

Heritage CRC

2857 South 11th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(just south from Stadium Drive)

Phone: 269.372.3830
Prayer Line 372.3830 x 5
churchoffice@heritagecrc.org
Pastor Simon:
pastorsimon@heritagecrc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP:@ 9:30 AM

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Thursday by 8:00 am. Call,
leave a note, or e-mail to
churchoffice@heritagecrc.org.

OFFICE HOURS:
Wednesday: 8:00 am —12:00 pm
Thursday: 8:00 am —12:00 pm

Volunteer Schedule...

COFFEE SERVERS:

Dec. 10 & 17 Matt & Lisa Durian/Bonnie Colvin & Teri Wagner
Dec. 24 & 31 Norbert & Joy Hegelmann/Bob & Jane Pangle

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY: Glen Wagner/Donnie Waterhouse

PRAYER EMAIL MINISTRY: prayerline@heritagecrc.org



SERVICE MINISTRY: Judy Wieringa/Kathy VanderMeer

MULTIMEDIA MINISTRY:

Dec. 17 - Paul Booden
Dec. 24 - Lisa Durian
Dec. 31 - Ian Tuin
Jan. 7 - Ian Tuin

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:

12/17 - Joy Knurr & Wendy Rose
12/24 - Barb Razenberg & Kim Bruinwood
12/31 - Mary Deters & Joyce Truscott
1/7 - Sue Florian & Ruth Mathe

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				14 9:30 GROW Group	15	16 7:45 am Mobile Food Initiative 
17 9:30 am Pastor Simon "God's Promise: It Will Happen in Bethlehem" Micah 5:1-5a	18	19 9:30 am Coffee Break 3:30 Shep Elders 5-8 KCSA Preschool Program at our church	20	21 9:30 GROW Group	22	23
24 9:30 am Pastor Simon "God's Promise: Salvation Will Come Through My Servant" Isaiah 42:1-9 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Rev. Michael VandenBerg "Amazing Message of Love" Luke 2:22-40	1 	2 9:30 am Coffee Break	3 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	4 9:30 GROW Group	5	6



Volume #22, Issue 47

December 14, 2023

What's up in Worship

This week Pastor Simon continues his Advent series "Prepare Him Room". The season of Advent celebrates the first coming of Jesus Christ in the light of His saving work on the cross and the anticipation of His return. This Advent season we will explore some of the prophecies that foretold Christ's coming hundreds of years before it happened. Plan to join us as we trace God's plan to redeem all the way to Christ's second advent. This Sunday's sermon is based on Micah 5:1-5a, "God's Promise: It Will Happen in Bethlehem."



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Come celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 6:00pm. Through music, song and the lighting of candles we will celebrate the coming of Jesus as the light of the world. Note: We will still meet Sunday morning at 9:30 for our regular gathering of worship.



Celebrations...

Birthdays...

Melissa Piontek ~ December 18
Esther Manni ~ December 20
Chris Selles ~ December 20
Dorothy VanDenBerg ~ December 21
Judy Fletcher ~ December 22
Tim Brennan ~ December 22

Anniversaries...

Donn & Kris Carlisle ~ December 17



Bonnie DeVries wishes to thank the people of Heritage for their cards, prayers and many expressions of support in the tragic death of her mother and step father, Mary DeDoes & Harold Vlietstra.



Church Calendar for December 18-24:

Tuesday
9:30 pm Coffee Break
3:30 pm Shepherding Elders

Thursday
9:30 am GROW Group

Sunday
9:30 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Council News

From the Council...Meeting of November 21, 2023

1. The Shepherding elders gave a verbal report on their work.
2. The Shepherding Deacons shared a verbal report on their work and their appreciation for the financial support of the congregation.
3. Adopted the 2024 Budget and recommended for congregational approval. This included changing the Administrative Assistant to a salary position and increasing Pastor Simon's vacation time from 4 weeks to 5 weeks per year.
4. Pastor Simon gave a detailed report of his activities in October and November.
5. From the December 10 congregational meeting:
 - Approved changing church service time from 9:30 to 10:00. It passed by a ballot vote (53-21). The change will begin with the first church service in January 2024.
 - Thankful for everyone here at Heritage CRC. Thank you all for your feedback and your love of this congregation.

Needed: Sunday Operations Manager ~

After almost 20 years of opening and closing the Church on Sundays and for special services, Jerry & Ruth Mather will step down from this position at the end of 2023. We thank them for their ministry and are now in search of someone willing to fill this position. A job description is available upon request. Please contact Matt Durian or Jim Bosch if you are interested or have any questions.

It's that time again. Time to make room for new winter wear!

Once more, the Coffee Break ladies will be gathering winter coats, hats, scarves, blankets, etc. for those in need within the community. This will be an ongoing effort until the holiday season is over! Right after the year's end we will gather the many blessings and deliver them to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. *Look for the box in the lobby area to place your donations.* Any questions, talk to Barb Nieboer (343-5378) or Joyce Truscott (342-1686). Thank you!

Offering Schedule

- Dec. 17 General Fund & Faith Promise
Loose Change: World Renew
- Dec. 24 General Fund & Building Fund
Loose Change: Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries
- Dec. 31 General Fund
Loose Change: Park Village Pines
- Jan. 7 General Fund & Christian Ed. Assistance
Loose Change: Rehoboth Christian School

Offerings (deposited for December 10, 2023)

Building Fund ~ \$90.00
Christian Ed. Assistance ~ \$50.00
Faith Promise ~ \$267.00
General Fund ~ \$6,963.00
Kalamazoo Christian ~ \$141.00
Ministry Shares ~ \$290.00
World Renew ~ \$50.00

From the Deacons:

~Our Christmas giving offering this year will go to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, there are Christmas offering envelopes available for this offering.

~We would like to thank the congregation for your generosity this year helping Heritage CRC in our support to further God's kingdom.

Mobile Food Initiative is Saturday, December 16.

7:45 AM at Heritage CRC.

****Please let the office know if you can help out. See you there!**



The Nicaragua Revolving Seed Fund

The Heritage Deacons have chosen to support the Solanos in their ministry to create a micro financing agricultural fund to be used as part of their economic development program in Nicaragua. They are asking the churches that support them to get 10 families to each give a one time donation of \$250 to support one family in their efforts to farm the land that produces income for them.

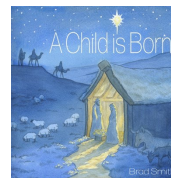
If you feel led by God to make a one time donation of \$250 please pick up a packet of information on the table outside the office that explains the program that Jairo & Kelly Solano are asking our help with. If you have any questions please see Cheri Gavin. More info can be found attached in this week's Heritage Happenings email.



Hey, do you like to do puzzles? Want a fun activity for those long winter months? We now have a "puzzle swap". You can find a nice variety of puzzles available in the north wing of the foyer. Please feel free to share any puzzles you may have. Enjoy!

A Gift of Christmas Music: Brad Smith is a 25-year Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra musician (Oboe) who with his wife, Wendy has been attending Heritage Church the past few years. He has kindly provided a gift of Christmas music in the form of a CD he produced 2 years ago. The CD is available at the information center and you are encouraged to take one home with you.

The music from this CD and a Christmas CD he produced and recorded in 1995 is also available on his website: <https://bradsmithoboe.com/free-download>.



Family Faith Formation Tip

“... and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” In what ways might you make more space for Jesus in your everyday life? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: The Shepherds' Joy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. At the beginning of Luke 2, the shepherds were kind of like the last ones to be picked. They got the long and boring night shift job that nobody wanted to do: watch the stinky sheep. But God picked them for a special task the night Jesus was born. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible story podcast "The Shepherds."

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Everlasting Father - Isaiah continued to reveal the nature of the Messiah when he called him the "Everlasting Father." Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 63:15-16, John 14:6-14, 1 John 1:1-4, and 1 John 3:1-3 to better understand how this revolutionary title reveals the nature of Jesus and discover the comfort and belonging offered to us in Jesus, our Everlasting Father. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

The Heritage Piecemakers group will be displaying the quilts they have made this Sunday, December 17 during the fellowship time after church.

