

HPC Good News

“So don’t throw away your confidence—it brings a great reward. You need to endure so that you can receive the promises after you do God’s will. In a little while longer, the one who is coming will come and won’t delay; but my righteous one will live by faith, and my whole being won’t be pleased with anyone who shrinks back. But we aren’t the sort of people who timidly draw back and end up being destroyed. We’re the sort of people who have faith so that our whole beings are preserved. Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don’t see.” Hebrews 10:35-11:1

Dear HPC Family,

This has truly been a year of changes and much transition in the life of Heritage Presbyterian Church. On July 28, 2024, I began my time here as your Designated Pastor. These past 6 months have been such a gift and a blessing as I have gotten to know you and discovered the nuts and bolts of the HPC culture and community. My days have been full of observing, learning, and working alongside you as we seek to further God’s mission for this church and our surrounding community.

As Moderator of our Session, I try to remind our leaders on a regular basis that this faith community is still navigating many shifts and changes. While change is good, it can also bring about a certain degree of anxiety and confusion to any organization. Questions abound as we try to make good decisions to prepare for a future that is not entirely knowable. And yet, I have witnessed a level of overall organizational health here that has equipped you all to do the hard work of walking by faith in the midst of that change. I have no doubt that God is moving in our midst!



As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, I see this time as an opportunity for HPC to build momentum, uniting together as followers of Jesus Christ, discovering new ways to grow in our relationship with God and one another, and inviting people of all ages and walks of life into the amazing things that God is doing here.

Perhaps you might be thinking... “well that all sounds great Pastor Sarah, but what should we DO with that information?”

In partial answer to that question, the PC (U.S.A.) Mission Agency has a Toolkit for Vital Congregations that provides what I have found to be a helpful metric in helping churches discern where they fit through the lens of four stages of the congregational life cycle. From that metric, churches are able to identify where they are located in the cycle, and from that location, focus in on one (or several) marks of congregational vitality. The four stages are as follows:

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February Birthdays

1	Pat O'Kray	17	Kelly Backer
4	Michelle Romans	17	Marc Schnetzer
4	Alan Snyder	19	Cari Manis
8	Kevin Zumkehr	22	Jake Clark
11	Kevin Russell	23	Katie Kinser
13	Scott Porter	24	Nelson Kennedy
14	Roger Rude	28	Mollie Robinson
16	Rick Davis		

Continued Prayers: Judy Andrews, Winston Cochrane, Alan Knobbe, Laurie Knobbe, JoAnne McCaulou, Joe Pestro, Carole Phillips, Al Reeves, Steve Ritz, Merideth Rought, Roger Rude, Randy Stanford, Roni Swihart

This Month at HPC

Sundays:

- ⇒ **9am: Sunday School for all Ages**
 - * **Classes** for K-12th Grade, September – April
 - * **Adult Sunday School**—Sunday Mornings at 9am in Rooms 14/15, September-April. Reading and discussing “*The Heart of Christianity*” by Marcus Borg, led by Jono Sparks-Franklin.
- ⇒ **10:15am: In Person Worship:** also Live-streamed on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HPCMason & YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=hpc+mason
- ⇒ **11:45am: Confirmation Class** in the Youth Room
- ⇒ **5-7pm: Kids of the Kingdom, ‘Tweens, and Legacies Youth Groups**

Adult Bible Study Groups

- ⇒ **Adult Bible Study**—Thursdays at 11am, Fireside Room: Contact: susie.faas@hpcmason.org.
- ⇒ **Grace Circle** — 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm, led by Libby McKean
- ⇒ **Hope Circle** — 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:30am. September through May.



Lunch Bunch, February 3rd!

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, February 3. The meeting will be at 11:30am at the Mason Perkins on OH-741.



Calling All Game Lovers: February 19 Senior Game Day

Senior Game Day continues to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1-3pm in rooms 14/15!! *The February Meeting will be on February 19.* Come out and spend the afternoon playing Dominos, Sequence, Qwirkle and other fun games. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Contact Libby McKean with questions.

Mamas and Papas February 16, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Those with young children will be gathering for lunch together, while church friends care for your little ones, children age 5 and younger (and their siblings). This is a great time for fellowship, food, and conversation for the *Mamas and Papas*, while your children are being cared for. If you would like to attend, or if you can provide loving arms to help with childcare, please contact Susie.faas@hpcmason.org.



Food with Friends: Saturday, February 22

Food with Friends meets from 12-4pm on the last Saturday of each month. An email will be coming with a signup link for February.

Got Talent? Sign Up!!!

Please join us for the Heritage God Talent Fundraiser, February 23rd at 6pm. There will be a Live Talent Show, and Art Gallery, and a Silent Auction. All events are to raise money for the Legacies Summer Mission and Faith Formation Trips! If you have a Talent you would like to showcase or if you would like to have an Art Piece showcased at the Art Gallery, please contact Leah Jacob at cellogoddess76@yahoo.com.

If you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, we are looking for theme baskets, event tickets, trip opportunities or desirable items to auction off. If you have something to offer for a silent auction item, please contact Ben Schnetzer at youth@hpcmason.org.

The Event is open to all on February 23rd at 6pm a Heritage Presbyterian Church.



- Growing churches (vital but not sustainable)
- Thriving churches (vital and sustainable)
- Declining churches (sustainable but not vital)
- Struggling churches (neither sustainable nor vital)

Throughout the course of a church's history, it is not uncommon for it to move from one, two, or three of these cycles at different seasons in the life of the congregation, and HPC is not exempt from this experience.

The big question that we ought to ask during this time of transition is where HPC is located on this metric. My hunch is that the church is somewhere in the redefinition and redevelopment stages of the congregational life cycle, and that is an exciting place to be!

Once we understand where we are on the life cycle, we can begin to focus in on the 7 marks of a vital congregation, celebrating our areas of strength, and identifying the areas where we have an opportunity to grow. According to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the 7 marks of vital congregations are as follows:

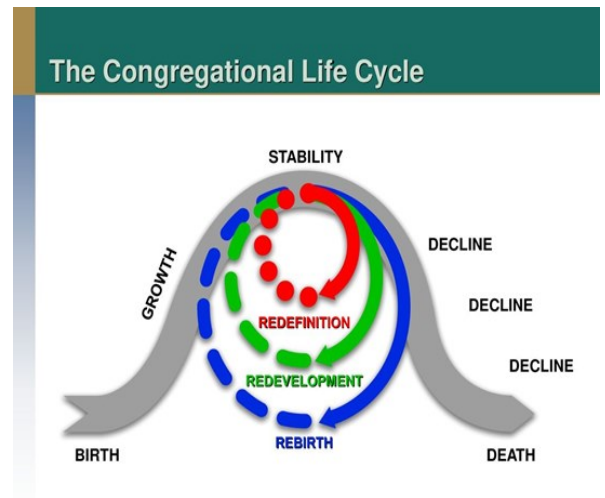
1. Lifelong Discipleship Formation
2. Intentional Authentic Evangelism
3. Outward Incarnational Focus
4. Empowered Servant Leadership
5. Spirit-Inspired Worship
6. Caring Relationships
7. Ecclesial Health

Looking at these 7 marks, where do you see areas that offer an opportunity for HPC to develop, improve, and grow? I'd love to hear your thoughts and perspectives in the upcoming months, especially after the completion of our "Becoming a Matthew 25 Church" sermon series. All 7 of these vital markers fall short if they are not rooted in our commitment to be devoted followers of Jesus Christ, which is the ultimate goal of our denomination's Matthew 25 Initiative.

I know I speak for our leadership team when I say that we are excited and hopeful for all that God has in store for us in the future. I'd like to ask that you pray for our church leaders while they seek God's guidance and direction, continue to navigate change, and begin to discern what's next so that HPC can continue to grow and flourish in the future.

I am so very thankful to be here with you on this part of the journey.

In Christ,
Pastor Sarah





Souper Bowl of Caring: February 9

It is time for our annual SOUPER BOWL of CARING! Each year, we collect canned goods and donations to support a local pantry. NEW THIS YEAR: Our donations this year will go to the Comet Cupboard, through the Mason Schools and to the Community Cupboard which is housed in our own parking lot. This year we are not limited to soup. Feel free to donate canned or boxed pantry supplies that are nutritious and hearty for hungry people. We will again have a competition to collect the most items possible. Last year we collected 1300 cans and \$1850 in monetary donations. What is this year's goal?

Souper Bowl pantry foods are currently being collected in the Atrium bins. Please donate items that are beneficial to the pantry.

YES Foods:

- Hearty soups and stews
- Canned Fruit
- Canned meats/chicken/tuna
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Boxed breakfast foods, potatoes, pasta.

Foods NOT Needed currently:

- Canned veggies (at the present time, we have a big supply)
- Foods in glass containers. (Glass is dangerous in an outside pantry)
- "Unique" food (would **your** family eat multiple cans of sardines)
- Multiple boxes of Jello (again, how many boxes of Jello do you use daily in your family?)

Let's feed the hungry in healthy ways!

It is Time to Order 'Tween Chili!

To raise donations for the SouperBowl of Caring, our 'Tweens will be making their famous homemade chili that you can enjoy during the big game. Your 'Tween Chili package includes 2 containers of 'Tween Chili, a loaf of homemade cornbread, and home delivery on Saturday, February 8th. Click on the link <https://bit.ly/TweenChili2025> to place your order. A freewill donation of \$20 is suggested. If you prefer to pick your chili up at church, it will be available on Saturday, February 8 between Noon and 2 pm, and on Sunday, February 9 after worship.



February Stewardship Focus:

"Love the Lord Your God with All Your Heart" — Stewardship of the Heart



- **Focus:** Cultivating a heart of gratitude and generosity.
- **Message:** Explore the biblical concept of loving God with all your heart (Deuteronomy 6:5). Discuss how this translates to stewarding our emotions, time, and spiritual gifts in service to God and others.
- **Action Steps:**
 - ◇ Start a gratitude journal.
 - ◇ Identify and nurture your spiritual gifts.
 - ◇ Volunteer for a church ministry that aligns with your passions.

Children's & Youth Ministry News



Kids of the Kingdom, 'Tweens and Legacies

Our weekly Children's & Youth fellowship groups meet Sunday evenings from 5-7pm.

Come and join us for fun, fellowship, and food, as together we discover new ways to love God and serve our neighbor. Each Sunday we spend time playing games, learning about Jesus, working on mission projects, and sharing a meal together. All are welcomed at Kids of the Kingdom, 'Tweens and Legacies. This is a great opportunity to invite friends! Contact Susie Faas (Kids of the Kingdom & 'Tweens) at susie.faas@hpcmason.org, or Ben Schnetzer (Legacies) at youth@hpcmason.org for more information.

Kids of the Kingdom: Children Kindergarten–3rd Grade

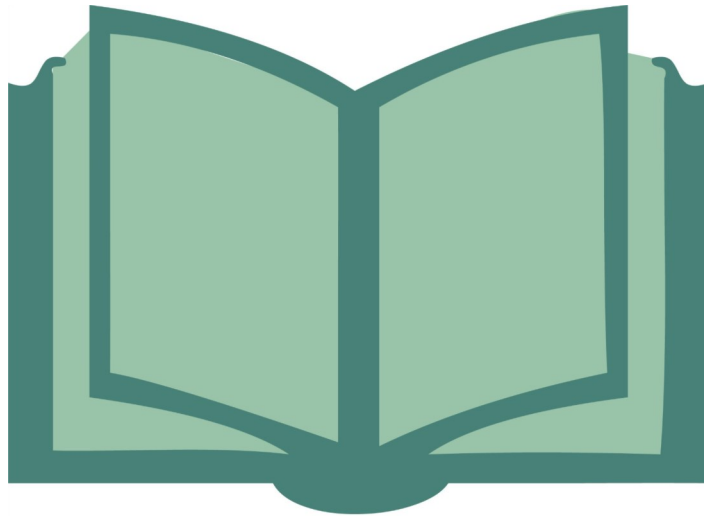
Tweens: Children 4th – 6th Grade

Legacies: Youth 7th – 12th Grade



Kids of the Kingdom & 'Tweens – Save the Date Friday, February 7, 6-9pm

Kids of the Kingdom and 'Tweens in grades 3 – 6, come and join us to make chili, that will be available to the congregation to support the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. Contact susie.faas@hpcmason.org or sherrarddm@hotmail.com to be a part of this fun annual mission project!



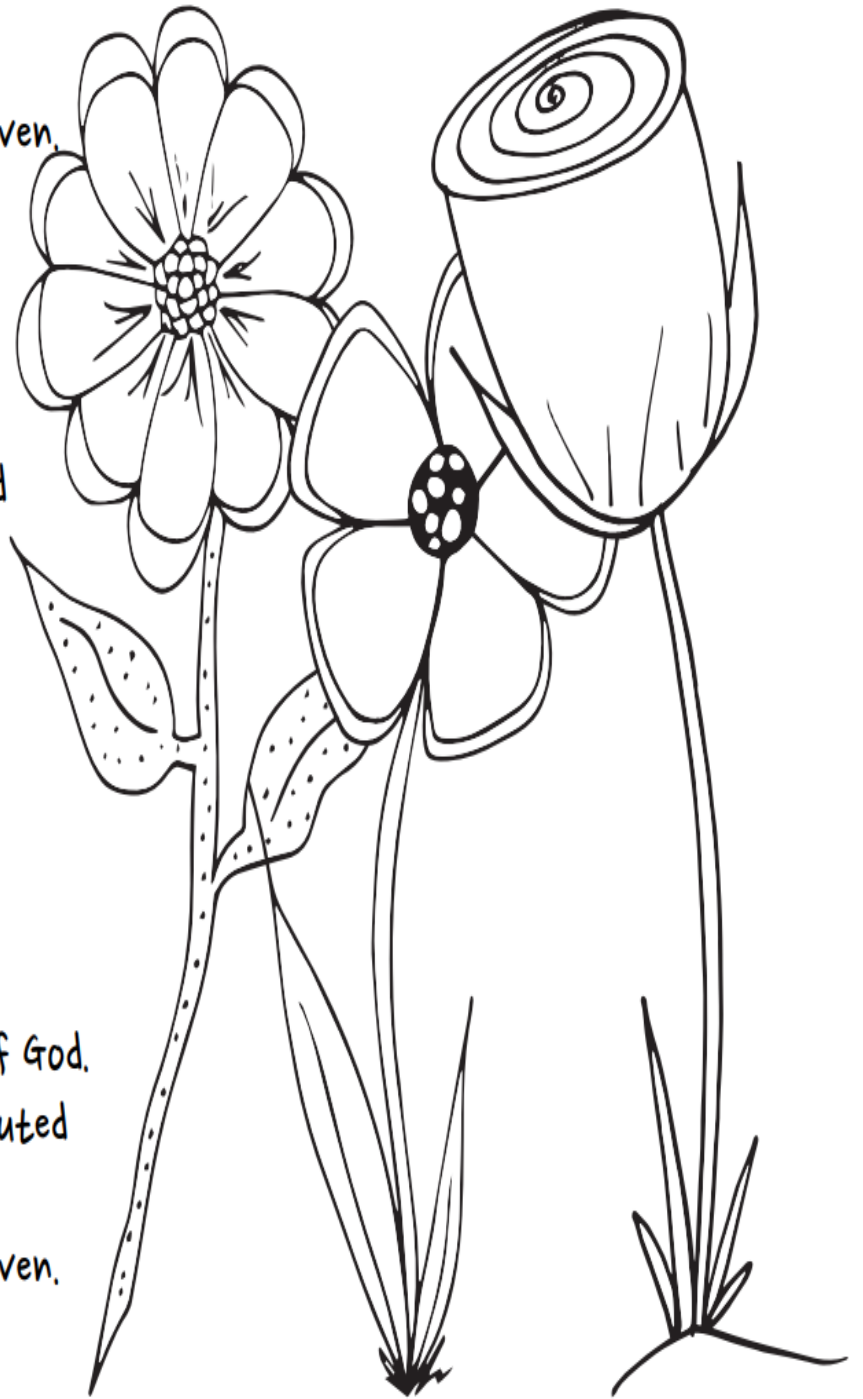
Bedtime Stories

Bedtime Stories with Mrs. Faas

Every Tuesday and Thursday evening, enjoy a bedtime story! Put on your jammies and your slippers and snuggle in bed, click into the Children's Ministry or 'Tweens Facebook pages to enjoy a story. Tuesday evenings you can hear a story from our children's library, and Thursday evenings listen to a Bible story from the "*Growing in God's Love Story Bible*". If you would like a link to the Children's Ministry or 'Tween Facebook pages www.facebook.com/groups/heritagechildrensministries and www.facebook.com/groups/heritagetweens, OR if you do not have a home copy of "*Growing in God's Love Story Bible*" please contact susie.faas@hpcmason.org

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10





Heritage Presbyterian Preschool

Growing God's Children

Personal Tours Available:
Come meet our highly qualified
staff and view our amazing
facility

Church Member and Alumni
Registration **began**
January 13th!

Offering classes for
ages 2.5 to
Kindergarten
Enrichment

Morning and Afternoon Sessions
available



For more information
Visit: heritagepreschoolmason.com
Email: directorHPP@gmail.com

Mission – Points to Ponder

By Roger Rude, Mission chair

At Session's annual planning retreat on January 18, Pastor Sarah presented three points for this year's Elders to ponder about the kind of church we are and where we're going. Following are my views, based on almost 50 years with this church and more than 20 years serving on the mission committee.

What do you think is the core essence of this church that is revealed when the people of HPC are at their best, loving God, their neighbors, and themselves?

For me, it is our commitment to mission, beginning with our founding in the blending of two almost 200 year old rural churches, stuck with limited resources and prospects, who decided to leave their home churches and together create new. Selling the Somerset property on a corner of Fields Ertel and Montgomery Roads for \$1 million, they voted a tithe of \$100,000 for a mission fund as thanks to the Lord for leading us to this new church life.

Heritage used those mission funds for almost 20 years to send mission teams to Katrina, Galveston, Birmingham, and Owego N.Y. natural disasters, to repair a lower level space at Carmel Presbyterian Church for a summer school program, repair the roof at another black church, and finance a health clinic in Ethiopia.

Despite 90% change in membership over the last 33 years, the congregation's commitment to mission has not changed. When we voted to sell our undeveloped acreage, our members again voted that \$100,000 of the proceeds be reserved for mission opportunities.



What is an exemplary story of this church at her best?

For me, our school supplies ministry is the strongest testimony to the generosity of our members and devotion to this program, year after year, for 18 years. This inter-racial partnership with Carmel Presbyterian Church evolved as an outgrowth of our floor repair project there. They told us about a back-to-school event they do in the neighborhood. Our two mission committee people said Heritage might be able to help. We won Session's OK and presented the idea to the congregation at Sunday service. We assembled 250 kits that first year, in spite of the short time frame left. The program has grown year after year. It's our biggest mission in members involved and beneficiaries served. Packing days is a joyous time of high spirits and brotherly love.

It's three years down the road (2028). How does HPC look different from where we are today?

I see the mission committee being larger and hopefully younger with new ideas, energy and vision on how to use the resources available.

Mission Committee Activities: Please see below for some (but not all) of the various mission activities we are involved in. We also invite and welcome members to get involved with the Mission Committee. Please contact any of the Mission Committee members if you want to learn more or offer help unless otherwise stated in the below specific missions.

Mary Haven: A Facility for Troubled Youth

We continue making monthly visits every third Tuesday evening of each month. Please contact Leslie Dauer-Creek at 513-313-4597 if interested in helping or if you want to learn more about this mission.



Sandwich Mission Update: Thursday, January 16, 2025

- ⇒ Sandwiches Delivered: 33,123
- ⇒ Sandwich Tower Height: 253 Stories
- ⇒ Weeks Delivered: 241
- ⇒ HPC Sandwich Missionaries: 48

You Sandwich Missionaries are amazing!

“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.” Matthew 25:35.

“Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:40

Family Promise Mission:

Family Promise Warren County (FPWC) is a wonderful mission that provides needed help to the homeless of our county. Participation in this ministry is a wonderful way to respond to the grace of God, and to do what Jesus Christ is asking us to do.



Hosting for 2025 includes the following dates, each starting on Sundays and lasting a week: February 2-9 March 23—30th; June 1—8; and August 10—17. We are always looking for more trained Hosts. Training occurs on the first Saturday of each month. One class starts at 9am, and the other starts at 1pm. You only need to attend one or the other. Please sign up by letting Nelson Kennedy know when you would like to attend. You can do this by simply telling him in person or sending him a message at 513-470-1279 or nekskier@aol.com .

Heritage Presbyterian Church

6546 S. Mason-Montgomery Road
Mason, Ohio 45040

Address Service Requested



*In-Person and
Streamed Worship
on Facebook & YouTube
at 10:15 Sunday Mornings*



*Scan this QR Code
with your phone's camera
to make a contribution
to HPC!*