



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

What is your favorite Thanksgiving side dish? That is a question that you will be dealing with at the end of the month. A recent survey by Campell's asked Americans their preferences around Thanksgiving food and sides. The results showed that the number one side this year is stuffing, followed by mashed potatoes, then sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, and then mac and cheese. Surprisingly, 56% of respondents said that prefer sides over turkey and 38% would be happy to have no turkey at all. I'm sure that you have your deep-rooted preferences based upon your family traditions. I still remember that our family would always have cranberry sauce out a can for just one family member! After that family member passed away, it still took another two years before we stopped putting it on the table.

Regardless of your preferences around the Thanksgiving meal, that most important aspect of Thanksgiving is remembering the name of the day itself. It is a day to give thanks, not just a day to stuff ourselves till we are uncomfortable, sit around and watch football, plan our black Friday shopping adventure, or even see that family member(s) we haven't encountered since last Thanksgiving. We are to take a posture of giving thanks. The bible is full of verses encouraging us to be thankful for all of life, both the good and the bad parts of life. God is involved with everything! Sometimes we forget that and simply ignore the presence of God in our everyday joys and struggles. May truly be a thankful people this year!

NOV 2024

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UMM

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*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for
the transformation of the world.*

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE



Helen and I would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone at Harper Chapel for the love and encouragement you shared with throughout pastor appreciation month. Your words and generosity was/is God's grace in action. We are so blessed to be your pastoral family. We give thanks for all of you! Pastor Eric And Helen Schmidt

Community Thanksgiving Service
Mark your calendar for Sunday November 24 at 6 PM at Faithbridge UMC for this year's community Thanksgiving. Let's show our community spirit by coming together with other brothers and sisters in Christ to give thanks to God together.



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.





Harper prayer team:

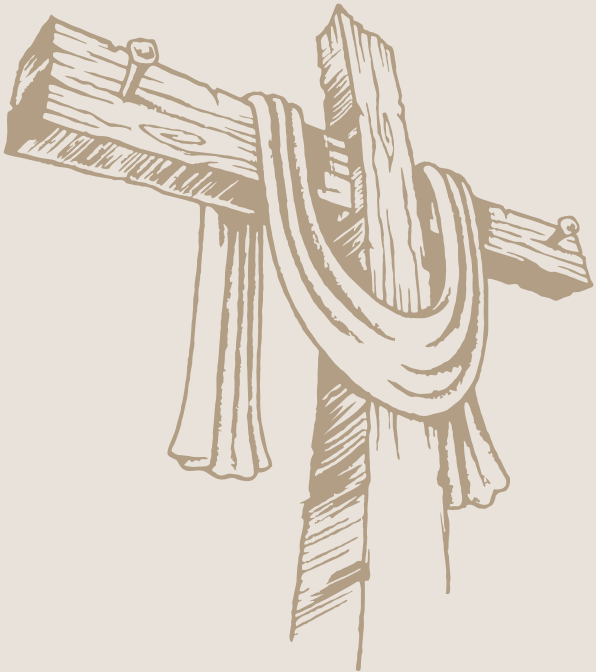
Sue Pierce, Carol Weatherford, Carolyn Moore
Linda Craig, Beth Hargrave, Chris Poland
Robyn Roehl, Jannette Smith, Helen Schmidt
Eric Schmidt, Sue Fletcher

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”.

PRAYER PARTNER PROJECT

If you are interested in the Prayer Partner Project please contact Sue Fletcher or Pastor Eric.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bill Smits Nov 1
Kathleen Ufheil Nov 3
Bill Randell Nov 7
Kristen Turner Nov 8
Bo Gordon Nov 8
Linda Hofstetter Nov 10
Edward Hoke Nov 10
Larry Frazier Nov 11
Lindsey Tyler Nov 11
Harold Wheeler Nov 24
Michael Johnson Nov 28
Cale Bentley Nov 30



November



IN ALL THINGS BE GRATEFUL

In this season of Thanksgiving, as the Apostle Paul reminds us; true gratitude is being grateful for everything. Being thankful for a wonderful situation is easy. But true gratitude is being thankful for every situation we can't be thankful for by our own strength. That kind of gratitude can be found only by one who knows the paradox of grace.

There can be gratitude for "thorns in the flesh". Thorns inflict pain and bring tears. Paul had a thorn in the flesh that weakened him. Although Paul pleaded for the thorn to be removed--for healing--God's answer was "My grace is sufficient for you." The thorn served to remind Paul of his weakness and dependence on Christ.

Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity---it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. Gratitude helps us to see what is there instead of what isn't. People feel and express gratitude in multiple ways. They can apply it to the past (retrieving positive memories and being thankful for past blessings), the present (not taking good fortune for granted when it comes) and the future (maintaining a hopeful and optimistic attitude).

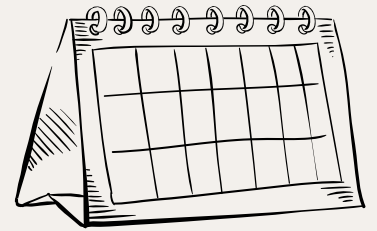
Throughout history, the idea of gratitude was typically associated with religious or spiritual philosophy. For example, the Roman philosopher, Cicero said of gratitude that it is "not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others." The philosophy of gratitude remains a hallmark of Western philosophy, as well as a hallmark of Judeo-Christian/Abrahamic faith. Author Phillip Yancy shares "What I see in the Bible, especially in the book of Psalms, which is a book of gratitude for the created world, is a recognition that all good things on Earth are God's, every good gift is from above. They are good if we recognize where they come from and we treat them the way the Designer intended them to be treated."

"Health benefits associated with gratitude include better sleep, more exercise, reduced symptoms of physical pain, lower levels of inflammation, lower blood pressure and a host of other things we associate with better health, says Glenn Fox, an expert on the science of gratitude at the USC Marshall School of Business. It's important to remember that being thankful isn't just for the Thanksgiving holiday. You might get a warm glow from expressing gratitude once a year, but to truly derive long-lasting physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional benefits, experts say you should make it part of your daily or weekly routine.

Stay Well! Peace and Grace, Billye Bennett, RN



UPCOMING EVENTS



HARPER CHAPEL ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Mark your calendars for the Harper Chapel All Church Christmas Potluck Dinner for Friday, December 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM in Thompson Hall.

Turkey and ham will be provided by the Harper Chapel United Methodist Men. Please bring a side dish to share. No cost - tickets are not required.



Wednesday evening Thomsen Hall is alive with activity! The group has been small to date -- but more will join us in November at the conclusion of a cheerleading camp! Youth joined the congregation in collecting items for the Foster Care/Adoption Thanksgiving program. They contributed 50 items, including one turkey. The pumpkins Deb Larson helped plant last spring were harvested and each youth got to take home a pumpkin! During the month of November, we will think about why we are thankful and how to express that emotion. Currently, three teens are assisting -- their energy and the role models they provide are unequalled!

Harper Chapel's holiday decorating will be NOV. 24 after Sunday service.

Harper Chapel's grief support group will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 2pm.





Come and join the choir or handbell choir! We sing, play and pray together!

Choir Performance Dates

November 3 & 17

December 8 - Christmas Cantata

Handbell Performance Dates

November 24

December 15

DISCUSSIONS
Faith & Religion

Immediately Following
 Worship Service
Room 203



Meeting
Nov. 14th at
10:30 am

Harper Ladies will meet at Thompson Hall
Rachel Steffan - speaker

CHAIR YOGA CLASS
 Led by Linda Babbs from Soothing Strength Yoga
Wednesdays @ 1pm
 \$10 / class (Drop-in)
 \$40 for 5 classes
 at Harper Chapel UMC
 (5567 Osage Beach Pkwy next to City Hall)
 for more info 573-348-2617



Nov.
No meeting

Men's Breakfast Every Thursday Morning at 6:30 am at The Cozy Café on Hwy KK in Osage Beach.



Luncheon on
Monday, Nov.
18 at 11:30 am

We will be meeting at Yankee peddler tea room. Osage Beach the address is 1013 Main St.
Please RSVP to Robyn Roehl.

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

Now Accepting
 New or Gently Used
 Winter Clothing
Something you would wear!

Something new is coming! God's Closet is moving inside this year. We will not be hanging clothing on the fence but will have an indoor open house for people to stop in and pick up items they need.

Our first open will be:

November 9th - 10:00 - 2:00

Please continue to donate warm clothing for men, women and children.

Volunteers to help with this mission are always welcome!