

Monthly Newsletter

HARRISBURG UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



When the Light Moves

September has a way of settling us into a rhythm. School is underway. Practices have started. Calendars are filling. The routines that felt new just a few weeks ago are quickly becoming normal. And before we know it, the choices we're making right now will become the patterns that carry us through the rest of the year.

Which makes this a good time to ask a simple question:

What is setting the rhythm of your life?

In John 8, Jesus makes this claim: *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

And when we hear Jesus call Himself the Light of the World, we might picture a candle in a dark room or the first glimpse of sunrise after a long night. But the people who first heard those words would have had another image in mind.

For generations, God's people had remembered how He led Israel through the wilderness. During the day, His presence went before them in a pillar of cloud. At night, He led them with a pillar of fire. The light reminded them that God was present. It protected them. But perhaps most importantly, it guided them. When the light moved, Israel moved.

Imagine how challenging that must have been. Never knowing where you were headed. Never knowing how long it would take to get there. Just looking out of your tent everyday and making sure the light was close.

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Pastor Brandon

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I wonder if following Jesus is sometimes more like that than we'd like to admit. It's easy to ask Jesus to bless the life we've already planned. It's harder to allow Him to determine where we're going in the first place.

And that's what stands out to me about Jesus' words in John 8. He doesn't say, "Whoever agrees with me will have the light of life." He doesn't say, "Whoever admires me," or even, "Whoever goes to church." He says, "Whoever follows me." And following requires movement.

As the rhythms of another school and ministry year begin to settle into place, maybe this is an opportunity to look at our lives and ask: **Am I building my schedule around what matters most, or simply giving God whatever space remains?**

Maybe following the Light means establishing a new rhythm of worship. Maybe it means opening Scripture before opening your phone. Maybe it's joining a Bible study, serving somewhere new, praying with your children, inviting a friend to church, or simply creating enough quiet in your life to hear where God may be leading you.

The answer won't look exactly the same for everyone. But the invitation is the same.

Jesus doesn't promise to show us the entire path ahead. He promises something better: His presence along the way.

So as September settles in and our calendars begin to find their rhythm, let's keep our eyes on the Light. And when the Light moves, may we have the courage to move with Him.

-Pastor Brandon Dunham

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:00am Bible Study	2 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Scooter's 6:45pm Youth Group	3	4	5 9:30am Mat Weaving
6 8:45am Prayer Team 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	7 Labor Day	8 10:00am Bible Study	9 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Scooter's 6:45pm Youth Group 7:00pm Choir	10	11	12
13 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	14	15 10:00am Bible Study	16 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Scooter's 6:45pm Youth Group 7:00pm Choir	17 1:00pm Esther Circle	18	19 9:30am Church Clean-up/ Organizing
20 8:45am Prayer Team 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	21 6:00pm Mat Weaving	22 10:00am Bible Study	23 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Scooter's 1:30pm Mary Circle 6:45pm Youth Group 7:00pm Choir	24	25	26
27 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	28 7:00pm Rebekkah Circle	29 10:00am Bible Study	30 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Scooter's 6:45pm Youth Group 7:00pm Choir			

BIRTHDAYS

September 4	Emery Wipf
September 5	Colson Berg, Tim Carr, April Kone, Cherrlyn Pickering
September 7	Maxwell Winters
September 8	Jake Vollmer
September 11	Roxie Stoebner
September 17	Autumn Krueger
September 18	Brynn Hass
September 19	McClane Schild
September 20	Abigail Bushar
September 21	Ryan Rollinger, Linnette Sandine
September 22	Maximus Ewing
September 24	Clyde Gregoire
September 26	Haven Hillman
September 28	Belinda Fink, Barb Kieffer, Erica Stahl
September 30	Ronnie Albers, Marilyn Mitchell

ANNIVERSARIES

September 1	Vernon & Carolyn Slack - 75 years! Duane & Janie Stall
September 3	Don & Trudy Baird - 60 years!
September 7	Lowell & Deanna Satterlee
September 18	Michael & Shannon Willard
September 26	Verlon & Janet Enger

YOUTH GROUP



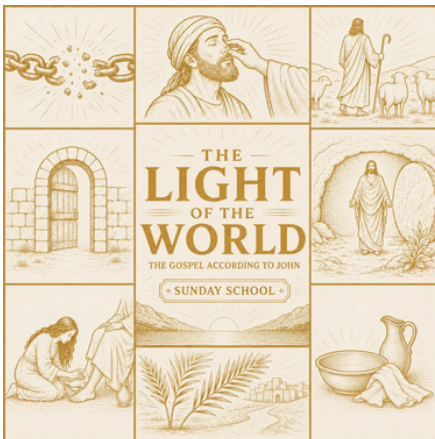
The Youth Group kicked off the new school year with a cookout at Jake & Mykayla Vollmer's home on Wednesday, August 26th.

If you have students grades 6-12, we would love to have them join us Wednesdays at 6:45pm this year!



Also mark your calendars for **October 25th**. This year we're back outside and you won't want to miss it!

SUNDAY SCHOOL



This year Mrs. Kelli Semmler will be creating curriculum that follows the Sunday morning messages given by Pastor Brandon.

If you have children in elementary age who would like to attend, we would LOVE to have you join us! Children are dismissed from worship to the classrooms at the end of the hall, past the bathrooms.



What if loving your neighbors was as simple as throwing a party? This summer, we're inviting every church family to consider hosting a Block Party. We'll provide the inflatable, yard games, grill, and other supplies... you simply provide the neighborhood and the invitation.

The goal isn't to host the perfect event. It's to create space for relationship. Think about the people who live on your street. The family you've waved to but never really met. The kids who ride their bikes past your house. The neighbors you've been meaning to invite over. A block party creates a simple, relaxed opportunity to share a meal, laugh together, and begin building friendships that can last long after the inflatable is packed away.

Would you prayerfully consider hosting a block party this summer? It could be one of the simplest (and most meaningful) ways to share the love of Christ with your neighborhood.



#BuildingCommunityInThisCommunity



Fall Clean-Up

Help us make room for what's next! We're planning a fall cleanup to clear out items that have accumulated over time, organize spaces for new ministry opportunities, and give our church grounds a general freshening up.

Many hands make light work, and we'd love your help! Sign up in the lobby to join us.

Missions News

Sunday, September 20th we will be hosting a Blessing Bag Mission Event in partnership with **Midwest Mission**.

Health is a basic human need, but many lack equipment and supplies to sustain and improve their health. **Midwest Mission** sends resources like Rice and Soy Blessing Bags to meet community health needs. When someone's health is in jeopardy, everything else is too. These Rice and Soy Blessing Bags not only meet hunger needs, but meet nutritional needs to provide lasting energy. Our goal is to feed 3,210 people by packing 520 bags.

Come for a time of great fellowship and great impact! All ages and abilities are welcome. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship.



Ongoing Projects



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! Hope to see you there!



Please continue supporting our quarter collection for this important mission! **Laundry With Love**, a ministry of Church on the Street, helps individuals and families in need by providing up to three free loads of laundry, along with detergent, dryer sheets, and a meal. Your donated quarters help make this outreach possible!

Get Involved this Fall!

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the world. And **we believe we live that mission by:**

1. Making our building a place that feels like coming home.
2. Creating experiences where all people can encounter the living Christ.
3. Becoming the kind of church Harrisburg would miss if we closed our doors.

And there's a place for you to be part of it.



Looking to Meet People?

Men's Group

Start your Wednesday with coffee, Scripture, and conversation. We meet at Scooter's on 85th & Minnesota every Wednesday at 6:30am as we work through the Gospel of John together. **No preparation needed, just bring a Bible!**

Tuesday Morning Group

Looking for a place to grow in faith and conversation? We meet Tuesdays at 10am at the church and are currently reading Crazy Love by Francis Chan. **New faces are always welcome.**

Choir

Love to sing? Join us Wednesdays at 7pm. **Our choir is informal, fun, and open to all ages and experience levels.** First meeting September 9th.

Mat Weaving

Turn plastic bags into something that makes a real difference. We gather the first Saturday of each month at 9:30am and the third Monday at 6pm to weave sleeping mats for Midwest Street Medicine.

United Women of Faith (UWF)

We meet every other month on the 2nd Sunday after worship. Our next meeting is October 11th.

Worship Band

Have a heart for leading worship? Join us Wednesdays at 5pm and we'll find a place for you!

20's-30s Group

We're hoping to launch a new group for people in their 20s and 30s this September. **The goal? Build friendships, grow in faith, and do life together.** We're currently finding a time that works best. If you're interested, text Pastor Brandon at 605-545-0775 and we'll include you in the conversation!

Membership Class

Wondering what it means to make Harrisburg UMC your church home? Each fall, Pastor Brandon leads a group through Adam Hamilton's The Walk as we talk about following Jesus, what United Methodists believe, and what it means to participate in the life of the church. **Taking the class doesn't obligate you to join; it's a great place to ask questions and learn more.**

Looking into Leadership?

** Leadership Team members must be active members of our church.*

Finance Committee

Help us steward the gifts God has entrusted to our church. Finance works alongside the Leadership Team to make sure our resources support the mission and vision of Harrisburg UMC. We are looking to fill two positions for 2027–2029.

Staff/Pastor Parish

Help us build a healthy, supported ministry team. SPP cares for our staff and helps strengthen communication between our congregation, staff, and Leadership Team. We are looking to fill one position for 2027–2029.

Trustees

Help us care for the place where ministry happens. Trustees oversee the maintenance and care of our building and property so that our spaces remain safe, welcoming, and ready to serve our community. We are looking to fill three positions for 2027–2029.



Looking to help make this place feel like home?

Sunday mornings happen because people like you jump in and serve. Whether you enjoy welcoming people, working behind the scenes, or investing in the next generation, there's a place for you.

- Greeters
- Coffee Servers
- Assisting Ministers
- Tech Operators
- Youth Group Leaders
- Sunday School Teachers

Ask us about trying something out! There is no long-term commitment required.

Whatever it is that you are looking for, please do not hesitate to email humc@harrisburgumc.com or speak to Pastor Brandon.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

-Romans 12:4-5

Old Testament Reading Plan

September reminds us that God welcomes our whole hearts (our praise and pain, our gratitude and grief) and teaches us to bring it all to Him in prayer.

Week 34 – The Way of Righteousness

August 31: Psalms 1-5	Weekly Reflection
September 1: Psalms 6-10	• What descriptions of God stood out to you this week?
September 2: Psalms 11-15	• How do the psalmists bring both confidence and fear honestly before God?
September 3: Psalms 16-20	• Which Psalm from this week would you like to make your own prayer?
September 4: Psalms 21-25	
September 5: Psalms 26-30	

Week 35 – A Refuge in Trouble

September 7: Psalms 31-35	Weekly Reflection
September 8: Psalms 36-40	• What do these Psalms teach us about turning toward God in difficult circumstances?
September 9: Psalms 41-45	
September 10: Psalms 46-50	• What does Psalm 51 teach us about honest repentance?
September 11: Psalms 51-55	• Where do you need to remember that God is your refuge?
September 12: Psalms 56-60	

Week 36 – Remembering God's Faithfulness

September 14: Psalms 61-65	Weekly Reflection
September 15: Psalms 66-70	• How does remembering what God has done strengthen faith in the present?
September 16: Psalms 71-75	
September 17: Psalms 76-80	• What do these Psalms teach about the difference between God's faithfulness and our own?
September 18: Psalms 81-85	
September 19: Psalms 86-90	• Psalm 90 asks God to "teach us to number our days." What would it look like to live your days more intentionally?

Week 37 – The Lord Reigns

September 21: Psalms 91-95	Weekly Reflection
September 22: Psalms 96-100	• What does it mean for your life that "the Lord reigns"?
September 23: Psalms 101-105	• How does worship change our perspective on our circumstances?
September 24: Psalms 106-110	
September 25: Psalms 111-115	• As the Songs of Ascents begin, what do you think it means to view faith as a journey toward God?
September 26: Psalms 116-120	

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	\$14,250	\$20,215	\$24,029	\$42,221	\$35,438	\$21,759						\$176,207
Giving as a % of Budget - MTD	79.83%	62.18%	88.21%	104.85%	184.24%	154.64%	94.95%						64.08%
Projected Total Giving	\$18,294	\$14,250	\$20,215	\$24,029	\$42,221	\$35,438	\$21,759	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$290,790
Giving as a % of Budget - YTD	79.83%	71.01%	76.74%	83.77%	103.86%	112.33%	109.84%						109.84%

YEAR TO DATE Profit/(Loss) - 2026													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Revenue													
Income	\$18,294	\$14,250	\$20,215	\$24,029	\$42,221	\$35,438	\$21,759						\$176,207
Total Revenue	\$18,294	\$14,250	\$20,215	\$24,029	\$42,221	\$35,438	\$21,759	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$176,207
Gross Profit	\$18,294	\$14,250	\$20,215	\$24,029	\$42,221	\$35,438	\$21,759	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$176,207
Expenditures													
5100 Administration Expense	\$781	\$707	\$507	\$556	\$597	\$557	\$338						\$4,043
5200 Building and Grounds	\$6,523	\$3,998	\$4,373	\$5,201	\$4,366	\$3,762	\$3,205						\$31,428
5300 Church Staff	\$18,958	\$15,869	\$15,410	\$16,140	\$15,495	\$15,435	\$15,435						\$112,742
5400 Dakotas Conference	\$4,383	\$2,378	\$1,853	\$2,628	\$3,124	\$4,975	\$4,555						\$23,895
5500 Program Ministry	\$152	\$321	\$204	\$332	\$0	\$197	\$740						\$1,946
5600 Youth Activity	\$354	\$825	\$590	\$320	\$1,643	(\$2,415)	\$0						\$1,317
Total Expenditures	\$31,149	\$24,098	\$22,937	\$25,177	\$25,226	\$22,510	\$24,274	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$175,371
Net Operating Revenue	(\$12,855)	(\$9,848)	(\$2,721)	(\$1,148)	\$16,995	\$12,928	(\$2,515)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$835
Other Revenue													
6001 Revenue - Miscellaneous													\$0
6100 Donor Restricted Fund IN/(OUT)	\$138	(\$278)	(\$167)	\$792	\$627	(\$1,137)	\$173						\$147
8800 (Into)/Out of Restricted Funds	(\$138)	\$278	\$167	(\$792)	(\$627)	\$1,137	(\$173)						(\$147)
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	(\$12,855)	(\$9,848)	(\$2,721)	(\$1,148)	\$16,995	\$12,928	(\$2,515)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$835

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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