

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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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

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

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GO! TELL IT! EVERYWHERE!

Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."



You might have asked the question, "Why would I go?" But the better question to ask yourself is, "Why wouldn't I go?" If you have truly met Jesus, there would be no question to the question. We go because we want others to have the same love, hope, joy and peace that we have through Jesus Christ. We want others to know that there is forgiveness, healing and freedom. One might then ask another question, "Who do I tell?" The better question to ask is, "Who would I not tell?" All people need to know Jesus! Your friends and your enemies. Those you know and those you don't know. However, I believe we are hesitant with our words because our lifestyles don't match what we say. Forgive me for speaking truth but the reality is that we don't go and tell because we are afraid. We may be afraid of what others think, but we also may fear that what we speak

and how we live are in complete contrast. If so, let the Holy Spirit change you now! It is time for the church to be THE CHURCH. Let's not live as the world lives. For "The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2:17). So that leaves a final question, "Where do we go?" Simple: EVERYWHERE! Jesus should be with you everywhere you go. I believe if we were to live as Christ wants us to live, very few words may be necessary. The world would see and would know. If you can't take Jesus with you, don't journey there! Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a new perspective during this wonderful season of love, hope, joy and peace.

*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere
 Go, tell it on the mountain; That Jesus Christ is born*



Lord, may we have the same heart as Isaiah who spoke the words, "Here I am. Send me!" Teach us how to be Jesus wherever we go and with whomever we are with. May we not fear the words "go" and "tell" but rather give us a fear of not going and telling. You have giving us a call as true disciples. May we be found faithful to that call! In Jesus name, Amen!

Brian Seewald,

Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries

What can we tell others about this week?

1. The Greatest Truth Ever Told: share with someone what Christmas means to you!
2. Christmas Eve Services are at 3pm, 5pm and 7pm (Use the Christmas flyer that you received in your bulletin this last Sunday to invite someone)
 - A wonderful Christmas Dinner will be served between the services
 - Also between the services there will be an opportunity to meet Santa. Gifts will be handed out to all kids!

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)
Marjorie Howard (Springfield)

At Home:

Tom Gipson, Georgia Hutton, Katy Marsh, Gary Pittman, Debbie Stewart, Velta Thomas, 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)

Connie Warren (Methodist)

Pike Robinson (Alma Rehab)

Irene Oxford (Alma Rehab)

In Sympathy:

Rachel Mosher and Family in the death of her mother, *Barbara Delmonego*.



December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
 3, 5, & 7 PM

dinner served between services

January 22

BLOOD DRIVE
 9 AM - 12 PM

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

MEMORIALS

In memory of **RUBY KING** (sister of Bill Kelton) by:

Bruce and Janet Johnson (BF)

In memory of **BARBARA DELMONEGO** (mother of Rachel Mosher) by:

Bruce and Janet Johnson (BF)

In memory of **LEE 'DOBY' JAMES** (husband of Hiltraud James and uncle of Debbie Thomas) by:

Ladies Auxiliary VFW #1322 (FP)

Bill and Debbie Thomas (FP)

Fred and Cindy Borchert (FP)

Scott and Teri McBrayer (FP)

Dick and Donna Smith (FP)

Hiltraud James (FP)

Melynda Georg (FP)

Helga Fellwock (FP)

James and Natascha Emmons (FP)

Bill and Kristine James (FP)

Jimmie and Margaretha Donald (FP)

BF-Building Fund FP-Food Pantry

BAPTISM

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

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?

Do you know where you are in your giving this year? There is an easy way to find out! Just go to the Heritage web site: heritage.church, and then click on "member login" at the bottom. This takes you to a secure login page. Put in your email address and password. If this is your first time the system will assign you a password and send it to the email address listed in the church data base. Now the catch is, if the church doesn't have an email address for you, you must contact them (office@heritage.church, or 474-6424) and let them know your email address. Once you are in the members only base, click on the "Giving" tab at the top and then "My Giving History". There you can view your most recent tax statement (left hand side top half), view each week's offering on bottom half of page, or go to "pledge history" to see the amount remaining on the commitment you made for 2016. **If you see any errors please let the office know immediately so corrections can be made before the end of the year.**

And if you need an address or phone number of someone attending our church, just click on the "directory" tab at the top of the page and then choose the name of the person you need. How simple can you get!!!

Just a reminder on end of the year giving. Federal tax law states that for a contribution to be used as a charitable contribution it must be received by the church by the last day of the year or postmarked by December 31st.

THANK YOU

To Malinda McSpadden:

What a beautiful expression of love! The food was delicious, the setting was elegant and the message from Allison was inspiring. Thanks also to Pam James, Steve Kelton and Mary Knight for stepping in to help.

I want to encourage all widows to attend next year! You will be blessed!

On behalf of all the ladies, thank you so very much for having a special dinner to honor us.

Vesta Everitt

NEED A WORD?

The Upper Room is a great source for a daily devotional. The January/February issue is available in the Great Hall.

ADVENT READING

If you, your family or small group would like to participate in the Advent readings on Sunday morning, December 18th or Christmas Eve, please contact the church office.

THANK YOU

Heritage Church Family,

Thank you so much for blessing the Marsh family! We so appreciate your prayers, time and generosity in helping us prepare our home for Caroline's upcoming arrival. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a kind, loving, generous church family. We covet your prayers as Caroline's arrival draws closer. Please join us in prayer for a healthy and safe baby and momma! You've loved us well! We are thankful!

Eric, Shea and Cooper Marsh

THANK YOU

To the ladies who helped prepare and serve the delicious luncheon following my husband, Walter's funeral, my family and I are grateful. What a special ministry and a blessing to families during their bereavement. Thank you!

Dorothy Coleman and Family

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

With the upcoming holidays, many activities have been cancelled or rescheduled. Please be sure to check the church calendar. ***The church office will be closed the week of December 26th - 31st.**

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

We need you for Christmas Eve! 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.
- Ushers and Greeters for 5 and 7 pm.
- Servers from 5 to 7 pm (more here please)
- Kitchen staff from 5 to 7 pm

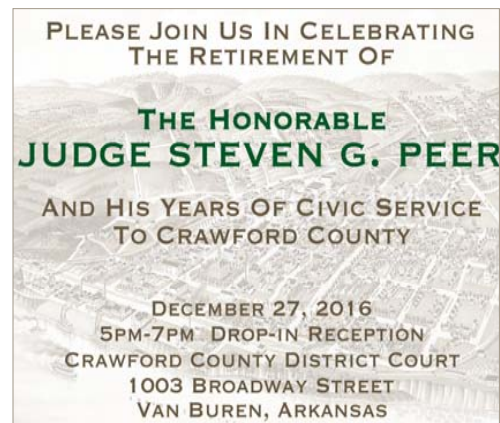
Contact Becki at 474-6424 or bkneeland@heritage.church to get plugged in!

ITEMS FOR SALE

Be sure and stop by the Library to purchase one of the many books written by our Heritage authors or any of the Heritage items! We have license plates, mugs and hats; they will make great gifts this holiday season!

PARTY TIME

The *Do Good For Nothing* Sunday school class is having a Christmas party this Sunday at 5:30 pm at the home of Mark and Linda Wilkerson. They live at 1301 Valley View Drive in Van Buren. We would love for you to join us for fun, food and fellowship!



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers to sack groceries and help customers on Christmas Eve at 4, 5 and 6 pm. If you are interested, please contact Roger Burkert at 462-3392.

WESLEY HERITAGE TOUR

Follow the footsteps of John Wesley through England with Dr. Robert Tuttle and Pastor Wesley Hilliard on the Wesley Heritage Tour May 15-23. Brochures with detailed itinerary, cost and registration forms are available in the Great Hall.

NEWCOMERS' DINNER

Join us for the next newcomers' dinner on Thursday, January 19th at 6:30 pm at the Kneeland's. See Becki Kneeland for your reservation.

WEEKLY ADVENT READING

The First Noel

Old English Carol -

traditional melody from W. Sandys Christmas Carols, 1833

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at nights. Luke 2:8



Imagine the first Christmas when God, Himself, was born. The thought has often come to my mind ever since I was a teenager. He was born away from home in a stable the innkeeper gave Mary and Joseph. Was Mary nervous when she had pain? She was in a town where she knew no one. What were the animals doing? Were they eating? Had they just fallen asleep and were awakened by noisy humans? Was another mother so busy feeding her young, she could not even give the visitors a one-eyed wink?

Above a field of sheep, the heavens burst its seams, filled with pure joy. Out of nowhere an angel of God gave shepherds a shock of a lifetime! Imagine a shepherd having a quiet night and then, out of the blue, a bright army of angels appeared singing with heartfelt delight. In those days, being a shepherd represented something dirty: dirty in character, unpleasant, or the lowest one could go. Doesn't it sound just like our Lord to use the "wrong" set of people to help others see? The shepherds were so shaken when they went to see the child, they left their flocks behind. They left their jobs to go worship. Amazingly, the first praises on earth for God's son were from what the world would call "dirty."

Later wise men from the East started a journey to find the new King. They had seen God's star years before their arrival. It's amazing they knew the significance of God's star. Do we see the star today? To follow a star means traveling only at night. That seems like a slow way to travel. Once again, the star appeared, and the wise men knocked on a door in Bethlehem. How surprising would it be finding for Mary to find people with gifts at her door? People who had searched for her and knew her child was the only child of God. All they wanted to do was worship. How extraordinary! What wonderful words of praise must have filled God's heart? The wise men's joy knew no bounds opening their gifts for God of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The mind can wonder how God's birth came to be. In each Christmas moment never forget to stop and give Him praise. Don't be afraid. The angels were so overcome with joy that they opened a dark sky just so a few poor shepherds would know. Why not the world as well? No one's life is too messy, too far away (as the wise men), unpleasant, or too dirty (as the shepherd's) to praise and give thanks. All you need is an open, willing heart.

Praise to the One who came so that we can have a new life ourselves. My prayer is that you may bring your own gifts and praises toward heaven to the child who saved us.

Amber Gill

Expressions Writing Ministry