

Mission Statement:
To Love and to Lead

The Mission of Heritage United Methodist Church is to Love God and people passionately and to Lead people into a passionate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Worship With Us Every Sunday!

8:05 AM
Awakening Service

9:30 AM
Traditional Service

11:00 AM
Contemporary Worship

Nursery provided for all services.
Sunday School for All Ages

Heritage United Methodist Church
1604 East Pointer Trail
Van Buren, AR 72956-2326

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Heritage Happenings

Oh give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is good
for his steadfast
love endures
forever!

—Psalm 107:1

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Office Hours: Mon - Thurs: 8 am - 5 pm; Fri: 8 am - 12 pm
Phone: 479-474-6424
FAX & E-mail Address: 474-8549; office@heritagevb.org
Church Web Page: www.heritagevb.org
Arkansas Area Bishop: Rev. Gary Mueller
District Superintendent: Rev. William Bud Reeves
Lead Pastor: J. Wesley Hilliard, wes@heritagevb.org
Pastor Emeritus: Bill Kelton, bekelton@sbcglobal.net
Director of Ministries: Roger Goins, rgoins@heritagevb.org
Welcome Minister: Becki Kneeland, bkneeland@heritagevb.org
Discipleship Pastor: Bryan Tabakian, btakian@heritagevb.org
Congregational Care Pastor: Max Goins, max@heritagevb.org
Worship Arts Minister: Chuck King, cking@heritagevb.org
Organist: Renee Baldwin, rbaldwin@heritagevb.org
Accompanist: Rick Endel, rendel@heritagevb.org
Youth and Family Pastor: Brian Seewald, brian@heritagevb.org
Associate Youth Minister: Brad Martin, brad@heritagevb.org
Middle School Pastor: Brad Sneed, bsneed@heritagevb.org
Children's Minister: Debbie Marsh, dmarsh@heritagevb.org
Early Childhood Coordinator: Anna Utz, autz@heritagevb.org
Financial Secretary: Ruth Ottinger, rottinger@heritagevb.org
Publications Secretary: Kathy Goins, kgoins@heritagevb.org
Staff Secretary: Pam James, pjames@heritagevb.org
Newsletter/Bulletin Announcements: office@heritagevb.org
Maintenance Superintendent: Wayne Weege, maintenance@heritagevb.org

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S HEART ... LIVING GRATEFULLY!



As we enjoy this Thanksgiving season, may we continue throughout the year to LIVE GRATEFULLY! I had some great conversations with many of you about gratitude following the services Sunday. This morning as I have been reading, studying and praying, I've come across a few thoughts on Thanksgiving that I want to pass on to you this week:

1. One of you shared with me the thought that "Ingratitude is the first sin that leads to all others!" I agree. So does Janie Cheaney in her article in this week's issue of "World Magazine." She writes, "Ingratitude is preliminary to going astray—see Romans 1:21, 'For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.' It is the wellspring of human depravity since the beginning of time ..." Cicero, an ancient philosopher said, "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all others." Wow! Let's practice

"Thanksgiving!" as another one of you pointed out to me Sunday!

2. About living gratefully in the United States, hear what former Secretary of State, General-ret. Colin Powell says: "Jefferson once wrote, 'There is a debt of service due from every [person] to his country, proportioned to the bounties which nature and fortune have measured to him.' As one who has received so much from his country, I feel that debt heavily, and I can never be entirely free of it. My responsibility, our responsibility as Americans, is to try to give back to this country as much as it has given to us, as we continue our American journey together." (MY AMERICAN JOURNEY, p. 595).

3. Finally, I want to leave you with some thoughts from Saint Ambrose (340-397 A.D.). As I read them this morning, I felt a great kinship with him. Sounds like the message I preached from Ps. 107 this past Sunday: "On that day they will say to Jerusalem, 'Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.'" - Zephaniah 3:16-17

Dear brothers and sisters, God's love is calling us to the joys of eternal happiness for the salvation of our soul. "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). The "joys" of this world lead to eternal misery, but the joys willed for us by the Lord are enduring and everlasting if we persevere. The Apostle therefore says, "Again I say: rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

He urges us to find ever-increasing joy in God and in keeping His commandments. The more we give ourselves to God by obeying His commands, the greater our happiness in the life to come will be, and the greater the glory that we will share in the presence of God. "The Lord is near; have no anxiety" (Philippians 4:5-6). The Lord is always near to all who call upon His help with sincerity, true faith, sure hope, and perfect love. He knows what you need, even before you ask Him. He is always ready to come to the aid of His faithful servants, whatever their need. There is no reason for us to worry when evils threaten us; we must remember that God is very near to us always as our protector. "But in every prayer and supplication let your petitions be made known to God, with thanksgiving" (Philippians 4:6)



In time of trouble we must not grumble or be downhearted; God forbid! We must rather be patient and cheerful, "giving thanks to God always in everything" (Ephesians 5:20). ~ Ambrose, from Awakening Faith: Daily Devotions from the Early Church, edited by James Stuart Bell

May this Thanksgiving lead to Thanksliving for you and your family! Allison and I are so grateful to be your lead pastor family! – Pastor Wes

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Ushers

8:05 am
John Poole
Tom Banhart
Scott Visalli
Scott Treece
Mike Kneeland

9:30 am
Seekers' Life Group

11:00 am
Drew Cone
Chris Christensen
Chad Sharbono
Craig Ballegeer

Greeters

8:05 am
JoEllen Banhart
Jessica Visalli
Pam Treece

9:30 am
Seekers' Life Group

11:00 am
Kris Ailes
Mike and Karrie Papacoda



At Home:

Christy Anders, Mary Ellen Weidman-Burris, Ellarene Crowley, Neal and Patsy Ellison, Joe Johns, Trecia Lloyd, John Luckau, Jeri Nash, Gary Nishmuta, Gary Pittman, Carolyn Scott, Linda Seubold, Bob Simon, Mary Wrisinger

Assisted Living:

Billie Jacks (Alma Health Care)
Mary Coble (Crawford H & R)
Jim and Gerlinda Dibble (Willowbrook)
Lena Mae Smith (Crawford H & R)
Jean Stratton (Crawford H & R)
Maxine Fahrner (Ashton Place)

In Sympathy:

John Poole and Family in the death of his mother, *Helen McGowan*.



Sunday, December 14
CHRISTMAS ANGEL
GIFTS DUE

Wednesday, December 17
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
6 PM

Wednesday, December 24:
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
3 PM, 5 PM & 7:30 pm
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL
4:00 PM & 6:30 PM

Have an Announcement for the Bulletin or Newsletter?
Email it to office@heritagevb.org.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In honor of **MAX GOINS** by:
M/M Jim Dibble (BF)

In honor of **DARRELL SHOOK'S BIRTHDAY** by:
M/M Bill Thomas (YM)

In honor of **ALAN SWAIM'S BIRTHDAY** by:
M/M Bill Thomas (YM)

In honor of **THE BALDWIN FAMILY** by:
Jason Lewis (FP)

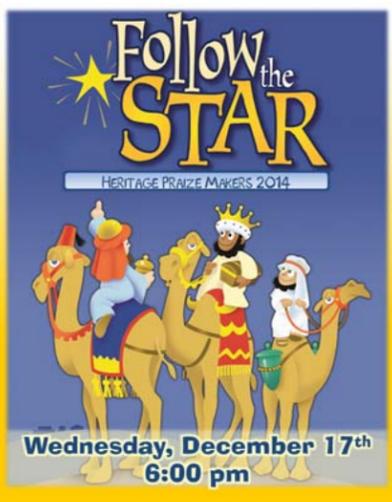
In honor of **JOHNNY RAGSDALE** by:
June Lewis (BF)

In memory of **ED CHANDLER** (father of Jane Sanders and grandfather of Nicole Beket) by:
M/M Benton Cone (CM)
M/M Bruce Johnson (BF)

In memory of **HELEN MCCOWAN** (mother of John Poole) by:
M/M Benton Cone (CM)
M/M Bruce Johnson (BF)
M/M Joe Lloyd (FP)

In memory of **JEFF BALDWIN** by:
Jason Lewis (FP)
BF - Building Fund YM - Youth Ministries
CM - Children's Ministry FP - Food Pantry

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



NEW MEMBERS



Kevin and Christina Fontaine and their children, Hayden and Alaina.

NEEDED ITEMS

The Food Pantry is collecting stuffed animals or storybooks that your children no longer need. Bring them to the Food Pantry table in the Fellowship Hall this week. We would like to give something special to the kids of needy families that are using the Food Pantry.

YOU'RE INVITED



Please join us for a Bridal Shower honoring **KATHRYN GOINS AND MITCH OSBURN** Sunday, December 7th from 2:30 - 4 pm in the Welcome Center. The hostesses are Debbie Marsh, Erin Marsh, Renee Baldwin and Sue Weege. They are registered at Wal Mart, Target and Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

GIFT IDEAS



Pick up your Heritage license plate and/or coffee mugs today in the Library for \$5 each. They would make great Christmas gifts!

ROOTS

In *Roots* classes, we are focused toward the goal of the Jewishness of our Christian Faith.

In Marvin R. Wilson's book, *OUR FATHER ABRAHAM*, he states we have an Eastern Book that we are trying to understand with a Western Mind. The Bible is a Hebrew Book, telling the story of the Hebrew people. Jesus was our Hebrew LORD.

If the Bible is going to be understood in our day, we must develop "Hebrew eyes and Hebrew attitudes toward life."

In the words of the late Swiss Protestant Theologian Karl Barth: "The Bible is a Jewish book. It cannot be read and understood and expounded unless we are prepared to become Jews with the Jews."

Study Times:

At present there are three opportunities for learning more about our Christian Roots.

Thursdays @1000 AM Room 121, Sundays@0930 AM Room 121 and @1100 Room 133.

Come join us in one of these times to grow in the understanding of the Christian Roots of our faith.

Charles R. Reneau

THANK YOU

Church Family,
Thank you so much for all the phone calls, texts and cards during this difficult time! The love and prayers from our church family have been felt!

John and Pat Poole

THANK YOU

Nicole Beket and Church Staff,
Thank you so much for such a wonderful dinner, snacks and gifts for our precious baby boy, Clayton. We are so blessed and grateful for our new church family!

Doug and Candice Bowen

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, many activities have been cancelled or rescheduled. Please be sure to check the church calendar.



Join Mark Gungor for a two day LIVE Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage event January 23rd and 24th at Christian Life Cathedral in Fayetteville, AR. The cost is \$35 per person.

This event will:

- bring positive hope to your marriage
- help couples better understand each others needs
- rekindle romance in your marriage
- appeals widely to husbands, even those who may typically resist marriage ministry

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE CHRISMON TREE

For two thousand years, Christians the world over have celebrated Christ's birthday, each country according to its own traditional interpretation of the holy day. The Chrismon Tree is decorated with the symbols that tell the story of God's love. The word, "Chrismon" is a combination of two words, "Christ" and "monogram." A Chrismon is just that ~ a monogram of Christ. All the Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White is the liturgical color for Christmas, referring to Christ's purity and perfection. Gold refers to His majesty and glory." Throughout Advent, we will be sharing with you the symbolism of the various ornaments on our tree, lovingly handmade by members of Heritage Church throughout the years. We hope that the Chrismon Tree will inspire you to worship in greater depths God's gift to the world-our Savior Jesus Christ.

PHOTO



A King's Crown is the symbol of royal power and authority. It symbolizes Jesus as King of the Jews, in fulfillment of prophetic expectation, as well as the exalted Christ as King of Kings.

**Special thanks to the Threefold Cord Life Group for decorating our Sanctuary this year!*

TRAINING TIME

There will be a training for all LifeGroup leaders on Sunday, December 7th in the Welcome Center. As a Life Group Leader please come to training at either 9:30 or 11:00 am. For any questions, contact Bryan Tabakian at btabakian@heritagevb.org.

PRAYER MEETING

The next River Valley Community Prayer Meeting is Monday, December 1st from 7-8 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith. Address is 120 N. 9th Street.

HERITAGE ANGELS



We support DHS and the foster children in our area by collecting Christmas gifts. After you choose an angel from the wall by the Children's wing and the office, return the gifts to the stage in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 14th! All gifts must be unwrapped and in a bag with their angel number attached to the bag. If you have any questions contact Debbie Thomas at 651-0810 or the church.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary during the month of December in honor or in memory of someone, please complete this form and return it to the church office with payment of \$10 per poinsettia.

Placed in (circle one)

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

By: _____