mtg. in Lounge <i>happy Valentine's day</i>	15 1 pm Linus Blanket Workday in Fellowship Hall	16 1 pm Newsletter Deadline 7 pm Coffeehouse at The Barn	17 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Ardi Hill w/music by Scott Schmitt
18 10:45 am Children's Church 2-4:30 pm New Membership Class	19	20 6:30 pm Perfect Love Study in Lounge	21 12 pm Lenten Service at Heritage 4 pm Christian Adventure 6 pm Discipleship Team Mtg. in Multi-purpose Rm	22	23	24 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron
25 10:45 am Children's Church	26	27 6:30 pm Perfect Love Study in Lounge	28 12 pm Lenten Service at Heritage 4 pm Christian Adventure 5 pm Trustees Mtg. in Lounge	29		

February Birthdays

Tom Shearer	1 st
Lynne Flower	1 st
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 Schaezle	18 th
Gene Seiling	20 th
Evelyn Gilbert	20 th
Letty Goswick	21 st
Matt Barany	23 rd
Drew Neiderhiser	28 th

Happy Anniversary!
Harry & Libby Marker February 26th

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

