



May 2026

## From the Pastor's Pen

Romans: 1:12 “or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.” I'm motivated because I know God has great plans for our church. Pastors are important components of a church, no doubt about it, but a healthy and strong congregation makes a difference in continuing the good work in and out of church. I'm encouraged by your willingness to serve God and neighbor. I hope I was able to encourage you to continue your faith journey with God and fellow sisters and brothers in Christ.

This month we especially recognize the youth of our church and community. Connor O'Grady will be receiving a Bible on the first Sunday of this month. We continue to support and encourage our kids in living the life of faith. I want to thank all the Sunday School teachers for another year of nurturing and spiritual growth of the students. I ask for your prayer for all the students to finish well; the month of May is a stressful time packed with final exams and projects. I know kids will do well and we expect good results.

We are also celebrating Justin Oerkfitz graduating high school and Steven Austin graduating college. They worked diligently and now they are moving up to the next chapter of life. Let's pray for God's continual guidance as they get ready to tackle new challenges.

One of the biggest joys this month is the confirmation and baptism of our middle school students. They are about to finish the study course and now they are initiated and incorporated into the body of Christ. God is gracious to us all including the confirmands and the whole creation. It's my privilege to experience this joy with all of you. We are reminded once again that all of us are connected by God's love and we are continuing the mission of transforming the world.

What are your joys? What are your concerns? You are not alone. God brought us together to lift one another in love. You belong here. God is with us. See you at church.

Blessings,

*Pastor Alex Lee*

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.

# May Highlights

## May Meetings

- 5/4 7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting
- 5/11 7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
- 5/18 7:00 p.m. Leadership Meeting



## May Ushers

Ken Pedersen  
Mark Dion



## Liturgists for May

- 5/3 Ji Young Lee
- 5/10 Mother's Day
- 5/17 Confirmation
- 5/24
- 5/31

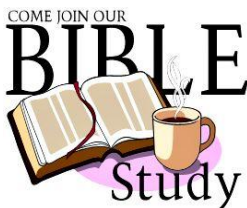


## May Counters

Sue Smith  
David Swengel

## Senior Fellowship

9:00 a.m. on Tuesday's  
May 5th and May 19th.



COME JOIN OUR  
**BIBLE**  
Study  
Women's Bible Study  
Every Wednesday at the home  
of Sharon Klingstedt on  
May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th  
at 1:00 p.m.

The church office will be  
closed on Monday,  
May 25, 2026.



May 10, 2026 will be  
our **LAST DAY** of  
Sunday School!



Have a great summer and  
we look forward to  
seeing you in the Fall!



## SACRED CALL

Sunday, May 24th @ 6:30p.m.  
at the First Presbyterian Church  
for an evening of great southern  
gospel music presented by  
Chapel Valley Recording Artists.  
You'll be blessed by their singing  
and uplifted and challenged by  
their message. Join us!!



Again this year, our church  
will be selling the ride  
tickets at the carnival on  
**Milk Day Fundraiser**

Sunday, June 7th. Please  
see Mark Dion if you can  
work this fundraiser for the  
church. This is a wonderful  
opportunity to raise funds  
for our church and all help  
will be appreciated. There  
are time slots for working  
one hour or two.

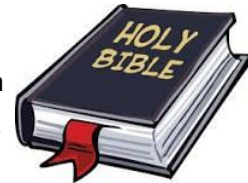




# CHURCH NEWS

## **Third Grader Honored**

Connor O'Grady, received his Bible during the worship service on May 3rd - we congratulate Connor and his hard work throughout this Sunday School year learning how to use the Bible!



## **Confirmation Sunday - May 17th**

We will be celebrating a Service of Confirmation on May 17th. Three students will be confirmed - Jason Lee, Huxley Von Bergen and Jillian Wood. May God continue to bless each one of you!

## **Graduation Sunday**

On Sunday, May 24th, during the worship service at 10:00 a.m., we will congratulate and celebrate anyone from our congregation who is graduating from high school, college, trade school, or any institution of higher learning. Please inform the church office by May 10th, if you have someone to include in this celebration.



WELCOME  
Summer