

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11

Dear Friends,

This past Sunday was a wonderful day of worship and celebration. I am so grateful to all of you who were able to attend the celebration of the time Bev and I have served you. We felt your love and respect(?) through some serious roasting and lighthearted praise.

Bev and I are most grateful for having been able to serve you for over two decades and to proclaim to you God's love through word and deed. You have allowed us to stand with you in some very joyous moments like marriages and baptisms. We have been here long enough to see the deep blessings those marriages bring and even to see some of those baptized babies have babies of their own. We have been privileged to stand with you in dark times to give bodily form to God's comfort. It has been my deep honor to proclaim the gospel to you each week and to challenge you to live as faithful disciples of Jesus. Bev has been blessed to serve with you throughout the years giving welcoming meals and transforming junk into treasures at the Rummage Sale.

Thank you so much for being the community of faith that you are and for giving us the opportunity to be with you.

As we celebrate Easter together one last time, we are aware that Heritage and the Staintons will begin new lives, lives no longer intertwined. In the midst of gratitude and joy for our life together we face the sadness of life apart. Our new lives also will be encompassed by God's love and care.

It is our hope that Heritage will enter that time with anticipation and trust in God's faithfulness. Do not be afraid, God's got you! You will soon be served by new pastoral leadership gifted by God to be at HPC. Transitions are hard, but you are practiced at welcome and know how to love the stranger.

Bev and I will be seeking another congregation in which to worship, grow and serve. We are eager to see where God might lead us and to get involved in different ways of service than we have previously. While Bev will continue to work for a time, I am looking forward to pursuing activities and volunteer work for which I did not have time.

Since we will be getting used to our new way to live and you will be working through receiving new leadership, we will not be able to be part of HPC's worship or mission. I will not be available to perform pastoral services. Prior to a new pastor arriving, the Session has arranged for worship leadership and pastoral care to be provided by other pastors in the Presbytery. You may call the church office if you have need of pastoral care.

Again, we rejoice in the blessing Heritage has been to us and, we hope, we have been to Heritage. We are confident that God's deep and abundant blessings will continue to be showered upon you.

Blessings,

Kevin Stainton

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 16:24-24

April Birthdays

3	Kim Zumkehr	10	Brenda Liko	21	Jeremy Schumm
4	Ricardo Pellegrino	10	Sue Monteith	22	Peyton Mills
5	Matt Wulf	11	Joy Hampton	23	Leah Jacob
6	Martha Bard	11	Nick Tymitz	25	Patty Schnetzer
6	Marjorie Barreto	12	Pat Anson	27	Ian Mould
6	Kim McNeer	13	Nina Probel	27	Comfort Olugu
8	Walker Dorman	17	Kyle Perkins	28	Ralph Spaeth
10	Avery Jenkins	18	Debbie Farrell	29	Isabella Harmeling
10	Colby Jenkins	18	Tom Walker	30	Campbell Glinski
10	Zachary Jenkins	20	Bev Stainton		

<u>April Prayer Families</u>: Jeff, Allie and Charlie Cryder, Micah & Cathy, Jonah, Elaine and Clara Ewing, Craig & Nancy Hoon, Tom Walker

Continued Prayers: Steve Ritz

Lent at HPC

Tuesdays Together In Pent

<u>Tuesdays Together in Lent</u>

Each Tuesday evening, during the Lenten season, we are gathering to eat a meal together and learn as a church community.

Our last Tuesday Together in Lent will be March 26.

Food: 6:00 – 7:00 pm will be a weekly potluck supper. The church will provide a main entree and we ask congregation members to provide a side dish or dessert.

Study: From 7:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor Kevin will lead us in study and conversation using the PCUSA curriculum *"Follow Me—Make Disciples"*.

As we long for community and connection, this is an opportunity for fellowship as well as nourishment for our bodies and souls. Sign up on the "LENT" bulletin board in the Atrium or use this link: <u>https://bit.ly/TuesdaysTogether2024</u>. Questions? Contact <u>susie.faas@hpcmason.org</u>.

Time to Pray - Spirituality Centers

As we approach Holy Week, take time to be enriched in your faith by taking time to pray, meditate and reflect in beautifully prepared Spirituality Prayer Centers here at Heritage. The centers are located in the Fireside Room and Adult Library and are available anytime the church is open. They provide wonderful space to pray individually, with a family member, or a prayer partner. Centers have been carefully prepared for all ages; children, teens, and adults. Plan a time to be renewed and refreshed through the power of prayer.

Holy Week at HPC



Maundy Thursday Simple Supper

On Thursday, March 28, we will have a Soup & Bread Potluck at 6pm, please use the QR code click this <u>link</u> to signup.

The Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Our Maundy Thursday Service will begin at 7pm. We invite you to join us for this meaningful Holy Week service.

HPC Easter Breakfast

Heritage Presbyterian Women will be hosting a yummy Easter Breakfast.

Please join us Easter morning for breakfast from 8:30 - 9:45am. Enjoy egg casseroles, bacon, yogurt and fresh fruit.

Volunteers will be needed to cook casseroles at home (ingredients are provided with the recipe) and help with cleanup. Please sign up online at <u>https://hpcmason.breezechms.com/form/cf40449</u> or add your name to the sign up sheet on the PW Board in the Atrium so enough food is planned. Thank you and we hope to see you there !!



HPC Easter Service

Our Easter Service will be at the usual Worship Service time of 10:15am. Bring your friends and family! All Sunday School classes and afternoon activities are cancelled for Easter Sunday.



Special Offering



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Palm Sunday, March 24

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING fish banks and sharing calendars are available in the Atrium, under the Children's Ministry bulletin board. Also available is a OGHS board game, that helps our children and families to learn about the effects of a natural disaster, and the healing power of help from others. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing will be used to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in the empowerment of the poor and oppressed. We invite you to make a contribution, as an example of the Lenten discipline of service to others. We will return our offerings and fish banks to HPC on Palm Sunday, March 24, or by using the HPC on-line giving portal found at <u>here</u>. Please mark "OGHS" in the notes box.

HPC News

A Note From a Family You've Helped

Heritage regularly gets "Thank You" letters after Family Promise hostings from homeless families about the relief they've received and the hope they've found during their stay. The letters come from family members—parents (usually single) and kids from second or third grade to upper teens. We try to post new letters on the Mission bulletin board in the Atrium, but recognize that they probably don't get read much in the bustle of Sunday Mornings.

We'll try to do a better job of passing along the deep thanks of the people we're helping through the most trying time a family can suffer. We're using this newsletter to share the message with all Heritage members. Rev. Stainton and the HPC Staff were so moved by this message that they suggested publishing it in the HPC Good News.

We thank them for this push and thank all members for bringing love and caring to the homeless for the past 20 years through IHN, now Family Promise.

"Hello, I'd like to personally thank every single person at Family Promise this year. It has been a very important year for me. It is the first I have been reunited with all my children. Not only have I pulled myself from some of the darkest places this life has to offer, I now spend all my time loving my children, simply being thankful for all we have. And most importantly we now help others as much as possi-

Thank You

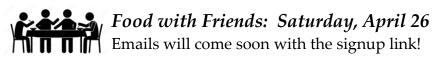
ble. I am so thankful for everyone that has helped us on our journey. It wouldn't be possible without the help from organizations like Family Promise. I can only hope that this changes the course of my children's lives, like it has mine. Thank you for everything! Maverick was so happy on Christmas morning. He loved everything!"

HPC News



Lunch Bunch!

The April Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, April 1, 2024. The meeting will be at 11:30am at the Mason Perkins on OH-741.





Basketball at HPC

Basketball in our church gym will start on Tuesday, April 2 through May 28. 7 to 8:30pm. Open to all, ages 16 and up. Please join us for some pick-up games or simply just shooting hoops. See Tom Ball with questions.

HPC Youth Director Assistant

We would like to welcome Ben Schnetzer as HPC's Youth Director Assistant. We are happy to have Ben on Staff. Be on the lookout for fun videos he will be creating to showcase the youth group's activities and adventure.





Beat Tuition Crunch, Apply Now For No-Interest Heritage Education Loans

This school year is winding down and now's a busy time for those who plan to enter or continue their post-secondary education. HPC can help cover these costs through interest-free loans of up to \$2,500 a year. The loans are available to Heritage church families and other Christian students.

The loans are provided by the Thompson-Baxter and Cheryl Whitacre Education Funds established through memorial bequests administered by the HPC Endowment Committee. The church loans have helped make college and advanced study possible for students enrolled in higher education institutions for over 40 years.

Contact Susan Brose, Business Manager at <u>sbrose.hpc@gmail.com</u> for loan application forms. Complete and submit applications <u>by July 31</u> to give the Endowment Committee time to review the requests and finalize the loans before tuition is due.

Loans are made for \$1,250 per semester, \$2,500 per school year, for a maximum of four years and \$10,000. Loans are interest-free with a repayment schedule beginning 12 months after the final year of education.

<u>HPC News</u>



Nursery Coordinator

HPC is seeking a qualified adult individual to fill the part-time staff position of Nursery Coordinator. This is a part time position (2-3 hours/week on Sunday mornings), with occasional hours for special events. Qualifications include:

- An adult with 3–5 years of experience providing a safe, secure loving environment for children in a nursery setting,
- Creativity skills that provide a stimulating, welcoming environment for young children,
- Ability to professionally communicate with parents and staff,
- Current certification in basic first aid and infant CPR.

Any offer of employment will be contingent upon completion of background check. Please send resumes and inquiries to <u>susie.faas@hpcmason.org</u>



Summer Camp Opportunities

As you make your summer plans, consider a church camp experience at the Kirkmont Center in Zanesville, OH. Information brochures are available in the atrium, as well as on-line. Registration for summer camps, their PMV Women's Retreat, and a Total Eclipse Event are open now at https://kirkmontcenter.campbrainregistration.com/. New and updated information is frequently posted to their social media pages at Facebook.com/Kirkmont and Instagram.com/KirkmontCenter. You are welcome to reach out at info@KirkmontCenter.org and (937) 593-2141.

<u> Mamas and Papas: April 21, 11:30am – 1:30pm</u>

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 <u>Susie.faas@hpcmason.org</u>.



<u>Children's Ministry News</u>



VBS: Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God Vacation Bible School is one of our favorite seasons! Mark your calendars, so you don't miss any of the fun and faith at Vacation Bible School.

> *This year's theme is Camp Firelight!* Heritage Presbyterian Church VBS June 24-28, 6 – 8:30pm We always have a great time – invite your friends and neighbors! Don't miss this year's adventure!

There are many ways to be part of VBS

 \Rightarrow *Attend*: Children age 4 – upcoming 5th graders are welcome.

Sign up using the link https://bit.ly/HeritageVBS2024

 \Rightarrow *Invite*: All children should experience VBS!

Send an email, text, social media, or post card to a child that you know.

 \Rightarrow **Donate:** There is a wish list of supplies posted in the Atrium.

 \Rightarrow *Volunteer:* We need lots of helpers!

Adults & Teens (upcoming 6th graders and older)

If you love God, and love to have fun, you will love VBS! How do you want to be a part of VBS? Sign up in the Atrium or contact <u>susie.faas@hpcmason.org</u>



Sandusky Mission Trip

We are preparing the annual mission trip to the Sandusky Presbyterian Outreach Center June 6-9, 2024. This year, children completing grades 4 – 7 will be included in the trip. If your child is interested in going on the mission trip, please contact <u>susie.faas@hpcmason.org</u>.



Heritage Presbyterian Preschool News

This March has been very unpredictable! We enjoyed a few warm days and were able to play outside only to have cold weather and rain send us back inside for playtime. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday for a full week of fun. Each day we had a special dress code, silly socks, crazy hats, stripes and polka dots, Wacky Wednesday and Funny Friday! Its always fun to see how silly the kids and teachers can be!

In the middle of the month, each class celebrated St. Patrick's Day with rainbows and scavenger hunts for Leprechaun Gold. We ended the month, looking for the signs of spring, talking about the weather and anxiously awaiting Spring Break! The countdown to summer has begun!

We still have openings for Preschool and Kindergarten Enrichment. Please reach out to <u>directorHPP@gmail.com</u> for more information.



<u>Troop 750 Report</u>



Our Troops and Pack have had many fun adventures this past month. On March 3rd, the Troops did a deep clean of their gear including tents, camping stoves, and patrol boxes. Patrols are scouts who are grouped together based on age and grade. Each patrol has a box that holds all the gear they would need for cooking and cleaning on a campout.

The troops also welcomed their newest Eagle Scouts; Amruta Anandram, Andrei Khudiakov, and Jake Roll. Eagle Scout is the highest rank that a scout can earn and it takes a lot of hard work and leadership to earn.



Troop 1750 had a cooking campout at the scout camp, Camp Friedlander, in Loveland. The scouts learned to cook using different methods and they created delicious meals. Troop 750 learned about the history of the Ohio State Reformatory through a tour during their March campout. Both Troops learned about the amazing trip to Iceland that will take place during the summer of 2025.



Mulch is a big way to raise money for the troop. Both Troops have had their mulchkick-off where they learned about the new process with mulch. The money that is earned from selling mulch can help a scout pay for campouts, camping gear, and big trips that the troop has planned. Mulch can be ordered from the scouts online at <u>https://mason750.org/product-category/mulch/</u>.

With the coming of Spring, our Troops can do many outside activities. Troop 1750 plans to go on a zoo campout to learn about different species and to hang out with the animals. Our boy's troop will be heading out to explore the Mega Caverns in Kentucky. Also, Troop 750 will be having a BSA campout for the new scouts who have joined the troop. A BSA campout is where young scouts learn all about the basic scouting skills including knots, first aid, and orienteering.



The Pack had an amazing time at the Pinewood Derby on March 9th. The Pinewood Derby is an event where Cubs can race wooden cars they made. Awards were given out for categories including the Most Creative and the Most Patriotic.

In addition to the two troops which serve youth 10 – 17, HPC also charters a Cub Scout Pack for youth in kindergarten through fifth grade and a Venture Crew for youth 14 – 20. A huge thank you to Heritage for your continued support of the Scouting program.

<u>HPC Missions</u>

Mission Committee Activities: 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) if you want to learn more or offer help.



Family Promise Mission Continues

The week of 3-24-2024 is the last week that HPC is supporting Family Promise using the "Covid Model." This simply means that for the week of 3-24-24, our support consists solely of supplying meals. These meals are being picked up at HPC by a Family Promise driver, then delivered to the Family Promise Guests at their hotel rooms. Our Hope Circle and Grace Circle have been providing the Sunday meals four times per year for four years, and they have done an outstanding job. In addition, HPC Partner Churches have done an outstanding job of supplying meals during our Hosting Week for the last four years for four weeks each year. These churches are Grace Baptist (Mondays), Mason United Methodist (Tuesdays), St. Susanna (Wednesdays), Open Table Church (Thursdays), Crossroads Church (Fridays), and Compass Church (Saturdays). And recently Axis Church has stepped up to take the place of Mason United Methodist on Tuesdays.

Our next Hosting Week will start on 5-26-2024. That is when we will need to begin providing Meal Hosts, Fellowship Hosts, and Overnight Hosts during our four weeks each year. To be a FPWC Host, a person needs to get three hours of training. So far HPC has 28 Hosts trained and we have 4 more that are scheduled to get training. Also, our HPC Partner Churches (listed above) have provided a total of another 30 trained Hosts. A big *Thank You* to all of you who volunteered to get this training!

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. We would love to have more trained Hosts. Training occurs on the first Saturday of each month. One class starts at 9am, and the other starts at 3pm. 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 or sending him a message at 513-470-1279 or at <u>nekskier@aol.com</u>.

Mary Haven—a Facility for Troubled Youth

We are making monthly visits every third Tuesday evening of each month (April 16th is the next date, followed by May 21st, then June 18th). Please contact Leslie Dauer-Creek at 513-313-4597 if interested in helping or if you want to learn more about this mission.

<u>HPC Missions</u>



Sandwich Mission Continues

A big *Thank You* to all of you who continue to make sandwiches for "Our Daily Bread", on Race Street, in downtown Cincinnati! Through Friday, 3-8-2024, you have made 28,309 sandwiches, in 197 weekly deliveries over the past 4 years. If stacked, these sandwiches would be as high as a 216 story building.

Our Daily Bread continues to serve the needy community by providing bagged lunches with sandwiches. We are helping by providing these sandwiches each Wednesday night/Thursday morning. We also now have several church members volunteering on-site at ODB (near Finlay Market downtown). This mission will continue through June and beyond. The Mission Committee asks if you are able to make some sandwiches for this mission, please contact Nelson Kennedy (513-470-1279).

Community Cupboard

We have successfully started hosting the very beneficial Community Cupboard on site (in our parking area) with your support. Other churches in the area have covered April, so we do not have to provide donations that month. We appreciate all the generous donations you all have been making and look forward to any further support you can provide in the future. Please leave any donations in the grocery cart in the hallway just inside the front entryway.



HPC Community Cupboard

<u>What we can accept</u>: non-perishable food items, hygiene products such as toothpaste, bar soap, and shampoo, and carryout plastic utensil packets. (don't donate things outside of this scope unless specially noted in current needs)

<u>What we cannot accept</u>: anything in glass containers (too temperature sensitive for an outdoor storage shed)

<u>*Current special needs:*</u> Cereal, hearty/beef stews, canned fruit, canned ravioli/lasagna, fruit juice, canned or boxed potatoes, canned meats, shelf-stable milk



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 with 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 <u>https://pda.pcusa.org/</u> or <u>https://m25m.org/</u>.

Heritage Presbyterian Church

6546 S. Mason-Montgomery Road Mason, Ohio 45040





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!