

Monthly Newsletter

HARRISBURG UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



Hello Church Family,

As we complete our 2025 reports, I've been reflecting on something that feels both encouraging and challenging.

In so many ways, it feels like we are growing. Over the past couple of years, we've made new connections, welcomed new families, launched new initiatives, and deepened our discipleship through daily scripture reading and regularly serving our community. There is real life here. There is momentum. There is joy.

And yet, our average worship attendance has remained almost exactly the same. That tension matters. Because growth is not just about how many new names we meet. It's also about how consistently we gather as the body of Christ.

The early church didn't just believe in Jesus together; they *devoted themselves* to meeting together (Acts 2:42). Because there is something powerful that happens when we show up consistently. We encourage one another, we worship with one voice, we create space for the Spirit to form us., and we strengthen the habits that shape lifelong disciples.

I believe if we are building relationships and serving our city but not gathering faithfully for worship, we are missing a key rhythm that sustains everything else.

So here's my invitation as we move forward: Let's not settle for *feeling* like we're growing. Let's step into it fully. Let's commit... not out of guilt, but out of joy... to making Sunday gathering a non-negotiable rhythm in our lives. Because the church isn't just a place we attend when it fits. It's a people we belong to. And belonging requires presence. Let us grow not just in spirit, but in practice.

Pastor Brandon Dunham

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MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:45am Prayer Team 9:30am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Confirmation	2	3 No Women's Bible Study	4 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Scooter's Youth 6:30pm HS/MS 7:00pm Choir	5 6:30pm Men's and Women's Bible Study	6 9:30am Mat Weaving	7
8 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Confirmation 10:45am UWF Meeting	9	10 10:00am Women's Bible Study	11 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Scooter's 6:30pm HS/MS Youth 7:00pm Choir	12 6:30pm Men's and Women's Bible Study	13	14
15 8:45am Prayer Team 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Confirmation	16	17 10:00am Women's Bible Study	18 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Scooter's 6:30pm HS/MS Youth 7:00pm Choir	19 1:00pm Esther Circle 6:30pm Men's and Women's Bible Study	20	21
22 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Confirmation	23 7:00pm Rebekkah Circle	24 10:00am Women's Bible Study	25 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Scooter's 1:30pm Mary Circle 6:30pm HS/MS Youth 7:00pm Choir	26 6:30pm Men's and Women's Bible Study	27	28
29 Palm Sunday w/ Confirmation and Love Harrisburg 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	30	31 10:00am Women's Bible Study				

BIRTHDAYS

March 1	Josie Stucky
March 3	Kyle Drexler
March 4	Ken Fickbohm
March 7	Bobbie Block
March 10	Carol Fee
March 14	Verlon Enger, Tammy Erickson
March 20	Dee Brush
March 21	Doris Noordermeer
March 24	Amelia Snortland
March 25	Lily Snortland
March 28	Bryanna Hass
March 30	Shelley Bushar

ANNIVERSARIES

March 9	Wayne and Donna Johnson
March 9	Leroy and Betty Kluin

Children's Ministry News

During the month of February, our Sunday School learners focused on the theme of love. Together, we explored what it means to experience the love of Jesus and why it is so important to share that love with others. The children learned that our most important commandment is to love God and to love others.

Each week, we repeated and reflected on Jesus' words from John 13:34: "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."

Through lessons, activities, and conversations, our learners discovered that God's love is not something we keep to ourselves—it is something we live in our words and actions every day.

As we step into March, we will build on this foundation by focusing on how knowing and receiving God's love shapes the way we treat others with compassion and humility.



Our team is grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow alongside the children of our church each week!

Kelli Semmler
Children's Ministry Director

Youth News

Each month we will be introducing members of the HUMC youth group. We hope you enjoy getting to know them!



Ryker Semmler, son of Matt and Kelli and brother to Ember. "I am in the 8th grade and on Sunday morning you can usually find me working the computer in the back of the church. I like to play football and would like to play professionally. My favorite animal is a turtle. The three words to describe me are strong, kind and smart."

Haven Hillman, the daughter of Holli and Derek and sister to Hudson. "I am in the 8th grade and like ELA in school. One thing that I like to do and am really good at is crocheting. When I grow up I'd like to become an Oncology Surgeon that helps treat cancer. The three words that describe me best are leader, smart and a listener. I also love to play basketball. "



Ella Cunningham, daughter of Melissa and Josh and sister to Owen. "I am in 8th grade and my favorite subject is ELA. I plan to be a hairstylist when I grow up. I enjoy track. The three words that best describe me are dependable, kind and caring. As far as what my favorite animal is, I like elephants."



Thank you!

The HUMC youth would like to thank everyone for the success of the first annual spaghetti night! Almost 100 tickets were sold and a great meal was enjoyed by all who attended. The youth, Brenda and Laura did a great job!



Love Harrisburg - “Hosanna in Harrisburg”



Palm Sunday is the day the crowds shouted “Hosanna!” as Jesus entered Jerusalem; joyful, loud, full of hope.

This year, our celebration will move beyond the sanctuary. We will gather to sing, to witness baptisms, and to affirm our confirmands as they publicly say “yes” to Jesus and His Church. And then, instead of stopping there, we will go.

Because Palm Sunday isn’t just a parade, it’s a procession. As part of our Love Harrisburg practice, we’ll carry the joy of that morning into tangible acts of service in our community by waving our palms, celebrating new life, and then stepping into the streets with the love of Christ.

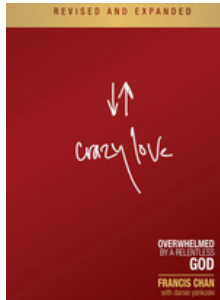
Mat Weaving

Each month we gather on the first Saturday at 9:30am to weave mats for Midwest Street Medicine and we would love to have you join us!

It is simple, accessible for all ages, a chance to get to know other members of our church, all while demonstrating love for others through service.



HUMC Small Groups



Tuesday Morning Women's Study

Meetings are at 10:00am in the Fireside Room next to the Fellowship Hall. Beginning March 10th, we will be starting a new book by Francis Chan called "Crazy Love".



Wednesday Morning Men's Study

Meetings are at 6:30am at Scooter's Coffee located on 85th and Minnesota. We are jumping into the Old Testament this year and invite you to bring your Bible!

Thursday Evening Men's and Women's groups for 20s and 30s

Our Thursday night small groups are designed to connect individuals in a similar stage of life, whether you're single, married, with or without kids. We meet at the church weekly at 6:30 PM and rotate between Bible study and caring for the children. One week, the women gather for study while the men supervise the kids; the next week, we switch. It's a practical way to support one another, grow in faith, and help meet the common need for childcare while building community.



In 2026, we're inviting our church family to journey together through the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi. We'll read Monday through Saturday, leaving Sundays open for worship, rest, or catching up. Each week will include a short reflection to help us listen for God's voice in the larger story.

March reminds us that wilderness seasons are not wasted. They prepare us to step into promise.

Week 9 – Wilderness and Trust

Mar 2: Numbers 1-3

Mar 3: Numbers 4-6

Mar 4: Numbers 7

Mar 5: Numbers 8-10

Mar 6: Numbers 11-14

Mar 7: Numbers 15-18

Weekly Reflection

- What patterns of complaint or fear do you notice in Israel?
- How does God respond to rebellion and doubt?
- Where might God be forming trust in your own wilderness season?

Week 10 – Consequences and Promise

Mar 9: Numbers 19-21

Mar 10: Numbers 22-24

Mar 11: Numbers 25-27

Mar 12: Numbers 28-30

Mar 13: Numbers 31-33

Mar 14: Numbers 34-36

Weekly Reflection

- What do these chapters reveal about the seriousness of sin?
- Where do you still see God's faithfulness to His promises?
- How does God continue working even through human failure?

Week 11 – Remember and Choose

Mar 16: Deuteronomy 1-3

Mar 17: Deuteronomy 4-6

Mar 18: Deuteronomy 7-9

Mar 19: Deuteronomy 10-12

Mar 20: Deuteronomy 13-15

Mar 21: Deuteronomy 16-17

Weekly Reflection

- Why does Moses emphasize remembering so strongly?
- What does loving God with heart, soul, and strength really look like?
- What rhythms help you remember what God has done?

Week 12 – Choose Life

Mar 23: Deuteronomy 18-21

Mar 24: Deuteronomy 22-24

Mar 25: Deuteronomy 25-27

Mar 26: Deuteronomy 28-30

Mar 27: Deuteronomy 31-34

Mar 28: Joshua 1-6

Weekly Reflection

- What does it mean to "choose life" in daily practice?
- How does leadership transition from Moses to Joshua shape the story?
- Where is God inviting you to step forward in courage?

Year to Date Giving 2026 & Year to Date Profit/(Loss) 2026

YEAR TO DATE GIVING - 2026

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Total Budget	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$275,000
Actual Giving (4100 Total)	\$18,294												\$18,294
Giving as a % of Budget - MTD	79.83%												6.65%
Projected Total Giving	\$18,294	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$270,378
Giving as a % of Budget - YTD	79.83%												79.83%

YEAR TO DATE Profit/(Loss) - 2026

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Revenue													
Income	\$18,294												\$18,294
Total Revenue	\$18,294	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,294
Gross Profit	\$18,294	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,294
Expenditures													
5100 Administration Expense	\$781												\$781
5200 Building and Grounds	\$6,600												\$6,600
5300 Church Staff	\$18,958												\$18,958
5400 Dakotas Conference	\$4,383												\$4,383
5500 Program Ministry	\$122												\$122
5600 Youth Activity	(\$75)												(\$75)
Total Expenditures	\$30,768	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,768
Net Operating Revenue	(\$12,473)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$12,473)
Other Revenue													
6001 Revenue - Miscellaneous													\$0
6100 Donor Restricted Fund IN/(OUT)	\$138												\$138
8800 (Into)/Out of Restricted Funds	(\$138)												(\$138)
Total Other Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Other Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Revenue	(\$12,473)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$12,473)

Online giving

Did you know HUMC offers online giving and text-to-give?

They're easy to use and secure! You can give a gift of support online at:

<https://harrisburgumc.breezechms.com/give/online>

Or give via text message by texting the amount you would like to give to:

(605)702-6954

Thank you for reading!

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