

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.

Heritage Happenings is published weekly

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

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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
9:30 & 11:00 AM

Volume 30 Issue 47
 December 1, 2016

Heritage Happenings

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DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Ushers

8:05 am
 Benton Cone
 Mike Kneeland
 Mike McSpadden
 John Poole

9:30 am
 Tom Konert
 David Alexander
 Carol Ray
 Pam Thomas

11:00 am

Daniel Chisolm
 Nathan Elliott
 Grant Elliott
 Justin Sangster

Greeters

8:05 am
 Malinda McSpadden
 Louann King
 Juanita Cone

9:30 am
 Mark and Maria Sullivan
 Bill and Debbie Thomas

11:00 am

Rhonda and Jerry Pittman



In Hospital:

Linda Seubold (UAMS)
Therese Zolk (Mercy)

At Home:

Joanne Barbee, Tom Gipson, Georgia Hutton, Lee James, Katy Marsh, Gary Pittman, Debbie Stewart, Anna Utz, Connie Warren, Saylor Wilkinson

Assisted Living:

Mary Coble (Crawford H & R)
Gerlinda Dibble (Willowbrook)
Geraldine Hurst (Pink Bud Home)
Jean Stratton (Crawford H & R)
Maxine Fahrner (Ashton Place)

Warren Taylor (Methodist Village)
Pike Robinson (Alma Rehab)
Irene Oxford (Alma Rehab)
Sherry Fedric (Covington Court)

In Sympathy:

Frank Williams and Family in the death of his sister. Pam Barrett.

Katie Brown and Family in the death of her grandmother, Jean Wooldridge.

Ruth Morrison and Family in the death of her grandson, Kenley Barham.

Brenda Frederiksen and Family in the death of her nephew, Nathaniel Benoit.



December 1-4
 THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE
 OF JONATHAN TOOMEY
 AT KING OPERA HOUSE

December 24
 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
 3, 5, & 7 PM
 dinner served between services

Have an Announcement for the Bulletin or Newsletter?
 Email it to office@heritage.church.

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS AMAZING PRODUCTION
 PRESENTED BY HERITAGE CHURCH!**



**THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE
 OF
 JONATHAN TOOMEY**

A NEW MUSICAL BY CHUCK KING
 Based on the Original Story by Susan Wojciechowski

at the **King Opera House**
 427 Main Street in Historic Downtown Van Buren

December 1
 7 pm

December 2
 7 pm

December 3
 4 pm & 7 pm

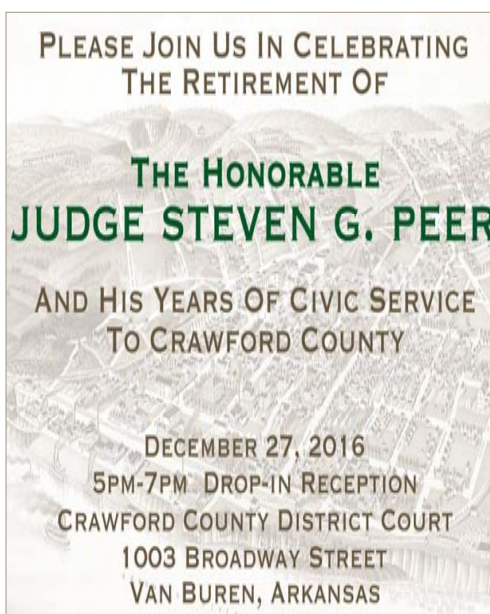
December 4
 4 pm

General Admission \$10
 Remaining tickets will be available at the door.

HONORARIUM

In honor of **DEBBIE THOMAS' BIRTHDAY** by:
Dorvan and Mikie Wiley (BF)

BF-Building Fund



BLANKET CREW

The Blanket Crew will meet again Monday, December 5th at 9 am in room 134 to continue making blankets for the homeless camp along the river and for local schools to give to children with no permanent home. Any questions, you may contact Sue Weege, 474-8627 or sueweege@cox.net

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 by Sunday, December 13th.

Placed in (circle one)

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

By: _____

LADIES, YOU ARE INVITED

Arise, Shine

For Your Light has Come! Isaiah 60:1
If you are widowed, join us for a 'SHINE' Luncheon in your honor Tuesday, December 6th at noon in the Welcome Center. Please RSVP to 474-6424.

YOU'RE INVITED

Michael and Leticia Schelm are having another girl in January! There will have a baby blessing for them on Wednesday, December 14th at 7pm in the Worship Arts Room. They are registered at Babies R Us and Walmart. They also need Pampers' Swaddlers.

KINDERGARTEN/1ST GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We are sponsoring a DHS angel and we need to begin collecting donations now. The children, their parents, or anyone else may contribute by bringing the items to our classroom in the Backyard by Sunday, December 11th.

ROOTS CLASS

Want to better understand the Hebraic roots of our Christian faith? Join us Monday, December 5th at 6 pm in room 121.

BAPTISM

If you are interested in being baptized at church Sunday, December 18th, please contact the church office at 474-6424.

HERITAGE ANGELS

We support DHS and the foster children in our area by collecting Christmas gifts. After you choose an angel from the Great Hall, return the gifts to the stage in the Fellowship Hall by Monday, December 12th! **All gifts must be unwrapped and in a bag with their angel number attached to the bag.**

MARSH BABY SHOWER

Join us for a baby shower honoring Eric and Shea Marsh Sunday, December 11th from 12:30 - 2:00 pm in the Backyard. They are expecting a baby girl in January. Eric and Shea are registered at Walmart and Target. Hostesses are the women of the Full House Life Group.

INTERESTED IN BLESSING OTHERS?

The New Mom's Ministry is looking for volunteers to help bless families when they bring a new baby home. We need volunteers to prepare or pick up meals and deliver them to these families. If you would be interested, please contact Alexis Boster at 501-912-1370 or alexisboster@gmail.com.

FIRST SUNDAY

Want to belong to a life group or ministry at Heritage? Please join us this Sunday, December 4th at 6 pm in the Welcome Center to learn more.

WRITING MINISTRY

Expressions' next meeting is Thursday, December 8th at 6 pm in the Welcome Center. Anyone can submit a writing at anytime to Lu Ann Donahou at 479-259-3861. **Our writings are published in a monthly newsletter that is available in the Great Hall.*

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

The River Valley Community Prayer meeting is Monday, December 5th from 7-8 pm at New Life Church of God in Christ in Fort Smith.

ALTAR PRAYER TEAM

The Altar Prayer Team will meet this Sunday, December 4th at 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are not a current team member and would like to join, please come.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

We need you for Christmas Eve! Currently, we have about 1/3 of the volunteers needed. Here are our needs:

- People to make or buy desserts: We are doing pecan and pumpkin pie **ONLY**. Please have them pre cut into at least eight slices and bring in disposable pie tin.
- Servers from 3 to 5 pm
- Servers from 5 to 7 pm
- Clean Up Team beginning at 7 pm
- Kitchen staff from 5 to 7 pm

Contact Becki Kneeland at 474-6424 to get plugged in!

SINGLES' FELLOWSHIP

Join us Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 pm in the Welcome Center.

BIRTHDAY LIST

A list of December birthdays is available in the Great Hall.

THANKSGIVING



On Thanksgiving Day, Mike and Malinda McSpadden led their annual meal and food give away through Western Arkansas Child Development Center. Many other Heritage people helped give, serve and deliver. Here is the McSpadden's report: "We served 653 meals Thanksgiving Day and delivered about 150 boxes of food. CV's donated 1200 cans of green beans and corn to give away and 75 pies for the meal. Alma Community Outreach gave us watermelons, cucumbers, oranges and bread to give away. With the money that was donated we were able to purchase lots of non-perishable food items and gave those to each family. We delivered over 100 meals to the families of Crawford County Jail inmates. Thanks to all of you who donated money and came and volunteered that day. We could not do it without you."

WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

A Mournful Song of Hope

Inspired by "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Lyrics – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1863

Music – John Baptiste Calkin, 1872

**"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will toward men!"**

Luke 2:14

Christmas 1863 found the United States in a state of despair. The Civil War which threatened to tear the young country asunder was in its third year. The horrendously bloody battles of Shiloh, Antietam, Vicksburg, and Gettysburg, had been waged and the realities and horrors of war had been dealt on both sides of the house divided. Newspaper headlines were gloomy, morale was low, and families were facing yet another Christmas with missing family members and fears of what the days ahead held.

Among the affected was well known poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Longfellow's wife had perished in a tragic fire in 1861 leaving the poet with facial scars and a widower with six children. In early 1863, Longfellow's oldest son, Charles, secretly joined the Union forces and by late fall was severely injured facing the possibility of paralysis. Shortly before Christmas, Charles was able to return home. According to Longfellow's journal entries during these years, he found Christmas painful to bear. It was under these conditions that Longfellow wrote the poem "Christmas Bells." In 1872, the poem was shortened and set to music by John Baptiste Calkin.

The poem is mournful with the writer musing the present-day situation.

And in despair I bowed my head:

"There is no peace on earth," I said,

"For hate is strong and mocks the song

Of peace on earth, good will to men."

But it is at the poem's lowest point that God suddenly appears:

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:

"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;

The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,

With peace on earth, good will to men."



Christmas 2016 finds us still despairing with gloomy headlines of hate and mockery. Christianity and the beliefs we hold dear are under attack in our country as never before. World news of terrorism and strife may fill us with despair, but as believers we have the promise of eternal hope as the battle rages. This Christmas when you hear the bells toll, remember "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; the wrong shall fail, and the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

Lisa Moose, 2016

Expressions Writing Ministry