

Reaching Up to God
and Out to People



HARPER CHAPEL
September 2026



Persevering in Faith

There are times when faith feels easy. We experience God's blessings, our prayers seem to have clear answers, and the road ahead is clear. But there are other times when life brings disappointment, uncertainty, grief, or simply weariness. During those seasons, we are reminded of the importance of perseverance.

For Christians, perseverance is more than simply "hanging in there." It means continuing to trust God, continuing to pray, continuing to love others, and continuing to live out our faith even when circumstances are difficult.

Paul writes in Romans 5:3-4, "Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." Paul isn't saying that suffering is good. Rather, he reminds us that God can use difficult experiences to strengthen our faith and deepen our hope.

This connects beautifully with the Methodist understanding of God's grace. John Wesley taught that God's grace is continually at work in our lives, calling us, saving us, and helping us grow in holiness and love. Perseverance is not about relying solely on our own strength; it is our faithful

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response to the grace God continually provides.

Sometimes perseverance looks dramatic. More often, it is quiet: praying one more time, coming to worship when we are discouraged, forgiving someone who has hurt us, or continuing to serve when we are tired.

And we do not persevere alone. Our Christian community helps sustain us when our own faith feels weak, just as we can encourage others when they are struggling.

Hebrews 10:23 reminds us, "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful."

Our perseverance ultimately rests not on how strong we feel, but on the faithfulness of God.

Whatever season of life you are experiencing, keep praying. Keep worshiping. Keep loving. Keep serving. Keep trusting God's grace.

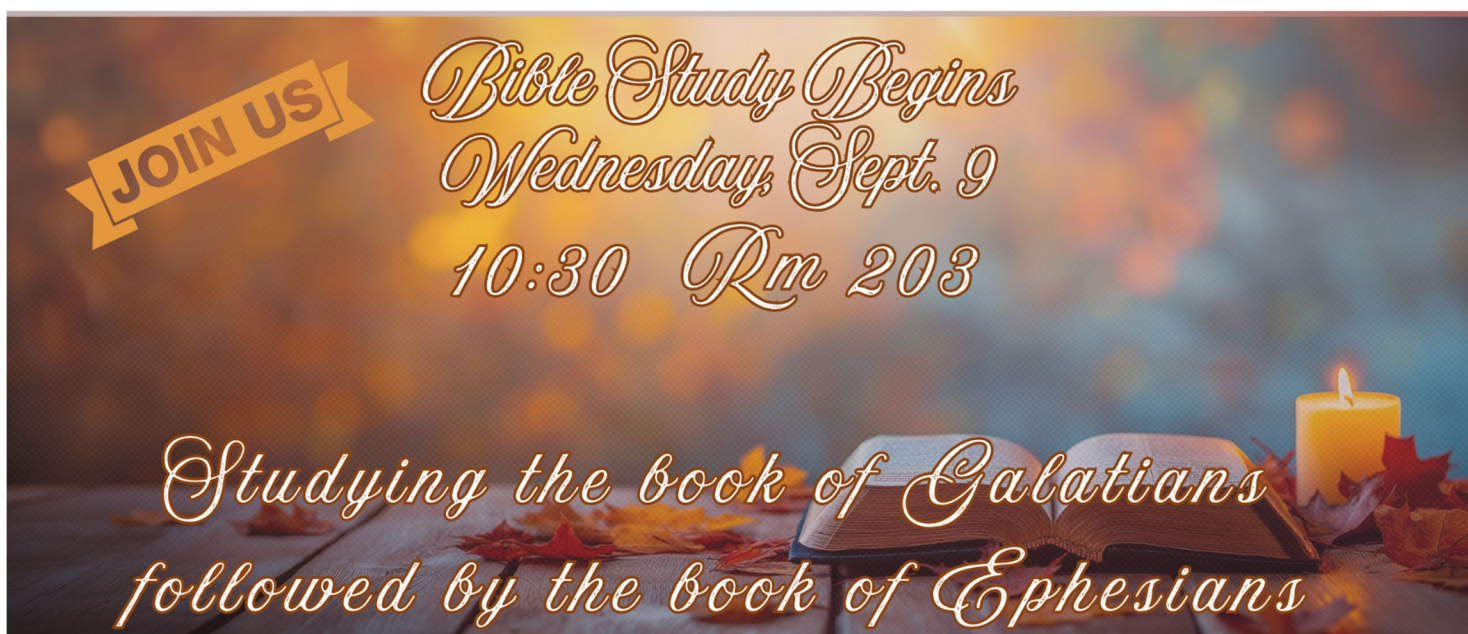
You may not understand the road ahead, but you can trust that God is still present and still working.

Sometimes the most faithful prayer we can offer is simply:

"Lord, give me the grace to take the next step."

Pastor Eric Schmidt

Reaching Up to God and Out to People



All Are Welcome



New Time - 9AM
Followed by Faith &
Discussion - 10:15AM



2nd Sunday
of the Month
2PM

Our Prayer Team

Sue Pierce, Carol Weatherford,
Carolyn Moore, Linda Craig,
Beth Hargrave, Chris Poland,
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

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.

BRAINSTORMING with PASTOR ERIC



Every other Tuesday morning at 9AM approximately eight (8) to twelve (12) folks from Harper Chapel come together to dream and discuss new ideas for Harper. As a group, we feel it's important to enhance the Harper experience for our church family members and visitors. The Hat Sundays, Wesley's Birthday Cake, and snacks by the coffee pots are our ways of doing that. We also feel it's necessary for us to build Harper's community awareness for a number of reasons, such as less visibility due to the Expressway, an aging congregation, and the residual side effects of non-attendance from Covid.

Examples of brainstorming session ideas include the new red feather flags placed next to the highway entrances for God's Closet, and a new logo for Harper, which you'll soon see on our new collared shirts! Harper Happenings, the Blessing of the Pets, and a soon to be announced new small group were all Brainstorming ideas.

Do you think 'outside the box?' Are you a BIG thinker? Do you have an idea from a previous church you'd like to share? Are you a good sounding board? Are you fresh out of new ideas but want to get involved and don't quite know how? There's a place for you at our Brainstorming Table! Join us in September on Tuesday, September 1st, 15th, or 29th at 9AM in Room 203!

Sue Pierce
Leadership Chairman



Reaching Up to God and Out to People

HARPER CHAPEL

Since January of this year our Leadership Team has been developing a vision statement, core values, and even a motto. These things may evolve with time and the people serving. That's OK; change is good! Here's what we think is important to us and our church in 2026:

Harper's vision statement: Harper Chapel strives to be a faith community that passionately follows Jesus Christ by being spiritually centered and community focused.

Harper Chapel Core Values: Growing in Christ, Serving Purposefully, Knowing God.

Harper Chapel Motto: Reaching Up to God and Out to People.

So many powerful and challenging words! "Strives" – that's an action word to me and something that sounds like it requires effort and is on-going work! Passion and being spiritually centered? I'm an 'all in' kind of person so that adverb, passionately, speaks to me! Don't you feel better after one of Preacher's great sermons or a lively Bible Study discussion? Why wouldn't we be proud to share our "light" and be excited about what we believe? I get it, I don't witness either! BUT if witnessing scares you, I bet you have a really good story to tell about what you believe and why!

Here at Lake of the Ozarks, hospitality and guest service (reaching out) is the name of the game and expected. Hopefully because many of us have those backgrounds we naturally focus on welcoming folks and seeing needs. Once seen, we can address needs as part of our community focus. No matter our age we can come to know God on different levels of relationship and grow spiritually.

I said I wouldn't do this, but I have been thinking of the vision statement, the core values, and the motto as "Harper's trinity" statements. I roll all those really good words into one big breath prayer and feel blessed and centered! Last week you heard and saw Kristi demonstrate "Reaching Up to God and Out to People" during Children's Time. I'm thinking the hand motions will stick with the kiddos before the words, but still-a great foundation is being laid! Preacher Man verbally incorporates these words into his sermons and assignments. Begin to look around; look for our vision or motto on the sanctuary screens, on our Facebook page, on our website, in our church communications...

Isn't it amazing how closely knit the vision, core values and motto are? May they bring comfort to you and may you 'reach up to God and out to people' in your own special way!

Growing in Christ Together,

Sue Pierce
Leadership Chairman

Harper Chapel Financial Overview for 2026

Financial reports are available upon request. Statements of Financial Position and Activity are located on the Leadership Team bulletin board in the office hallway.

If you have questions or comments, contact Sue Pierce 573-216-6021.

Income

Tithes and Offerings	14927.72
Rental Income	60.00
Missions	530.00
Interest & Dividend Inc (MUMF)	744.93
Tryql	82.97
Total for Revenue	<u>16345.62</u>

Expenses:

Administrative Expenses:	1411.42
Missions (Apportionments)	2957.88
Outreach (Adv./Nursing Home)	210.36
Professional Services	613.48
Property & Building Expense	157.55
Total Salaries & Benefits	11357.31
Utilities	1774.19
Worship Expenses	1117.55

Children's Events	47.00
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Total:	<u>19646.69</u>
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Net Operating Revenue: \$3301.07 for July 2026

August Attendance



August 2	79
August 9	73
August 16	85
August 23	75
Average	<u>78</u>

I'm Allergic to Selfish

UMM Meet September 24, 6 pm



Throughout my career in public service, both paid and volunteer, we were taught on any [call](#) or in any situation, you first must take care of yourself. We were the ones that people in need called and were relying on to take control of the situation or problem. Therefore, if we did not take care of ourselves, then we could become part of the problem only now making it worse.

This wasn't selfish, it was keeping your tools sharp.

In our daily lives, we often take for granted how easy it is to 'survive the day'. Our basic needs are somehow just 'there'. Taking care of oneself for survival is a necessity. But sometimes we lose track of the difference between a need and a want. Sometimes our parents and grandparents were considered hoarders because they saved so much 'stuff'. They lived through a time of our culture when daily needs were limited and sometimes they would go without. It was a mere 'saving for a rainy day' to them. Selfishness of more is basically prioritizing petty personal gains over major needs of others.



If we take an altruistic approach to giving, the rewards far exceed our personal gains. One way to approach this is to take care of ourselves first, then the rest will fall into place. If we struggle with our own self worth or our own basic needs, we lose track of our 'why'. Selfishness is contagious. But even better, sharing is even MORE contagious. *An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels. ~Proverbs 18:1*

If selfishness is the key to being miserable, then selflessness must be the key to being happy!

~Joyce Meyer

The greedy stir up conflict, but those who trust in the Lord will prosper. ~ Proverbs 28:25

We all can get caught up in our daily bustle and take for granted our well being. When we are healthy in mind, body, and spirit, we can share our needs and wants with others. This gesture will enhance and grow our own self worth without searching for it. We are 'A story' inside 'THE story'. Tomorrow is not guaranteed for us. Let's leave it better than we found it and act like we give a share.

Steve Grass

Harper UMM- President

Healthy Aging Month is celebrating its 34th year and the 2026 theme is “Curiosity has no age limit”. The annual observance month runs through September and encourages individuals of all ages to embrace healthier lifestyles.

Key Goals include:

Spark Curiosity by embracing new experiences, step out of comfort zones, learn new skills.

Practice physical wellness by embracing the benefits of regular movement, balanced nutrition, and adequate sleep.

Support mental acuity by participating in brain-boosting activities, reading, and creative hobbies.

The mission is to encourage everyone to take personal responsibility for their health. September is chosen because so many people feel they can “get started” more easily then. Maybe the back-to-school routine never really goes away.

Carol Worthing, publisher of the *Healthy Aging* multi-media platform, and founder of *Healthy Aging Month* says “Aging is no longer a taboo subject. It’s almost becoming trendy to be an active, older adult.” Recapture that “back to school” feeling with a personal commitment to renew yourself with these tips from the Healthy Aging Campaign:

PHYSICAL WELL-BEING:

Move more, sit less. Physical activity is your weapon to help control blood pressure, help prevent heart disease and stroke and possibly limit your risk for depression, anxiety, and conditions like certain cancers and type 2 diabetes. Choose an exercise activity you enjoy so you will continue doing it. Current national recommendations are 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week as well as muscle-strengthening activities twice a week. That’s only 20 minutes a day, seven days a week, or around an hour a day three days a week.

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DIET: Try to cut back on salt. A diet rich in sodium has been linked to high blood pressure, stroke, and heart attack. Adding more fiber to your diet can help lower cholesterol, control your blood sugar, as well as helping maintain good digestive health.

SOCIAL: Be of service, as our Lord Jesus models for us in the New Testament. An excellent way to bring happiness and a sense of purpose into your life is to not focus on yourself (More of YOU, Lord, less of me). There are numerous opportunities to volunteer in our area, whether it be the Hospital, Citizens Against Domestic Violence, Central Missouri Foster Care and Adoption Agency, The Idiots Club, Hope House, Habitat For Humanity, Dogwood Animal Shelter, a local Senior Center, your Church, to name a few. These organizations and many others can benefit from your expertise, caring and compassion. If loneliness is an issue, be proactive and don't wait for the world to come to you, because it won't! Reach out to your friends, arrange lunch dates, join a book club, a card club, a garden club, the PEO, Newcomers/Longtimers for example. Adopting a pet from a local animal shelter is also an excellent way to combat loneliness. Redefining your purpose to maintain a sense of identity and purpose is essential to a healthy lifestyle

MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL: Continue to challenge yourself mentally by learning a new skill, a new hobby, the latest developments in your field of expertise, etc.

For Spiritual renewal engage in prayer, repentance, Bible study, Worship, fasting, accountability, service, forgiveness, gratitude, resting in God, seeking and listening to the Holy Spirit to comfort, strengthen and guide you, and self-reflection. Let go of negativity, immerse yourself in the beauty of nature, music, art, practice silence and active listening skills are also ways to renew yourself spiritually.

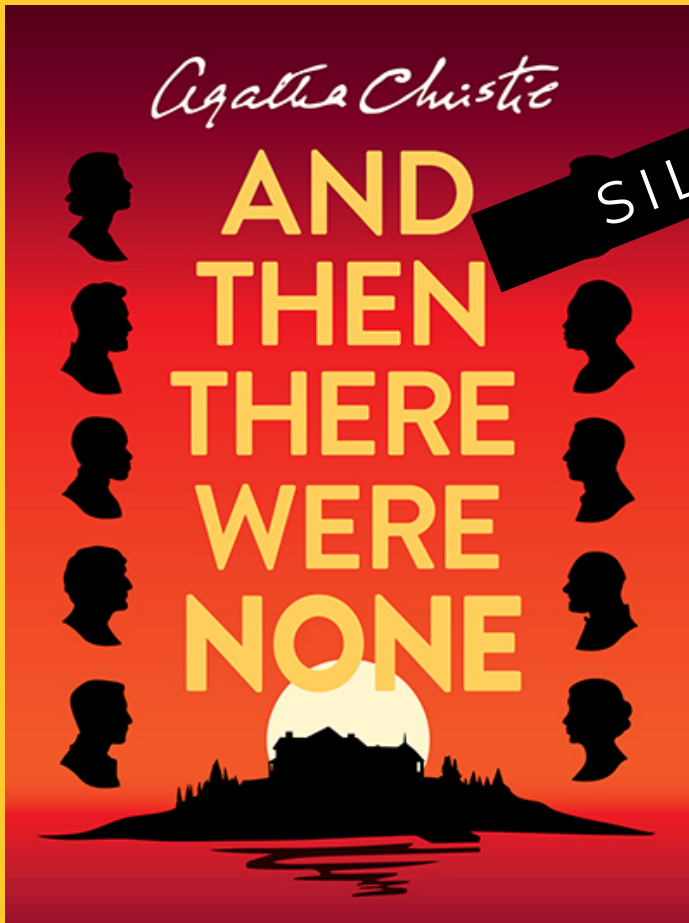
The 5 key signs that you are aging well include:

- . Physical strength and mobility
- . Sharp cognitive function
- . Emotional resilience
- . Strong social connections
- . Passion for hobbies and living your life in the service of others.

God will carry us through, even into our advanced years. Aging is a beautiful gift from God and although we cannot turn back the hands of time, we can live a more abundant and healthy life right now regardless of how much time has passed or how much we may still have before us.

One of my favorite Bible verses about aging is "Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green." (Psalm 92:14)

Peace and Grace,
Billye Bennettt, RN



SILENT AUCTION

Agatha Christie's
"AND THEN THERE WERE NONE"
ARROWROCK THEATER
Wednesday, September 30 @ 2PM

HARPER CHAPEL has been gifted three (3) tickets to the Lyceum Theater in Arrow Rock, MO. This is a high demand event and will sell out!

Tickets are 3rd row left center, a \$48 value each.

Minimum bid for all three tickets is \$100.

All proceeds will benefit Central Missouri Foster Care.

Please place your bid in the fishbowl on our Info Table in the Narthex.

SPECIAL NOTE!

**WE DO ASK THAT THE TICKETS BE USED & ENJOYED BY
OUR HARPER CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS!**



2026 H.S. SCHOLARSHIP *Recipients*

Olivia Berlemer • School of the Osage
Ozark Technical Community College • Culinary Arts

Hanna Brown • Camdenton H. S.
Culver Stockton College &
Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing • Nursing

Payton Canales • Camdenton H. S.
University of Wyoming • Nursing

Niklas Farthing • Camdenton H. S.
Ethnos 360 Bible Institute • Biblical Studies

Hunter Johnson • Camdenton H. S.
Southwest Baptist University • Biochemistry

Annabelle Kupfer • Camdenton H. S.
University of Missouri • Accounting/Finance

Soren Schmidt • Camdenton H. S.
University of Missouri • Business Administration

Madison Sykora • Camdenton H. S.
University of Missouri • Business

Thank you!

Dear Harper Chapel,
I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for awarding me this scholarship. Your generosity will greatly assist me as I pursue a double major in Accounting and Education at the University of Missouri in Columbia. This scholarship is an investment in my future and I am committed to excelling in my studies.

I aim to use my education to positively impact my community and help others. Thank you again for your support. I am determined to make the most of this opportunity and work hard to achieve my goals.

Sincerely,
Annabelle Kupfer

Dear Scholarship committee

Thank you very much for awarding me this Scholarship. I am truly grateful for your generosity and support of my education. This Scholarship will help me continue pursuing my college goals and motivates me to work hard and give back in the future.

Thank you again for your kindness and investment in my future.

Sincerely,
Hunter Johnson



Thursday, September 10 at 2 PM

Our Hostesses: Kelly Fishbach

Cathy Olson

Guest Speaker: Christina Hankinson

Volunteer Coordinator

Lake Regional Hospital



Luncheon: September 21 at 11:30AM

Outback Steak House

3930 Osage Beach Pkwy

Osage Beach

Please RSVP to Billye Bennett

573.280.4587



Harper Chapel donated
\$657.07 to the Campaign!



Thank you 



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

MOTHER'S DAY TO FATHER'S DAY
May 10-June 21



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
September 11 & 12 | 11AM - 2PM



Harper Chapel members are invited to participate in a Trunk or Treat, Saturday, October 31, 3:00-5:00 front parking lot of Harper Chapel. Dress up and decorate your vehicle for a spooky fun time!

Contest for the best costume that is NOT a witch!

Accepting **pre-packaged** candy donations in October.

Needed: face-painters



CMFCAA's
Afternoon Tea

Join us for an afternoon of tea, art, connection and community, to support children and families through foster care, adoption and kinship.

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY

12

1-4 p.m

2026

THE GROVE @ MEMORY LANE EVENTS

78 Walnut Grove Road, Eldon, MO

Purchase tickets and sponsorships:
mofosteradopt.com/teaparty



Do you have **Medicare Questions?**

Our Missouri SHIP Medicare counselors are here to help.

Medicare counselors can help you with:

- Medicare eligibility, enrollment and claims forms
- Employment and retirement health benefit questions
- Supplemental insurance policies
- Medicare Advantage options, such as HMOs and PPOs
- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
- Public benefit programs
- Fraud and abuse

Coming to Harper Chapel

Tuesday, October 27

9:30AM-3:30PM



Helping you
Navigate
Medicare

In partnership with

MISSOURI SHIP

State Health Insurance Assistance Program

800-390-3330 • missouriship.org



SHIP
State Health Insurance
Assistance Program



DCI
Missouri Department of Commerce & Insurance



Member	Birthhday	Member	Birthday
Ryan Clifton	1	Kennedy Cox	16
Dave Tyler	4	Linda Craig	16
Ron Westenhaver	5	Dave O'Connor	16
Alisha Baur	5	Linda Craig	16
Janie Winfrey	6	Dave O'Connor	16
Larry Christiansen	7	Nancy Witham	17
Steve Grass	8	Tom Reth	17
JoAnn Slead	9	Kara Sanders	17
Max Fischbach	12	Pete Kahrs	18
Terri Beffa	13	Elza Sager	18
Ryan Buckingham	15	Craig Alcott	26