

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



Weekly News & Updates

November 27, 2024 | Volume 38, Issue 47



FROM YOUR PASTOR'S HEART . . . Let the Weary World REJOICE!

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

*"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, **in hope** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:19-21)*

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week, we also transition on Sunday to Advent – the season where we celebrate the coming of the LORD Jesus! Our message series for this Advent season is **The Weary World Rejoices!** Each Sunday we will have a message based on a theme from the Christmas Carol, "O Holy Night." The French poet Placide Cappeau composed the song more than 175 years ago, and the world is still weary today. The world is weary from war and protests about the Middle East, from radical Islamic terrorism, from the incivility of political elections not just in the U.S. but in many nations, from rampant inflation, and lingering effects of COVID-19, etc. . . . The world is weary from loss. The world is weary from natural disasters and broken families and failed plans. The world is weary from the effects of sin in this life.

And as the world carries the weariness of this season, everyone is looking somewhere for **hope**. Everyone is searching for light in the darkness. Everyone is looking for a reason to **rejoice**, an opportunity to lay aside the weariness.

Perhaps this Advent season you find yourself feeling depleted in ways you had never experienced before, and yet there is still **the thrill of hope** that was born on that holy night over 2,000 years ago. On that holy night, there was **a thrill of hope** despite the world's weariness. The Christ child was born into a weary world—not a perfect, satisfied, or content world. God wasn't waiting for the

world to get over its weariness before He offered a **thrill of hope** because the world wouldn't be able to get over its weariness without the thrill of hope He offered.

It's that same **thrill of hope** that gives us, in the weary world today, reason to rejoice. Ultimately, we have hope, because God offers us His Son -- a hope that remains even as we experience suffering and hardship. Yes, we feel the weariness of the world, but at the same time, we can hold to the hope that we have in Christ—the hope of a **new and glorious morn**. The hope that we have in Christ comes from the promise that the world won't always be weary, that Christ will make all things new, and that all who put their faith in Him will one day experience wholeness and union with God. So our hope is not dependent on the circumstances that we experience but on the Messiah who was born. What a thrill of hope ... and a reason to rejoice and give thanks!

May your week be blessed with His Presence! See you Sunday!

Wes

*Portions adapted from an article by Marissa Postell, Insights, Faith and Culture, 2021.

Upcoming Opportunities and Announcements

Holiday Schedule

With the upcoming holidays, many activities have been cancelled or rescheduled. Please be sure to check the church calendar. **The church will be closed November 27-29.* Our regular Wednesday night activities will resume December 4th.



Heritage Christmas Angels

It's that time of year when we love to bless some of the children in our area schools! Please consider purchasing a gift card (Walmart, Target, Visa, etc.) and return it to the church **by next Monday, December 2nd**. If you feel the need to purchase something extra to go with the gift card, the children are always in need of blankets/sleeping bags. For more information, contact the church office or Debbie Thomas at 651- 0810.



Heritage Christmas Decorating Party

Thank you to everyone that came out to help decorate the church for the holiday season! It looks AWESOME!!

Caleb

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Advent Reading Plan

Be sure and pick up the Advent Daily Reading Plan in the Great Hall or [CLICK HERE](#) to download from our website.

The Weary World Rejoices - Daily Devotions for Advent



Devotional books for Advent are available for free in the Great Hall. Please limit one per family or single adult. If you need an extra copy, the cost is \$5. An audible version is available on Amazon following this [LINK](#).

The CALL: Serve for a season

Think about all of the ways you have spent time this year: sporting events, yard work, Netflix marathons, vacation, etc. What if you dedicated one single day to serving children and families impacted by foster care? Here are a few ways you can serve for a season



Spend a day in prayer for foster and adoptive families



Provide Respite Care for a foster family for up to two weeks



Help the church when we host a Kid's Night Out for children in foster families



Open your home up for emergency care



Make freezer meals for foster and adoptive families



Participate in a service project at The CALL Support Center (organizing, cleaning, yard work, etc.)



Even if you can't open your home to foster children there are soo many ways you can help!

As followers of Christ, we're called to care for orphans and widows! James 1:27 says "religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Madison

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Christmas Card to the Community

Come and enjoy an evening with a live orchestra, dancers, Christmas characters and some of the greatest Christmas Classics of all time.

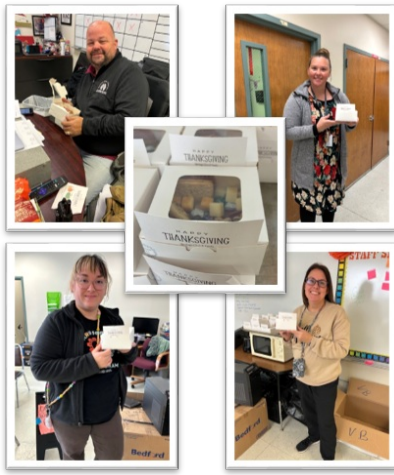
This is a free event at the Van Buren Fine Arts Center Sunday, December 15 at 6 pm.



Can We Text You?

Would you like to receive texts about upcoming events, classes , and updates? If you are interested in receiving text messages from time to time from the church about upcoming events or reminders and 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](#)



THANK YOU SO MUCH for loving on us, feeding our bellies, and always taking care of us!

from the Staff at Thicksten Center for Learning

Andrea Harris, Kasey Loyd, Jeff Warden, Aaron Cobb, Logan Osman, Jennifer Warden, Candice Daniels, Mike King, Dalton Stancil, Bailey Whitesis, Faith Nieting, Roger Goins, Kelsea Caldwell, Casey Stamps, Kaitlynn Sandine, Cheryl Brown, Josie Miranda, Stephanie Jones, Camela Walters, and Michael Bailey

This Week at Heritage and Prayer Concerns

Sunday, December 1

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
 Boy Scout - Troup Election, 2 pm
 TT Teachers' Meeting, 4:30 pm
 FISH (*gr 4-5*), 5:45 pm
 Children's Ministry (*infant - gr 3*), 5:45 pm
 Youth (*gr 6-12*), 5:45 pm
 Inside Out, 5:45 pm
 Gospel of Mark, 6 pm
 Off the Grid, 6 pm

Monday, December 2

Food Pantry/Clothes Closet, 9:30 am
 Ladies' Bible Study, 10 am
 Girl Scout - Leaders' Meeting, 6 pm
 Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 3

Band of Brothers, 6:15 am
 Preschool, 9 am
 Blanket Team, 9:30 am
 Staff Prayer/Meeting, 9:30 am
 Keep Moving Exercise Class
 Girl Scout Troop, 6 pm
 Adonai Tsuru-Cowboy Church, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 4

Community Bible Study, 9 am
 Prayer Team, 10:30 am
 Communion/Healing Prayer, 12 pm
 Community Meal, 4:30 pm
 Handbells, 5:30 pm
 Timothy Team, 5:45 pm
 Youth Bible Study, 5:45 pm
 Adult Bible Study, 6 pm
 Sanctuary Choir/Christmas , 6:30 pm
 Praise Team, 7:30 pm

In the Hospital:

Paul Vinsant (*QLI Rehab - Omaha, NE*)

At Home:

Mary Dempsey
 Patsy Ellison
 Tom Fite (*Encompass*)
 Serenity Franklin
 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
 Betty James
 Clifton James (*son of Charlie and Betty James*)
 Mary Beth Keller
 Kay Lockwood
 Jean May
 Wayne Minnick (*Encompass*)
 Shelly Mullen
 Scott Neal
 Jerry Pittman
 Michael Pitts
 Rodney Roberson (*Mercy H&R*)
 Rick Scott
 Jacob Smith
 Jonah Smith
 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:

Brian Curd and family in the death of his step-father, **Paul Qualls**.

Memorial:

In memory of **Marvin Mendenhall** given by:

Thursday, December 5

Preschool, 9 am
Seniors Growing with Christ, 10 am
Keep Moving Exercise Class, 11:30 am
Food Pantry/Clothes Closet, 4 pm

Friday, December 6

Office Closed

Saturday, December 7

Outreach at The Current (*So. Campus*), 8:30 am
Outreach (*Midland Heights*), 11 am

Have a prayer request? Email it to: prayerchain@heritage.church

[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.



Roger and Gina Burkert

Praises:



The infant son of Rafael and Valerie Jamie-Gonzales, ***Elohim Antonio Jaime-Gonzales*** was baptized Sunday. They have another son, Michael.

Don and Lisa Sparks joined Sunday.



Ray and Tammy Belk and their dog, Red joined Sunday.

Dennis and LaTricia Westfall joined Sunday and Dennis was baptized.



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