



# February 2026

## From the Pastor's Pen

I want to share a message of hope this month. January's winter was brutal to all of us. Stay safe and avoid any unnecessary exposure to the weather during this time. Even in this frigid weather, we are hopeful because spring will come in due time. Likewise, hope has not faded in our society. The reason I'm hopeful is because Christ is alive. When all else fade away, God resiliently loves us. We are not forsaken and left on our own to survive. God is reaching out the Lord's hand for us to grab and move forward. That love compels us to make choices that save lives. We see that there are good things happening in helping the weak and marginalized. There are always new ways to reach out to communities and bring hope. We can find new creative ways to touch the heart of our neighbors in experiencing transformation.

The theme for this year's Annual Conference is "Practicing Hope." We do not merely think about a bright future, we do not sit around doing nothing with wishful thinking. We actively engage with everyone around in reconciling the whole creation with God. We will find opportunities to touch the hearts of people as God touches our hearts in restoring the image of the Creator in us.

We are growing together through worship, prayer, and reflection. We are not alone in this endeavor or practicing hope; we are inviting others to join the cause to make this a better world. Hope is growing in me as I live the faith and experience grace with all of you.

One important event this month is our Annual Chili Dinner and Baked Potato Bar fundraising happening on Thursday, February 26 between 4:30 and 7 pm. This is a great opportunity for all of you to participate and serve the community together. We have a volunteer sign-up sheet available at church. Contact our office for more information. The meal tickets are on sale right now; you can invite your family, friends, and neighbor for a wonderful meal on that day.

My heart is filled with joy knowing God is good to us, always. See you at church and stay warm.

Blessings,

Pastor Alex Lee

### First United

### Methodist Church

Pastor Alex Lee

Church Office: 815-943-5422

Church Email:

[umcharvard@gmail.com](mailto:umcharvard@gmail.com)

Pastor's phone:

520-450-0899

Pastor's email:

[qq4ever@gmail.com](mailto:qq4ever@gmail.com)

Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Monday-Thursday

Church Website

[www.firstumcharvard.org](http://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.

		<h1>February 2026</h1>			
<p><i>NOTE: Harvard Strummers will not meet during February. Practices will resume in April.</i></p>					1
<p>1 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service w/Holy Communion 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945</p>	<p>2 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>3 9:00 a.m. Senior Fellowship 9:30 a.m. English Class 7:00 p.m. English Class</p>	<p>4 9:00 a.m. Yoga 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Confirmation</p>	<p>5 9:30 a.m. Yoga</p>	<p>6 9:30 a.m. Yoga 8:00 a.m. Pinewood Derby 9:00 a.m. NIC Laitty Convocation @New Lenox UMC</p>
<p>8 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. "Souper Sunday" 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945</p>	<p>9 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171 7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting</p>	<p>10 9:30 a.m. English Class 6:30 p.m. BSA Troop 171 7:00 p.m. English Class</p>	<p>11 9:00 a.m. PreLenten Brkfst* 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Blood Drive 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Bell Choir RESUMES</p>	<p>12 9:30 a.m. Yoga</p>	<p>13 9:30 a.m. Yoga</p>
<p>15 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 2:00 p.m. Worship @ Care Ctr 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945</p>	<p>16 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171</p>	<p>17 9:00 a.m. Senior Fellowship 9:30 a.m. English Class 7:00 p.m. English Class</p>	<p>18 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Worship @ Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>19 9:30 a.m. Yoga Evening: Pinewood Derby Set-Up</p>	<p>20 9:30 a.m. Pinewood Derby</p>
<p>22 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945</p>	<p>23 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171 7:00 p.m. Leadership Meeting</p>	<p>24 9:30 a.m. English Class 6:30 p.m. BSA Troop 171 7:00 p.m. English Class</p>	<p>25 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>26 4:30 a.m. Chili Dinner and Baked Potato Bar</p>	<p>27 9:30 a.m. Yoga</p>
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\*Pre-Lenten Continental

Breakfast @ Trinity Lutheran.

Call 815-943-7433 for reservations.

# February Highlights

## February Meetings

2/2 7:00 p.m. Trustee Committee Meeting  
2/9 7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting  
2/23 7:00 p.m. Leadership Meeting



## February Ushers

Mark Dion  
Ken Pedersen

## Liturgists for February



2/1 Janet Hugg  
2/8  
2/15  
2/22 Huxley VonBergen



## February Counters

Missy Oerkitz  
Ken and Susan Pedersen



## Senior Fellowship

Tuesday, February 3rd  
Tuesday, February 17th  
at 9:00 a.m.



## Women's Bible Study

Every Wednesday at the home of  
Sharon Klingstedt  
February 4th, 11th, 18th  
and 25th at 1:00 p.m.

## Ash Wednesday Community Worship Service

Please join us on February 18th -  
**Ash Wednesday worship**. This year's  
service is being held at the First  
Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m.  
See you there!



## "Souper Sunday"



Join us to celebrate

on Sunday, February 8th,  
during the Fellowship Hour!  
There will be three (3) soups  
to choose from. The sign-up  
sheet is on the table in the  
Narthex. Please sign-up, as  
this helps with our planning.

## Bell Choir



will resume practices on  
February 11th, 18th  
and 25th @ 4:30 p.m.  
Please join us!

## Winter Weather

In the past, we have  
had to cancel church due  
to winter weather. When  
this happens, a mass email  
is sent to our members. If  
you do not have email or  
simply want to be notified  
by phone, call the office  
at 815-943-5422 and your  
name will be added to the  
list of people who wish to  
be called. Thank you!

Pre-Lenten Continental Bkfst  
at Trinity Lutheran Church  
February 11th at 9:00 a.m.

Call 815-943-7433 for  
reservations. ALL men  
and women are invited!



First United Methodist Church of Harvard  
invites you to...

## **Our Famous Chili Dinner and Baked Potato Bar**

Thursday, February 26, 2026  
4:30-7:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy homemade chili as well as the baked potato bar with  
all of the fixings. There will be dessert, of course. 😊

Carry-outs will be available.



**\$14.00 for Adults**  
(\$15.00 Carry-outs)  
**\$7.00 for Children Ages 5-12**  
**No charge for children under 5**

1100 North Division Street, Harvard, IL Questions? Call 815-943-5422