

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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Heritage
 Happenings

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MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Ushers

8:05 am
 Myron Kirksey
 Scott Treece
 Mike McSpadden
 Mike Kneeland

9:30 am
 John Symonds
 Merle Katz
 Tom Konert
 Carol Ray

11:00 am
 Roger Burkett
 Jon Harper
 Matt Harper
 David Harper

Acolytes

2/4 - Hayden Fontaine
 Devin Franklin
 2/11 - Abby Shepherd
 Keila Tichenor
 2/18 - Judah Martin
 Matthew Carter
 2/25 - Annabelle Lovett
 Maggie Adair



In Hospital:

At Home:

**Jennell Dove, James Minor, Mitch Osburn,
 Maurice Sagely, Dorinda Stewart, Bill
 Thomas, Connie Warren**

Assisted Living:

**Shirley Bromley (Methodist)
 Steve Burns (Fianna Hills NH)**

**Mary Coble (Crawford H&R)
 Mary Dempsey (Valley Springs)
 Lavita Middleton (Sebastian County Retirement Center)
 Paul Nash (Crawford H&R)
 Doris Ricks (Brownwood Manor)
 Warren Taylor (Methodist)
 Therese Zolk (Valley Springs H&R)**



March 30
 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 14
 ONE SERVE

April 27-28
 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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

FROM YOUR LEAD PASTOR'S HEART ... CALLING AN ESTHER FAST ...

I am inviting you to join me on a three day Esther Fast from after lunch on Thursday until lunch time on Sunday. When Esther's people were threatened with annihilation she called for a three day fast. Haman, the second in command of the Persian empire got the king to sign a decree allowing him to murder and plunder a "certain people" in the empire who did not follow the Persian customs and religious laws. The king did not know Haman was talking about the people of God, the Jewish people. Nor did he know that his queen, Esther, was Jewish.

The Bible calls Haman "the adversary and enemy ... wicked." He is a picture of the ruler of this world, our adversary, the devil. Before Esther approached the king to plead for the life of her people, she called upon the people of God to fast and pray as she and her friends did. The laws of that kingdom declared that anyone who approached the king uninvited would be executed unless the king extended his scepter to that person. Esther was so determined, she said, "I will go to the king ... If I perish, I perish!"

As we'll see in this week's study of Esther, the king could not cancel the law, but he made a new law allowing the people of God to take action, defend themselves, and go after their persecutors.

The children, youth, and young adults of our nation have a **decree of death** written against them. The adversary and his minions are working to steal their faith, hope, love, and joy. He wants to kill and destroy them (see John 10:10). Esther stopped to fast and pray and go to her king for the LIFE of her people. I ask you to join me **from Thursday noon until Sunday noon in fasting, seeking the King's presence and pleading for the life of your people ...** and this generation in our nation.

May we then be prepared to take up "the weapons of our warfare [which] are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for tearing down strongholds. We tear down arguments ⁵ and every arrogant obstacle that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to make it obey Christ." 2 Corinthians 10: 4-5 NET

Let us not be passive, but let us actively and forcefully lay hold of the keys of the Kingdom and advance the LORD's purposes for the sake of our children, grandchildren and the young people of our nation!

I am earnestly contenting along side you for the faith once delivered! Jude 20



Pastor Wes

P.S. I am taking off Mondays instead of Fridays now. From Sunday evening until Tuesday morning, I am turning off my phone and computer. Bless you!

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

In honor of the **HILTRAUD JAMES' BIRTHDAY** by:

Bill and Debbie Thomas (YM)

In memory of **BEVERLY WORTHAM** (daughter-in-law of Doris Wortham and sister-in-law of Diana Peer) by: Charles and Nina Sullivan (FP)

YM-Youth Ministry FP-Food Pantry

SAVE THE DATE

Join us Saturday, April 14th, as we partner with area churches for our first ever *Community Serve Day!* Details coming soon!

EMMAUS WALKS

If you are interested in any of the upcoming Emmaus Walks or want more information, please contact the church office at 474-6424 or Bonnie Sher at (816) 665-3323.

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR AT HERITAGE!

The LORD has done some amazing things through Heritage in 2017.

- 35 Baptisms
- Established River Valley Campus of College of Prayer
- Provided food to over 11,000 hungry people
- Provided clothing to over 1200 families
- Provided Christmas gifts to foster children
- Hired an Associate Pastor for Outreach
- Hired new Worship Arts Pastor
- Purchased 4 acre Edwards Place to prepare for building
- Completed survey of 32 acre campus
- Raised our building fund to over \$600,000

None of this would have been possible without your faithful giving of your time and your finances. Over 380 members of our congregation served our community through missions and ministries. We spent over \$258k in benevolence, outreach, and missionary support and over \$125k for children, youth, and adult ministry. Our total ministry expenses were well over \$320k and our operating expenses were \$212k. Our total financial impact on the local economy exceeds \$1.5 mil.

The Lord made a huge impact on the world through Heritage last year. I have no doubt that His plans for 2018 are even greater! What will your role be?



Thanks again!
Roger Goins
Director of Ministries

NEED A WORD?

The Upper Room is a great source for a daily devotional. The March/April issue is available in the Great Hall. Available in large and small print.

PRAYER SHIELD TEAM

If you'd like to be on the Prayer Shield Team and pray for Pastor Wes and his family monthly, please email Stephanie Glenn at 3stephglenn@gmail.com

BAPTISM SUNDAY

If you are interested in being baptized at church Sunday, March 11th, please contact the church office at 474-6424.

HERITAGE SOFTBALL

If you are interested in playing men's softball or co-ed softball this coming Spring, contact Mike Kneeland at 719-9274.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We desperately need volunteers in several areas: stock and bag food, strong bodies to unload trucks of food and serve customers. For more information and times needed, contact Roger Burkert at 462-3392.

BOOKS NEEDED

Wanted for the Crawford County Jail men's unit: **PAPER BACK BOOKS**. The volunteer librarian at the men's unit is in need especially of novels and westerns for the men. Please leave them at the church office.

ONCE UPON A PROM DRESS GIVEAWAY

Prom dresses will be given away free of charge Saturday, March 10th from 12-4 pm at Heritage in the Children's Wing. This is for all girls ages 14-19 who have difficulty affording one. For more information or to volunteer, text Kim Tursky at 479-208-0063.

JOY SEEKERS

Ladies, join us at 10:45 am this Friday, March 2nd in the church parking lot. We will go eat lunch (Dutch treat) at Patrick's in Fort Smith and then we will tour the John Bell Exhibit at the Regional Art Museum on Rogers.

BIRTHDAY LIST

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Children's Camp for children entering grades 3-5 is July 22-24 at Pinecrest in Ozone, Arkansas.

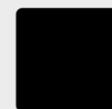
PRAYER MEETING

The River Valley Community Prayer meeting is Monday, March 5th from 7-8 pm at North Point Church in Fort Smith.

PLAY STOP REWIND



PLAY



STOP



REWIND

When I wake up each morning I have one goal in mind ("screech" sound) ...I will get back to this in a moment. When I was young, I remember getting my first Record Player/Tape Player. I used to spin the same records over and over again. I couldn't get enough of the *Stand By Me* or *Footloose* albums. Play...stop...replace the needle...play...and the process would continue. The same was true with a couple of my cassette tapes. Over and over again, I would play the same few songs. We often used to (and probably still do today) buy an album for a specific song or two. It became what I wanted to listen to every day. Until the record was scratched or the tape gave way. Play...stop...rewind...

As I think about that behavior, I remember the phrase that many of us have heard or even still use: "You sound like a broken record." You know, that moment when the LP would get stuck in one place and would repeat the area of the song over and over again? It may seem like to you that life is a lot like a broken record. Play, stop and rewind. Things you do and hear may often be the same things over and over again.

May I remind you that God is a repeater. He continued to speak similar messages to His people throughout scripture over and over again; whether it was that Jesus is the only way, followers are obedience to His Word, be faithful to go where He leads, remembering what He has done, etc. God repeats so that we can catch it. Throughout the Old Testament, the Israelites needed to hear the same thing repeated and so do we today. It is because we are human, sinful and distracted beings. We need to hear things over and over again. However, repetition doesn't have to be boring. It can be as exciting and fresh as those old days spinning the same song over and over again.

Lamentations 3:22-23 says, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." It also says in Psalm 19:7-8 that His Word is refreshing to my soul and gives my heart joy. Though we press play, stop and rewind daily, maybe even hourly, God has new things for us; new thoughts about who we are; new Names about who He is; new ways to worship Him; new plans for you to walk in; new places for you to go; He desires to make all things new. Do you give Him the opportunity to do so in your life? Have you TRULY tasted and seen that the Lord is good?! Do you even press play?

When I wake up each morning, I have one goal in mind: to experience the manifest presence of Christ. I want to encounter Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in a very real way. I want Jesus to be present with me in all things; that Jesus would show up in every quiet time I have with Him, in every conversation I have with others and in everything I do. Routine is good. It is good for all of us. It keeps us focused on the most important thing in our day: Jesus! We have a great opportunity before us! By maintaining a regular routine with God, we can encounter the Lord in new and exciting ways every day. Are you willing? This is the question we must ask of ourselves. It is not a



question of time, feelings, ability, etc. It is a question of our willingness to sit in the presence of the King of Everything! Join me this week and hit PLAY!

Brian Seewald,
Youth and Family Pastor

SAVE THE DATE: ROOTED!

The Heritage Rubies Women's Confernece is scheidunged for April 27-28! Register today in the office.

ALTAR PRAYER TEAM

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

FROM THE BLANKET TEAM

The blanket team very much appreciates all the donations of fabric, old jeans and shirts and toiletries to help them make blankets given out to local needs. We even received a brand new sewing machine! Those of us making the blankets bring our own supplies but it would be so helpful to have some to leave in our room and not cart back and forth from home. So that brings us to our latest request. If you have some of these you no longer use or know someone who does we would be so excited to have them: cutting mats (preferable 36x24 but smaller sizes good also), rotary cutters and/or blades, cutting ruler guides, Sue Weege will be happy to pick them up from you (474-8627) or leave in the church office.