



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.” Isaiah 9:2 (NRSV)

How many of you are already tired of it being dark shortly after 5 PM? I know that I am. I hate that it is dark so early. You would figure that I would be used to it because it has happened every single year of my life so far. Of course, it would be worse if I lived further north. When I visited Scotland in 2019, I realized how different the hours of sunlight were there at the beginning of July when the sun started coming up around 3AM! The patterns of the sun shedding light upon this Earth effects everyone in some capacity. As I said, I still am not used to it!

Why is it so hard to adjust to the changing durations of sunlight? We crave light because it typically brings a sense of safety and wellbeing. The light illuminates everything around us so that we can see. This is a core aspect of our well-being in the world.

We understand this need for physical light, but Isaiah is referring to a spiritual light that shines upon us. This advent season, we proclaim that Jesus Christ has come into the world to bring light to our lives. Do we live into that reality though? Do we live as if the light has already come? Living in the light means that we show God’s love and grace to others through our words and actions. We becoming light bearers in the midst of the darkness of this world.

DEC 2024

## IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Note

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Sunday Schedule

Prayers & Concerns

Birthdays

---

Article by Parish Nurse  
Billye Bennett

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Upcoming Events

Music Ministries

Youth Group

Harper Ladies

UMM

J.O.Y. Group

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

## SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE



This is a spiritual activity that we are participating in. In this season that speaks of well wishes and good cheer, are we exhibiting only those qualities or are we going beyond that? Are we fighting for justice and righteousness to be let loosed on this earth? The only true peace that can come to the hearts of people, comes in the form of the light of Christ. Let us go out into this world of darkness and shine our faith!

Make your calendar for Christmas eve service at 7pm.



## 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.



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## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Buddy Brayfield Dec 4  
Dennis Brouillette Dec 6  
PJ Mossman Dec 7  
Julia Clark Dec 8  
Norman Vojtech Dec 8  
Judy Jansma Dec 16  
Rose Richey Dec 17  
Maurice Knudson Dec 17  
Sue Pierce Dec 21  
Kiley Bentley Dec 21  
Joe Barber Dec 25



# December



## PLANNING SPIRITUAL WELLNESS GOALS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

As we approach a new year, our minds tend to turn to fresh starts. Making lifestyle changes can be difficult; committing to Jesus helps to improve and renew us as we contemplate physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness resolutions.

Spiritual wellness refers to seeking a meaning to one's life and integrating our spiritual beliefs and values with our actions. Signs of spiritual wellness include a sense of calm; inner contentment; commitment to the common good over personal desires; a love and compassion for all God's creatures, our brothers and sisters worldwide, and our earthly environment; a greater ability to deal with distress.

When looking at research on the ability to improve health through spirituality, some research shows a connection between personal beliefs and a sense of well being. Positive beliefs, comfort and strength gained from religion, meditation, and prayer can contribute to well-being and may promote healing. Improving your spiritual wellness may not cure an illness, but it will definitely help you feel better. Spiritual renewal reminds us that we belong to something greater than ourselves. For spiritual renewal and setting spiritual resolutions, God's people must read His word. Spiritual growth is a process which requires practice. Here are some practices you can adopt in your daily life to improve your spiritual wellness:

1. Develop the habit of daily Bible study and prayer.
2. Cultivating grace goals. Being courteous, compassionate, and positive with others can be the simplest way to step forward in your spiritual path.
3. Appreciate and Value life. Life is a beautiful gift, given by God. So when you respect, value and appreciate your life, you also appreciate God for giving you this gift.
4. Feed the hungry and practice charity. Charity is a great way to develop positivity and spiritual grace.
5. Welcome and minister to others. Look at each person you pass with open and loving eyes and hearts. Step beyond tolerance into acceptance and learn to love others for their place in God's plan.

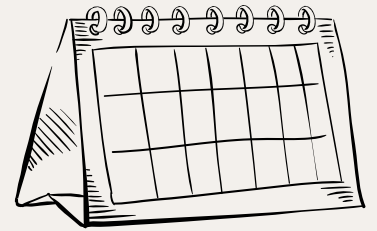
As Ben Franklin wisely said " Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better person."

Gracious Lord, I have no idea what's going to happen in this new year. I pray that you will guide us as individuals and a Church body. Please help us to look to you always, and through everything we do, may we bring praise and glory to Your name. We thank You Lord for another year.

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.



Through November youth shared our blessings, all with which we have been gifted and gratefully received. We will be sharing what we can GIVE for Christmas during our December 4 and 11 meetings. On December 4, we have a special bell hanger we will be creating and on December 11 we will celebrate Christmas. Youth will not meet December 18, 25 or January 1. We will be back together on January 8, 2025!



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

Handbell Performance Dates

December 8 - Christmas Cantata

December 15

**DISCUSSIONS**  
*Faith & Religion*

Immediately Following  
 Worship Service  
**Room 203**



Meeting  
 Dec. 12th at  
 11:30 am

We will be meeting at  
 Yankee Peddlar Tea Room

**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



Dec.  
 No meeting

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



Recycle your 'Aluminum cans'  
 here at Harper Chapel!



Luncheon on  
 Monday, Dec.  
 16 at 11:30 am

We will be meeting at  
 The Rusty Rooster  
 3247 Bagnell Dam Blvd  
 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 next open will be:

December 14th - 10:00 - 1:00

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

Volunteers to help with this mission are always welcome!



## You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Harper Chapel United Methodist Church

When: January 9, 2025

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

*Trusted by over 10 million customers.*

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

### Who should attend:

Anyone over the **age of 40**

### Special Member Pricing for \$159

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Plus a **FREE** Hypertension Screening

### 4 ways to book your appointment...

Call **888-814-0466** and use promo code **HSCA001**

Visit  [LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA](https://llsa.social/hscapromo)



Text the word **"circle"** to **216-279-1607**

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

