

THE BEACON

Harrisburg Christian Church
201 E Sexton St. PO Box 36



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

October, 2025

Greetings HCC,

For everyone who, like me, thinks that our country and culture has taken another turn for the worse, I'd like to challenge us to do something about it. Instead of complaining, or letting ourselves get anxious and worried, or succumbing to fear and siloing up, or throwing up our hands and saying it's hopeless. How about we actively engage our culture and make a difference.

How do we do that? Do we call our Senators? Stage boycotts? Join a rally? Find good information to post on our social media accounts? Expose fake news? Well, maybe, but I was thinking of something that might be more effective. All those ideas have an intent of changing someone else out there and I would like to point us first to changing someone a little closer to home. Namely ourselves.

Since the one person in the world that we have the most influence over is ourselves. Let's start there. You might think, "But I'm not the problem!" Maybe not, but let's not rush past that thought too quickly. I'm assuming that we can all agree that if a society lived by the principles in the Bible that it would be much improved. On Sunday mornings we are in a sermon series on the book of James. Let's take a look at a few of the teachings in this book and do some self evaluation:

See next page...

CONTINUE...

"You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives , that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." (4:2-3). What have you been asking God for recently? What are the motives behind these prayers?

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." (4:6) *"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."* (1:19) Are you humble towards God and towards others? Do you listen to what others are saying and consider it?

"Believers....must not show favoritism" (2:1) *"Love your neighbor as yourself"* (2:8). Does your neighbor believe that you love him/her?

I don't know about you, but I don't get a 'free pass' on these verses and if I want to live in a society where people pray and seek God when they want something instead of murdering people or ranting on social media, I need to be that kind of a person. If I want people to do a better job of listening to one another instead of twisting what they say to make another political point, then I need to be humble and listen to the people around me. And if I want to live in a society that shows love to one another and my neighbors don't know that I love them, then I have some work to do at home before I worry about what is happening in another state.

I am not hopeless about the future of our country and culture, primarily because nothing is impossible with God. I do think there is something that we can do to change the trajectory of where our country is going. I think it begins with each of us individually. Following that, we have influence in our families, HCC, and the Harrisburg community. I want to call on us to make a change based on the teachings of the Bible one person, family, church, and community at a time and pray it spreads throughout our whole country and world. The book of James is a great place to start. We are titling the series Extreme Makeover / Home Edition. Our country could use an extreme makeover. Let it begin with us!

God loves you!

John Gillman

PASTOR JOHN GILLMAN

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THE BEACON

JOHN'S TIDBITS

1. Congratulations to Oakleigh Hill on your baptism!
2. Welcome new members: Kimberly Strawn and Kourtney Strawn!
3. Let's make sure our students are able to participate in the small groups that are going on Sunday nights this month. See the app for locations.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY
MORNINGS AT
9AM OR 10:30AM

PASTOR@HARRISBURGCHRISTIAN.ORG
[HTTPS://HARRISBURGCHRISTIAN.ORG/](https://harrisburgchristian.org/)

UPCOMING EVENTS



You can be apart of it



Find an event and get connected!

01

Book of James

Each Sunday we are diving into the book of James. Join a small group for a deeper dive.

02

Truck-or-Treat

October 31st at the Lion's Club shelter. Get your trunks ready or plan to bring the kids.

03

Senior Luncheon

October 14th in the church basement from 11-12.

04

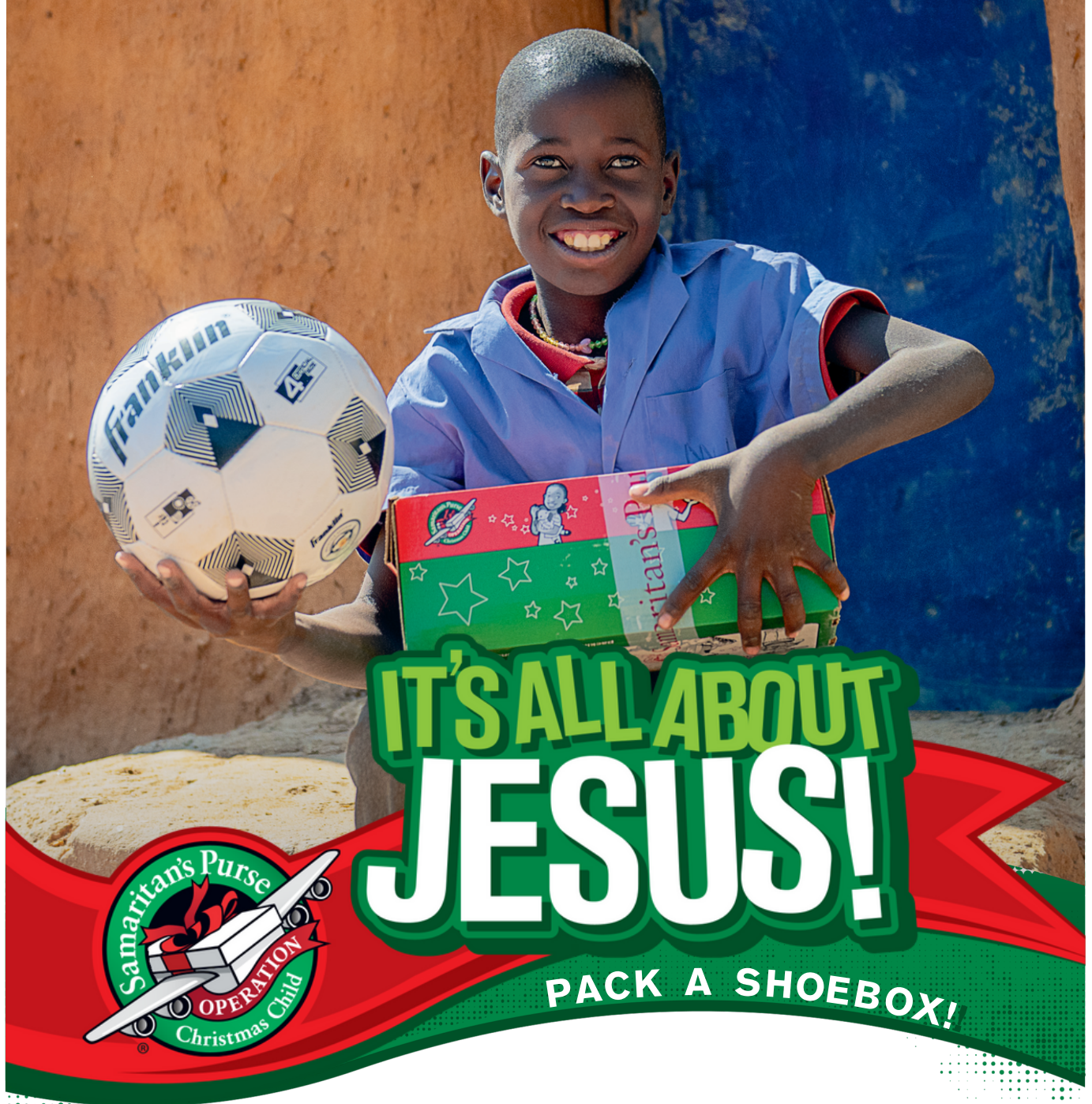
Deacons and Elders Meeting

October 28
6:30-7:30

05

Harrisburg Cemetery

They are accepting donations.
Jan Sublett
PO Box 83
Harrisburg, MO 65256



At HCC, we are preparing for
Operation Christmas Child 2025!
Watch for announcements regarding packing
shoeboxes, timelines, packing suggestions, etc.
October 26th @ 3:00 pm we will host a
"Full-Circle" speaker and kick off our campaign
with a PACKING PARTY!

Visit samaritanspurse.org/occ to learn more about how God can use a gift-filled shoebox
given in Jesus' Name to transform a child, their family, and their community.

VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE.