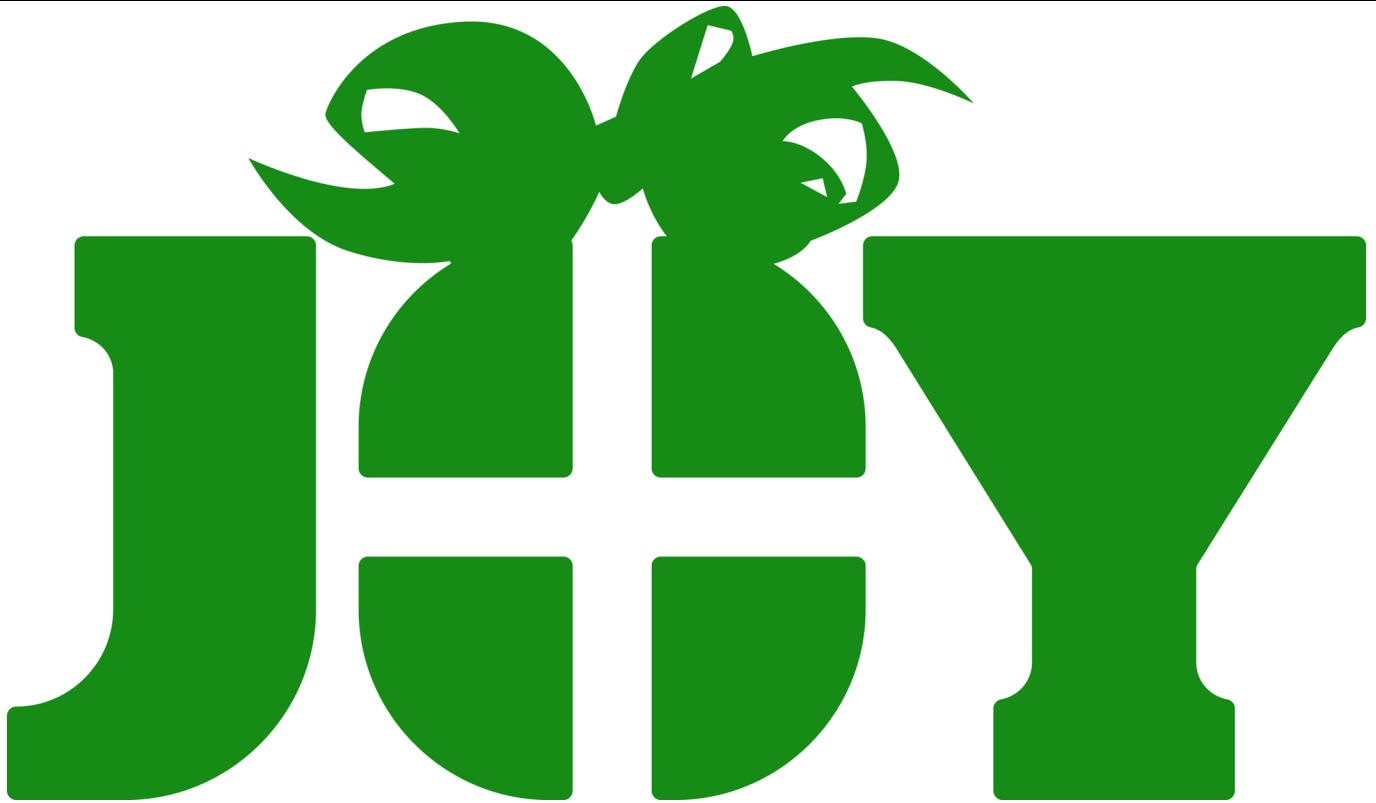


Good News

January 2024



H e r i t a g e P r e s b y t e r i a n C h u r c h



The Staff of Heritage Presbyterian Church

wish you all much joy through the Christmas Season.

*May Advent's hope of the fulfillment of God's promise shine its bright
Christmas light on you and yours, so that Christmas Day
and the New Year may be filled with the joy of His presence.*

Kevin Stainton

Pastor

Karen Mail

Director of Music

Susan Brose

Business Manager

Susie Faas

Children's Ministry

Director

Ann & Tim Levan

Accompanists

Dave Sherrard,

Financial Secretary

Patty Schnetzer

Youth Director

Beth Galberg

Preschool Director

Stephanie Martin

Office Administrator

January Birthdays

2	Bill Garrity	15	Stacey Shafor	20	JoAnne McCaulou
3	Jack Hayes	17	Lisa Niehaus	21	Zeb Mills
4	Dick Jensen	17	Maya Pellegrino	22	Jim Stine
4	Steve Taylor	17	Sandy White	25	Richard Burr
5	Mason Fisher	18	Dorothy Hall	25	Ethel Farris
5	G. Bill Spaeth	18	Maxine LeForge	26	Pat O'Neal
6	Gretchen Dorman	18	Layne Walter	26	Katie Steverson
7	Jackie Pinkowski	19	Bill Clark	27	Nancy Hoon
11	Jo Marggrandter	19	Emily Faas-Boucher	29	DawnMarie Hayes
13	Janice Weller	19	Ben Zumkehr		

January Prayer Families: Judy & Larry Andrews, Michelle, Bill, Macala, Jake Hailey and Ashlyn Clark, Nita Evans, Cynthia, Rob, Lyla and Campbell Glinski

Continued Prayers: Steve Ritz

Weekly Worship at 10:15am Sundays

⇒ **In Person Worship:** also Live-streamed on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HPCMason & YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=hpc+mason

Children & Youth Private Social Media Group Pages:

⇒ **Children's Ministries:** www.facebook.com/groups/heritagechildrensministries
⇒ **Heritage 'Tweens:** www.facebook.com/groups/heritagetweens
⇒ **Heritage Youth Groups:** www.facebook.com/groups/hpcmasonyouth

Adult Christian Education

⇒ **Lectionary Learnings** Zoom & In Person Meeting: Sunday Mornings at 9am, September-April. This class examines the Lectionary reading for the day. Contact kevin.stainton@hpcmason.org
⇒ **Christian Conversations** Sunday Mornings at 9am in the Church library September through April. They discuss contemporary writings on the Christian Faith. Contact: Sue Monteith
⇒ **The Wired Word** Sunday Mornings at 9am in Room 22/23, September through May
⇒ **Men's Bible Study** Wednesdays at 7:30am in the Fireside Room. Contact: Pastor Kevin.
⇒ **Adult Bible Study** Zoom & In Person: Thursdays at 11am, Fireside Room: Contact: Susie Faas.
⇒ **Grace Circle** — 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm, Karen Stine: karenstine1989@gmail.com
⇒ **Hope Circle** — 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:30am. September through May. Contact: patty.schnetzer@hpcmason.org

Children's Sunday School

⇒ **Sunday School Classes** for K-12th Grade, September — April



Sunday, December 24th, 2023

Christmas Eve Morning Service — 10:15am

Christmas Eve Family Service — 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service — 10:00 pm





A New Year of Faith

January is a great time to start new habits! There are many habits that we can develop, to strengthen our faith formation. Why not start a new faith habit this year to learn more about God, draw closer to Jesus, and be guided by the Holy Spirit?

- ◇ Join a Sunday School Class – classes are held for adults and children on Sunday mornings, at 9:00 am.
- ◇ Join a mid-week Bible Study.
- ◇ Use a daily Bible reading plan. Printed resources are available in the atrium, or contact [Susie Faas](#) to receive a resource by e-mail.
- ◇ Encourage your children to be a part of a youth group. Youth groups for all children K – 12, resume the week of January 7th.
- ◇ Participate in a mission activity.
- ◇ Register for an on-line prayer app. <https://d365.org/> and <https://www.ceaselessprayer.com/> are free apps that are easy to install and use.

Invite a friend to worship, study, service, and fellowship at HPC.



Lunch Bunch!

The January Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, January 8, 2024 (Date change!)

The meeting will be at 11:30am at the Mason Perkins on OH-741

Mamas and Papas January 21, 11:30am – 1:30pm

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, January 27

Emails will come soon with the signup link!

2024 Offering Envelopes & Legacy Campaign Giving Envelopes

Boxes of 2024 Offering Envelopes, and Legacy Campaign Giving Envelopes are available for pick up outside the Church Office. If you need a box mailed to your home, please email office@hpcmason.org.



Reminder for Committee Chairs

The deadline to submit the annual report for your committee is Friday, January 5th or earlier. You should have received an email with a copy of last year's report in November. If you have any questions, please contact the office: office@hpcmason.org

Per Capita

Members may assist the Church by paying their Per Capita fee of \$35.00. If you choose to do this, please mark your check or online donation as "Per Capita".



Listening Sessions

The Session is responsible for leading the congregation into the future. As part of that responsibility a Session appointed team will be leading Listening/Visioning gatherings during January to hear from as many of you as possible. This will be one ingredient in discerning the leading of the Holy Spirit for Heritage.

You are invited to attend one of five Listening/Visioning gatherings in January. Three of the meetings will be right after worship on January 7th, 21st and 28th. A light lunch will be served. The meeting after lunch will last no more than 2 hours.

The other meetings will be on Monday January 8 and Thursday January 18 at 7pm and will end by 9. Please try to be part of these very important meetings for Heritage's future.

Signups are in the atrium or on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA4AD2FA5FD0-46941822-heritage#/>

Guiding Team News

As shared in the last couple months, we are continuing our Purpose to Practice work in studying the last chapters of *Wait Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church* by Kerry Connelly. Our goal is specific action steps that can guide all of us in the congregation to grow our individual skills in discussions and collaborations to move closer to the ideal of equity and justice for all – which helps us live out the greatest commandment to Love God and Love Our Neighbors.





Souper Bowl of Caring

Are you ready for the “SOUPER” BOWL? Heritage Tweens are!

Sunday, February 11th is the NFL Football Super Bowl - - and Heritage will have our own S-O-U-P-E-R Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a grassroots, faith-based crusade against hunger. We are joining other churches, schools, and organizations across the country by collecting cans of soup and funds, that are donated to local food pantries. Last year, this movement nationally raised over \$10 million to fight hunger and poverty across the country.

At Heritage in 2023, we collected 1400 cans of soup for the Mason Food Panty and \$2,200 in monetary donations for the Comet Cupboard. Over the past 13 years, HPC has participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, and has been able to generously stock the shelves of our local food pantry for several months. With God’s help, this year will be no exception.

Once again, this year our HPC ‘Tweens will coordinate this mission to help feed the hungry. They will be collecting cans of high protein and chunky style soup throughout the month of January. Cans of soups will be collected in the Atrium. The ‘Tweens will also be making the famous ‘Tween Chili, to raise funds for SOUPER BOWL of CARING.

Matthew 25 reminds us with these words, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food...?” Jesus answers,” Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of theses who are members of my family, you did it to me.”



‘TWEENS – Save the Date Friday, February 9 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm

‘Tweens in grades 4 – 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](#) or [Diane Sherrard](#) to be a part of this fun, annual mission project!



How Can I Donate to HPC and Reduce My Taxes?

One way to donate to HPC and reduce your taxes is you can make a direct donation of shares of stock or mutual funds to HPC and avoid capital gains taxes on the appreciated value of your shares.

Another way is persons over 70½ years of age can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to donate up to \$100,000 to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). As a result, donors may avoid being pushed into higher income tax brackets and prevent phaseouts of other tax deductions.

Understanding Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

Understanding qualified charitable distributions begins with understanding required minimum distributions. People who hold Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are required to take RMDs each year beginning at age 73—even if they don't need or want the funds. That same required minimum distribution increases the IRA holder's total taxable income.

This income increase could potentially push the taxpayer into a higher income tax bracket. It can also trigger phaseouts, which limit or eliminate some kinds of tax deductions, such as personal exemption and itemized deductions, and sometimes trigger high taxes on Social Security income.

QCDs are also called IRA charitable distributions or IRA charitable rollovers. They enable individuals to fulfill their required minimum distribution by a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 to charity. They can also be used to support multiple charities, as long as the sum of the distributions is within the \$100,000 limit. But because QCDs don't increase taxable income, both higher tax rates and phaseouts can be avoided.

In addition, because QCDs reduce the balance of the IRA, they may reduce required minimum distributions in future years. QCDs are also not counted toward the maximum amounts deductible for those who itemize their giving on their taxes—the \$100,000 can be above and beyond those limits. For these reasons, a QCD can potentially enable a donor to give a bigger charitable gift than they could if they just donated cash or other assets.

Qualified charitable distributions are made directly to the eligible charity from a traditional IRA, inherited IRA, inactive Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) plan and inactive Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE) IRAs. (Inactive SEP and SIMPLE IRAs are accounts that no longer receive employer contributions.)

The money is a direct transfer to the charity that never passes through the hands of the IRA holder. Instead, the IRA custodian can either send an electronic transfer of funds or a check directly to the charity.

Donating to HPC

Heritage Presbyterian Church has two accounts set up to receive a direct donation of shares of stock or mutual fund OR a Qualified Charitable Distribution. One account is set up to receive regular stewardship giving; the other account is set up to receive contributions to the Legacy Capital Campaign. After speaking with your financial consultant regarding whether you qualify for one of the above types of giving, please contact Dave Sherrard (dgsherrard@gmail.com), HPC's financial secretary, or Kevin Zumkehr (kzumkehr@cinci.rr.com), HPC Endowment chairperson regarding your planned donation.

*Part of the document above comes from a Fidelity Investments webpage, HPC's investment partner.

Journey to Bethlehem

What a wonderful evening! Our 13th annual Journey was once again filled with joy and excitement as we told the Good News that “Jesus is Born”. It was an evening of fun, vivid storytelling, and Christian hospitality. We enjoyed experiences that engaged all of our senses; tasty foods, wonderful music of many styles, aromas of frankincense and “fragrances” of sheep, the tactile experiences of working with wood, yarn, clay and craft materials, and the lovely sight of Mary and Joseph as they worshipped.



We had moments of great laughter and other moments of touching sacredness. Through the efforts and gifts of HPC volunteers, we told the community that **Jesus is Born, and God’s love is in our midst**. The majority of our guests were not from HPC, and each volunteer took the opportunity to show that our church is a place of welcome and kindness. Well done!

I know that many of you enjoy “the numbers recap”.

- * 278 (plus) guests who visited Journey to Bethlehem. Wow! I suspect there might have been even more attendees – I spied several people entering through the front door to get inside to the warmth, and bypassing the dedicated Census takers.
- * 90 volunteers from HPC who made Bethlehem come alive last night. Crafters, Kitchen helpers, artisans, angels, census takers, musicians, story tellers, market place Bethlehemians – the City was buzzing! Particular thanks to Debbie Hamann and Ben Zumkehr, who spent dozens of hours over the last month, helping us to prepare.
- * 35 glorious singers from the Little Miami Choir directed by Sarah Baker.
- * 25 volunteers who helped set up, to transform our facilities into Bethlehem for the evening.
- * 21 Soup makers who provided delicious food for our guests.
- * A “flock” of 12 Shepherds who ably guided our guests from station to station, 4 additional hearty Shepherds, and 1 glorious singing angel who endured frigid temperatures for 3 hours.

This was also a year of several volunteers stepping in when needed, to play a different part. In December, cold weather and sickness are inevitable, changing our best-intentioned plans. I am thankful to those who were able to step up, into a role they had not planned on. Special thanks to Cathy and Micah Ewing, Addie Hinerman, Comfort Olugu, Don and Karen Franzmeier, and Russ Philips who stepped into important parts of the story when they were needed the most. Also special thanks to Dr. Kai who stepped out of his Bethlehem role as Shepherd, to help one of our young guests with an injury. Apparently, he was so convincing as a Shepherd, that the other youngsters had a difficult time believing he is a doctor in real life.



We never know when, and how we will be called to tell God’s story.

Thanks to each of our HPC family, for the way they told God’s story at Journey to Bethlehem.

It was a good night. Our journey to meet the Christ child is not over. May your journey be filled with all the hope, peace, love, and joy that God has in store for you.

OUR SCHEDULE!

Children's Ministry Schedule

We are in a very busy season! Please mark your calendars, so you can set aside time to talk to and learn about Jesus, worship God, and be present with the Holy Spirit. Our schedule for the coming month has lots of changes.

December 20: Pageant Practice 5-7pm

December 24: No Sunday School

10:15am—Worship

5pm—Practice for Worship

7pm—Family Worship Service

10pm—Candlelight Communion Worship

December 31: No Sunday School or Youth Groups

10:15am—Worship

January 7: 9am—K-12 Sunday School (breakfast, then divide into age-appropriate groups to study the Bible)

5pm—All Youth Groups resume (dinner at 5pm, then divide into Kids of the Kingdom, 'Tweens and Legacies)



Kids of the Kingdom and 'Tweens – Welcome back!

Our weekly children's fellowship groups will resume:

Sunday, January 7th 5:00 – 7:00 pm

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 and 'Tweens. This is a great opportunity to invite friends! Contact [Susie Faas](#) for more information.

Kids of the Kingdom: Children Kindergarten–3rd Grade

Tweens: Children 4th – 6th Grade

Legacies: Youth 7th – 12th Grade

Children's Ministry News

Peanut Butter and Jam Concert: Saturday, January 6, 10:30am



Heritage is happy to welcome the Peanut Butter & Jam Concert Series. PB & J is an interactive concert series for children age 2 – 6 and their families. Concerts are performed by professional musicians and led by a music educator.

January's concert is called **It's a String Thing**. The wonderful sounds of the violin, viola and cello will "string you along" as you listen, dance, and sing to the music of the string family!

Enjoy great music, learn, and have an opportunity to meet the musicians at the end of the concert. Tickets are FREE. Further information about Peanut Butter & Jam can be found at www.Peanutbutterandjam.org.

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/heritage tweens, OR if you do not have a home copy of "Growing in God's Love Story Bible" please contact [Susie Faas](#)

HPC Preschool News



This time of year is filled with so much joy, but it goes by so quickly! Before our break, the children were engaged in many fun activities. They read about, created, chased and even ate gingerbread men. Miss Susie shared the story of Jesus' birth with the children in Chapel. They were able to visit Santa's Workshop and "purchase" special gifts for their families. They repaired toys in their workshops and baked "Christmas Cookies" in their bakeries. The children were very busy making Christmas decorations in art centers. We hope our families enjoyed the gifts our students "secretly" created. When we return to school in January, the classrooms will be transformed into winter wonderlands while classes talk about the changes that winter brings, winter animals and hope for snow!

We are also preparing for our annual Preschool Enrollment. Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year will open for church members and alumni on Monday, January 8, 2024. Please visit our website for up to date information: www.heritagepreschoolmason.com. Families interested in previewing the Preschool are encouraged to contact Beth Galberg at 513-445-2670 or directorHPP@gmail.com to schedule a personal tour.



Family Promise of Warren County Has Moved!

After two years of preparation, on Friday, 12-15-2023, the staff of Family Promise of Warren County (FPWC) moved to their new offices at 6000 Cincinnati Avenue (Route 42), in Lebanon. This new location is the old Shaker Inn. This was truly a wonderful day, in that it will allow all of us to improve our ministry to the homeless of Warren County; and to continue to respond to the grace of God. The guests will remain at the Knights Inn/Guest Inn in Lebanon until Sunday, 3-10-2024, when they will also move to the new facility.

Our “Ministry Model” for FPWC had to make a dramatic and emergency change on 3-22-2020 (almost four years ago). That is when the guests had to start staying in a hotel rather than come to churches like ours, as a result of the Covid pandemic. Now, we are still being asked to provide all the meals for the guests during in our support week in January 2024 and all future support weeks. But for March of 2024 and afterwards, we are being asked to make another dramatic shift to our FPWC Ministry Model. We are being asked to start providing Fellowship Hosts and Overnight Hosts similar what we did up thru January of 2020 (four years ago). Only now we are being asked to do this at the new FPWC facility instead of our own church. Training will be provided for Fellowship and Overnight Volunteers on upcoming Saturdays. I hope and pray that you will join me in continuing to support FPWC.

Great Year for Christmas Benevolences

One of the great joys for the Mission committee comes at year-end when we spend down remaining monies designated in our annual budget for our mission “partners.” We call these end-the-year checks “Christmas benevolences”. This year we had more to share with these organizations than ever before, because of our generous members.



Gifts you made during the year are sent on to these partners to cover activities and needs that come up. In fact, gifts designated for a particular mission organization often exceed what we have provided in the budget. The best example is Our Daily Bread – where gifts made by members nearly doubled the \$800 we had budgeted.

Altogether, about two-thirds of our budgeted support to mission partners was still available for benevolences. Thank you, Heritage members.

Mission Committee Activities: We continue to respond to the changes in needs for mission work. We appreciate your support through 2023 and beyond with our various missions. 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 Roger Rude or any of the other Mission Committee members (Lori Ball, Leslie Dauer-Creek, Charlie McCaulou, Carson Wulf) if you want to learn more or offer help.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Matthew 25 Ministries



Part of our Mission budget, along with any donations we receive specifically denoted by donor(s) for a specific disaster, are earmarked to go to help out disasters that impact our country and internationally. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and Matthew 25 Ministries respond to these needs by providing various items such as food, clothing, water, medicine and other supplies. To find out more about how your donations are used by these ministries, please visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/> or <https://m25m.org/>.

Mary Haven (a facility for troubled youth)

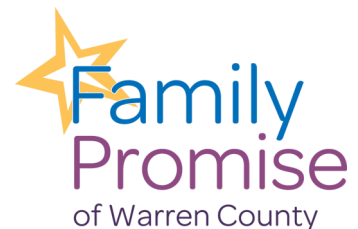
We are making monthly visits every third Tuesday evening of each month (January 16th is the next date, followed by February 20th). Please contact Leslie Dauer-Creek at 513-313-4597 if interested in helping or if you want to learn more about this mission.

Our Daily Bread Sandwich Mission

Our Daily Bread continues to serve the needy community by providing bagged lunches with sandwiches, and we are helping in preparing and providing these sandwiches each Wednesday night/Thursday morning. We also now have several church members volunteering on-site at ODB (near Finlay Market downtown). We have provided and delivered more than 25,000 homemade sandwiches (over 190 stories tall stacked). This mission will continue through November and beyond. The Mission Committee asks if you are willing and able to make some sandwiches for this mission, please contact Nelson Kennedy (513-470-1279).

Family Promise Mission

If you want to support the FPWC efforts, you can still donate to them directly through their website, with the donation link under their mission statement, using PayPal at <https://www.familypromisewarren.org/> or send a check to: Family Promise of Warren County, 203 East Warren St., Lebanon OH 45036. They are still in need of contributions to their capital campaign in support of their new facility.



Community Cupboard



We have supported Community Cupboard over the years by providing items in need one to two months a year. In 2024, with the closing of the Methodist Church that was hosting, we will take over hosting this service benefitting the community. We will have help from other churches in the area (as we did in the past). Please keep your eyes and ears open for more information coming your way about it.

Heritage Presbyterian Church

6546 S. Mason-Montgomery Road

Mason, Ohio 45040

Address Service Requested

*Let's
Worship
Together*

*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! →

