

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

07.23.2026 - 07.29.2026



Upcoming Events

August Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will gather for a meal prepared by Pastor Jon on Tuesday, August 18 at 11:30 in the RCLC.

Book Club

Book Club will meet on Tuesday, August 18 from 1-2 p.m and 7-8 p.m.

Blessing of the Backpacks

As the new school year is approaching, join us Sunday, August 23 during the 9 a.m. service to bless those who are returning to the classroom. (Students and Staff)

Follow us on Facebook!

To stay informed on community events and see our live broadcast every Sunday, follow our Facebook page at facebook.com/harrisonvilleumc

What I Overheard This Week from Pastor Jon

One of the greatest gifts we can offer another person is simply our presence.

In a world filled with distractions, busy schedules and endless notifications, giving someone our full attention has become a rare act of love. Yet throughout Scripture, God reminds us that presence matters. Before God gave Israel a law, a king, or a temple, God gave them the promise: **"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest"** (Exodus 33:14).

In the message this past week, we reminded each other that we know a God who wants to dwell with us. A God who chooses to be with us. Jesus was fully present with those He encountered. He stopped for the blind, listened to the lonely, welcomed children and sat at tables with those others ignored. His presence often brought healing before He ever spoke a word.

As followers of Christ, we are called to offer that same gift. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is to sit beside someone who is grieving, celebrate with a friend, listen without trying to fix everything, or simply show up. Presence says, "You matter. You are not alone."

The Apostle Paul encourages us to "rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). We cannot do either from a distance. It requires us to slow down, pay attention and be available to one another.

This week, consider how you might share the gift of presence. Visit a neighbor. Call someone who has been on your mind. Put away your phone during a conversation. Spend quiet time in prayer, becoming more aware of God's presence with you.

After all, when we choose to be fully present with one another, we reflect the God who has always chosen to be present with us.

Town Hall

If you need a little good news, join us for our third Town Hall gathering of 2026, Sunday, August 9 at 10:15 am. The Town Hall will feature upcoming plans for fall ministries, share our Mission Outreach Initiatives and celebrate what has been happening at HUMC. We will have a time to ask questions toward the end.



Celebration for Pastor George

For decades, Pastor George has faithfully visited, prayed, laughed, cried, and shared the love of Jesus with the people of HUMC. His faithful presence has been a blessing to our church family through every season of life.

Join us this Sunday, July 26, as we celebrate Pastor George's 97th birthday and honor his retirement from pastoral ministry at HUMC.

We would love to shower him with notes of love and appreciation, favorite memories and stories, and even a photo or two as we give thanks for his extraordinary ministry and faithful service.

Be Informed as You Vote

Every citizen has the right to vote, and as Christians we are called to vote in ways that reflect our faith as we follow Jesus, love God, and love our neighbors. While it is not lawful for a church to endorse political candidates, churches are permitted to speak to public policy issues and ballot measures. I encourage everyone to become informed and participate in Missouri's August election.

I particularly want to call your attention to Amendment 5. Amendment 5 proposes eliminating or phasing out Missouri's state income tax by increasing sales and use taxes. (You can read the official impact statement for this and other ballot measures here: [2026 Ballot Measures](#).)

As you pray and prepare to vote, here are a few thoughts to consider:

The Church does not prescribe any particular tax system. However, we teach that every system of taxation should serve the common good, be guided by justice and equity, and take into account each person's ability to contribute. Tax proposals should be evaluated by their impact on those who are poor and vulnerable. Systems that rely heavily on regressive taxes, such as sales taxes, can place a disproportionate burden on lower-income households.

At the same time, many supporters of Amendment 5 are motivated by a sincere desire to promote Missouri's long-term prosperity. As followers of Jesus, we should approach this issue with humility, prayer, and thoughtful discernment, carefully considering how it will affect those who are most vulnerable.

Finally, it is worth remembering that use taxes may be increased by the legislature at any time, and income tax rates may also be reduced by legislative action without requiring a constitutional amendment.

Breakfast with Dad

The United Methodist Men invite all dads and their kids (grandkids, nieces, nephews, or even a neighborhood child) to a free breakfast on Saturday, August 15, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

We'll be serving pancakes, sausage, and eggs while enjoying a morning of fun, inspiration and friendship. Bring your kids—no matter their age—and make some great memories together. Who knows? You might be the dad with the most generations gathered around the table!

Please sign up so we'll know how many pancakes to flip. You can register by going to our website or by signing up with the QR code in the Hub. We hope to see you there!