

Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage Church

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From the Pastor...



As we continue to reflect on mental health and its relation to the Bible, we recognize that mental illness remains a highly stigmatized topic within the church. Charles Spurgeon once stated, "The mind can descend far lower than the body, for in it there are bottomless pits. The flesh can bear only a certain number of wounds and no more, but the soul can bleed in ten thousand ways and die over and over again each hour."

The same biblical truths that have encouraged Christians for centuries can also encourage us now. Although we may struggle daily in the "bottomless pit" of the mind, we can hold on to four key encouragements:

You Are Not Alone. The people of God have faced suffering—mentally, emotionally, and physically—since the fall. Even Jesus himself cried out in despair on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When we experience suffering, we are never alone. In addition, mental illness is likely more common than you realize. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 1 in 5 American adults lives with a mental illness. You are almost certainly not the only one grappling with these challenges.

It's Not Your Fault. While mental illness is a result of the fallen world, my personal struggles—like the affliction of the man born blind (John 9:3)—are not punishments for my sins or the sins of my parents. Although mental illness may not be my fault, it can be an opportunity to speak about Christ's love. Of course, sin can exacerbate mental illness or provoke feelings of depression or anxiety. It is essential to have people who can point you to Christ, as sin spreads the infection of darkness. If we repent and refocus on Christ, we can allow the light—however dim it may seem—to enter our lives.

God Sees You and Is with You. We have a personal Savior who understands our emotions. As you endure the effects of mental illness, remember the closeness of Jesus. He weeps with you. He knows how He will work in and through your life, and He is present with you amid your suffering. By His grace, He has sent the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Counselor, to be with you and to provide help.

God's Word Speaks to You. The Bible openly addresses mental and emotional anguish. For instance, look at Job or the Psalms—these are expressions of people crying out to God in despair. Most of these accounts end positively, reminding us of God's faithfulness.

Rejoice in the greatness and sovereignty of our mighty God. His grace is sufficient. Pray that God would reveal His strength in your moments of weakness.

Pastor Ron

Peace of Mind

Pastor Ron's Fall Teaching Series

PEACE of MIND

Sometimes, we face battles that others can't see. These struggles may involve trying to move forward after a loss or feeling uncertain about the future. What can we do when we don't understand our emotions and hope seems distant? In our new series, "Peace of Mind," we will explore biblical ways to confront our mental battles and discover a sense of peace.

September 6/7
September 13/14
September 21

September 28
October 5

October 18/19
October 25/26

Myths of Mental Health
Jesus, Heal My Anxious Mind
Truth to Remember When
I'm Battling Depression
Why Do I Always Worry?
Silencing My Negative
Thoughts
Healing from Trauma
Beating Burnout



CHANGES AT HERITAGE FOR WEEK OF FORT LIGONIER DAYS

Join us for Worship on Oct. 8th at 7 pm

Due to the difficulties in getting around Ligonier Fort Days weekend, there will be no worship services October 11th or 12th. Instead, join us on Wednesday, October 8th at 7 pm. See you there!

The church office will be closed Oct. 10th

Heritage's Annual Fort Days Pancake Breakfast Oct. 10th & 11th

Heritage Church will once again be providing the ministry of hospitality for the Civil Air Patrol, the Ligonier community, and visitors coming to town for Fort Ligonier Days. We will be serving the annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast/Brunch from 6:30 AM – Noon on Friday & Saturday, October 10th-11th. The profits will be given to the Ligonier Food Pantry.



Plans are underway... the food and supplies have been ordered; now we need **you – our volunteers!** Help will be needed Thursday @ 6 PM to setup the kitchen and dining areas and from 6 AM – 1 PM on Friday & Saturday to serve our patrons. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board.

Monday Night Bible Study



All are welcome to join us on October 6th, 6:30 pm in the lounge when we begin a new seven week study called *Ruth: Eyewitness to Redemption - Finding Refuge in God's Redeeming Love* by Mindy Ferguson. Through this video series, you will be reminded that refuge in God through faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ - who's sacrificial death is the greatest expression of God's providential care for his people.

Circle of Ruth Meets October 16th
(Week later due to Fort Days)



Circle of Ruth will meet Thursday, October 16th at 6:30 PM in the Heritage church lounge. We will be continuing our Bible study, *Lyrics of Life* by Lisa Harper with the session titled “Walk this Way.” We will learn to receive God’s love as we read the real-life responses of God’s people in the Psalms. We will also be assembling the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Louise Wagner will be leading the study and Brenda Sherbondy will be bringing a dessert to share. Please join us for fellowship, fun, and dessert!

Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child will soon be available in the sanctuary. The boxes contain directions for packing with a list of gift ideas, as well as a list of items that cannot be included, and an envelope for shipping costs. Each of these shoeboxes is an opportunity to share the gospel with a precious boy or girl around the world. All shoeboxes must be returned to the sanctuary by Sunday, November 2nd. Thank you to everyone who packs a box! **If you pay for your box online, please be sure to put a post-it note on the outside of the box so we know.**



The University of the Holy Spirit
“Discovering How to Share Jesus”

Do you want to invite a friend or neighbor to church but don’t know what to say? Do you want to share your faith in an evangelistic conversation but feel inadequate? These are real challenges for Jesus’ followers.

This next course in the UHS will give you a biblical foundation for sharing your faith and confidence-building tools to point people toward Jesus.

Sunday, October 19, 2025
12:30 pm – 3 pm

Heritage Church Lounge

(Booklet provided, RSVP on the bulletin board)

Christian Adventure Begins Oct. 22nd



Christian Adventure is coming soon! Wednesdays from 4-6 pm beginning October 22nd through November 19th from 4:15–6 pm. All adventurers in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to participate in this fun and free program.

Snacks, music, crafts and more! Watch your weekly emails and upcoming bulletins for more information.

Red Cross Blood Drive Oct. 24th



The next Red Cross Blood Drive at Heritage will be held on Friday, October 24th from noon–5 pm. Register online at red-crossblood.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767. A sign up sheet for volunteers will be posted on

the bulletin board soon. Thank you for helping with this lifesaving ministry.

October S.O.A.P. Readings

Scripture – which passage am I reading?
Observation – what does this passage say about God?
What’s it say about people?
Application – what does this passage mean for me?
What will I do about it?
Prayer – what is my prayer as it relates to this?

October 1	Proverbs 4:20-23
October 2	2Corinthians 5:16-17
October 3	2Timothy 1:6-7
October 4	1Peter 5:6-7
October 5	John 16:33
October 6	Matthew 7:7-11
October 7	1Corinthians 10:11-13
October 8	Psalms 118:15-17
October 9	Psalms 25:1-11
October 10	Psalms 25:12-22
October 11	Psalms 139:7-18
October 12	Lamentations 3:22-25
October 13	Romans 5:1-5
October 14	Philippians 1:6
October 15	Hebrews 4:15-16
October 16	Isaiah 53:1-5
October 17	Isaiah 53:6-12
October 18	John 10:10
October 19	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
October 20	Proverbs 3:5-6
October 21	Luke 10:38-42
October 22	1Kings 19:1-8
October 23	1Kings 11:1-13
October 24	Ruth 1:3-18
October 25	Genesis 4:1-16
October 26	Judges 6:1-10
October 27	Judges 6:11-18
October 28	Judges 6:19-27
October 29	Judges 6:28-32
October 30	Judges 6:33-40
October 31	Matthew 7:24-27

HALLOWEEN CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

Fun sized candy donations are needed for trick or treating at the church. Please have your donations in by October 26th. A bin is located under the table in the stairway for your donations. Thank you in advance!



CROP WALK Oct. 26th, 2 pm



The annual CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, October 26th, 2 pm at St. James Lutheran Church. If you would like to participate, we have a few walker donation envelopes available in the office. The CROP Walk raises money for the Church World Service with 25% of the money raised coming back to Ligonier. A collection plate will be located on the table in the stairway for all three services that weekend if you would like to make a donation. Checks should be made payable to **CWS/CROP**. Thank you to those who regularly participate in the CROP Walk, which is now in its 55th year.

Camp Allegheny Fall Work Days
Oct. 18th & 25th from 8 am—4 pm



Before the weather turns, Camp Allegheny focuses on projects that will give them a head start in making improvements and changes to camp for year-round operations. Projects for the Fall Work Days include painting, concrete work, roofing, tree and brush removal, mowing and weed-eating and other projects dependent on skills and inclinations of volunteers. If you can help, please call 814-754-5122 or email info@campallegheny.com.



We will need readers and Advent candle lighters for this Advent Season. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board soon so please sign up or let Beth know if you are able to help.

Advent Children's Church

The next session of Children's Church will begin November 16th and will run five weeks. The kids will be practicing for their Christmas Program and learning about Advent. See Ellen Yeskey for more information.



Mitten Tree Collection



Beth Caldwell wants you to be on the lookout for hats, mittens and gloves on sale to purchase for the mitten tree for the Salvation Army.

CHURCH MEMBER UPDATES

Congratulations to Brittany & Josh Brown on the August 25th birth of their daughter Elly Olivia Brown.



Our condolences to the family and friends of Bill Clark who passed away on September 14th at the age of 86.

Emilia Rose Schirf received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, September 21st by immersion at Keystone Lake. Emilia is the daughter of Betsy Kelly and the granddaughter of Jim & Emily Kelly.



Thank you for your faithful support! The Fall Rummage Sale was a success because of you. 45 members and/or friends of Heritage Church supported the sale with luncheon supplies and/or help. Together we raised \$3,500 for missions. **Chuck Shaffer**

Beth Caldwell would like to thank everyone for their support and expressions of condolences at the loss of her father, Dean.

Thank you for the many cards and prayers we received after the death of our grandson, Nate. Your kindness is a blessing and comfort to us.
Lee & Birdie

Project Linus
Providing Security Through Blankets



The next Linus Blanket Workday will be held on Thursday, October 16th beginning at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and help and/or learn how to make the blankets. Please see the thank you notes below from grateful parents...

I just hope this message reaches the right person. My son is autistic and had a surgery and he received a blanket during the procedure and he LOVES it! He has 3 other siblings that were fighting over it when we got home LOL! I wanted to say thank you and let you know just how much that meant to us. He takes this blanket in the car with him and it's the perfect cozy light weighted blankie. Thanks so much! **Kristin A.**

Dear Ruth Circle, I just wanted to send a thank you for the blanket that my son received from Southwest Surgery Center in West Mifflin PA. He picked out his favorite blanket and it gave him so much comfort. He still uses the blanket in the car. Thank you!
Susan Garris.

Greeters Needed



Interested in helping make Heritage Church more welcoming? We are looking for additional persons willing to participate in the greeter ministry at the 10:45 am service. Please contact Chuck Shaffer (814-341-5550) if interested.

October 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 11 am Clergy Mtg. in Lounge	2	3	4 11 am Servv Shop Open (last day) 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Rich Ziegenfus
5 Last Children's Church	6	7	8 7 pm Worship Service	9	10 Office Closed 6 am–1 pm Fort Days Pancake Breakfast	11 6 am–1 pm Fort Days Pancake Breakfast No Saturday Night Worship Service
12 No Sunday Worship Services	13	14	15	16 1 pm Linus Blanket Workday in Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge	17	18 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron w/live music by Kasey Kisner
19 12:30 pm UHS "Sharing Jesus" Class in Lounge	20	21	22 4:15 pm Christian Adventure	23	24 12 pm Newsletter Deadline 1–5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 	25 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron
26 1 pm CROP Walk	27	28	29 4:15 pm Christian Adventure 5 pm Trustees Mtg. in Multipurpose Rm.	30	31 5-6 pm Merchant Trick or Treating 	

Regular and Weekly Meetings

Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 am Worship Services
9:40 am Sunday School
Monday 6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study
Tuesday 6:00 pm Cub Scouts in Fellowship Hall
Weds 8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Thursday 9:00 am Bible Study at Senior Center
Friday 8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Saturday 6:00 pm Saturday Night Service

Happy Anniversary!

Oct. 4th Wes & Cara Evans
Oct. 18th Pastor John & Lynne Flower

October Birthdays

1st Sydney Thomas
2nd Beth Scott
3rd Janet Formato
4th Molly Farrell
5th Sherry Clark
5th Tricia Bynum
7th Jack Scott
10th Leah Wagner
13th Wendy Watson
14th Noah Fisher
18th Hailey Umbaugh
19th Harry Marker
20th Maggie Hildebrand
20th Christina Orban
26th Gary Weaver
27th Madison Clise
27th Elisabeth Harbert
29th Greta Nicodemus
30th Kelsey Sherbondy-Cook