

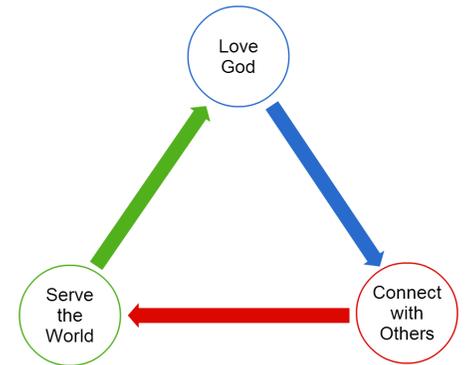
THE MESSENGER

January 2018

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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Our Mission: *Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by loving God, connecting with others, and serving the world.*



“The test of faith is whether I can make space for difference. Can I recognize God’s image in someone who is not in my image, whose language, faith, ideal, are different from mine? If I cannot, then I have made God in my image instead of allowing God to remake me in His.” Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

The first week in December I went to Washington DC to join other people of faith from around the U.S. We were there to stand with and speak up for young immigrants “Dreamers” who were brought to the U.S. as children and raised here. We met with staff members of our congressional representatives and requested they pass a clean dream act by the end of 2017 to protect “Dreamers” from deportation to their country of birth. Why did we do this?

Time is running out for young immigrants who are part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The program, created under President Obama in 2012, has allowed some 800,000 young immigrants who have grown up in the U.S. to attain temporary legal status.

Here’s a little of what I learned. To qualify for DACA, recipients had to be under 31 as of June 15, 2012. They also had to come to the U.S. before reaching their 16th birthday and needed to be a high school graduate or have obtained an equivalent certificate. DACA recipients have paid \$495 and undergone extensive criminal background checks to ensure they had a clean record. To remain DACA recipients, they have gone through the same process, including payments, every two years.

These young people are living in fear and uncertainty. President Trump announced earlier this year that he will end the program in March 2018 unless Congress acts. Since September 5th of this year, 12,000 DACA recipients have lost their temporary legal status and protection from deportation. In addition, 122 young people are added to that number every day. Can you imagine living with the threat of being taken away from your family, home, job, and school?

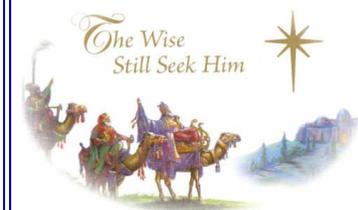
Polls show a substantial majority of U.S. voters, from both parties, support allowing these immigrants to stay in the U.S. United Methodist Bishops and other UM leaders have called for Congress to pass, and for President Trump to sign, a clean DREAM Act that provides a path to citizenship.

Church World Service (CWS) invited me to come as a faith leader from our congressional district. They paid my way, organized congressional meetings, and trained those of us who participated in the civil disobedience act. I was one of the 188 faith leaders who sat on the steps of the Capital building, although I did not get arrested (that’s another story).

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Sharing God's Bounty—January

Being a Faithful Steward

As stewards, we demonstrate our faithfulness by how we manage the resources and gifts God entrusts to us. *“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful”* (1 Corinthians 4:2). We are to *“always give [ourselves] fully to the work of the Lord because [we] know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Our effort is invested in the Lord's winning cause.

Peter wrote, *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms”* (1 Peter 4:10). Through faith, we serve others by showing our love (3 John 5-6), by witnessing for Christ (Acts 1:8), by sharing with those in need (2 Corinthians 9:7-8), and by doing good to all people (Galatians 6:10). God is pleased when we use our time, talents, and treasures in ways that give Him honor and glory through our service for others.

As devoted and committed stewards who seek to do God's will, we receive his special blessings. The Lord will *“bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God”* (1 Corinthians 4:5). In 1 Samuel 26:23 we read, *“The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness.”* We look forward to the Lord telling us, *“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!”* (Matthew 25:23).

Until the Lord takes us to our eternal home, we are to be active and involved stewards faithfully seeking to please him. We can be faithful because he abounds *“in love and faithfulness”* (Psalm 86:15) to us. We press on as faithful stewards knowing that *“He will not forget [our] work and the love [we] have shown him . . .”* (Hebrews 6:10).

“My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that achievement is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others and that's nice too, but not as important or satisfying. Always aim for achievement and forget about success.”



Members & Friends

Janet Davis
Tom DeWitt
Trudy Kuelz
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Deb Seno
Rhonda (Anderson's daughter)

Military Personnel

Matt Benson
Sean Conderman
Ramon Duarte
Tamara Duke
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide
Mike Oldham

Those Who Mourn

The Tewell/Clevenger Family

PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have prayer concerns that you wish to express, please fill out a prayer request card located in the Prayer Chapel. Please indicate how you would like your request shared via the check boxes at the bottom of the card and then place the concerns in the request box.

(Continued from page 1)

I went to DC because my faith compels me to speak out for justice and equality. The diversity of our nation is a gift and one of the founding principles of this country. As it has been in our past, diversity is under attack and fear mongers are telling us to be afraid of each other. This is not a new issue, but the violence and gap between us is rising to heights that cannot be ignored. I believe the church is called to be a place where conversations can take place and walls torn down.

I hope you will join me in 2018 to find ways to get to know people who are different than you – to listen to their story and how they came to see the world as they do. And then take the time to share your story with them. We are more alike than we are different—we are all children of a loving, compassionate, and just God.

To begin the year you have have two different opportunities to try. They are 1) *Faithful Desegregation* and 2) *Open Hands, Willing Heart: Embodying God's Love in the World*. There is more information on both programs inside this newsletter on page 5 and on our website. Will you join me and others as we attempt to “live in the gap”?

With Christ's love and witness as my guiding light,

Pastor Vickie



Thank you to all who helped to make the Christmas Eve Services so wonderful and inspirational!

Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who gave to the mission and ministries of our church in 2017. Thank you to my 2017 stewardship campaign team: LaVern Neff, Donna Layng, and Karen Harter. Their ideas, support and commitment were invaluable to me.

Here is an outline of the 2018 results:

-43 pledges for a total of \$115,819 toward our general fund operating budget.

-13 households increased their pledge

-7 brand new pledging units

Comparison with previous years:

2017	31 pledgers	\$112,870
2016	43 pledgers	\$115,452

If you wish to have a copy of the 2018 line item budget or the narrative budget (which really tells the story of where our finances go), please contact Pastor Vickie.

You will be receiving your 2017 giving statement by February 1, 2018. Giving statements for 2018 will go out three times a year (May 1, September 1, December 31). Please open your letters when they come as there are often other correspondence in with your statement. Remember to check the figures on your statement and contact Mary Lou Clevenger if there are any discrepancies.

Thank You



rockford rescue mission
rescue + recover + restore

Dear Cherry Valley United Methodist Church,

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he writes that God loves a cheerful giver!

Your recent gift of winter coats and jeans to Rockford Rescue Mission was so deeply appreciated. I know it was given with joy in your heart, knowing the comfort and relief your act of kindness will bring to others.

Your generous spirit demonstrates your love for those who are homeless and struggling with life's challenges. The number of those hurting individuals grows larger every day. But because of friends like you, we can meet their most urgent needs - for warm clothing, nutritious food and safe shelter. Then we can offer them advocacy, long-term recovery, adult education and vocational training that can truly change their lives.

Thank you again for your gift of warmth and hope, which can often be the first step to a life transformed. May God bless you for your cheerful and generous giving.

Partners in Hope, Sherry Pitney, Executive Director

Rockford Rescue Mission Outreach



Group who attended the RRM outreach in January 2017

We will once again be going to the Rockford Rescue Mission on January 28, 2018 to share the good news of Jesus Christ, provide food for clients, and generally have a good time serving neighbors in our community. We have done this for the past two years and if you want to see the Spirit at work, come join us as we share our faith through service!

If you have any questions, please contact Terri Burritt through the church office (312) 322-5075.



rockford rescue mission
rescue + recover + restore



The Methodist Women gathered on Sunday, December 3rd at Kathleen Sundberg's home to share the holiday. Following a short business meeting we gathered around the table to share a luncheon provided by Kathleen and Pat Newell. We actually had

We delivered 243 stockings to the Rock House Kids. Those that made the trip were impressed with the program. I encourage you to check out their web site (rockhousekids.org) We hope to continue to participate in their Christmas program next year.

Our Cookie Dough fundraiser was successful. We sold 242 tubs of cookie dough. The profit was divided with the CV United Methodist Men's group. We so appreciated their help.

Lunch was delicious and the atmosphere was festive. We missed those unable to attend. Please remember that we are open to all women of the church and I encourage you to join us. It is an opportunity to serve our God as a part of the body of Christ. We can accomplish more if we work together.

Striving to serve,
Donna Layng



Offering envelopes for 2018 are available in the foyer. Since we are recycling envelopes please put your name and envelope number on the sheet provided. When you bring your offering, please be sure that you put your name on EACH envelope.

Spiritual Insights

2 Corinthians 5:17 "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; all things have become new..."

As the New Year begins, we should look at the new year and also say "The old things are passed away, and all things have become new." We should forget old grudges, old hurts from others, and let go of bitterness toward others. We should think on the New Year as an opportunity to show more love toward others.

2 Corinthians 5:18 "All things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself thru Jesus Christ."

As God has reconciled us to himself, we should also in this New Year, reconcile ourselves to those who we have hurt or harmed on purpose or be accident. We should put away our overabundance of sinful pride and embrace the Godly virtue of humility. In this New Year, we should strive to love Jesus more than anyone or anything in this world.

Jim Whitlock

Church Council & Finance Meetings



The first meetings of 2018 for the Church Council and Finance Committee will be **January 23**. The Finance Committee will meet at 6:15 pm and the Church Council will meet at 7:00 pm.

Committee Chairs should have their written reports for the Council to the secretary no later than Monday, January 22.

Faith ✿ *Hope* ✿ *Love*

January Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday January 7	Sunday January 14	Sunday January 21	Sunday January 28
<i>Liturgist</i>	Charles Schnuckel	Zane Clevenger	Andrew Schwartz	Janet Davis
<i>Greeter Team</i>	Jane Neff LaVern Neff	Pat Newell Jim Newell	Kathleen Sundberg Grace Harter	Judy Krunfus Sandra Baxter
<i>Usher Captain</i>	Warren Gross	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt
<i>Children's Message</i>	Sue Wilt	Melynda Mungor	Scott Layng	Dan Holmes
<i>Media</i>	Zane Clevenger	Andrew Schwartz	Matt Gross	Tjaden Keip
<i>Fellowship</i>	Choir	Emmaus Group	Mission Team	Methodist Women

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 5 Kathleen Sundberg
- 7 Connor Kloss
- 15 Taryn Ward
- 18 Jordyn Burritt
Nick Brown
- 27 Lavern Neff
- 28 David Anderson
Donna Layng

- 30 Harry Buck
- 31 Lyons Meyers
Jim Coulter



- 7 Keith & Terri Burritt

Installation of Church Leaders

On Sunday, January 14, we will install our 2018 Committee Members and Chair Persons during the worship service. All persons who are members of a committee and chairs are asked to plan to attend. Please see Slate of Officers in this publication.

Thank You

Advent is a dark time in our Christian calendar. We wait with great anticipation the birth of the Messiah; the light of our world. On December 21, this faith community was the light in the Tewell/Clevenger's dark world.

We can not thank Pastor Vickie, the donors of food, the kitchen workers or the clean up crew enough for the care that was provided.

Please know you were the gift of love. We ask God's blessings on each of you.

The families of Madge Tewell and Larry Clevenger



Items for the February Messenger are due to the secretary by January 15.

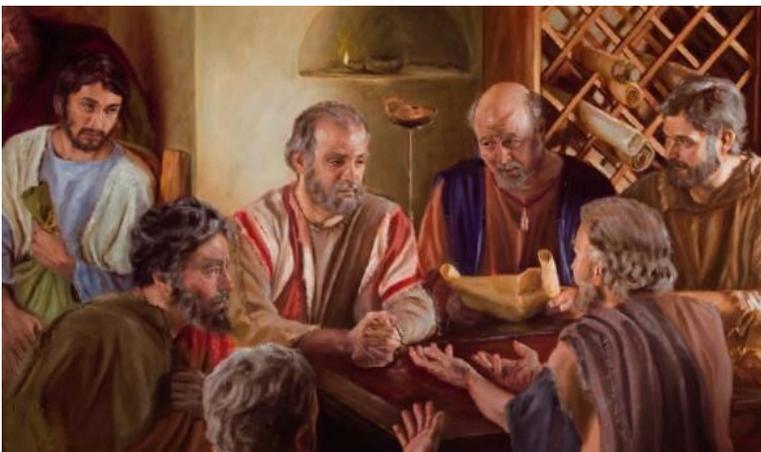


It's hard to believe that we are already almost halfway through our school year! On February 1st Preschool Registration for the 2018-19 school year opens to the public. We will be having a Registration Open House on Thursday, February 8th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Please invite any family or friends you know who might be interested. They are welcome to bring their preschool aged child/children to visit the preschool that night and experience the different areas of play and learning as well as meet the teachers. We're looking forward to meeting future family and students! For more information please call 815-332-9653 or visit creativelearnersii.org.

Joyfully Teaching, Carol Palmer
Director and Teacher

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday school will be starting a new study on January 7, 2018. This will be a 8 week study using a Following God Character study called *“Life Principles from Paul’s Co-Workers”*, written by Richard Soule. Anyone interested should see Dave Ward for a study book.



United Methodist Men

The UMM continue to have their monthly meeting at the Cherry Valley Café, the first Sunday of the month at 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. All men are welcome to attend. See Dave Ward for more information about the UMM.



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Answer key to
December puzzle
From Matthew



The meetings of December were at the Tree Lot. We had typical winter conditions. Tree sales have been slow; we believe the weather in November was too warm; 60s. During the 3rd weekend of December, a few of our scouts and adults camped at the Tree Lot ... they brag that there were no mosquitoes! The 3rd Tuesday, your

Troop celebrated Christmas with a pizza party at the church. More than 100 family members enjoyed a variety of pizzas and Christmas bakery. We exchanged gifts in blind choices, or informed steals. It's a game, but fun! Fellowship was fantastic!!! We did not meet on the final Tuesday of the month.

The first Tuesday of the New Year is too soon to meet. So, we will wait until the second Tuesday, when we will enjoy a Movie Night in the church and make plans for the January camp-in at Lake Ripley, near Cambridge, WI. (The whole lake is our playground.) The second meeting of the month will find us in Atwood Park; winter provides an access to nature that you won't find in the summer. The 4th Tuesday of the month, we will be practicing First Aid. Scouts learn First Aid! On the final meeting of January, we will go outside again. Severson Dells is a great wilderness outside the western boundary of Rockford. What will we find there?



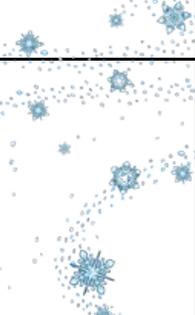
We encourage boys 11-17 to visit our Troop meetings and bring their parents. We have stories to tell you! Visit our website at <http://www.bsatroop181.com>. You may call Terry Nichols, Scoutmaster, 815/540-5900 with all your Boy Scouting questions.

Children’s Messages

Thanks to Melynda Mungor for preparing the Children’s Message schedule. She has completed the schedule for 2018, but we are always looking for more people to volunteer to deliver the Children’s messages. If you are interested in this ministry, please speak with Melynda or call the church office. We would love to have people who can be substitutes in the event the scheduled person is unavailable AND we still need more volunteers for next year! Please consider taking at least one Sunday of the year....not a big commitment, but it is an investment in the youth of the church.



January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018</p>	<p>1 6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p><i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous</p>
<p>7 8:00 am UMM @ CV Café 8:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship</p>  <p>EPIPHANY</p>	<p>8 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Creative Learners II Registration Open House</p>	<p>9 12:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>11 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Thursday Night Disciple Group</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9:00 am GA</p>
<p>14 8:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 am Fellowship 11:15 am Methodist Women</p>	<p>15 6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p>  <p><i>Newsletter items due</i></p>	<p>16 6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>18 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Thursday Night Disciple Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25</i></p>	<p>20 9:00 am GA</p>
<p>21 8:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship</p>	<p>22 6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>23 6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p><i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25</i></p>	<p>24 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>25 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Thursday Night Disciple Group</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:00 am GA</p> 
<p>28 8:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 11:15 am Trustees Rockford Rescue Mission Service</p>	<p>29 6:00 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>30 6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir</p>			



Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
 112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
 Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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 PERMIT NO. 9
 CHERRY VALLEY
 IL 61016



 Sunday School @ 8:45 am for all ages
 September—May
 Sunday@ 9:45 am—Worship
 Sunday@ 11:00 am—Fellowship
All are welcome!


 Pastor: Vickie Hadaway
 Secretary: Nancy Laurent
 Church Office Hours
 Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Cherry Valley UMC
Lay Leadership Slate for 2018

		<u>Class of</u>
Chairperson	Pastor Vickie	
Lay Leader	Scott Layng	2020
Recording Secretary	Juanita Barnes	2018
Membership Secretary	Barbara Anderson	2020
Lay Members to AC	Sally Hollembeak	2020
	Sherry Gordon	2020
Alternate Lay Member	Sue Layng	2020
Member-at-Large	Janet Davis	2018

Staff Parish Relations Committee

LaVern Neff (Chair)	2018
Amy Flood	2019
Patricia Irps	2019
Lou Cowan	2020
	2020

Ex Officio: LMAC, LL, Pastor

Finance Committee

Sue Layng (Chair)	2019
Dan Halley (Treasurer)	2017
Mary Lou Clevenger (Recorder)	2018
Jane Neff	2019
	2020
	2020

Audit Committee

Sally Hollembeak	2018
Scott Layng	2018

Board of Trustees

Dave Ward (Chair)	2018
Charlie Schnuckel	2018
Keith Burritt	2020
Chris Flood	2020
Janet Davis	2020
	2020

Outreach & Evangelism

Terri Burritt (Chair)	2020
Hannah Flood	2018
Mary Coulter (Missions)	2018
Ronnie Layng	2020
Juanita Graff	2020

Worship Committee

Juanita Barnes (Chair)	2018
Judy Krunfus	
Deb Seno	
Jim Bryant	

VBS Coordinator: Deb Gross 2018

Committee of Memorials & Gifts

Grace Harter (Chair)	2018
Karen Harter	2019
Donna Layng	2018
Kathleen Sundberg	2020

Methodist Men

Warren Gross, President
Dave Ward, Financial Secretary

Methodist Women

Donna Layng, President	2018
Pat Newell, Secretary	2017
Kathleen Sundberg	2020

Lay Leadership Committee

Pastor Vickie Hadaway (Chair)	
Scott Layng (Lay Leader)	
Patty Campbell	2020
	2020

Creative Learners II Pre-school Board

Karen Harter, President
Theresa Murphy, Treasurer
Barb Anderson
Grace Harter
Donna Layng