Heritage Happenings



A Publication of Heritage Church *ligonierheritage@gmail.com* *www.ligonierheritagemc.org* *November 2026*



BARE BRANCHES & FAITHFUL STEPS

The color is mostly gone now. Just a few weeks ago, the ridges around Ligonier were blazing red and gold. Now the trees stand bare against a gray November sky.

November used to feel like the letdown month to me. The show is over. But I've come to love it, because bare branches show you something the leaves were hiding. You can finally see the *shape* of the tree. I think God does something similar with us. When the busyness and the decorations fall away, we get an honest look at the shape of our faith. Not how it looks from a distance, but what's there.

Jesus put it simply: ***"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).*** Notice he didn't say *admire* me. He said *follow* me. Following means movement. Discipleship isn't a destination we arrive at. It's a direction we keep walking.

As we head toward Thanksgiving and Advent, I want to invite you to consider three questions.

Where am I watching when Jesus is asking me to walk?
What is God asking me to release before this year ends?
Who am I discipling?

Here's my encouragement: pick **one** of those three questions. Pray about it. Thoughtfully answer it. Then share your answer with someone you trust who's following Jesus, too. Small steps, taken faithfully, become a life of following Jesus.

November reminds us that bare branches aren't the end of the story. They're waiting for new life. Whatever this year has stripped away from you, Jesus still says the same two words: *Follow me.*



Grace and peace,

Pastor Ron



Successful Breakfast!

During Fort Ligonier Days, Heritage Church had the privilege of providing Christian hospitality through smiles, welcoming words, pancakes & sausage to 699 clients. We shared our love of Jesus to the Civil Air Patrol cadets & leaders, vendors, enactors, guests visiting our town and neighbors from our local community.

This ministry was possible because **45** members and friends of Heritage Church were willing to share their time and talents. Every talent (greeting people, cleaning tables, mixing batter, scrubbing roasters, pouring beverages, flipping pancakes, serving sausage, etc.) was needed and appreciated!! **Thank you for being a part of the team!**

Even though the complete financial report is not available to date; I estimate that we will be able to donate at least $2,800 to our local food pantry from the proceeds of the breakfast.

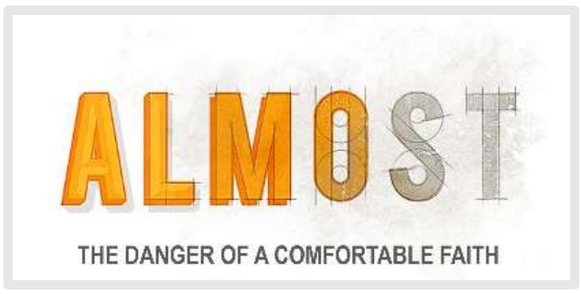
Thank you to Ellen Yeskey for the great photos! Top photo: 2 reenactors, Roxanne Goins, Larry Barth, Mike Yeskey. Bottom left: Rick Goswick. Bottom right: Roxanne Goins.

Chuck Shaffer, Chairperson

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2027 Bulletin Sponsors Needed

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to sponsor bulletins for next year. Be sure to include what you would like the bulletin in honor or memory of. Cost is $10 to sponsor. Thank you!



NOVEMBER WEEKEND TEACHING

Every summer at Steelers camp in Latrobe, a rope divides the field.

On one side, fans sit in lawn chairs with Terrible Towels and cold drinks. On the other, players run sprints in 90-degree heat. It's the same field and the same colors, but very different places to stand.

During November, we're spending time on the theme: ***Almost: The Danger of a Comfortable Faith.***

It's possible to be close to Jesus and still not follow him. Over these four weeks, we'll look at some of the hardest words Jesus ever said. They aren't meant to push us away but call us closer.

So which side of the rope are you on? Come find out with us. Bring a friend.

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Celebrating All Saints' Day



Please join us at both services on Sunday, November 1st as we celebrate the members of Heritage who have passed away in the last year. We will be honoring Mary Kay Cieslo, Gertrude Shaffer, George Norris, Connie (Marlene) Smith, Carl Jones and Willa Keim.

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Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due Nov. 8th



Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child are 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 8th (filled or unfilled). 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. Last year we had 66 boxes, and we would love to beat that number by at least one more box this year.**



November 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?

November 1	Matthew 4:18-22
November 2	Matthew 5:13-20
November 3	Matthew 7:21-29
November 4	Matthew 10:34-42
November 5	Matthew 11:25-30
November 6	Matthew 16:21-28
November 7	Matthew 28:16-20
November 8	Mark 8:31-38
November 9	Mark 10:17-31
November 10	Mark 10:35-45
November 11	Luke 5:1-11
November 12	Luke 6:39-49
November 13	Luke 9:18-27
November 14	Luke 9:57-62
November 15	Luke 14:25-35
November 16	John 1:35-51
November 17	John 6:60-69
November 18	John 8:31-36
November 19	John 12:23-28
November 20	John 13:31-35
November 21	John 15:1-17
November 22	Deuteronomy 6:4–9
November 23	1Kings 19:15–21
November 24	Isaiah 6:1–8
November 25	Acts 2:42–47
November 27	Romans 12:1–8
November 28	Philippians 3:7–14
November 29	2 Timothy 2:1–7
November 30	1 Peter 2:19–25

Circle of Ruth Meets Nov. 12th



Circle of Ruth will meet Thursday, November 12th at 6:30 PM in the Heritage church lounge. We will be continuing our Bible Study, *When Changing Nothing Changes Everything"* by Laurie Polich Short with the session titled "Seeing the Path in Front of You (Chapters 4-5)." Ellen Yeskey will lead the Bible study and Louise Wagner will bring a dessert to share. We will be signing Thanksgiving cards for our card ministry. Please join us for fellowship, fun, and dessert! If you plan to attend, enter through the alley door.
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The Heritage Methodist Church Youth Group had a fun time creating our scarecrow, Spookley, which is based on a children's book, *Spookley the Square Pumpkin*. The youth all worked together making Spookley and the pumpkins in the pumpkin patch.

We have regular meetings every other Sunday featuring: playing games, Bible lessons, scripture reading, sharing prayer needs, bowling, trips to The Creamery, and having lots of fun and laughter! Our November meetings will be held on the 1st, 15th, and 29th at 4:00 p.m. All middle school aged youth are welcome!

It has been a wonderful experience with a great group of youth! I am thankful for the help of Amber Cavallo and Cara and Wes Evans. I look forward to many more adventures with the Youth Group! Thank you for the opportunity.

Emily Kelly, Youth Leader

Pictured from left to right: Nathaniel, Chloe, Lyla, Evie, Nevaeh, Amber, Colton, Brylee, Emilia, Emily. Missing from photo: Blake, Flora and Noah

Coffee House November 20th



The Coffee House begins its season on November 20th, 7 pm at The Barn. There will be no Coffee House in December, then beginning in January, it will be the 3rd Friday of the month through May. You can follow the Ligonier Community Coffee House Facebook page for all the scoop. Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY Thanksgiving WORSHIP SERVICE

Thanksgiving Community Service Sun., Nov. 22nd, 3pm

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at The Ligonier Valley United Methodist Church (formerly Calvary UMC), located at 201 N. St. Clair Street on Sunday, November 22nd at 3 pm. All are welcome! If you're interested in participating in the community choir, please let the office know. Practice will be held at 2 pm on the 22nd.



Candle Lighters & Readers Needed

We will be needing readers and Advent candle lighters for this upcoming Advent Season. 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. Thank you!

Children's Christmas Program



All children are invited to participate in the Children's Christmas Program that will be held on Sunday, December 20th during the 10:45 am service. Practice will be held on Sundays during Children's Church at the 10:45 am service beginning November 22nd. Please text Ellen Yeskey for more information at 724-875-7985.

Monday Night Bible Study Begins Advent Study on Nov. 23rd



The Monday Night Bible Study will begin a new study called *"Advent"* on November 23rd, 6:30 pm in the Lounge. Join us in this five-week session as Rev. Derwin Gray unveils King Jesus – God-man who defied expectations, the king of all creation who humbled himself to serve and die, the friend to sinners who wants to lift us up. As Christmas approaches, the season of Advent offers us a chance to reflect on our savior, His purpose, and the surprising ways he invited people near to him. All are welcome. Please enter through the alley door.

Hanging of the Greens Nov. 29th

Come and help us get the church ready for Christmas! Join us on Sunday, November 29th following the 2nd service and bring your Christmas cheer! Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are able to help with decorating the church. Thank you!



Mitten Tree Collection



We are collecting new/unused hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for the Salvation Army. These items will be collected November 1st through December 1st for our neighbors in need. A box will be available for your donations in the vestibule.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



Join us in making Christmas special for some of our neighbors! The Outreach Committee is collecting monetary donations through November 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!

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Moving Toward Maturity

Spiritual growth is one of the clearest signs of both physical and spiritual life. Just as a newborn who fails to grow signals that something is wrong, so it is with the believer. From the moment we are born again, God intends that we continue maturing in Christ until the day He calls us home. There is no retirement from spiritual development; if we stop growing, we do not merely "stay where we are"—we drift.

What Does Spiritual Growth Look Like?

Spiritual maturity cannot be measured with a ruler, nor is it defined only by avoiding sin or practicing religious habits. These matter, but they are not the core. True growth is revealed in our relationship with Christ—our increasing likeness to Him in **conversation, conduct, and character**.

God Himself has predetermined this purpose for us: that we "become conformed to the image of His Son" (Rom. 8:29). Growth protects us, strengthens us, and equips us to discern truth from error. As Peter warns, we must "be on guard" so we are not carried away by deception. Only a growing believer can recognize false teaching and stand firm.

Why We Sometimes Fail to Grow

The Scriptures identify several common obstacles:

- **Lack of instruction** after salvation.
- **Neglect of Scripture, prayer, and worship**, leaving the soul unfed.
- **Negative influences** that pull us away from God's Word.
- **Uncertainty about what we believe**, leading us to adopt others' opinions.
- **The lure of the world's system**, appealing but spiritually distracting.
- **Doubts about God**, causing us to trust our own reasoning instead of His truth.
- **Temptations**, which become burdens when we give in—but are broken through repentance.

Evidence That We Are Growing

A list of spiritual markers—practical signs that Christ is shaping us. Among them:

- Greater awareness of sin and quicker repentance.
- Joy even in spiritual battles.
- Seeing trials as opportunities for growth.
- Viewing service to Christ as an honor.
- Recognizing God's hand in all things.
- Increasing faith, worship, obedience, generosity, and hunger for the Lord.
- A deepening sense of God's presence and love.
- Guarding devotional time and longing to be with Him.
- Eagerness to share what Christ is doing in our lives.

These qualities help us evaluate our walk with Christ. They invite us to ask: *Is my life becoming more like His? Am I holding on to anything that hinders my growth?*

Faith: The Companion of Growth

As we move from spiritual maturity to the **degrees of faith**, we are reminded that faith is not static. Scripture reveals three levels:

1. Little Faith — Restless Faith

This faith says, *"I know God can, but I'm not sure He will."* It wavers between hope and uncertainty. Jesus often addressed this level—not to shame, but to encourage deeper trust. Little faith focuses on circumstances rather than the Lord.

As the father cried in Mark 9:24, *"I do believe; help my unbelief."* God honors even struggling faith—but He calls us higher.

2. Great Faith — Reaching Faith

Great faith stands firmly on Scripture. It does not demand proof; it simply trusts God's character. It perseveres, refuses to give up, and waits with expectancy.

The centurion in Matthew 8 demonstrated this faith when he said, *"Just say the word, and my servant will be healed."* Jesus marveled at such confidence.

3. Perfect Faith — Resting Faith

Perfect faith says, *"Not only can God do this—He has already prepared the answer."* It rests in God's promises without manipulation, fear, or striving.

Jesus taught this in Mark 11:22–24: *"Believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you."* Perfect faith trusts that what God has promised is already in motion.

A Call to Communion and Commitment

As we gather for Communion, we remember Christ's sacrifice—and we examine our walk with Him. Spiritual maturity is not accidental; it is intentional. Faith does not grow by chance; it grows by feeding on God's Word, obeying His voice, and trusting His heart.

In Christ's service, Rich Ziegenfus, CLM

Lots of weddings to celebrate!!!
Congratulations to the happy couples!



Patrick and Melissa (McFeely) McDowell
October 3rd



Zachary and Miranda (Federinko) Yeskey
October 17th



Evan and Sarah (Lenhart) Upole
October 17th

Welcome to Our New Members!

Melissa Cutshall-Roskosh and newlyweds Pat & Melissa McDowell joined the Heritage Church Family at the Wednesday, October 7th service.

Christmas Poinsettias



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be displayed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve in honor or memory of a loved one, order forms will soon be available on the table in the stairway and will be emailed to those on our weekly email list. Our supplier doesn't have the information on the cost yet, but once they have that, I will get those forms out asap.

Camp Allegheny Dinner Theater & Basket Auction Sunday, December 6th

Silent auction bidding begins at 2:15 pm, doors open for appetizers & seating at 3:15 pm in the dining hall. Show begins at 4:15 pm. **$40/person until Nov. 1st, $50 after.** More information is located on the bulletin board or call 814-754-5122. Reservations are due by November 20th.

Bell Ringing Dec. 9th



Heritage will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at the Ligonier Giant Eagle on Wednesday, December 9th from 10 am—3 pm. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for those who would like to volunteer. Thank you!

KIDS MINISTRY

Fall is in the air and beautiful trees surround us!! I want to recognize four of our youth that helped with the Pancake Breakfast during Fort Ligonier Days. Those individuals were Blake Swarden, his friend Noah Adamson, Lyla Bachner and Emilia Schirf. They were very helpful bussing tables and cleaning trays. Thank you!

The Youth Group put the scarecrow together for the Scarecrows on the Diamond contest. Your votes were appreciated.

Children's Church has been fun for the young children although numbers have been few. I miss those smiling faces!

Evelyn Lemmon
Director of Kid's Ministry



Sidewalk Our Front Gets Some TLC

Thank you to our custodian, Diane McDonald, for making the area in front of the church much prettier by spreading mulch around the trees prior to Fort Days. And thank you to Glenda Dickson for providing the mulch! It looks so much better. And the fall decorations around Bill Dickson's bench looks fantastic, too!

Also a big thank you to Bob & Ina Smithley for all of their hard work planting and caring for the flowers around the church. They were gorgeous this year!

2027 Offering Envelopes Available Soon

Our offering envelopes usually get delivered the first week of November. Hopefully it won't take me too long to have them in the sanctuary for you to pick up after they arrive. As always, if you don't see your envelopes, just let me know.



Thank you so much to those who donated candy for the church's trick or treaters! We appreciate your generosity!

Flood Relief Offering

Heritage collected $1,390 in our September special offering to assist victims of the historic flooding in southeastern Ohio. According to the pastor of the Rolling Plains GMC, our gift is already helping several families. Thank you for your support!

Meals in a Bag Update

As of press time, a total of 74 Meals in a Bag have been collected by Heritage family and friends and were delivered to the Union Mission in Latrobe. Thank you so much to everyone who is helping out with this important outreach project. More information is located on the bulletin board or contact the office.

Thank you, Linus Blanketeers!

Our kids recently received two blankets from the USO in Pittsburgh from your church and your partnership with the Linus Project.

We wanted to say thank you for supporting such a sweet ministry! Our kids were thrilled to receive such gifts, and we know that each one (a navy blue mermaid and a light blue with airplanes) was made with love. Thank you!

Jessica

Update on Stephen Cieslo – Unfortunately Stephen is dealing with a new mass in his belly that is growing fast and producing a lot of excess fluid. He was admitted to AGH October 15th and they put a drain in and began chemo October 16th. They still need to get the biopsy results to know what they're dealing with, but with how fast it was growing they didn't want to wait to start treatment. He was discharged October 20th and will return October 23rd for more chemo. Please keep Stephen and his sister Stephanie in prayer as they navigate these difficult weeks ahead.



Four members of Heritage recently visited the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, and the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky. Mike and Ellen Yeskey visited in early September and Chuck and Sharon Shaffer (pictured above in front of the Ark) went in late September.

The Ark is built according to the dimensions described in the Bible: 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, and visitors can explore three decks filled with 132 exhibit bays showcasing animals, Noah's life, and biblical history.



The Creation Museum features plants mentioned in the Bible, a crown of thorns display, live animals, a 4D movie theater, planetarium, a Garden of Eden display and more.



NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01  4 pm Youth Group	**02** 6:30 pm Final Garrison Men's Group Mtg.	**03** 6 pm Cadre Men's Mtg. at Ziegenfus's Election Day	**04** 9:30 am Meals on Wheels Mtg. in Lounge 11 am Clergy Mtg. in Lounge	**05** 9 am Final Bible Study at LV Sr. Ctr.	**06**	**07** 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron
08 Shoeboxes due for Operation Christmas Child 	**09**	**10** 6 pm Cadre Men's Mtg. in the Lounge	**11** 	**12** 6:30 pm Circle of Ruth Mtg. in Lounge	**13**	**14** 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron w/music by Kasey Kisner
15 4 pm Youth Group	**16**	**17** 6 pm Final Cadre Men's Mtg.	**18**	**19** 12 pm Newsletter Deadline 1 pm Linus Blanket Mtg. in Fellowship Hall 6 pm Lead Team Mtg. in MPR	**20** 7 pm Coffeehouse at The Barn	**21** 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Adam Sweigart w/music by Amy Clarke
22	**23** 5 pm Trustees Mtg. in MPR	**24**	**25**	**26** 	**27** Office Closed 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal 6 pm Light Up Ligonier	**28** 1:30 pm Gray/Blasko Wdg. 6 pm Saturday Night Service: Pastor Ron
29  12 pm Hanging of the Greens 4 pm Youth Group	**30**					

Regular and Weekly Meetings

Sunday	8:30 & 10:45 am Worship Services
	10:45 am Children's Church
Monday – Friday	8:30 am – 1:00 pm Meals on Wheels
	6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study
Tuesday	6:00 pm Cub Scout Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Friday	8:00 pm AA Mtg. in Fellowship Hall
Saturday	6:00 pm Saturday Night Service

Happy 63rd Anniversary to Jerry & Kay Blank (Nov. 23rd)

November Birthdays:

2nd Janis Shearer
5th Louise Wagner
6th Braden Marker
8th Gary Black
9th Zach Yeskey
10th Thomas Dowden
10th Emma Goppman
11th Wesley Harr
13th Elaine Steele
13th Mike Yeskey
13th Molly Daugherty
14th Katelyn Amond
14th Brittany Hoover
14th Mackenzie Plummer
16th Beth Caldwell
16th Dottie Johnson
16th Gene Appleby
20th Ryan George
22nd Barbara Johnson
23rd Eric Barth
24th Colin Smith
24th Jordan Smith
24th Lee Roehrig
28th Cameron Clark