

Open your eyes and
look at the fields! They
are ripe for harvest.

John 4:35

September 2025



A Note From Pastor Eric

Change is a constant in each of our lives, and the journey of faith is filled with moments of transition—starting a new job, moving to a new home, welcoming a child, grieving a loss, retiring, or stepping into a new role at church. As individuals, these changes can feel both exciting and overwhelming, but as a faith community, we can walk alongside one another, finding God’s presence in every season.

The Bible is rich with stories of personal journeys—think of Abraham leaving his homeland, Ruth finding a new family, or Paul’s transformation on the road to Damascus. Each transition brought uncertainty, but also new blessings and purpose. As we experience change, let’s remember that God often uses these times to deepen our faith and lead us to new opportunities.

Personal transitions can bring joy, sorrow, anxiety, and hope. It’s important to honor these emotions and offer ourselves grace. As a church family, let’s listen, pray, and encourage one another, knowing that no one walks through change alone.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

- Celebrate milestones: Mark new beginnings—like graduations, new jobs, or baptisms—with gratitude and joy.
- Grieve losses: Allow time and space to mourn, remembering that sorrow is a part of life's journey, too.
- Support each other: Reach out, offer a listening ear, and provide practical help as needs arise.

Perhaps you're joining a new ministry, stepping back from a role, or considering a different way to serve. Change in how we engage with church life can be an opportunity to discover new gifts and passions. If you're in transition, share your hopes and questions with someone you trust. Myself and members alike are here to help you discern where God may be leading you next.

Resilience grows when we remember God's faithfulness in past seasons and trust that God's love endures through all circumstances. Stay connected with others, practice gratitude, and lean into prayer.

Share your story—your journey may inspire someone else facing a similar change.

Above all, remember: you are not alone. With God's steadying presence and a supportive church family, every personal transition holds the potential for growth, grace, and new beginnings. Let's continue to walk together, supporting one another in every season of life's journey.



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?

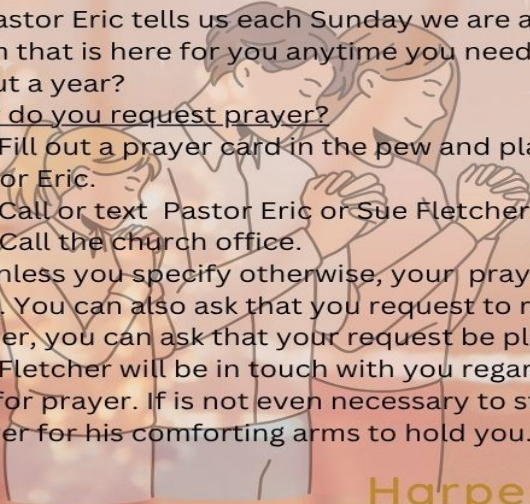
How do you request prayer?

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 pray 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

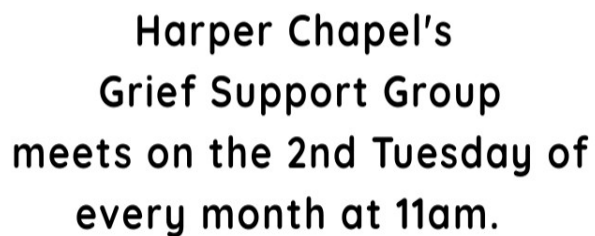
“He is the one who comforts us in all our trouble so we can comfort other people who are in every kind of trouble”.

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

[illegible]

Worship
at

StoneBridge
SENIOR LIVING



SEPTEMBER IS HEALTHY AGING MONTH

Healthy Aging Month is celebrating its 33rd year and the 2025 theme is “Powered by Connection” which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships, social and spiritual connections have on our health and well-being. The annual observance month focuses national attention on the positive aspects of growing older, particularly among adults age 45-plus. 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.

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.

(Continued on page 6)

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.

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 Bennett, RN



Harper Ladies

September 11, 11:30 AM

Bonnie's Buffet & Grill
(Formerly Golden Coral)

Back Room

4196 Osage Beach Pkwy, Osage Beach

LEADERSHIP

Leadership Committee Meeting

September 23, 2025, 6:30PM

October 21, 2025, 6:30PM

Note Change of Date



September Meeting

September 26 at 6PM

Thompson Hall



Day Trip to Fantastic Caverns

Six of the JOY Group had a great time while learning cave history at Fantastic Caverns!



September Lunch

September JOY Lunch will be on
September 15th at 11:30am
We will be at The Paint Box Cafe, 1026 Palisades Blvd #7, Osage Beach
The Cafe is located on the backside of the Palisades Village Shopping Center across Hwy KK From Cozy Cafe. Please RSVP to Robyn Roehl 314-750-3020.





Holiday Outing - Dean Z's Rockin' Christmas Show



Experience the magic of the holiday season with Dean Z's Rockin' Christmas Show in Branson, MO! Join us on December 3rd at 2 PM for an unforgettable performance that blends rock and holiday classics, sure to get you in the festive spirit. Secure your spot for just \$34.00 per person, but don't delay—the deadline for purchasing tickets is October 2nd. Don't miss out on this exciting event, perfect for music lovers and holiday enthusiasts alike. For any questions or further information, please reach out to Billye Bennett at 573-280-4587. Get ready to rock around the Christmas tree!

Become a Reading Buddy for First-Grade Students!



Are you able to spare just one delightful hour each week to read to first-grade students?

Reading Buddies is a delightful program designed to inspire a love for reading in children. By pairing young readers with enthusiastic volunteers, this initiative creates a joyful environment where kids can practice their reading skills with confidence. The commitment is light—just one hour a month—but the impact can be truly heartwarming. Volunteers can joyfully witness children transforming from hesitant readers into passionate storytellers eager to share their newfound skills. It's a wonderfully rewarding experience for both the mentors and the young readers, making it a fantastic way to contribute to the community. If you're looking to bring happiness into a child's life, consider giving Reading Buddies a try!

At Osage Beach Elementary School, located on Nichols Rd in Osage Beach, we are joyfully seeking Reading Buddies, either on a regular or substitute basis. Our exciting program is set to commence in the third week of September. If you have a passion for reading with children, the requirements are easy and cheerful:

For more information, please contact Geniece Tyler at 573-480-4847. She will be delighted to provide you with all the details!





Youth Group Begins Wednesday, September 3

Thompson Hall, 6 to 7:30PM

All youth are invited Kindergarten through 6th grade

We are thrilled to announce that Deb Larson has joined the Youth Group as the new leader! Deb brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, and we are excited to see the positive impact she will have on our youth community. To help our Youth Group thrive under Deb's leadership, we are seeking adult volunteers who are or wish to be certified in Safe Sanctuary. Your involvement will be invaluable in ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for our young members. Additionally, we are in need of two meal preparers no certification is required to provide nourishment and support during our gatherings. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute and be part of a vibrant community. If you're interested in volunteering or helping with meals, please reach out to Deb. Let's give her a warm welcome and show our support as she embarks on this exciting journey with us!



Please call Deb at 573-280573 or e-mail at deblarsn@yahoo.com



Ryan Clifton	September 1
Dave Tyler	September 4
Larry Christensen	September 7
Linda Barber	September 9
JoAnn Snead	September 9
Max Fischbach	September 12
Terri Beffa	September 13
Tom Walker	September 14
Dave O'Connor	September 16
Nancy Watham	September 17
Kennedy Cox	September 16
Tom Reth	September 17
Pete Kahrs	September 19
Elza Sager	September 19
Linda Kapfer	September 24

