



WHAT DOES THE AUTUMN EQUINOX MEAN?

That is a question that has a lot of different answers. There is the scientific answer that says, "The fall equinox is the exact moment when the Sun crosses directly above Earth's equator, marking the official astronomical start of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere." *Britannica*. The sun rises directly in the East and sets directly in the West. This is a day of balance. The earth is neither tilted North nor South on this day. The same thing happens in the Spring as well.

Depending on how many circuits you have made around the sun, the official change of seasons doesn't even catch your attention anymore. It's just another day we say. However, we often welcome the changes that the Autumn and Spring Equinoxes bring. We look forward to the changes in temperatures and colors in the trees. After this latest hot summer, we yearn for the cool days that Autumn often brings.

We know that change happens every single day, but we often do not notice the nuanced small shifts that take place around us. We often miss those small subtle changes that take place with ourselves till one day we look in the mirror or look at an old photograph and wonder what happened! Change is inevitable. You can do nothing to stop it or prevent it. We need to embrace the change and welcome it into our lives.

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Behind all the changes that take place is a God who we say never changes. What never changes about God is God's character and essence of love. In the changes of life, we can count on God to be our rock. Jesus used that as an illustration in Matthew 7:24-27. In an ever-changing world, we are to build our life on the solid rock of Jesus Christ.

So, whether you like the seasonal change, or you fight against the evitable changes that life brings, may we all find our hope and security in a God who's love never falters or changes. We can count on God every single day through every change of life.

Pastor Eric Schmidt

Reaching Up to God and Out to People



HARPER CHAPEL

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?

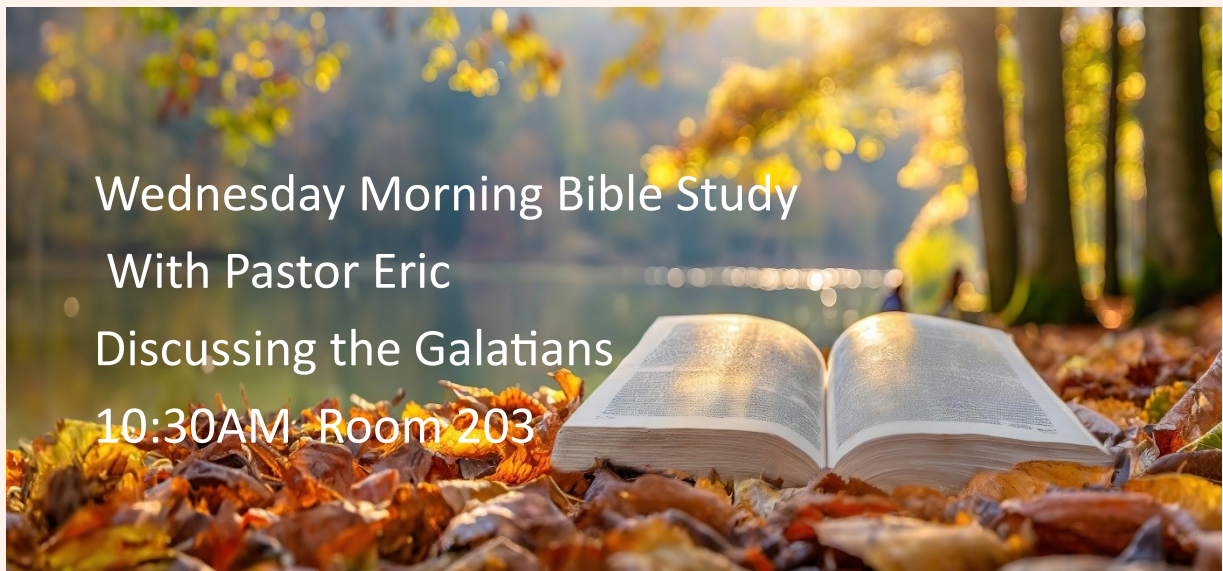
1. Fill out a prayer card in the pew and place it on the alter during communion or give it to Pastor Eric.
2. Call or text Pastor Eric or Sue Fletcher (573-480-2788)
3. Call the church office.

Unless you specify otherwise, your prayer request will remain confidential to the prayer team only. You can also ask that you 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 pray for his comforting arms to hold you.

Our Prayer Team

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

**"He is the one who
comforts us in all our
trouble so we can comfort
other people who are in
every kind of trouble".
2 Corinthians 1**



Wednesday Morning Bible Study
With Pastor Eric
Discussing the Galatians
10:30AM - Room 203



Handbell Practice:

Wednesday Evenings at 5:30PM

Choir:

Due to scheduling conflicts with school, Michael will not be able to join us every Wednesday evening. Due to our limited number of singers, we are going to simplify the choir plans for the season.

Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, November 4 from 6:30-7:30PM. We have a patriotic piece we will be singing Sunday, November 8. We are currently looking at December 6 or 13 for a (simple) Christmas performance.

Please reach out to our church members to join us.

Nancy Hopper

First Rehearsal:

Wednesday, November 4 from 6:30-7:30PM



BE A "WALKING BILLBOARD" FOR HARPER CHAPEL

Our online store for Harper Chapel "merch" is now open! Be a walking billboard for Harper Chapel!

We have three items in the store: 2 different styles of polo shirts for ladies and two different styles for men PLUS a light-weight long sleeve pullover (also for ladies and men) perfect for layering this fall. Our colors are navy, blue mist, (a light blue), and graphite (a grey).

(Spec sheets are available on the Info Table in the Church Narthex.)



Prices range from \$25 to \$35. \$2 or \$3 more 2X or 3X sizes. There is no mark up on the prices.

The online store is only open until October 5th. Shirts will be delivered October 19th thru the 22nd.

We want to be "**walking billboards**" for Harper Chapel so we've purposely restricted the available colors for more of an impact in the community.

Here's the link: <https://quickteesscreenprinting.getchaos.com/t/apparel-sales-55cf>. Check Facebook for our QR code. (Also attached.)

Brad Hall, who was a new Harper Member and just recently passed away, spearheaded this project. We owe him a debt of thanks.

Several people have asked about having their own clothing items logoed and if Quick Tees had jackets (must be thinking fall is actually coming!).

From Kelsey Herman, owner of QUICK TEES: "We can stitch most items. The stitching is \$8.00 per item. Our policy for customer supplied items, is we do not replace anything that might miss stitch. Customers assume all risk with providing their own items."

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Here's the pricing for sweatshirts and jackets (These items are not available thru our online store, ONLY via paper orders. Please include your personal check with order.)

Crewneck Sweatshirt pricing with embroidered logo

- Medium weight - S-XL: \$24.00

2XL: \$28.00

3XL: \$32.00

- Heavy Weight - S-XL: \$35.00

2XL: \$39.00

3XL: \$42.00



Jacket pricing with embroidered logo

** Available in men's and women's sizing. A spec sheet of the jackets is available at the INFO Table in the Narthex.

- Soft Shell Jacket: S-XL: \$45.00

2XL-3XL: \$48.00

ORDER FORMS AT THE INFO TABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

Sue Pierce,
Leadership Chairman

Festival of Sharing, 2026

What is the Festival of Sharing?

This festival originated in the 1980's via the United Methodist Office of Creative Ministries. Today it is a statewide cooperative ecumenical response to hunger, poverty, and injustice in Missouri and internationally

After several years in hiatus, this year Harper Chapel has planned cooperatively with FaithBridge UMC to participate by collecting blankets and kits. With multiple options available, Harper Chapel has decided to give choices to our contributors.



Blankets and Quilts, either new or gently used, of any size, ranging from baby blankets & laprobes to bed-sized blankets – twin, standard, queen, king.

Missouri Student Dental Packs (see attachment)

Missouri Baby Bundle Packs (see attachment)

Heifer Project International – Make monetary donations to Harper Chapel UMC, and funds collected will be combined in one check to be presented in memory of Dr. Bill Monsees.

All contributions should be delivered to Harper Chapel and placed in labeled bins located in the Narthex. Contribution deadline: Sunday, Oct. 11. The following Saturday, October 17, a group from Harper Chapel and FaithBridge will deliver our collections to the Tipton UMC where we'll be joined

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by many others in a Sharefest. From there, kits and blankets will be disseminated to deserving agencies from around the state.

	Missouri Student Dental Pack 2,275 requested versus 1,582 shared in 2025	Estimated Pack Value \$15
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	Missouri Blankets 1,186 requested versus 1,018 shared in 2025	Estimated Pack Value \$18
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	Missouri Baby Bundle Pack 957 requested versus 703 shared in 2025	Estimated Pack Value \$35
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Carol Weatherford

TRUNK OR TREAT!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
3 TO 5 PM**

Please consider participating by dressing up and decorating your trunk! Starting the first Sunday in October we will be accepting candy donations for the event. We will also accept monetary donations to offset the cost of advertising signage.

Thank you!
Deb Larson



TRUNK OR TREAT

Vaccine Recommendations

for 2026-2027



Vaccinations represent one of the most significant advances in modern medicine. They have greatly reduced the incidence of numerous diseases, such as polio, tetanus, measles, and chickenpox. Remarkably, smallpox has completely been eradicated, with the last natural case recorded in 1977. More recently, COVID-19 vaccines significantly lowered infection and death rates, helping society return to normalcy. Vaccines work best when a large portion of the population are immunized. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that vaccines save approximately 4 to 5 million lives each year. They are extremely safe; as the WHO notes, vaccine-related deaths are so rare that assessing the statistical risk is challenging.

“Seeing as being anti-vaccination has become trendy in some circles and misinformation is all over the internet, it’s more crucial than ever to spread awareness of vaccines and make sure as many people as possible receive potentially life saving immunizations. The locations that vaccinate the most provide the safest environments when it comes to public health, as the likelihood that the next outbreak will begin or spread there is minimized” (WHO) For example, rising measles cases in America are driven by falling vaccination rates in children. According to the WHO, vaccine resistance is one of the top global health challenges. Missouri rates #27 in states that vaccinate the most in 2026.

Center for Disease Control (CDC) Recommended Immunizations For Adults Aged 19 Years and Older:
If you are pregnant or have a medical condition that puts you at higher risk for infection talk to your Healthcare Provider about which vaccines are right for you.

- COVID-19: At least one dose of the current Covid-19 vaccine, 65+ at least 2 doses
- Influenza/flu: Every year
- RSV: If aged over 50
- Tetanus: every 10 years for adults
- MMR: If 68 years or younger
- Chickenpox: If US born and aged 45 years or younger
- Shingles: Recommend For 55 +
- Pneumococcal: Recommended for 55+
- Hepatitis B: Through 50 years

Top Disease experts-including pediatricians-work together throughout the year to update the Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for 18 years and younger. The schedule approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics varies from the CDC’s 2026 Schedule, as these experts feel the CDC’s recommendations are not based on science. Follow your child’s Health Care Provider’s recommended immunization schedule.

Reaching Up To God and Out to People,
Billye Bennett,
Parish Nurse

HARPER CHAPEL IS SPONSORING A 6U SOCCER TEAM!!

Harper Chapel is sponsoring a 6U Soccer Team!! Come out and cheer our team on. The schedule is listed below along with the field where they will be playing. All games are at the LOSA fields in Linn Creek, MO.

Saturday, September 19, 2026

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

🏠10 - Harper Chapel (Light Blue)
Vs. 12 - Angel's Mexican (Mint)

Lake of the Ozarks Soccer
Association - LOSA 6u field 5

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

🏠08 - Ozark Premier Builders
(Deep Purple) Vs. 10 - Harper
Chapel (Light Blue)

Lake of the Ozarks Soccer
Association - LOSA 6u field 5

Saturday, September 26, 2026

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

🏠07 - Bridal Cave (Red) Vs. 10 -
Harper Chapel (Light Blue)

Lake of the Ozarks Soccer
Association - LOSA 6u field 3

11:10 AM - 11:40 AM

🏠10 - Harper Chapel (Light Blue)
Vs. 13 - Marcus Sykora State Farm
(Violet)

Lake of the Ozarks Soccer
Association - LOSA 6u field 3

Saturday, October 03, 2026

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

🏠06 - Law Office of Cisar & Spier
(Kelly Green) Vs. 10 - Harper Chapel
(Light Blue)

Lake of the Ozarks Soccer
Association - LOSA 6u field 5

9:40 AM - 10:10 AM

🏠10 - Harper Chapel (Light Blue)
Vs. 01 - Salisbury Real Estate (Cyber
Pink)

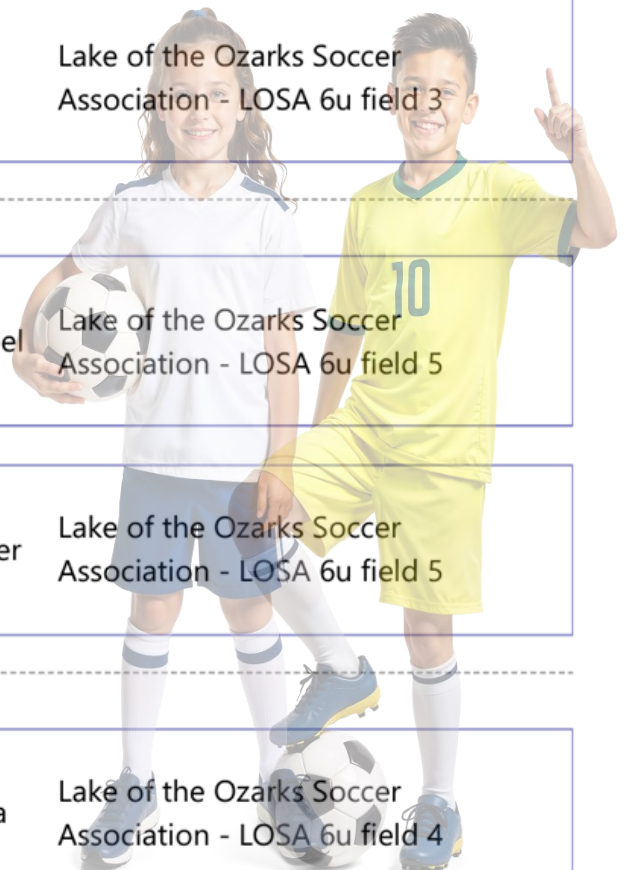
Lake of the Ozarks Soccer
Association - LOSA 6u field 5

Saturday, October 10, 2026

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

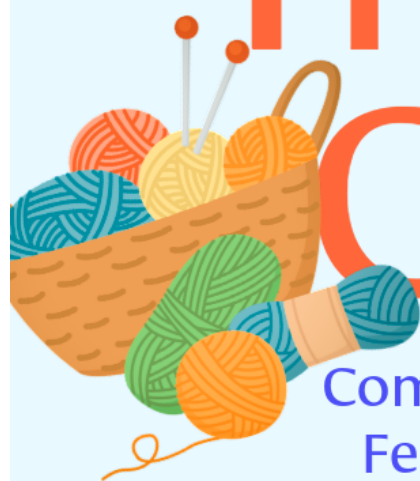
🏠10 - Harper Chapel (Light Blue)
Vs. 02 - Surdyke Yamaha & Marina
(Royal Blue)

Lake of the Ozarks Soccer
Association - LOSA 6u field 4





INTRODUCING HARPER CHAPEL'S



The Joyful Crafters



Come Create, Connect and Enjoy Fellowship! Get to know your fellow church members better around the crafting table.

Drop in any time and stay as long as you can.

Bring your own craft to work on: knitting, crocheting, sewing, diamond art, counted cross stitching, paper crafting and many more!



Contact Robin Roehl With Any Questions
314-750-3020



Harper Chapel
Room 203

Beginning October 15
3rd Thursday of Every Month
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

DESCENDENT OF HARPER CHAPEL FOUNDER COMES TO VISIT



On Sunday, September 13, we had a special guest at Harper Chapel from Houston, TX. He is the great grandson of Charles Avery Harper, who along with Thomas Ezard founded our church in 1868.

We had a short but informative visit.

Clark Ogden

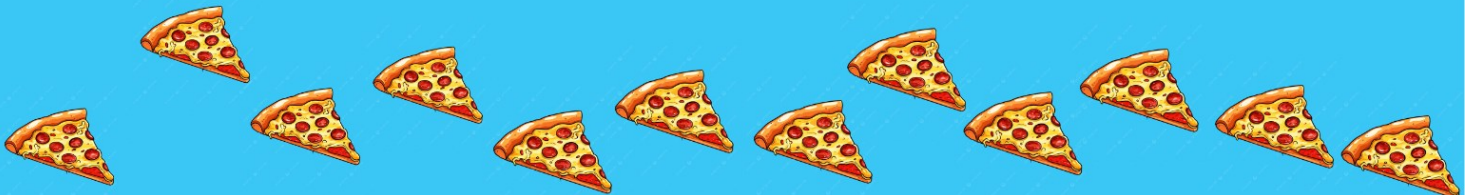




Monday, October 19

11:30AM

355 US-54, Camden



God's CLOSET
Sharing God's love one person at a time.



Shopping events are open to anyone in need of gently used clothing.
Available in sizes for men, women, and children.
Items are provided at no cost to you.

2nd Friday & Saturday

October 9th & 10th

11AM - 2PM



October

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 9AM Sanctuary 10:15AM Faith & Discussion	5	6	7 Bible Study Room 203 10:30AM Bell Choir 5:30PM	8 Harper Ladies Thompson Hall 2PM	9 God's Closet 11AM-2PM	10 Harper Chapel Men's Breakfast 8AM - Pancake House
11 9AM Sanctuary 10:15AM Faith & Discussion 2PM Worship at Stonebridge	12 Columbus Day	13 Brainstorming w/Pastor Eric 9AM	14 Bible Study Room 203 10:30AM Bell Choir 5:30PM	15 NEW! The Joyful Crafters 1-3PM - Room 203 See Newsletter Insert	16	17
18 9AM Sanctuary 10:15AM Faith & Discussion	19 JOY Group 11:30AM Pappos Pizza Camdenton	20	21 Bible Study Room 203 10:30AM Bell Choir 5:30PM	22 UMM Meeting 6PM Thompson Hall	23	24
25 9AM Sanctuary 10:15AM Faith & Discussion	26	27 Brainstorming w/Pastor Eric 9AM Leadership Meeting Room 203 - 6:30PM	28 Bible Study Room 203 10:30AM Bell Choir 5:30PM	29	30	31 Halloween Trunk or Treat 3-5PM Harper Chapel Parking Lot

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you

- Isaiah 41:10



September Attendance

September 6 68

September 13 75

September 20 65

September 27 82

Average 73

October

Lola Van-Weelder	7	Nancy Culver	16
Beau Brayfield	8	Barb Alcott	20
Blake Barbour	9	Helen Schmidt	24
Dave Sanders	11	Steve Hofstetter	28
Sabra Johnson	12	Kelly Fischbach	29
Gloria O'Keefe	13	Mary Lu Johnson	30
Billye Bennett	14	Clark Ogden	30

Medicare Open Enrollment Event

Compare Plans • Check Coverage • Lower Costs

MISSOURI SHIP

State Health Insurance Assistance Program

Free, unbiased Medicare counseling is available at:

Harper Chapel UMC

5567 Osage Beach Pkwy, Osage Beach, MO.

October 27th | 9 am - 3 pm

Walk-Ins ACCEPTED - Appointments Optional
Call 800-390-3330 to schedule.

Can't attend this event? Visit missouriship.org/allevents/
or call 1-800-390-3330 for FREE help.

We do not sell insurance plans.



SHIP
State Health Insurance
Assistance Program



DCI
Missouri Department of Commerce & Insurance

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Camdenton R-III School District
% Community Relations/Volunteer Services
P.O. Box 1409, Camdenton, MO 65020

John Berry % Harper Chapel United Methodist Church
5567 Osage Beach Parkway
Osage Beach, MO 65065

September 8, 2026

Dear members of Harper Chapel,

On behalf of the Camdenton R-III School District, thank you for your recent (and very generous) donation of \$1,000.00 and 242 undergarments to support the Camdenton R-III School District Looking Good program. As you know, Looking Good funds provide children with clothing and shoes in the case of an accident at school. Not only does it save them the embarrassment of wearing stained or wet clothing but it also saves classroom instruction time, as they do not need to wait for parents to leave work or home to bring these items to school. This allows the student to return to class immediately.

We are so grateful for the generosity of your church and others in our community who come together to support and bless our students. Every child deserves the opportunity to have a positive start to the new school year. With your generous donation, this will be a reality for many families.

With sincere thanks and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sherry Marose'.

Sherry Marose
Director of Community Relations/Volunteer Services
smarose@camdentonschools.org
(573) 346-9243