

Here We Are, Lord



Harper Chapel UMC
5567 Osage Beach Pkwy
Osage Beach, MO 65065
573-348-2617
harperumc.org
office@harperchapel.org
August 2025

Your paragraph text

Note from Pastor Eric

Allergies

It is nearing the time of year for my allergies to flair up worse than normal. I know that I have been diagnosed with mold and dust mite allergies, but I'm sure that there is something else that shows up this time of the year in which I am allergic to as well. There is definitely some sort of weed outside that causes me to have sinus drainage and itchy eyes during the fall of the year. Many people suffer from allergies in today's world. I never had allergy issues as a child, but they have increased as I have gotten older. Maybe you to

suffer from allergies too. What is an allergic reaction though? Wikipedia defines allergies this way: "Allergies, also known as allergic diseases, are a number of conditions caused by hypersensitivity of the immune system to something in the environment that normally causes little problem."

Just as we experience physical allergies, we can also encounter spiritual allergies that effect our faith journey. Did you know that we have spiritual allergies as well? According to scripture, when we profess faith in Christ, we become a new creation. We

start all over with a new slate. We are no longer slaves to sin according to Paul. Sin becomes an allergen to us. We are supposed to stay away from sin because it hurts and affects our spiritual health.

When we have allergies, we are to avoid the allergens in the environment. Which is easier said than done. Allergens are all over the place it is nearly impossible to avoid them. Sin is all around us constantly, trying to infect us as well. We can and should remove ourselves

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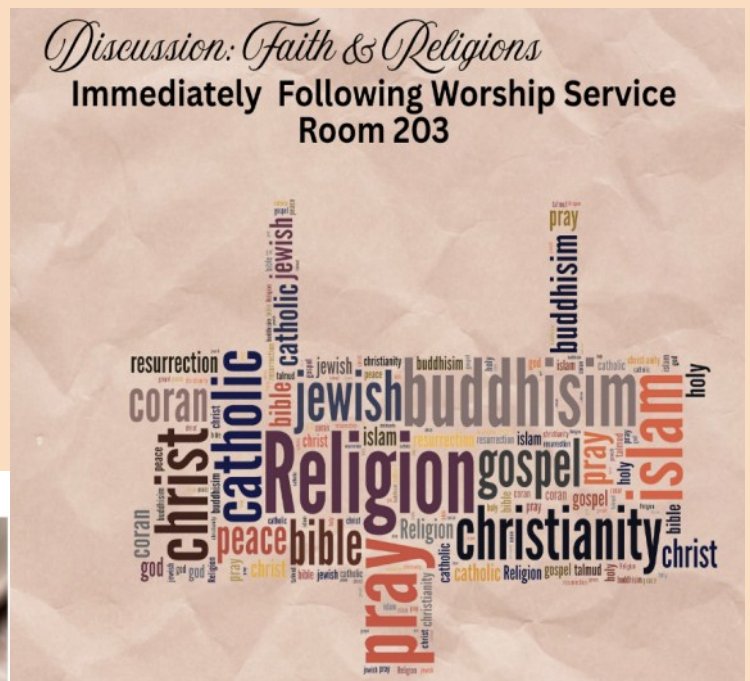
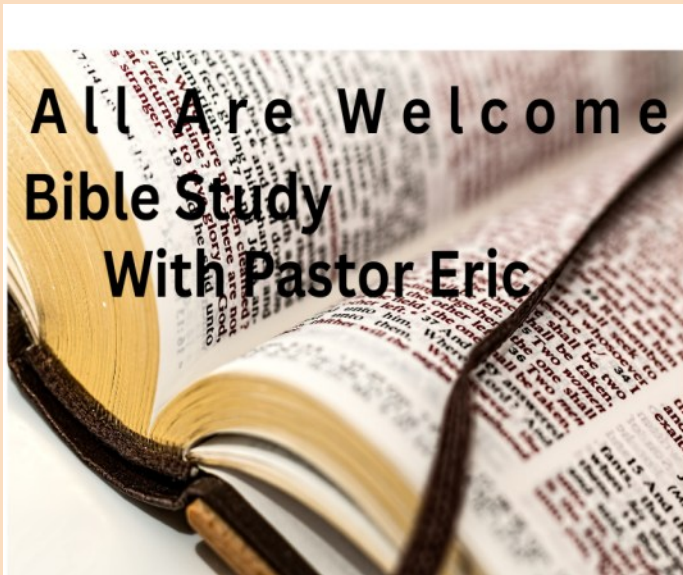
from sinful places and environments as much as we can. But sin is always there according to Paul, sitting on our doorstep. Since we can't avoid sin, just like we can't avoid allergens in the world, we need something else to help us.

Many people find help and relief from allergies through medicines. Our spiritual medicine to help us with

the problem of sin is prayer, scripture, and Christian fellowship. Prayer keeps us spiritually grounded, scripture provides guidance and wisdom, and fellowship offers support and accountability. These are the things we need in our lives to help us continue to overcome the sin that constantly barraging us on a daily basis. Have you ever noticed how certain environments or situations trigger your spiritual weaknesses.

What steps do you take to strengthen your spiritual immune system? Keep working on your spiritual immune system and let's continue to overcome the sin that so easily besets us. I hope to see you this Sunday for a "Spiritual Allergy Shot"!

Pastor Eric



Wednesdays
10:30AM

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE



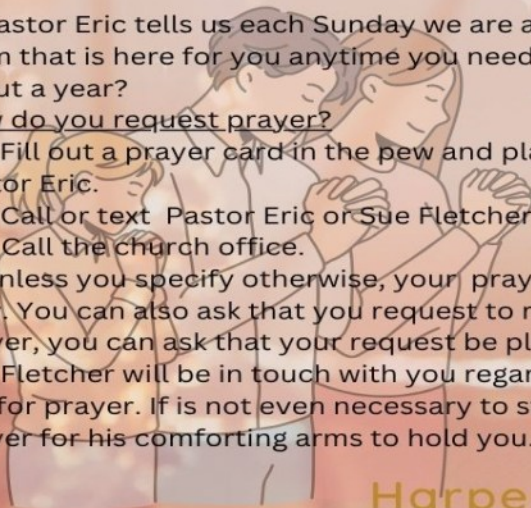
PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Pastor Eric tells us each Sunday we are a people of prayer. Did you know we have a prayer team that is here for you anytime you need us? The Harper Prayer Team has been in place for about a year?

How do you request prayer?

1. Fill out a prayer card in the pew and place it on the alter during communion or give it to Pastor Eric.
2. Call or text Pastor Eric or Sue Fletcher (573-480-2788)
3. Call the church office.

Unless you specify otherwise, your prayer request will remain confidential to the prayer team only. You can also ask that your request to remain only with Pastor Eric. If you want church-wide prayer, you can ask that your request be placed in the newsletter. Typically either Pastor Eric or Sue Fletcher will be in touch with you regarding your request. I hope you will consider reaching out for prayer. It is not even necessary to state the details of your needs. God knows and we will prayer for his comforting arms to hold you.



Harper Prayer Team

Sue Pierce, Carol Weatherford, Carolyn Moore
Linda Craig, Beth Hargrave, Chris Poland
Robyn Roehl, Jannette Smith, Helen Schmidt
Eric Schmidt, Sue Fletcher

2 Corinthians 1

“He is the one who comforts us in all our trouble so we can comfort other people who are in every kind of trouble”.

Prayers for all that are on the prayer team prayer list.



Time to hit the books and head to school because it's back to school month throughout August. August serves as a reminder to teach kids about school safety, get back-to-school supply shopping done, finish up the summer reading list and purchase supplies. Back-to-school month takes us out of our summer coma, with earlier bedtimes, more

reading, less TV, and prepping for scheduled days rather than laid back ones.

- ❖ 180—is the average required school days in the U.S.
- ❖ $\frac{1}{3}$ —the fraction of total students who start school between August 12 and August 16
- ❖ \$91—the average amount spent on back-to-school shopping for pre-k to 12th grade
- ❖ \$1,367—the average amount spent on collegiate shopping
- ❖ 6.8 hours—the average school day
- ❖ \$14,295—the average spending by U.S. public schools per student, pre-k through 12th grade
- ❖ 19 million—the number of students enrolled in colleges and universities.

FOUR BACK TO SCHOOL FACTS:

1. There's a diagnosable fear of going to school. *Didaskleinophobia*, an acute fear of going to school affects approximately 2.4 percent of children.
2. Apples and teachers go way back.
Parents in 16th-century Denmark started sending their kids to school with an apple because teachers weren't making enough money to buy food.
3. School supplies are expensive.
On average, families spend \$918 on school supplies every year, which means the school supply industry makes approximately \$100 billion annually from these sales.
4. It's a ritual.
Including college, approximately 78 million students go back to school every year.

FIVE THINGS TEACHERS WISH PARENTS KNEW BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

Teachers have a lot on their minds as they start the school year. I found a handful of K-12 educators willing to share their expectations for families, the biggest thing—Communication. They like knowing anything important that might affect your child's education.

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1. You can invite your child to parent-teacher conferences. This way, kids and parents can hear feedback at the same time, and nothing gets lost in the translation. Students can usually handle honest conversations but always ask teachers for permission to include kids in conferences.

2. Got a problem? Tell the teacher (not the principal or other parents).

If your child is experiencing conflict at school, don't call the parents of the other child (especially if you're angry). Instead, contact the teacher first. Unlike parents, teachers spend a lot of time with both children and may have important context.

3. Stop calling or texting kids at school. Teachers know how much kids are on their phones, but sometimes parents are part of the problem. Teachers appreciate a heads-up before parents call or text students at school and advise limiting unnecessary conversations during the day.
4. They hate when you take kids out of school for planned vacations, so do your best to plan vacations around the school calendar.
5. Let them know what you did this summer. When teachers are familiar with how students spent the previous few months, they can better tailor education to a child's specific needs.

It is just as summer transitions into fall during this month that we too can experience a shift in our spiritual journey. August invites us to let go of past struggles and embrace a renewed sense of purpose and direction. It is an opportunity to realign with God's plans and seek His guidance for the future. August is commonly associated with summer in many parts of the world, a time of warmth, productivity, and growth.

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF AUGUST:

1. Season of Harvest: August, being a month of abundant growth, can symbolize the spiritual harvest in our lives. Just as farmers reap the fruits of their labor during this time, we can reflect on the spiritual seeds we have sown and the blessings we receive from God.
2. Divine Provision: The month of August reminds us of God's faithfulness in providing for our needs. As we witness the ripening of crops and the fulfillment of His promises in nature, we can trust that He will meet our physical and spiritual needs.
3. Spiritual Maturity: Just as crops reach maturity in August, we can view this month as an opportunity for personal growth and spiritual maturity. It is a time to reflect on our journey of faith and seek a deeper relationship with God.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" Galatians 6:9

Peace and Grace, Billye Bennett, RN



Updates on the Harper Chapel Instant Church Directory app continue! Now we want to be sure we've noted everyone's very special days—their birthdays (ONLY the day and month—please!) and anniversaries! Please edit your family's listing to include that information! Directions for editing YOUR listing (add a picture, change a phone number, mailing address, or email address) were included in last month's newsletter. If you prefer, you can send your info to Sue at suepierce1221@gmail.com or to Susan in the church office at office@harperchapel.org."

Here's [HOW TO EDIT YOUR DIRECTORY LISTING](#). Just pull up your listing on your phone and then click the three dots at the top of your phone screen. Select the "Edit My Family" option to update your family or individual picture, update your contact information, and/or add your birthday(s) and wedding anniversary. We'll be happy to be photographers any Sunday morning!

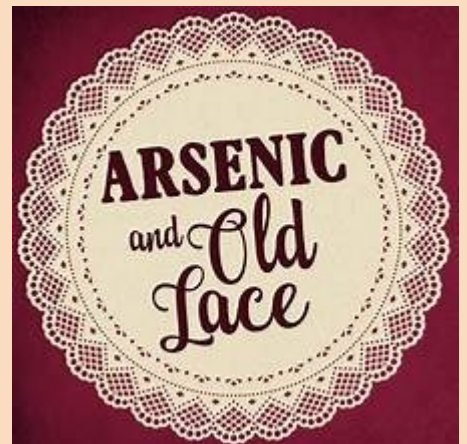
[IF YOU'RE NOT IN OUR DIRECTORY](#), first you'll want to download the Instant Church Directory app from the App Store. Then take a pic of yourself, upload it, and complete your contact information. Again, happy to be photographers or helpers on Sunday mornings! Just call Sue Pierce (573-216-6021), Deb Larson (573-280-5203) or Susan in the Church Office at 573-348-2617

Deb and Sue have a table set up just outside the church office with printed instructions and are happy to help! Susan's office hours are on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Let's get you added to our Who's Who at Harper Chapel!



Mark your calendar now!

For Arsenic and Old Lace at the Lyceum Theatre on October 1st. Tickets will be \$44.00 per person. Deadline for ordering tickets is August 22nd. Watch for more information coming soon.



LEADERSHIP

Leadership Meeting

August 26th

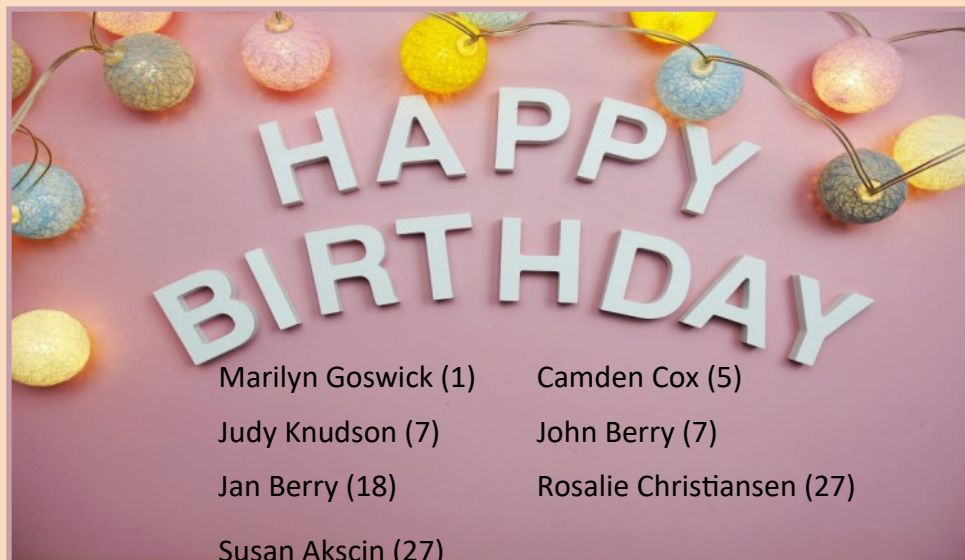
6:30PM



Harper Chapel's
Grief Support Group
meets on the 2nd Tuesday of
every month at 11am.



No August Meeting



HOW 'BOUT A BLOOMIN' ONION®, MATE?



August 18th at 11:30am
Outback Steakhouse
3930 Osage Beach Pkwy



Fantastic Caverns/Cracker Barrel Lunch

August 13th

\$34/person plus lunch

Please let Billye know by **August 8th**, if
you plan to attend.





WE NEED HELP!!

Our Reading Buddies volunteer numbers have decreased.

Are you able to dedicate one hour per week to reading to first-grade students?

Are you able to dedicate one hour per week to reading to first-grade students?

We are always looking for Reading Buddies either as a regular or on a substitute basis, at the Osage Beach Elementary School on Nichols Rd in Osage Beach. We plan to start the third week of September. If you enjoy reading with students, the requirements are few.

There is a little paperwork, Safe Sanctuary Certification is required, and about one hour of your time a month. We usually read from about 10:30-11:30 am on Thursdays. The time may change as teachers set their schedules for next year. You will be scheduled on the same week each month. We have substitutes who will cover for you if you cannot read at your regular time. We would love to have more Reading Buddies and we hope you might join us. Harper Chapel United Methodist Church recognizes that **Reading is the Pathway to Success.**

Give Geniece Tyler a call, 573-480-4847. She will give you all the information

Welcome to our

CHAIR YOGA

Harper Chapel UMC
5567 Osage Beach Pkwy
573-348-2617



KEEP YOUR MIND HEALTHY

Wednesdays, 1PM

\$10/Class (Drop-In)

\$40/Five Classes

Led by Linda Babbs of
Soothing Strength Yoga

YOU ARE INVITED!



EVERY HARPER LADY JOIN US!

Monthly Meetings - 2nd Thursday of the Month

You are warmly invited to our ladies' meeting!
Come enjoy fellowship, service, devotion and food!
Together in faith and friendship, building a **stronger
community.**

Harper
Ladies



Thursday, August 14

10:30AM

Speaker: Kelly Fischbach
of

The Idiots' Club



H.S. SCHOLARSHIP *Recipients* Thank You

To the members of Harper Chapel,
Thank you so much for the
consideration of this Scholarship.
Selecting me is quite an honor
and much appreciated.

-Madison D.

Dear Harper Chapel Scholarship
Committee,

I'm very Thankful for
the Harper Chapel Scholarship.
It's amazing that your church
is encouraging Christian college
students to uphold their faith!
Your support makes it easier
for me and others alike to
focus on my goals and chase
my dreams without worrying
as much about the cost.

Thank you,
Meghan Milligan