

# HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



## Weekly News & Updates

December 19, 2024 | Volume 38, Issue 50



### FROM YOUR PASTOR'S HEART . . . LOVE and LIGHT!

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life."* **John 3:16**

This is a perfect summary of the Christmas story. Sunday, we light the Advent candle of LOVE and recall what this is all about – GOD LOVES US and wants a personal love relationship with each one of us. In order to have that, Jesus willingly gave His own life so that we could be set free from our curse of sin and death and be adopted as the Father's sons and daughters. Ours is truly a love story!

On Christmas Eve we ignite the Christ Candle. It reminds us that Jesus Christ is the LIGHT of the world! In Him was the LIGHT and the darkness could not overcome it! It is a story of the triumph of God's kingdom of LIGHT over the kingdom of darkness. Let us celebrate, in awe, His LOVE and LIGHT this Christmas! Our Christmas Eve services are at 4 and 6 p.m. The first service is normally at overflow capacity, and we encourage those who can to consider attending the 6 p.m. service. The services are identical.

Sunday, December 29th, Brian Seewald and I will tag-team a message we are calling, "A New and Glorious Morn" in keeping with our "Weary World Rejoices" theme. Our subtitle is "Nurturing Your New Life in the New Year." We will baptize at least one new believer and give some practical suggestions on how you can prioritize your spiritual life and BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS in 2025. It is time to get serious about the WORD OF GOD! Have you read through the Bible yet, cover to

cover? Why not do it this year?! We will give you some great resources to help jump start your walk with Jesus in 2025 and beyond. Let's do this, brothers and sisters. It is time! It's time for you to become a real disciple of Jesus who makes disciples.

Finally, we return to our series on the Gospel of Mark—THE BEST NEWS EVER! On January 5th, we pick back up with Mark 8.

The church offices will not officially be open from December 24th-January 3rd. You may leave messages, which will be forwarded to the staff, at 479-474-6424. See Bobby Boyakin's article below about contacting him for year-end giving. Your generosity this year has been absolutely amazing! Thank you, Jesus, for the faithfulness of Your Heritage Church family! We are still believing the LORD to see our new kitchen fully funded by the end of 2024.

So thankful for YOU! I believe it is THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER!

Wes

[whilliard@heritage.church](mailto:whilliard@heritage.church)

## Upcoming Opportunities and Announcements

### **What a Joy!**

What a joy to have Arrows International Dance Company with us Sunday for Christmas Card to the Community and to have its founder and director, Jeff Lewis bring the message on Sunday morning. Jeff and Natalie Lewis and Arrows will return to Heritage for Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. They head to Brazil for ministry in mid-January. Below is Jeff's bio. If you would like to support Arrows International Ministry, you may do so by giving through their website at [Arrows International](#) or mail it to P.O. Box 30101, Edmond, OK 73003.



Jeff Lewis is an ordained minister who uses his professional dance background for the glory of God. He is a choreographer, master instructor and dancer who has choreographed and performed in television, commercial work, and over 20 musicals, as well as in several professional dance companies worldwide in both religious and non-religious settings. His passionate and informed preaching and teaching have made him a sought-after voice in the Christian community, leading to ministry engagements at churches, conferences, and events in countries including Russia, Rome, Israel, Canada, the Dominican Republic, England, China, India, and across Central America. Jeff has worked as a choreographer and performer at the Feast of Tabernacles in Israel with the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. He has held leadership roles, taught workshops and produced events with the global Christian organizations of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), International Christian Dance Fellowship, Dance Revolution Conventions, Eagles International Training Institute, and Project Dance. Jeff also worked for 5 years as the choreographer for The Promise in Glen Rose, Texas, a full-scale production dramatizing the story of Jesus. With his wife, he is the founder and artistic director of Arrows International, a full time training program and dance company based in Oklahoma.

Arrows International is a ministry dedicated to developing latter day Levites: Christian artists who worship in spirit and truth. As ordained pastors, teachers and master choreographers, Jeff and Natalie are known world-wide to be passionate apostolic ministers of the Gospel! Their unique combination of extensive training in theology and

ministry, professional dance expertise and experiential spiritual insight has opened doors for them to speak, teach, choreograph, and minister throughout the USA and many other nations. Jeff and Natalie's stories, both individually and as a couple, are packed full of rich testimonies that they joyfully share to encourage and inspire people all around the world!

---

## Holiday Schedule

**Tuesday, December 24th** at 4 and 6 pm, we will have our **Candlelight, Carols and Communion services for Christmas Eve**. Each service will be identical and is designed to be about one hour. Come receive His Light as we gather around the manger, yet again, in wonder and awe at the beauty of Christ. Come and behold Him. Come and receive Him.

With the upcoming holidays, many activities have been cancelled or rescheduled. Please be sure to check the church calendar. *\*The church will be closed December 25th - 27th and 30th - 3rd.* If you need to contact the church, call the church office and leave a message with the answering machine and someone will return your call.

Our regular Wednesday night activities will resume January 15th.

*\*Please note that we will not be sending out a church newsletter for the next two weeks.*

If you would you like to receive texts about upcoming events, classes, and updates, especially over the holidays and you haven't already signed up, click the button below to provide your mobile phone number so that we can add you to our text message list! When you receive your text, **reply YES to complete the sign-up**.

[CLICK HERE](#)



### Year-End Giving

It's hard to believe we've come to the end of another year. A lot has happened in 2024, and you all have been a blessing through all of it. The Lord is faithful, and we're looking forward to finishing the year strong!

The office will be closed December 24 - 27 and December 30 - January 3. I will be available if you have any questions about year-end giving or if you would like to drop off a contribution. I can be reached at 479-831-5019 or by email at [bboyakin@heritage.church](mailto:bboyakin@heritage.church). Online giving is available through the church website ([heritage.church](http://heritage.church)), the Realm app, or by texting HERITAGEVB to 73256.

Thank you for your faithful giving. Heritage couldn't be the church God created it to be without you! Have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

*Bobby*

[bboyakin@heritage.church](mailto:bboyakin@heritage.church)

---



## A Huge Thank You

We are so grateful to Debbie Scott for keeping our Poinsettias looking great this Advent season. Also thank you to so many of you for keeping us fed with all the wonderful goodies.

---



## Parents with Toddlers to Teenagers

Make plans to be here on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:45-7:30PM! Dr. Robin Finley will be making a presentation that I strongly believe every parent in our age needs to hear. She will talk about how to navigate parenting in the digital age with scripture weaved throughout- covering things like brain development, the 4 most dangerous apps, sextortion, screen time, and much more. We will have children & youth ministry that evening and we will provide dinner for you! This is **no cost** to you, but it would be helpful if you would let me know if you're coming so we can plan food. I know this information will be **invaluable** to you and you won't want to miss this.



Dr. Robin Finley has been an educator in Arkansas for 36 years. She has been a teacher, coach, athletic director, counselor, district administrator, adjunct professor, and digital learning coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Education. She travels around the state sharing about this topic with school districts, churches, and city leaders.

*Madison*

[msimmons@heritage.church](mailto:msimmons@heritage.church)

---

## Women of Heritage – Save the Date!

We hope you'll join us for a free brunch on **Saturday, January 18, 10 am-12 pm**, in the New Room. Open to women of all ages and stages of your walk with the Lord. We'll enjoy a morning of fellowship, devotion and prayer. For more information, contact Shawna Seewald, [sseewald@heritage.church](mailto:sseewald@heritage.church) or Rebekah Hutton, [rhutton@heritage.church](mailto:rhutton@heritage.church).

---

## Need a Last Minute Christmas Gift Idea?

We still have Heritage hoodies, crew neck sweatshirts, t-shirts and hats available for sale in various sizes. Check-out the table in the Great Hall this Sunday!

---



## Passing the Torch

After 20 wonderful years at Heritage, I am officially stepping down from my position at Heritage. I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside such an incredible team and witness the amazing work God has done and continues to do here. Heritage will always hold a special place in my heart, and I'm excited to see what God has in store for this church in the years ahead.

With that being said, be sure to stop by the office sometime and give a warm

welcome to Rebekah Hutton. She will be handling most of the publishing for the church.

God Bless!  
Kathy Goins



---

## Clothes Closet Needs

We are in need of men's pants and warm ups of all sizes, coats of all sizes and shirts (small and medium). You can drop them off in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

---



## Back to Colorado, we go!

Mark your calendar and get your students signed up for Spring Break 2025. The dates are March 22-28. We will be skiing at Purgatory Resort and it will be an amazing trip that your student does not want to miss.



The trip is available for all students in 8th-12th grade. I have passed out registration forms. If you have not received this from your student, please contact me!

Jake  
[jsimmons@heritage.church](mailto:jsimmons@heritage.church)

## Great Opportunity for Teen and Young Adults

On January 19th we will be starting a class for youth exploring worship and how it extends beyond our praise at church. We will be growing deeper in our understanding of our Creator, Biblical worship, and how worship is meant for everyone, not just those with musical abilities! We will be meeting at 4 on Sunday afternoons and would love to have teens and young adults attend! If you have any questions please reach out to Haley at [crutcherh12@gmail.com](mailto:crutcherh12@gmail.com) or catch me after services on Sunday morning!

Jake

## This Week at Heritage and Prayer Concerns

### **Sunday, December 22**

Prayer Time, 8 am  
Traditional Service, 9 am  
Children's Ministry, 9 am  
Growth Groups (SS Classes), 9 am  
Contemporary Service, 10:30 am  
Children's Ministry, 10:30 am  
Growth Groups (Adult SS), 10:30 am  
Children's Ministry, 10:30 am  
Inside Out, 4 pm

### **Monday, December 23**

Food Pantry, 9:30 am

### **In the Hospital:**

Paul Vinsant (QLI Rehab - Omaha, NE)

### **At Home:**

Staci Aikman  
Mary Dempsey  
Patsy Ellison  
Tom Fite  
Todd Gunnells (son-in-law of Gary and Shelly Mullen)  
Paul and Ashley Hamilton (father and sister of Matthew Hamilton)  
Johnie Ruth Hammontree  
Jerry Hunter

**Tuesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Service, 4 pm  
Christmas Eve Service, 6 pm

**Wednesday, December 25**

Christmas Day  
Office Closed

**Thursday, December 26**

Office Closed

**Friday, December 27**

Office Closed

**Saturday, December 28**

Outreach at The Current (*So. Campus*), 8:30 am

[Click here](#) to support the ministry of Heritage Church.

You can also give through the Realm app or by texting **HERITAGEVB** to **73256** or by scanning the QR code.



Betty James

Clifton James (*son of Charlie and Betty James*)

Mary Beth Keller

Jean May

Wayne Minnick

Scott Neal

Jerry Pittman

Michael Pitts

Rodney Roberson

Rick Scott

Sandy Thompson

Sue Sweedan (*sister of Betty James*)

**Assisted Living:**

Mary Coble (*Blossoms*)

Norma Day (*Methodist Village*)

Joyce Greig (*Alma H&R*)

Mary Nash (*Legacy Heights Memory Lane*)

Vi Pettit (*Methodist Village*)

Jeremiah Smith (*Legacy FS*)

**In Sympathy:**

Tom Fite and family in the death of his sister, ***Beverly Jagers***.

Have a prayer request? Email it to: [prayerchain@heritage.church](mailto:prayerchain@heritage.church)

HERITAGE CHURCH | 479.474.6424  
[heritage.church](http://heritage.church)



Heritage Church | 1604 E. Pointer Trail | Van Buren, AR 72956 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!