

**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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**HERE AM I, SEND ME....I THINK!**

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
 "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" - Isaiah 6:8*



Welcome Reception This Sunday for New Outreach Pastor, LaToya Shepherd between services in the Fellowship Hall.

Come hear Pastor LaToya share her first message from the LORD with the congregation as a minister on the Heritage staff.

LaToya was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas in August 2007. She has three children: Christa Marie (20), Rachel Jenay (18) and Leonard Jonathan (16). She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Family Life Education from Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, Michigan and is pursuing a Master's of Divinity degree.

LaToya has served in ministry for over 20 years in various capacities, including 16 years as clergy spouse, assistant to the pastor, worship leader, Sunday school teacher, youth leader and workshop speaker. LaToya came to the United Methodist Church in 2010 through an invitation a United Methodist Women's event and entered the candidacy process in 2012.

LaToya's primary job at Heritage is to help every one of us reach into the community and show the love of Jesus.

**DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING SUNDAY!**

IN THIS ISSUE

- Newcomers' Dinner
- Heritage Riders
- Celebration
- Leaders' Luncheon
- Discipleship Training
- Parent's Meeting
- Encounter Service
- Church on Fire Summit
- River Valley Prayer
- Family Fun Night
- Joy Seekers
- ASIST

**JULY USHERS**

**8:05 am**

Steve Peters  
 Myron Kirksey  
 Scott Treece  
 Eddie Prince

**9:30 am**

Ed Buckalew  
 Harry Sher  
 Joe Johns  
 Mark Stafford

**11:00 am**

Roger Burkett  
 Jon Harper  
 Matt Harper  
 David Harper



In Hospital:

At Home:

**Wayne Ames, David Hendrickson, Terry McGonigle, David Moore, Steven Peer, Gary Pittman, Jean Sabatier, Teddy Shrader, Judy Spencer, Debbie Stewart, Bill Thomas, Shirley Touchstone, Buddy Turner, Connie Warren, Saylor Wilkinson**

Assisted Living:

**Steve Burns** (Fianna Hills NH)  
**Mary Coble** (Crawford H&R)

**Gerlinda Dibble** (Willowbrook)  
**Charley Hartley** (VB Rehab)  
**Geraldine Hurst** (Pink Bud Home)  
**Harry May** (Crawford H&R)  
**James Minor** (CC H&R)  
**Pike Robinson** (Alma Rehab)  
**Jean Stratton** (Crawford H&R)  
**Warren Taylor** (Methodist)  
**Therese Zolk** (Valley Springs H&R)

In Sympathy:

**LaToya Shepherd and Family** in the death of her grandmother, *Alice Larkin*.



**July 12**  
 FAMILY NIGHT  
 AT ALMA AQUATIC PARK

**July 14-15**  
 CHURCH ON FIRE  
 SUMMIT

**August 20**  
 FALL KICKOFF WITH  
 SUMMIT TRACE

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

## HONORARIUM

In honor of **CHUCK AND LOUANN KING** for years of hard work, devotion and love for Heritage Church Music Department by:

Katy Marsh (WA)

WA - Worship Arts Fund

## CHURCH ON FIRE SUMMIT

Join us for this two-day event with Bishop Donn Thomas and Jon Mitchell July 14-15. Register today at [heritage.church](http://heritage.church) or in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday. Cost is \$10/person or \$15/person at the door.

## JOIN US

Join us for an amazing time of worship with Bishop Donn Thomas on Sunday, July 16th! If you would like to sing in the mass choir on that day, please join us for rehearsal on Tuesday, July 11th at 6:30 pm and Saturday, July 15th at 5 pm in the Sanctuary.

## MOTHER'S DAY PHOTOS

To those who participated in the Mother's Day photo booth at Heritage Church, the link is up! To order prints, simply select the picture you would like, "add" it to your cart, and follow the instructions from there! These will be mailed directly to your home once ordered. The link is: <http://yellowroadsphotography.pass.us/Mothers-Day-2017>

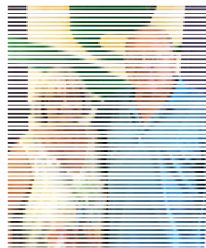
## NEWCOMERS' DINNER

Join us for the newcomers' dinner this Thursday, July 6th at 6 pm at the Kneeland's. Contact Becki for your reservation.

## ROOTS CLASS

Want to better understand the Hebraic roots of our Christian faith? Join us Monday, July 10th at 6 pm in room 123. Lucy Barry will facilitate.

## CELEBRATION



Please welcome Louis and Pat Whorton to the Heritage Family.

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Invite your friends and join us next Wednesday, July 12th for food, fun and fellowship. Dinner at 6 pm and park opens at 7 pm at the Alma Aquatic Park. *\*Modest swimwear please!*

## ALTAR PRAYER TEAM

They will meet this Sunday, July 9th at 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are not a current team member and would like to join, please come.

## BLESS THE KIDS

The number one need for children going back to school is tennis shoes. As you clean out your closets and do your school shopping, consider donating new or gently worn tennis shoes for all sizes for ages 6-18. We will donate them to the local schools. Please put them in the box on the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

## ENCOUNTER SERVICE

We will not meet today or next Wednesday, July 12th. We will resume Wednesday, July 19th at 6 pm in The Block.

## THE INVITATION to The Devotional Life of a Disciple

*Invitation* is a 90 minute workshop that provides motivation and a practical plan to help people spend quality daily time with God in His Word and prayer. The Heritage Discipleship Leadership Team along with Mr. John Wallace will provide this opportunity on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30-10 am at Heritage. It is your invitation from God

- To enjoy a relationship with the One who weighs the mountains in His hands and cares for the fallen sparrow.
- To a relationship with the One who is eagerly waiting to transform your life to be more like Jesus.
- To a relationship with the One who wants you to enjoy His company through loving communication and closeness.
- Are you willing to RSVP to God's invitation? Please call or email Pam James at [pjames@heritage.church](mailto:pjames@heritage.church) or 474-6424.

## ASIST

Many in our community, our schools, and even our congregation have been touched by suicide. Suicide is preventable. Anyone can make a difference. If you could recognize people at risk of suicide; talk to them, hear their stories, and understand their situations; and help them stay safe with a life-affirming intervention would you? Want to know how?

Heritage is hosting a two-day ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) workshop August 10-11. It is open to anyone 16 or older and is widely used by both professionals and the public, ASIST offers something to every participant, no matter how experienced. It is especially helpful for counselors, chaplains, law enforcement, and teachers.

Register today—there are only 45 seats available - at [www.heritage.church/events](http://www.heritage.church/events). The cost is \$5 and includes lunch both days.

## PARENT MEETING

If your child is registered for Children's Camp, Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend the mandatory parent's meeting at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, July 18th in the Fellowship Hall.



The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is a time to celebrate our Independence, where we came from, who we are today and where we are headed in the future. This American Holiday is more than just firecrackers, picnics and games of horse shoes with family and friends. We should take the opportunity to look upon our nation's history and contemplate what this holiday truly means to each one of us. For some it will mean freedom to worship as you so choose, for others the ability to work and play at your choosing without the government interfering with it, still others may say it is freedom paid for at a very costly price. Whatever your reason for celebrating this holiday, take the time to reflect on what it means to us as Christians.

America was founded by "Pilgrims" seeking a new land to worship God as they saw fit. This did not happen by accident but under the directing hand of a God who desires our honest attention. Things could have been so different if men were not willing to lay down families, jobs, property and their lives for the founding of this nation, and the eventual defending of our freedoms still today. God had some very stern words for the children of Israel as they prepared to enter into their "Promised Land" that just might pay dividends to read once again. (Deuteronomy 8:1-20 Common English version)

For centuries we have been enjoying the many blessing bestowed upon us from God, we are not wanting for anything really. We have fine homes to live in, nice cars to drive, and food in our stomachs but most importantly the Freedom to work and earn any of these things. Let us not forget the "Dependence" we have on our Heavenly Father. Through Christ, who strengthens me, I can do all things, and because of His blessings I have everything I own.

A very distinct warning exists for those who forget where they came from (vs10-20). Our season of prosperity is not our own but comes from God. We owe, as scripture teaches, everything to the God who loves us in spite of ourselves. We are so underserving of His blessings yet He keeps pouring them out upon us. Be aware those days could come to an end as verse 20 plainly spells out.

So this July 4<sup>th</sup> season, take a moment and look back at all God has brought you through. Take the time to share this with your children, family, friends and your life group. Let us not forget from where our strength and power comes. Keep God first in our lives so that we may continue to be a blessed nation under God trusting in Him alone.



Max Garrett

## PRAYER MEETING

Lets put some action to making America Great by coming together as a part of the River Valley and praying at the Community Prayer meeting on Monday, July 10th from 7-8 pm at Sunnyside Assembly of God located between Van Buren and Alma.

## AUDIO/VISUAL MINISTRY

Looking for volunteers interested in the audio/visual ministry. Ages 15 and up, even married couples can volunteer together. It's a great service for our church, and if you think this might be for you please see Fred and Michelle in the sound booth this Sunday.

## CELEBRATING OUR INDEPENDENCE

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## JOY SEEKERS

Ladies, join us for lunch (Dutch treat) this Friday, July 7th at Weiderkehr's. We will meet at 10 am on the West side of the church and carpool to Altus, Arkansas. For questions, contact Alta Poppe at 471-1780 or Vesta Everitt at 471-5476.

## LEADERS' LUNCHEON

All Life Group and Sunday School leaders, please join us this Sunday, July 9th at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for lunch. Topics for discussion include new ministry opportunities, new studies, and helpful tips for leaders. Hope to see everyone there!

## WRITING MINISTRY

*Expressions'* will meet this Thursday, July 6th 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.*

## HERITAGE RIDERS

We have a ride this Saturday, July 8th. We will leave the church at 7:30 am going to Oark General Store for breakfast and fellowship. If everyone is up to it and the weather allows we may go back home the long route. For more information, contact Max Garrett at 414-7757.