



August 2026

From the Pastor's Pen

First United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Hye-Eun Chon

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Pastor's phone:

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Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Monday-Thursday

Church Website

www.firstumcharvard.org

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

for all ages

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Our Vision

We are a church for all people of Christ through our love and service.

Our Mission Statement

We are the followers of Jesus Christ coming together at the living body of Christ, allowing God to work in us, with us and through us for His purpose.

It has been a month since I arrived at First UMC of Harvard. I am settling in well and adapting to life here. Above all, I am cordially grateful for the love and prayers of the congregation, and I live each day praying that Harvard UMC will become a vibrant community where new life sprouts and flourishes.

About ten years ago, I had the opportunity to walk the *Camino de Santiago* in Spain with friends for a long time. Along the way, as we passed by orchards or farmhouses, we would often find baskets of fruit and milk placed atop low stone walls. There were people who, without any conditions, like an outright gift, shared what they had for the sake of strangers, specifically for the weary pilgrims exhausted from their journey.

I have heard that there is a "Trail Magic" on the Appalachian Mountain Trail in the United States. It refers to unexpected acts of kindness or surprise gifts given to long-distance backpackers by strangers. These random surprises often include things like cold drinks, hot meals, free rides, or offers of accommodation. The people who offer these good gifts and deeds are called "Trail Angels." To me—someone still inexperienced and lacking in many ways as I embark on my first solo pastoral ministry—the members of Harvard UMC are no better than "Harvard Angels," showering me with warm love, concern, and support.

I would like to begin the month of August by cherishing such a heart of gratitude. As we move through this season of travel, school breaks, and vacations—a time that, above all, might offer us a moment to catch our breath from our daily routines, I hope we can all welcome August with generous and beautiful hearts.

As we reflect on the profound reasons why First UMC of Harvard was established in this beautiful American land long ago—in accordance with God's special plan—I earnestly hope that the Harvard UMC will continue to faithfully carry out the mission and the Gospel entrusted to us by God, both in this land and for the generations to come. I pray that all of you stay healthy during the summer season and that God's love and grace abound in your family and all your endeavors.

Blessings,
Pastor Hye-Eun Chon

August Highlights

August Meetings

- 8/3 7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting
- 8/10 7:00 p.m. **NO** Finance Committee Meeting
- 8/17 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Committee Meeting
- 8/24 7:00 p.m. Leadership Committee Meeting

Blessing of the Backpacks



Join us on August 9th for our Blessing of the Backpacks during our worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Life Line Screening Event

We will be hosting a screening event on August 26, 2026. Life Line Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings. To schedule an appointment go to www.ilsa.social/habc or call 800-324-9458 to schedule your appointment. A screening can be worth a lifetime!



August Counters

Melissa Oerkfitz
Ken & Susan Pedersen

Senior Fellowship

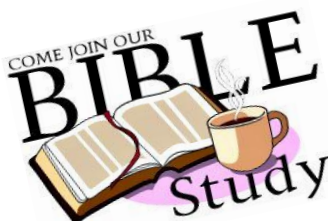


August 4th
August 18th
at 9:00 a.m.

Liturgist for August



8/2 Janet Hugg
8/9 Karen DeFalco
8/16
8/23 Please sign up
8/30 to be Liturgist!



Women's Bible Study

Every Wednesday at the home of Sharon Klingstedt on August 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th at 1:00 p.m.

August Ushers

Mark Dion
Ken Pedersen



Blood Drive

We are hosting the Community Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 12th from 12:30-5:30pm. Call RRVBC at 815-865-8751 to schedule your appointment. Let us fuel your summer!

2026-27 School Year

D50 classes resume on Wednesday, August 12th and **Head Start** classes resume on Monday, August 24th.



Let's have a safe and happy school year!

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 4th at Harvard Moose Lodge from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Free community event with live music, food, kids activities and more!!!
Come enjoy the fun!



 10:00 a.m. Worship Service w/Holy Communion	2	3 2:00 p.m. Harvard Strummers 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171 7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945	4  9:00 a.m. Senior Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Nat'l Night Out 6:30 p.m. BSA Troop 171	5 9:00 a.m. Yoga 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6 9:30 a.m. Yoga	7	8
***** Head Start Cleaning/Waxing Lower Level Floors *****							
10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Backpack Blessing</i> 	9	10 2:00 p.m. Harvard Strummers 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171 7:00 p.m. NO Finance Mtg	11	12  D50 First Day of School 9:00 a.m. NO Yoga 12:30 p.m. Comm Blood Drive 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	13 9:30 a.m. Yoga	14	15
10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 2:00 p.m. Historical Museum - Dan Holmes in Concert 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945	16	17 2:00 p.m. Harvard Strummers 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Comm Meeting	18 9:00 a.m. Senior Fellowship 6:30 p.m. BSA Troop 171	19 9:00 a.m. Yoga 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	20 9:30 a.m. Yoga	21	22
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