



# June 2026

## From the Pastor's Pen

Sunday, March 15th, our SPRC chair, Sue Smith, announced that I have been appointed to serve at the United Methodist Church in Cherry Valley and New Milford. This new appointment will begin July 1st. In the United Methodist Church, all clergy enter a covenant with one another. Part of that covenant is that we will go where the bishop and cabinet send us. The cabinet consists of the district superintendents of our conference. The cabinet spends time in prayer and discernment as they seek to match churches in need of a pastor with someone whose gifts will match what that church needs.

Some of you have asked if I am alright with this move. Although it will be hard to say goodbye, and there is still much that can be done here in Harvard, I have accepted this appointment and believe it will be a good one. As a United Methodist pastor, I believe that God works through the appointment process and the work of the cabinet.

We have had a wonderful five years together; now is a time prepare for the next chapter in your life as a church. We have done some awesome things. I have seen so many of you grow in your faith and step out of your comfort zones to lead in ministries for the first time. We have partnered together in the work of the Gospel through faith in the power of Jesus Christ.

This same faith in Jesus must propel you onward into the future. I want to state that things are not over for the Harvard United Methodist Church just because I am leaving. Becoming disillusioned and choosing to disengage from active participation in worship, small groups, and ministry will make it difficult for your next pastor to be successful in leading you, no matter how effective the new pastor may be. I have seen you act in faith many times, and so I pray and hope that you will continue to serve, lead, and worship in this church during this time of transition. Always remember that you are ultimately called to be followers of Jesus Christ; not any particular pastor.

I would like to close with a prayer, and you may make this your prayer as well. "Dear Lord, we thank you for your faithfulness, your grace, and your love from the beginning of time until now. We especially thank you for the time that we have had these past five years to work in partnership together to make a difference in the name of Jesus Christ. We ask now that during this time of transition; you would help us to trust in you for a hopeful future. We thank you for this chapter in our lives together, and we anticipate with hope the next chapter that will unfold in July. Bless the new pastor as she prepares to join us in the ministry of the Gospel. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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.

# June Highlights

## June Meetings

6/8	7:00 p.m. Trustee Committee Meeting
6/15	7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
6/22	7:00 p.m. Leadership Committee Meeting

## Celebration for Pastor Alex & Family

A celebration is being planned for Pastor Alex and family on June 20th from 4:00-6:00p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

A meal of Italian Beef, mostaccioli, salad and drink will be provided. If you would like to bring a dish to share, that would be appreciated but not necessary. To assist in our planning, an RSVP would be appreciated but not necessary - there will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway.

Please join us as we thank Pastor Alex and his family for their contributions to our church and community!



## Liturgists for June

6/7	
6/14	
6/21	Karen DeFalco
6/28	Ukulele Band



## June Counters

Ron Carpenter  
Ken and Susan Pedersen



## Senior Fellowship

Tuesday, June 2nd  
Tuesday, June 16th  
at 9:00 a.m.



## Women's Bible Study

Every Wednesday at the home of Sharon Klingstedt  
June 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th  
at 1:00 p.m.

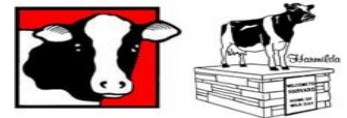
## Community Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive on June 10th from 12:30-5:30 pm at the Fire Dept Training Room 402 S. Eastman Street. If you

are interested in donating blood (there is always a GREAT need), contact Julie Dion at [dionfam@gmail.com](mailto:dionfam@gmail.com) or call RRVBC at 815-965-8751.

## 85th Annual Harvard

Milk Days - "85 Years of Milk Days-Celebrating USA 250 in Red, White and Moo!"



June 5th - June 7th, 2026

## Milk Days Fundraiser

Again this year, our church will be selling the ride tickets at the carnival on Sunday, June 7th. Please see or contact Mark Dion (815-943-7591) if you can

work at this fundraiser for the church and all help is appreciated. There are time slots for working one or two hour shifts. Thank you!



