



November 2025

First United Methodist Church

Pastor Alex Lee

Church Office: 815-943-5422

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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.

From the Pastor's Pen

I want to share my own reflection on the Stewardship Drive this month. There is a popular praise that begins with "Give thanks with a grateful heart." To have a grateful heart is not something that can be forced upon a person. Only when you experience grace that comes from God, your heart is filled with gratitude.

Our understanding of grace is God's loving empowerment and involvement in our lives. We are experiencing God in our daily lives. Even when you feel God is not present, undoubtedly God is extending the Lord's hands for you to grab on. God restores the hope in us. Everyone is called to a meaningful life, following the life and teaching of Jesus, we are experiencing transformation grounded in love.

We devoted our lives to amassing our wealth our whole lives. Economic stability is number one priority for a lot of people and I understand the rationale behind it. Experiencing grace means that we see the world in a different perspective, while our effort deserves some merit, we understand that all that we are and all that we received comes from God. In another word, nothing was possible without God in our lives, the Maker made me who I am. King David confessed, "Your love is better than life."

The idea of giving is not "I'm giving out of my possession," we are giving back out of what God has provided me. It's our way of displaying our gratitude and trust to God. Again, this is not possible without a grateful heart. All that we do stems from our loving relationship with God. We are filled with joy knowing God is good to me and the world.

Also, thanks to one of our members' suggestions, we began the generosity challenge during the Stewardship Drive. This is our opportunity to display God-inspired generosity to everyone around. God bountifully filled us with grace, it's now our turn to show kindness and love.

God is with us. God is good all the time. Lean on the everlasting arms. See you at church.

Blessings,

Pastor Alex Lee

November Highlights



November Meetings

11/3 7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting
11/10 7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
11/24 7:00 p.m. Leadership Meeting



November Ushers



Mark Dion
Ken Pedersen

Liturgists for November



11/2 Janet Hugg
11/9 Please send up to
11/16 assist during the
11/23 worship service. We
11/30 need you!!

November Counters



Karen DeFalco, Mark Dion,
Larry McEnaney and
Ken Pedersen

Fellowship Hour

11/2
11/9 Ji Young Lee
11/16
11/23 Potluck following worship
11/30

Senior Fellowship



November 4th and
November 18th
at 9:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Worship

on Wednesday, November 26th
... 1:30 p.m. Worship at Trinity
Lutheran... 7:00 p.m. Worship
also at Trinity Lutheran Church



Women's Bible Study



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

Bell Choir



Practices held on Wednesday's
at 4:30 p.m. November 5th
12th, 19th and 26th.



Ends on Sunday,
November 2nd! Don't
forget to set your
clocks back 1 hour!!

POTLUCK on



COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Plan to attend and enjoy the potluck
on November 23rd immediately
following our worship service. Bring
your favorite dish to pass!

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our Church Conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 15th. The Staff Parish Relations Committee will be meeting prior to the Church Conference. The Church Conference is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. Please plan on attending this event as this is an opportunity for all of us to come together and discuss all aspect of our body in Christ Hope to see you on the 15th!

Harvard Community Food Pantry – *Holiday Meal Boxes*

Although every day is a struggle for our people facing hunger, the holidays can be a particularly stressful time. As their neighbors, co-workers and friends prepare for a celebration with family that includes a traditional meal, extra treats and gifts, they wonder if they will have enough food to keep their families from going to bed hungry. Together we have an opportunity to take away the worry of where their Thanksgiving holiday meal will come from for these families.

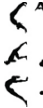
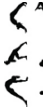
Through our partnership with Northern Illinois Food Bank, we can obtain Holiday Meal Boxes. Each box contains everything needed to make a traditional holiday meal for a family of eight. This meal would cost \$128 at a local restaurant. To purchase the ingredients in the store would cost nearly \$40.

Through our affiliation with Northern Illinois Food Bank, you can help us provide a **Holiday Meal Box to a family for just a \$23 donation** – that's the equivalent of just \$2.90 per person for a full turkey dinner!

Our food pantry now serves 250 families every month and we are always seeing new faces of people that are facing a crisis caused by unemployment, under-employment, an unexpected medical or car bill or additional family members living with them.

Last year we distributed 150 Holiday Meal Boxes to our food pantry visitors; this year we would like to distribute at least 160 boxes. Can you help us make the holidays a little brighter for these families by making a donation for Holiday Meal Boxes? **Please make a donation (\$23/\$46/\$80/\$120) to "Harvard Comm Food Pantry" and mail to: Harvard Food Pantry P.O. Box 578 Harvard, IL 60033**

Thank you for helping us feed our hungry neighbors!

 All Saints Sunday 2 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship w/HC 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945	3 2:00 p.m. Harvard Strummers 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171 7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting	4 9:00 a.m. Senior Fellowship 9:30 a.m. English Class 7:00 p.m. English Class	5  1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 4:00 p.m. NO Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Bell Choir	6  4:30 p.m. Bible Study	 9:30 a.m. Yoga	7  9:30 a.m. Yoga	8 !TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK!
9 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945	10 2:00 p.m. Harvard Strummers 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171 7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting	11  9:30 a.m. English Class 6:30 p.m. BSA Troop 171 7:00 p.m. English Class	12  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	13  4:30 p.m. Bible Study	 9:30 a.m. Yoga	14  9:30 a.m. Yoga	15 12:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting 12:30 p.m. Church Conference 
16 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 2:00 p.m. Worship @ CareCtr 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945	17 2:00 p.m. Harvard Strummers 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171	18 9:00 a.m. Senior Fellowship 9:30 a.m. English Class 7:00 p.m. English Class	19  1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 4:00 p.m. NO Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Bell Choir	20  4:30 p.m. Bible Study	 9:30 a.m. Yoga	21  9:30 a.m. Yoga	22
23  9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Potluck 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945	24 2:00 p.m. Harvard Strummers 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 171 7:00 p.m. Leadership Meeting	25 9:30 a.m. English Class 6:30 a.m. BSA Troop 171 7:00 p.m. English Class	26 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Worship @ Trinity 4:00 p.m. NO Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Service @ Trinity Lutheran	27 	 9:30 a.m. Yoga	28  9:30 a.m. Yoga	29
1st Sunday in Advent Hanging of the Greens 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. BSA Troop 1945							