

Sr Pastor
Pastor Ruben Sernas

Elders
Joe Mayberry
John Hrenko

Deacons
Rick Adams Joe Graves
Gary Morgan Angelo Sica
Jim Swank

Financial Update as of 11.16.25

November Giving	\$16,735
November Est Expenses	\$20,000
YTD Budget	\$50,966
YTD Giving	\$55,305
<i>(our fiscal year runs Sept-Aug)</i>	

Attendance last Sunday

Worship Service	72
Sunday School	39

Please pray for these Heritage families this coming week:

Gloria Temple
Myrtle Thompson
Fern Toner-Horisk
Ralph & Catherine Zinszer
Rick & Debbie Adams

This morning's Youth Ministry volunteers

Worship nursery: _____ + _____

Jr Church: Amy Forrest & Phyllis Loveless

Sunday School nursery: _____ + _____

Next Sunday, 11/30

Worship nursery: _____ + _____

Jr Church: Jean Sica & Betsy Swank

Sunday School nursery: _____ + _____

A Reformed congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Heritage Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship

9:30 am

Sunday School

11:15 am

You may contact us at

Heritage Presbyterian Church
140 Airport Road
New Castle, DE 19720

Church office

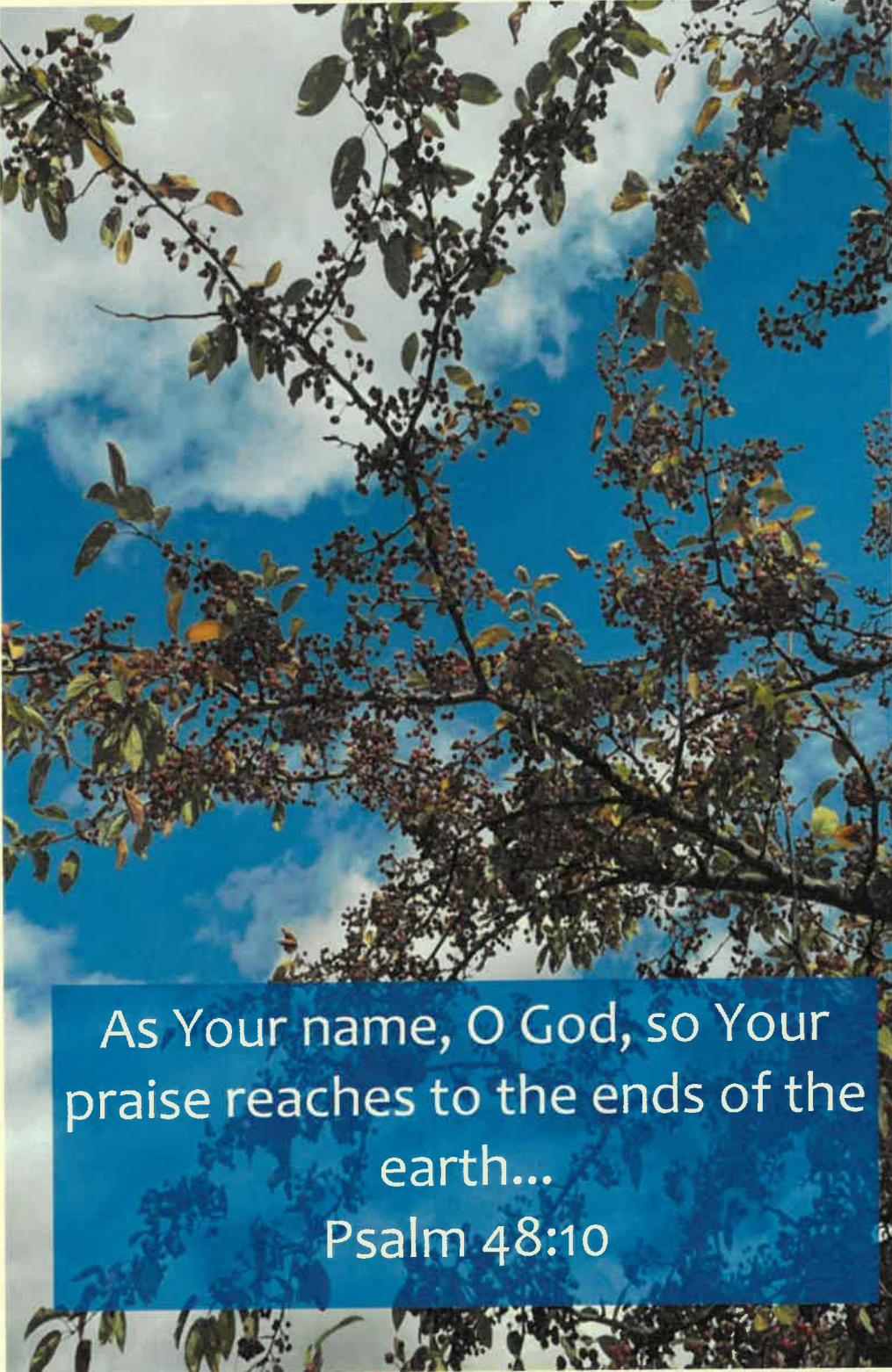
302-328-3800

Online

office@HeritagePCA.net
www.HeritagePCA.net

Pastor Ruben Sernas

sernasruben@gmail.com
302-476-1844



As Your name, O God, so Your
praise reaches to the ends of the
earth...

Psalm 48:10

November 23, 2025

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements

Debbie Adams
Pastor Ruben Sernas

Approaching God

Call to Worship: Psalm 48:9-10 (ESV)

We have thought on Your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of Your temple. As Your name, O God, so Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

*** Song of Praise:** Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Prayer of Adoration

Confessing our Need of God's Sustaining Grace:

Heavenly Father, You are the Creator of the whole Universe who has made all things from nothing. In the beginning, You created humanity in Your image and declared all Your handiwork to be good. But Adam fell into sin, exchanging fellowship with You for the taste of the forbidden fruit. We have inherited Adam's sinful nature. Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Second Adam, our new representative before God. In the first Adam, we are all condemned. In the Second Adam, God's people are declared forgiven and righteous. Based on Your perfect life and perfect sacrifice, we receive the gift of salvation. Holy Spirit, cause us to hate the darkness of our sin and flee to the brightness of Christ's love. We rejoice in the new life we have in Christ. In Christ's name, Amen.

Assurance of God's Sustaining Grace: Romans 5:18-21 (ESV)

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*** Song of Thanksgiving:** His Mercy is More

Delighting in God

Offering/Offertory: Deuteronomy 12:5-6 (ESV)

But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put His name and make His habitation there. There you shall go, and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock.

Baptism of Mbang Margo Anyam

Prayer of Praise & Intercession

*** Songs of Anticipation**

Cecelia Epote

Hearing God

Reading of God's Word: Acts 16:11-40 (ESV)

Sermon "God & Household Baptisms"

Pastor Ruben Sernas

*** Closing Song:** Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

*** Benediction**

*** All who are able, please stand**

After the Worship service, if you have a special prayer request or a question concerning the sermon or a question regarding eternal life with God, please come to one of the front pews, someone will be glad to speak with you.

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism, by Stanley D. Gale

What is baptism?

Baptism is sign and seal of belonging to God's covenant community, His visible church. It involves the application of water in the name of the triune God, marking the recipient out as special in God's sight.

What is the covenant?

The covenant is the name of the relationship God has entered into with a people. "Covenant" is used to describe this relationship in both the Old Testament and the New Testament period.

What does baptism have to do with the covenant?

There were two sacraments established by God related specifically to the covenant: a sacrament of *initiation* and a sacrament of *continuation*. The sacrament of initiation under the old covenant was circumcision and under the new covenant is water baptism. The sacrament of continuation was the Passover under the old and the Lord's Supper under the new. These covenant signs and seals have always been part of the expression of God's covenant relationship.

To what does baptism point?

Baptism is a sign of God's promises of eternal life and blessing found in Jesus Christ that are to be received by faith. Often it is misunderstood that what is pointed to in a person's baptism is his or her personal faith in Christ. It is said to be "an outward sign of an inward change". In this view the person's (subjective) faith is something *objective* — God's promise. So baptism, as was circumcision, is actually an outward sign expressing the reality of God's promise.

Who is to receive the sign of covenant initiation?

Those who aligned themselves with the people of God and the children of those who were part of God's covenant family were to receive the sign. Or, to put it differently, the sign is for believers and their children.

Why are children set apart for the sign of covenant initiation?

God has always dealt with families and so the children of at least one believing parent are regarded differently from the children of unbelieving households. This sign was a pointed reminder of the need for the same cleansing from sin for the child that the parent had already received by virtue of faith in God's Savior. In Acts 2, Peter applies the same promises to new covenant believers as were given to old covenant believers in Genesis, both regarding families.

Does the sign save the child or indicate the baby is saved?

No, the sign points to the promises of God that are to be received by *faith*. If, by God's grace, the child grows up to believe, baptism becomes a sign of blessing of the promises of salvation found in Jesus Christ. Unbelief is a rejection of those promises. While it is the teaching of some that water baptism saves from sin, actually working a new nature in the recipient, this is a grave error. Many people have a false confidence in the fact that they were baptized, when in fact they are called to trust in God alone for salvation.

Did the covenant signs change with the new covenant?

Yes, they became fuller. The covenant sign was broadened from circumcision to water baptism to encompass females as well as males. Now the signs are unbloody rather than bloody in the case of both sacraments. But certainly God has not left His church without a sign of covenant initiation for children under the new covenant. That would be totally contrary to God's design of His covenant.

Why should I baptize my baby?

Certainly not because of superstition or tradition or some idea that it in any way saves your child, but only out of concern for God's design and submission to God's command to give your children the sign of covenant initiation. Water baptism is not necessary for salvation, but it is necessary for *obedience* to our covenant Lord.

Is dedication of babies acceptable instead of baptizing them?

Dedication is not found in the Bible. It is the invention of man to fill the void created by neglect of God's sacrament of covenant initiation of children born into Christian homes.

Why sprinkle water instead of immerse in it?

The key factor is the water, as a symbol of the need of God's cleansing grace realized in Jesus Christ. Sprinkling was the method of ceremonial cleansing and the sign of the coming of the Spirit in the new covenant.

Selected Bible passages for study: Gen 17:9-12; Ex 12:47-48; Mt 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 16:31-34; Rom 2:28-29; Rom 4:9-13; Gal 3:17; Col 2:11-12

Mode - Num 8:7; Heb 9:10-14; 1 Pet 1:2, Ezek 36:25; Acts 2:1-3

Taking the Sermon Home With You 11/23/25

Acts 16:11-40 "God & Household Baptisms"

I. Lydia's Household

II. Jailer's Household

Questions for personal &/ or group discussion:

1. What was Lydia doing before Paul's arrival?
2. Who opened Lydia's heart while she listened to Paul's message?
3. Why were Paul and Silas in prison?
4. How did Paul and Silas answer the jailer's question about salvation?
5. Who was baptized in the jailer's household?