

Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage Church

ligonierheritage@gmail.com

www.ligonierheritagemc.org

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From the Pastor's Desk



Did You Know That You're Part of the Fastest-Growing Methodist Movement in the World?

The fastest-growing Methodist movement in the world isn't inventing something new. It is carrying forward the historic Christian faith. The Global Methodist Church is new (only 4 years old), but its message is not new. It is rooted in historic Christianity, the authority of Scripture, and the Wesleyan belief that God's grace does more than forgive us — it changes us. The GMC is not simply another denomination. It is a fresh Methodist movement seeking to recover the heart of the Church's mission and remember what the Church is for.

Why the Global Methodist Church matters, now.

We are clear about Scripture. The GMC believes the Bible is the Word of God and the final authority for Christian faith and life. That gives the Church a solid foundation in a confusing world.

We will keep Jesus at the center. The main message is not politics, personalities, or church structure. The message is Jesus Christ — crucified, risen, reigning, and still transforming lives today.

We will proclaim that grace changes people. Methodism has always taught that God's grace forgives, restores, heals, and makes us holy. The GMC carries that message forward through the preached Word, prayer, discipleship, and the holy sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We are serious about discipleship. The goal is not just to get people to attend church. The goal is to help people follow Jesus, grow in faith, love God, love others, and live differently.

We are a mission-focused church. The GMC is built around the call to make disciples. Churches are encouraged to reach their communities, serve their neighbors, and share the Gospel.

We will value both truth and love. The GMC does not believe we have to choose between being faithful to Scripture and loving people. Christian love tells the truth with humility, compassion, and grace.

We will preserve accountability. Pastors, bishops, churches, and leaders are expected to be accountable to the faith they profess. Leadership is meant to serve the Church, not control it.

We will honor the local church. The GMC recognizes that local congregations are not just institutions. They are worshiping communities where real people pray, serve, give, teach, and carry out ministry. Local congregations own their property and assets. There is no trust clause holding church property over them. And if a congregation ever believes it can no longer remain in the GMC, it is not trapped. After a period of prayer and discernment, it may leave by a majority vote. In that sense, the GMC is meant to be a church of the willing, not the constrained.

We are connected without losing local mission. GMC churches are connected for support, accountability, and shared

mission, while still allowing local churches to focus on the needs of their own communities.

We are a movement of renewal. No church made up of people is perfect. But the GMC is seeking, by God's grace, to carry out the mission of God by calling the Church back to Scripture, holiness, evangelism, worship, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe this is a movement of God in our generation — not trying to reinvent the Church but trying to remember what the Church is for.

Recently, representatives from Heritage participated in the Allegheny West Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church. We invite you to learn more about our experiences and watch these important videos from our time together.

<https://alleghenywestgmc.org/ac-2026/>

<https://alleghenywestgmc.org/>

Dr. Ron Geisler

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Celebrating America's 250th Birthday!

Over 150 people joined together in our sanctuary on July 17th to celebrate our nation's birthday through music, unity and prayer. The choir consisted of members and friends of Heritage and other local church choirs, along with members of the Westmont Presbyterian Church choir, all who have been invited to perform "The Four Freedoms" Cantata again on September 13th, 7 pm at Westmont (in case you missed it or want to experience it again). Approximately



20 musicians from the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra joined with the choir to create an evening of beautiful, goose-bump inducing music. The conductor, Jim Hutchinson, and Pastor Ron worked closely together to bring this all together with lots of help from members of Heritage (thank you!!!), and Evan Ream, the very talented cellist, entertained everyone in the hallway prior to the cantata and said I could take his picture for the newsletter, so here you go!

Our August Teaching Series

TAME

Taking Control of the Most Powerful Muscle You Own

Did you know your tongue never rests — not even while you sleep? It's small, but it steers your whole life, for better or worse. In this 4-week series, we dig into what Scripture says about the words we speak and why they matter so much more than we think.



Talk is Not Cheap (James 3) — Your tongue is small but mighty — like a bit in a horse's mouth or a rudder on a ship. No human can tame it... but God can.

The Whole Truth (Exodus 20:16) — Why truth-telling isn't optional for a follower of Jesus, and why "little white lies" are a bigger deal than we admit.

Grumbling & Complaining (Philippians 2) — We live in the most blessed, most disgruntled society in history. What if gratitude is the cure?

New Words (Ephesians 4) — Four choices that can transform how we talk to each other: truth, restraint, encouragement, and forgiveness.

Your words reveal what's really going on in your heart.

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Sharing Your Harvest



The Church Harvest Table has been set up in the vestibule for those who have extra garden produce to share. Thank you to our wonderful gardeners for your hard work and generosity!

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Chuck and Sharon Shaffer got to see Big Boy up close and personal in Altoona early July 9th on its trip across the country. Lots of great photos and videos online of it as well.



August 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?

August 1	James 3:1-12
August 2	James 1:19-27
August 3	Proverbs 19:21
August 4	Proverbs 15:1-7
August 5	Ephesians 4:25-32
August 6	Proverbs 12:13-19
August 7	Colossians 3:8-17
August 8	Colossians 4:2-6
August 9	Psalm 19:7-14
August 10	Proverbs 10:18-23
August 11	Proverbs 16:21-28
August 12	Proverbs 21:23-28
August 13	Matthew 12:33-37
August 14	Proverbs 25:11-15
August 15	1Peter 3:8-12
August 16	Proverbs 26:20-25
August 17	Ephesians 5:1-7
August 18	Proverbs 17:20-28
August 19	Psalm 141:1-5
August 20	Proverbs 15:23-28
August 21	Titus 3:1-7
August 22	Proverbs 6:12-19
August 23	Proverbs 29:11-15
August 24	2Timothy 2:14-19
August 25	Romans 12:14-21
August 26	Proverbs 11:9-13
August 27	Luke 6:43-49
August 28	Proverbs 20:15-20
August 29	Proverbs 13:1-5
August 30	James 4:11-12
August 31	Proverbs 4:20-27

Dogs on the Diamond Fundraiser for Missions

August 7th, 3 pm - ?

Expecting a crowd of people to be walking around the diamond on Friday, August 7, looking at the vintage cars & trucks parked in the area, the Outreach Committee has decided to set up a 'hot dog stand' in the church's diamond entrance as its second "luncheon/dinner fundraiser" of the summer.



The proceeds of the evening will benefit the mission program of Heritage Church, and the support of the church is needed! Donations of hotdog supplies, pop, & many cookies and lots of help are needed. Signup sheets are located on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs.

You're Invited

Church Get Together/Picnic

Sunday, August 9th, 12 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Covered Dish w/music by The Glory Guys!

We are doing things a little differently this year for our annual church picnic. Instead of heading out to the Flax Scutching Grounds, we'll be getting together in the Fellowship Hall for a fun covered dish dinner and live music by The Glory Guys on Sunday, August 9th following the 2nd service. The meat and drinks will be provided by the church but sides and desserts are needed. Please sign up on the bulletin board by August 5th if you're able to attend and please let us know what you can bring. Hope to see you there!



Join us on August 15th!!!

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. Thanks so much to Ken Orme, Glenda Dickson, Pat Zimmerman and Rita Horrell for helping Evelyn put the bags together.



BAPTISM AT THE LAKE AUGUST 16TH

Pastor Ron invites anyone interested in renewing their baptism or getting baptized for the first time to join him at Keystone Lake (beach) on Sunday, August 16th at 1:30 pm. Please let the office know by August 10th if you would like to participate.



Meet Rev. Dr. Dan Gildner on August 18th At Christ Church of Youngwood



The Rev. Dr. Dan Gildner, our new Associate Conference Superintendent, will visit the Pittsburgh South Circuit on Tuesday, August 18, 6:30 pm at Christ Church of Youngwood (100 Lincoln St., Youngwood, PA) for an evening of connection, wor-

ship, and prayer. As part of our church family, Pastor Ron and Rich Ziegenfus warmly invite you to join them as they seek God's guidance, celebrate our unity, and ask Him to continue His work throughout the Ligonier Valley.

Please RSVP to Pastor Ron or Rich Ziegenfus by August 10. We will **carpool** from the church for those who wish to ride together.



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.

Meals in a Bag Ministry for the Union Mission

Over 2,000 Meals in a Bag have been collected for the Union Mission so far, with at least 40 of those coming from Heritage. Thank you so much to everyone who has put together a meal (or several meals)! More bags with recipes and an ingredient list can be found on the table at the top of the stairs. Meals typically cost less than \$10 and feed a family of four. The Latrobe Bulletin recently published an article about the Meals in a Bag program. You can find the article hanging on the bulletin board or online at: <https://www.latrobebulletinnews.com>.





Congratulations to Kyle and Anita Fritz on the July 16th birth of their newest addition, Brady Scott Fritz. Brady joins big sister Clair and big brothers Luke and Sutton. Welcome to the world, little guy! We can't wait to meet you!

Due to the way the days fell in August, it was easier for me to include birthdays and anniversaries here. Hope you don't mind! And don't forget, if you'd like me to include your information, just let me know.

August Birthdays



- 1st Judi Hodges
- 3rd Katie Rebert
- Falcon Coulson
- 6th Brianne Bloom
- 8th Clayton Watson
- 9th Diana Neiderhiser
- 10th Ken Goins
- 14th Duane Slade
- 16th Finn Daugherty
- 17th Abbey Weakland
- 18th Nancy Zur
- 19th Pastor Ron
- 20th Roxanne Goins
- 21st Carolyn Hoover
- Ryan Jones
- Dorothy Shultz
- 25th Elly Brown
- 28th Ryan Harbert
- Tyler Stoner
- Emily Verner
- 31st Barbara Glista



August Anniversaries

- Duane & Muriel Slade Anniversary August 5th
- Jane & Kevin Dougherty August 11th
- Gary & Pat Garrison August 12th
- Pastor Frank & Judi Hodges August 16th
- Bob & Linda McDowell, August 20th



Sometime in the early hours of July 10th, an impaired driver lost control of her car and ended up taking out a tree and two parking meters in front of the church. The borough got it cleaned up quickly with new meters put in that same day (of course) and a new tree. The memorial stones for H & Skeeter Craig luckily weren't damaged and are also back in place.

OFFICE NEWS

I will be on vacation from August 28th – September 7th so the office will be closed for regular business that week. Pastor Ron will be in Monday – Thursday from 9 am to noon if you need anything and the church will be open when Meals on Wheels is here (Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 12 pm) if you need to get in. The office will be closed September 7th for Labor Day. We are going on an Alaskan cruise so my apologies in advance for making you look at my pictures when I come back. ☺



If you happened to notice that the back of the sanctuary is brighter now, there's a good reason for that. Gary Black secured a grant from the Scott Foundation at the beginning of the year to cover the cost of replacing the old cove lighting with new track lighting, which is a lot brighter as you can see in the picture, and more energy efficient. Compare above the sanctuary doors to above the projection board and you can easily see the difference.

I was hoping to get a picture of Gary and his friend, Rick McLaughlin actually doing the work but I keep missing them. So instead, I'll share this gem I took of Gary when he and Mike Yeskey put together the new locker system downstairs a few months ago. Love ya, Gary!



It was a wonderful afternoon on Saturday, July 18th of live music in the sanctuary celebrating the 250th birthday of America in conjunction with events that were planned in town. Wayne Shaffer, John Chendy and Scott Schmitt performed individually to over 50 members of the community. Thank you to all who helped to organize this event.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Reflecting on the messages of July and the Cantata, as we continue walking together in faith, I feel compelled to remind us of a truth that has shaped both our spiritual heritage and the very foundations of our nation: **God must come first in all that we do.** This conviction is not only central to Scripture but was deeply woven into the hearts of many who helped establish the United States.

Our founding fathers—imperfect men yet often guided by a sincere desire for divine wisdom—recognized that human freedom, justice, and moral order cannot stand on human strength alone. In the Declaration of Independence, they appealed to “**the Supreme Judge of the world**” and relied on “the protection of Divine Providence,” acknowledging that the cause of liberty required God’s guidance and sustaining power.

One of the most enduring images from our nation’s early story is **George Washington kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge**, seeking God’s help during one of the darkest winters of the Revolutionary War. Whether one views the account as historical or symbolic, it reflects a truth Washington expressed repeatedly: **a nation cannot flourish unless it humbly seeks the favor and wisdom of Almighty God.**

In the same way, **our congregation cannot flourish unless we place God first**—above our preferences, above our plans, above our anxieties. Scripture reminds us, “*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*” (Psalm 33:12), and “*In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths*” (Proverbs 3:6). When we intentionally seek the presence of the Holy Spirit, we invite the very power that sustained the early church, revived communities across generations, and continue to transform hearts today.

The Holy Spirit is not an abstract idea or distant theological concept. He is our Comforter, our Counselor, our Advocate. He convicts us, strengthens us, and unites us. He breathes life into worship, empowers ministry, and guides us into truth. Without the Spirit’s leading, our efforts become mere activity; with His leading, they become **Kingdom work**. As Paul writes, “*If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit*” (Galatians 5:25).

As we look toward the future—our ministries, our outreach, our worship, our service—let us recommit ourselves to this foundational truth: **God first, always.** Let us be a people who pray before we plan, who listen before we speak, who seek the Spirit’s wisdom before we take a step. Let us be a congregation marked by humility, courage, and a deep dependence on the One who has called us.

May our church be known not for what we accomplish, but for **Whom we follow.** May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts, guide our decisions, and empower our witnesses.

And may we, like those who came before us, boldly acknowledge that **our hope, our strength, and our future rest in God alone.**

With gratitude and hope in Christ, **Rich Ziegenfus, CLM**



Thank you again for helping me go to Camp Allegheny! I had a great week with my friends. I loved the creek walk and playing *GAGA* ball. From Jack Scott (far left) with his friends at camp.

Thank you for helping me go to Camp Allegheny again this year! I was able to go to the Extended Wrangler as a camper and have volunteered for 4 weeks as a Counselor in Training at various camps! Ella Scott



Looking Ahead

Fall Rummage Sale Sept. 18-19

The Outreach Committee is planning a Fall Rummage Sale to be held September 18 & 19. Donations of good, clean, usable clothing and household items are needed. NOTE! No electronics! Donations can be brought to the church’s Pancake Kitchen during office hours after August 9th. Please refrain from bringing furniture or large items until the week of the sale.

Monday Night Bible Study will begin its fall session on September 14th, 6:30 pm in the lounge. All are welcome!

Circle of Ruth will resume their meetings on Thursday, September 10th, 6:30 pm, also in the lounge. All women are welcome to join in for Bible Study and fellowship the 2nd Thursday of the month September through May.



22 Kids (and Heritage’s Humpty) had a great time at this year’s Vacation Bible School that was held at The Barn July 20-24 and led by counselors from Camp Allegheny. Thanks to all of our volunteers and cookie bakers for making the week even better!

August 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
						6 pm Saturday Night Service: Rich Ziegenfus w/music by Linda Biery
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
			9:30 am Meals on Wheels Mtg. in Lounge		3 pm Dogs on the Diamond Fundraiser 5 pm The Stroll	6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron w/music by Kasey Kisner
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
12 pm Church Picnic in Fellowship Hall 5 pm Youth Group				1 pm Linus Blanket Workday in Fellowship Hall		11 am – 1 pm Back to School Bash at The Barn 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Bob Tewart w/music by Scott Schmitt
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1:30 pm Baptism at Keystone Lake				12 pm Newsletter Deadline		6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5 pm Youth Group			1 pm CPR/First Aid Training in Lounge 5 pm Trustees Mtg. in MPR		Office Closed	6 pm Saturday Night Service: Matt Barany
30	31					
	Office Closed					



Regular and Weekly Meetings

Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 am Worship Services

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 1:00 pm Meals on Wheels

Wednesday 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