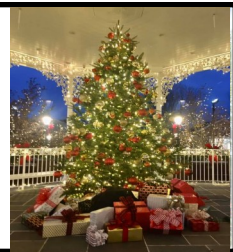


Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage Church

ligonierheritage@gmail.com

www.ligonierheritageme.org

December 2025



In his book, *God Came Near*, Max Lucado wrote, "It all happened in a moment...God became a man. While the creatures of earth walked unaware, Divinity arrived. Heaven opened herself and placed her most precious one in a human womb.

The omnipotent, in one instant, made himself breakable. He who had been spirit became pierceable. He who was larger than the universe became an embryo. And he who sustains the world with a word chose to be dependent upon the nourishment of a young girl.

God as a fetus. Holiness sleeping in a womb. God was given eyebrows, elbows, two kidneys, and a spleen. He stretched against the walls and floated in the amniotic fluid of his mother. God had come near.

He came, not as a flash of light or as an unapproachable conqueror, but as one whose first cries were heard by a peasant girl and a sleepy carpenter. The hands that first held him were unmanicured, calloused, and dirty.

No silk. No ivory. No hype. No party. No hoopla. Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of stargazers, there would have been no gifts."

Have we truly understood the incredible grace present in this act of God? The Creator of all things became incarnate in Jesus. Jesus is both fully God and fully man—a mystery we refer to as the "Incarnation." God took on human flesh and blood to dwell among us. It's unfathomable! Why would God make such a choice? This is what we will explore in our Advent teachings: God, fully revealed in Jesus.

I invite you to join me in worship starting November 30th as we transition into the season of Advent and prepare ourselves to embrace the amazing grace of God in Christ.

All Wrapped Up

Pastor Ron's December Teaching Series



Have you grasped the core truth of Christianity? The God of all creation was wrapped up in Jesus. Jesus is fully God and fully man. We call this "Incarnation." God took on human flesh and blood and dwelt among us. Unfathomable! Why would God do this? That's what we'll discover in our Advent teaching – God all wrapped up in Jesus.

November 30 ***Conceived by the Holy Spirit***

December 7 ***He shall save his people***

December 14 ***God with us***

December 21 ***How will I respond?***

Town Wide Open House Dec. 7th Free Kids' Crafts in Fellowship Hall

Come out on Sunday, December 7th from 12-5 pm for the Ligonier Wholidays "Town Wide Open House!" Heritage will be hosting a free Whoville craft station for the kids in the Fellowship Hall, and there are lots of other activities in the Ligonier shops, along with sleigh rides, meal deals and more!



VALLEY YOUTH NETWORK DINNER DEC. 8th

VYN invites you to join them for a special dinner on Mon., Dec. 8th, 6 pm at The Barn. The meal is free but an offering basket will be available to help offset the cost. Come and hear first-hand from some of the youth whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ through His ministry of VYN. Please RSVP by Dec. 2nd to 724-238-9441 or email valleyyouthnetwork@verizon.net.

Bell Ringing for Salvation Army Dec. 11th

Heritage will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at the Ligonier Giant Eagle on Thursday, December 11th from 10 am—3 pm. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board for those who would like to volunteer.



Circle of Ruth Meets Dec. 11th

Circle of Ruth will meet Thursday, December 11th at 6:30 PM in the Heritage church lounge for our annual Christmas Cookie Exchange. We will be signing Christmas cards for our card ministry and packing the Meals on Wheels bags. All women of the church are welcome. We hope to see you there!



Christmas Meal Service Invitation

This Christmas season, we have a special opportunity to share Christ's love in a meaningful way.

On **Thursday, December 18th, from 5 to 7:00 pm**, we will gather together at The Union Mission in Latrobe to serve a holiday meal to the **men at the Union Mission homeless shelter and the women living at the Blackburn Center for survivors of domestic abuse.** We invite you to join us in this act of compassion and fellowship. Your presence, your hands, and your heart can make a difference in bringing warmth, dignity, and joy to those who need it most.



Let's come together as the body of Christ to be His hands and feet this Christmas. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can plan accordingly. Contact Rich Ziegenfus for more information at 724-238-5780 or rpz2@outlook.com

Collecting for Christmas

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



Join us in making Christmas special for our neighbors in need! The Outreach Committee is collecting monetary donations through Nov. 30th to purchase special ‘Christmas foods’ for the Ligonier Food Pantry distribution in December. Please make checks payable to Heritage Methodist Church, earmarked “Food Pantry” in the memo. Any questions, call Chuck Shaffer at 814-341-5550. Thanks!

Mitten Tree Collection

We are collecting hats, mittens and gloves for the Salvation Army. A box is located in the vestibule for your donations. Please have your donations in by December 1st. Thank you!



Layette Items Needed for Open Hands



The Circle of Ruth will be collecting donations for Open Hands Layettes every Sunday in Advent (begins Nov. 30th). 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 (36”x46”), receiving blankets (26”x29”), onesies, gowns, sleepers, socks or booties, hats, bibs, newborn disposable diapers.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS & READERS NEEDED



We are still in need of a few more Advent candle lighters and readers. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board so please sign up or let the office know if you are able to help.



Advent Children’s Church & Practice for Christmas Program

Advent Children’s Church will be held in the lounge through Dec. 7th during the 10:45 am service following the Children’s Message. The children will be preparing for a **Christmas Program during the 10:45 am service on December 14th.** Practice will be held at 9:40 a.m. in the sanctuary on Dec. 14th.



December SOAP 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?

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| December 1 | Genesis 3:13-15 |
| December 2 | Psalms 22:1-5 |
| December 3 | Psalms 22:6-11 |
| December 4 | Psalms 22:12-21 |
| December 5 | Psalms 22:22-24 |
| December 6 | Psalms 22:25-31 |
| December 7 | Isaiah 7:10-17 |
| December 8 | Isaiah 9:1-7 |
| December 9 | Isaiah 11:1-9 |
| December 10 | Isaiah 11:10-16 |
| December 11 | Isaiah 53:1-6 |
| December 12 | Isaiah 53:7-10 |
| December 13 | Isaiah 53:11-12 |
| December 14 | Jeremiah 23:1-6 |
| December 15 | Malachi 3:1-5 |
| December 16 | Micah 5:1-5a |
| December 17 | Hosea 11:1-7 |
| December 18 | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| December 19 | Matthew 2:1-6 |
| December 20 | Matthew 2:7-12 |
| December 21 | Matthew 2:13-18 |
| December 22 | Matthew 2:19-23 |
| December 23 | Mark 1:1-8 |
| December 24 | Luke 1:26-38 |
| December 25 | Luke 1:39-45 |
| December 26 | Luke 2:1-14 |
| December 27 | Luke 2:15-21 |
| December 28 | John 1:1-14 |
| December 29 | Revelation 22:1-5 |
| December 30 | Revelation 22:6-11 |
| December 31 | Revelation 22:12-21 |

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Invite your family and friends to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services that will be held at 6 pm and 8 pm on December 24th. If you ordered poinsettias, they may be picked up following the 8 pm service.



The office will be closed December 24th through January 2nd. Praying you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!





Thanks to your help, we had a very good Pancake Breakfast this year! 42 members and/or friends offered hospitality while serving 677 paying customers, including 125 members of the Civil Air Patrol and leaders. In addition, we raised \$3,140 for the food pantry. *Chuck Shaffer, Chairperson*

Thank you for your donations to the 2025 CROP Walk held on October 26th. Our offering of \$195 will help support the World Hunger Organization, Ligonier Food Bank and Ligonier Salvation Army.

Dear Heritage Missions, We are blessed to be one of your mission recipients. Right now we are being inundated with requests for fuel. These funds will go a long way in keeping many souls warm. Thank you for your generous donations.



Ligonier Unit Salvation Army

Sharon and the sewers, Your (Christmas) blankets have become a favorite. For all your dedication, talent and love, we say... Thank you.

Ligonier Unit Salvation Army



I would like to thank The Ruth Circle for a blanket that my granddaughter Bailey received when she was at the Southwestern Surgery Center for oral surgery. I know how wonderful it is to receive a note of thanks since I formerly made and delivered blankets for Project Linus and it always made our group's day to hear about someone that had received one of our blankets. A special thank you to the Blanketeer who created the purple chicken blanket. *Blanket Hugs, Jody*



I talked to DD Umbaugh on Nov. 19th and she very much appreciates all the cards, prayers and well wishes. She's taking it one day at a time and is grateful for all of your support.

Contribution Envelopes Are Ready!

Your 2026 Contribution Envelopes are ready to be picked up. 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!

2026 Bulletin Sponsors Needed

Please sign up on the bulletin board and be sure to include what you would like the bulletin in honor or memory of. Cost is \$10 to sponsor. Thank you!

Shoebox Update

Thank you so much to everyone who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. A total of 66 boxes were filled and taken to the distribution center in Latrobe by Mike & Ellen Yeskey on Nov. 17th.



Wow, what an awesome Christian Adventure that ended Wednesday November 19th. And what a better way to end it -with a MARSHMALLOW "fight"! Want to thank my faithful servants Ken Orme and Gary Black for children pickup each week, Pastor Ron filled in one week for pickup, Pat Zimmerman for snack set up and craft support and finally Dena Fritz with her crafty ideas each week (making slime was a hit)! The best blessing came the last night when the kids said "I'm signing up again" and one boy said he was trying to get his friend to sign up too!!! Thanks for your prayers and support!

Evelyn Lemmon

Trophies Needed

Mary Kay needs more trophies for the kids' bowling league. If you have any you would like to get rid of, please bring them to the church by Jan. 30th. Thanks!



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | P | D | U | U | F | X | F | L | T | V | W | K | E |
| L | D | V | A | Z | O | M | Z | D | E | E | Y | O | C |
| F | J | C | F | E | Z | U | R | W | J | O | X | O | A |
| H | W | B | B | A | R | A | H | D | G | Q | N | F | L |
| F | O | I | K | G | Z | B | R | Z | W | D | S | G | P |
| Q | C | X | Q | Z | A | V | R | I | M | E | I | R | E |
| W | T | W | I | N | K | L | E | E | B | R | I | E | R |
| C | X | L | E | H | V | L | R | R | G | B | Q | E | I |
| F | B | U | C | K | K | R | K | K | O | N | O | N | F |
| X | Y | T | S | Z | Y | J | R | L | R | C | I | N | J |
| D | L | I | J | H | V | X | M | O | P | G | V | G | M |
| W | M | K | J | S | W | O | D | Y | R | X | Y | A | Z |
| P | P | M | W | M | I | S | D | R | A | C | F | A | A |
| Z | O | G | Z | K | Y | Q | P | T | L | M | B | Q | G |

Red
Green
Merry
Noel

Cards
Gingerbread
**Merry
Christmas!**

Ribbon
Twinkle
Blizzard
Fireplace

December 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 12 pm Office Closed for Staff Christmas Party | 6 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Rich Ziegenfus |
| 7 10:45 am Last Children's Church 12-5 pm Wholidays | 8 6 pm VYN Dinner at The Barn No Monday Night Bible Study | 9 | 10 | 11 10 am—3 pm Bell Ringing at Giant Eagle for Salvation Army  6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge | 12 | 13 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pas- tor Ron w/music by Scott Schmitt |
| 14 10:45 am Children's Christ- mas Program  | 15 6:30 pm Last Monday Night Bible Study for the year | 16 | 17 | 18 NO Linus Blanket Mtg. 5-7 pm Holiday Dinner at Union Mission | 19 12 pm News- letter Deadline | 20 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pas- tor Adam Sweigart w/music by Amy Clarke |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Office Closed 6:00 & 8 :00 pm  | 25 Office Closed  | 26 Office Closed | 27 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Rich Ziegenfus w/music by Reverent Heart |
| 28 | 29 Office Closed | 30 Office Closed | 31 Office Closed  | | | |

Happy Anniversary!
Gene & Myra Appleby, 18th
Ina Mae & Bob Smithley, 23rd

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
6:00 pm The Cadre Men's Meeting
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

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
Stephen Cieslo – 23rd
Matthew Gough – 23rd
Bob Smithley 24th
Ron Wagner – 26th
Tristan Schell – 31st
Ina Mae Smithley – 31st