

Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage Church

ligonierheritage@gmail.com

www.ligonierheritageme.org

July 2026

DON'T DRIFT THIS SUMMER



Summer has a way of quietly shifting our priorities. Vacations, cookouts, and lazy Sunday mornings are genuine gifts, but they can also become a time when worship attendance gradually declines. What begins as missing one Sunday can easily lead to two, then three, and before long, a pattern has formed. These patterns shape us over time in ways we often don't notice until it's too late.

The writer of Hebrews recognized this tendency and addressed it directly: *"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."* (Hebrews 10:24–25) Notice the important dynamic here: we gather not only to receive but also to give — encouragement, presence, prayer, and the simple witness of our faithfulness. When we stay away, someone misses what only we could have offered them that morning.

Furthermore, our choices reveal something important to the world around us. What we consistently dedicate our time and energy to reflects what we truly value. Sleeping in, catching a game, or simply enjoying an unstructured Sunday are understandable impulses. Still, when they repeatedly take precedence over worship, they communicate something we may not consciously intend: that something else is more worthy of our worship.

Corporate worship is also God's primary design for our spiritual growth and formation. The preaching of Scripture, the shared celebration of the Lord's Supper, and the encouragement from fellow believers are not merely obligations; they are like a series of breathing holes cut in the ice, sustaining and guiding God's people. Gathering for worship rehearses and anticipates eternity.

Beyond our own spiritual health, consider what your presence means to others. When you sing, your voice encourages those around you. Your willingness to welcome a visitor may be the reason they decide to return. Your faithfulness serves as a model of discipleship for younger believers who are watching how adults live out their faith.

As summer approaches, I invite you to examine your rhythms honestly and prayerfully. Plan for Sundays. When you travel, try to find a local congregation to worship with. And when you return home, come back fully. We need you here, and you need to be here — not out of obligation, but because this is where God's people are formed, sustained, and sent.

Dr. Ron Geisler



One Nation Under God, Indivisible...

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD."

Psalm 33:12

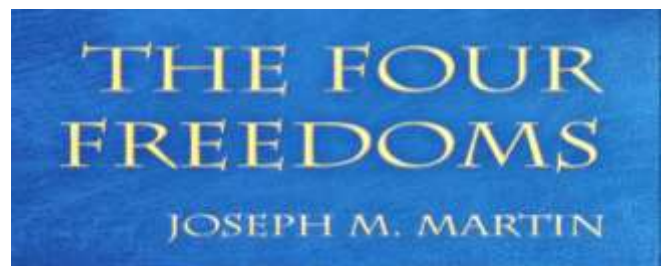
Pastor Ron's July Teaching Series

Two hundred and fifty years. That's a long time for a nation to stand. It didn't happen by accident. From the earliest days of this country, men and women carried their faith into hard places — into founding documents, into impossible moments, into a future they couldn't see. They believed God was present. They believed He was at work. And the nation that emerged bore His fingerprints.

But memory is fragile. And a nation that forgets where it came from loses more than its history — it loses its moorings.

This July, as America marks her 250th birthday, we're spending three weeks tracing the unmistakable hand of God across this nation's story — and asking what that means for *us*, right now, in this moment. Not to debate or to divide. But to remember, to be grateful — and to be *called*. Because the same God who was faithful to this nation is still faithful to His people.

July 5
July 11 & 12
July 18 & 19



Celebrating America's 250th! With "THE FOUR FREEDOMS" Cantata Friday, July 17 at 7:00 PM

All are invited to a special community presentation of *"The Four Freedoms,"* a musical cantata by Joseph Martin, conducted by Jim Hutchinson on Friday, July 17th at 7 pm in the Heritage Church sanctuary. This inspiring performance will feature musicians from Westmont Presbyterian Church, members of the Johnstown Symphony, and singers from Heritage church and local community choirs.

This event is offered as a gift to the Ligonier community and beyond. No charge. No reservation is required. All are welcome.

Lead Team Update

America 250 Celebration

Plans for the **America 250 Celebration** on **July 17, 2026**, continue as previously discussed. We are grateful to have **19 members and friends** participating in the choir for the evening. On **July 18**, in conjunction with the community celebration, our sanctuary will again be open to the public beginning at **2:00 pm**. Live music will be offered from **2:00–5:30 pm** provided by Wayne Shaffer, John Chendy and Scott Schmitt, followed by the **Contemporary Service at 6:00 pm** with music by the Glory Guys.

Children’s Ministry & Youth Engagement

Plans for the **Back to School Bash** are nearly complete. Thanks to **Evelyn Lemmon** and her committee for leading this effort. The Bash will be held on August 15th at The Barn.

The new **middle school program** begins on **June 28**. We are grateful for **Emily Kelly’s** leadership in bringing this ministry to life.

An initiative to strengthen our relationship with the **scouts of Heritage** has begun, with further conversations planned toward the end of summer.

A meeting with **VYN leadership** will be held in July to explore opportunities to work with high school students and support their Christian walk.

Looking Ahead

We continue to see God opening doors for ministry, community engagement, and intergenerational connection. Thank you for your leadership, prayers, and partnership as we move forward together.

LIVESTREAM UPDATE



Beginning June 28th, both Sunday services will be livestreamed. Thank you to Ashley Berkebile for faithfully doing this for the early service and thank you to Greg and Raven Schaetzle for now livestreaming the late service. Find our livestreams online here: <https://ligonierheritagemc.org/weekly-livestream/>.

Sandwich & Salad Luncheon July 11th

The Outreach Committee will be serving the annual “Sandwich & Salad Luncheon” on Saturday, July 11th from 11AM – 2 PM. Donations of pies and help will be needed, and signup sheets are on the bulletin board. Everyone is encouraged to stop at the church for lunch while enjoying Ligonier’s “Diamond in the Rough.”



July SOAP Readings

SOAP bookmarks are available on the table in the stairway.

- 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?

These passages focus on how God deals with the nations.

July 1	Genesis 12:1-3
July 2	Genesis 18:16-21
July 3	Exodus 9:13-18
July 4	Deuteronomy 4:5-9
July 5	Deuteronomy 28:1-6
July 6	1Kings 8:41-45
July 7	2Chronicles 7:13-16
July 8	Psalms 2:1-8
July 9	Psalms 22:27-31
July 10	Psalms 46:8-11
July 11	Psalms 67:1-7
July 12	Psalms 96:1-6
July 13	Isaiah 10:5-12
July 14	Isaiah 40:15-23
July 15	Isaiah 49:5-7
July 16	Jeremiah 18:7-10
July 17	Jeremiah 29:4-7
July 18	Ezekiel 36:22-26
July 19	Daniel 4:34-37
July 20	Jonah 3:19-4:4
July 21	Micah 4:1-4
July 22	Matthew 28:18-20
July 23	Luke 4:16-21
July 24	John 3:16-18
July 25	Acts 2:17-21
July 26	Acts 17:24-28
July 27	Romans 1:16-20
July 28	Romans 9:14-18
July 29	Galatians 3:26-29
July 30	Revelation 7:9-12
July 31	Revelation 21:24-27

* * * * *

SAVE THE DATE for the Church Picnic Sunday, August 9th, 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Covered Dish w/music by The Glory Guys!
A Planning Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9th at 6:30 pm in the Lounge for anyone would like to help with the picnic.



NEW YOUTH GROUP STARTS SOON

A new Youth Group is starting at Heritage on Sunday, June 28th from 5-7 pm in the Youth Room. The next meeting is scheduled for July 26th. All middle school youth are invited to attend for bowling, ice cream, Bible lessons, games and more. If interested, please contact the office or sign up on the bulletin board. Emily Kelly and Cara & Wes Evans will be leading the group.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 20-24!



All children ages 7-11 are invited to join us at The Barn July 20-24 from 10 am - 3 pm for Bible Studies, Games, Crafts and more! The

cost is \$25 per child. Register by July 13th online using the QR code or contact the office.



All school aged children and their parents are invited to attend a free Back to School Bash on **Saturday, August 15th, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Barn.** There will be snacks, games and fun activities!

Heritage will provide **90 backpacks with school supplies** to the first 90 school-age children who register. Additional activities will make this a fun and welcoming event. Register online using the QR code or contact the office if you would like to attend.



HELP HELP HELP!!!

Now that I have your attention your help is needed. VBS is coming up and I need volunteers to help chaperone. It can be one day or all five days. Helpers are needed to prepare lunches every day. Finally, cookies are needed. A sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway.

Next there is the Back to School Bash. Many helpers are needed that day. I am planning on having several different crafts for the kids to do and a few games to play. **THIS IS MY WEAKNESS.** Anyone with craft/game ideas please reach out. Will also need cookies for this event as well. Sign-up sheet in the hallway for this as well.

Thank you!!! Many hands and prayers will make these events successful!

Evelyn Lemmon, Director of Kid's Ministry



Looking for ways to serve?

“Meals in a Bag” Collection

“Meals in a Bag” serve 2-4 people and are designed to cost around \$10 or less. The Union Mission provides them for their clients and anyone who stops by the shelter asking for food assistance. Bags can be found at the top of the stairway on the table with the recipe and ingredient list. Filled bags can be placed in the collection bin also at the top of the stairs under the table. Thank you for participating in this important mission. As of press time, Heritage has provided the Union Mission with at least 25 meals.

Serrv Shop Volunteers Needed

The Serrv Shop is open on Saturdays from 11 am – 2 pm through September and we could use a few more volunteers. Please let the office know if you would be interested. Thanks!

Additional Greeters Needed

We are looking for additional volunteers who are willing to participate in our greeting ministry for the 10:45 am service. If you are willing to help approximately two Sundays every two months, contact Chuck Shaffer at 814-341-5550.

Project Linus

Heritage “Blanketeers” have provided over 18,000 cuddle blankets for children since the fall of 2013. These blankets go to hospitals, dental offices, anywhere that they might provide a child comfort during a difficult time. Anyone is welcome to come and help learn how to make these blankets on the third Thursday of each month at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Beth Lenhart, Ashley Berkebile and Beth Caldwell went to Bigginz at the beginning of June to see Stephen Cieslo. He’s doing really well and they are so happy to have him working there. The doctors are keeping a close eye on him and he’ll be getting more tests done soon, so please keep the prayers coming for him.



CPR/First Aid Training August 26th

For those that took the CPR/First Aid Training two years ago at Heritage, our certification expires this September. If you would like to get recertified, or certified for the first time, please plan to attend our next CPR/First Aid Training on Wednesday, August 26th from 1-4 pm in the lounge. Limited to 24. Be sure to sign up by August 18th on the bulletin board or let the office know you'll be attending. The training will be free as a thank you to the church for allowing the lounge to be used as a First Aid Station during Fort Days. Donations will be accepted but are not required. Thank you to Jim Blaszkowski of the Mutual Aid Training Institute for doing the training again for us.



Thank you to members of our Worship Team, who have been providing wonderful live music at the 10:45 am service on the second and fourth service of each month. Team members include (from left): Jan Best, Scott Schmitt, Gary Black, and Melissa Rosenbloom on keyboard.



Thank you to everyone who donated diapers and wipes for the Western PA Diaper Bank! A total of 852 diapers and 2,088 wipes were collected. Thank you also to Chuck and Sharon Shaffer for delivering the diapers for us.

Thank you guys so much for your thoughtful card and generous gift! I am so grateful knowing I have this church praying for me! Thank you guys again for everything! With appreciation, Tyler Jones

This is a Thank You for the wonderful services I go to online. It is a most enjoyable Sunday after I hear the message. I wish I could attend. Ilse Yeskey

Happy Retirement, Ken!

Ken's Keys closed for retirement on Friday, June 26th. I would like to express my humble thankfulness for all of your encouragement and support! It has been an honor to serve the Ligonier Valley. See ya on the Pickleball court! Ken Goins

Notice anything different?

If you noticed that this newsletter looks a little different, we switched to creating it in Word because Microsoft will stop supporting Publisher beginning in October. Publisher is what has been used since before my time to create these newsletters, and although I'm going to miss it, I'm thinking Word will work just fine. Sure beats using a typewriter...

BIBLE WORDSEARCH

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

APOSTLES CROWN LAMB PRAYER SON
 CROSS JESUS MARY SAVIOR SUNDAY


Spiritual Gifts Word Search

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

EVANGELISM PASTOR
 FAITH PROPHECY
 GIVING SERVING
 KNOWLEDGE TEACHING
 MERCY WISDOM

JULY 2026

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			01 7 pm Cantata Rehearsal	02 Office Closed	03 Office Closed	04 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Rich Ziegenfus w/music by Scott Schmitt 
05	06	07	08 7 pm Cantata Rehearsal	09 6:30 pm Picnic Planning Mtg. in Lounge	10	11 11 am – 2 pm Sandwich & Salad Luncheon 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron w/music by Scott Schmitt
12	13	14	15 5:30 pm Education Mtg. in Lounge 7 pm Cantata Rehearsal	16 1 pm Linus Blanket Workday in Fellowship Hall	17 7 pm “Four Freedoms” Cantata in Sanctuary	18 2 – 5:30 pm Live Music in Sanctuary 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron w/Live music by The Glory Guys
19	20	21	22	23 12 pm Newsletter Deadline	24	25 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ardi Hill
Vacation Bible School at The Barn 10 am - 3 pm						
26 5 pm Youth Group	27	28	29 5 pm Trustees Mtg. in Multipurpose Rm.	30	31	

Regular and Weekly Meetings

Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 am Worship Services
Wed 8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Friday 8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Saturday 11:00 am Serrv Shop
6:00 pm Saturday Night Service

July Anniversaries:

10th Ken & Roxanne Goins
29th Don & Sherry Clark

July Birthdays

1 st	Sharon Shaffer	15 th	Ken Orme
	Michael Swab		Bob McDowell
	Emily Hegan	16 th	Walker Jackman
	Sebastian Hegan	17 th	Ryan Glista
8 th	Betty Winters	22 nd	Helene Bloom
	Riley McGinnis	23 rd	Claire Fritz
9 th	Tracy Daugherty	28 th	Isaac Wagner
11 th	Estella Gilbert	29 th	Craig Woolridge
13 th	Jim Kelly	30 th	Jase Neiderhiser
13 th	Marie Holzer	31 st	Charlie Varriano
13 th	Kelly Hockenberry		