



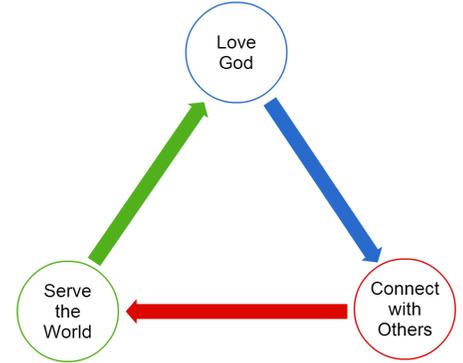
THE MESSENGER

December 2018

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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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.*



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Faith,

Grace and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I remember, when I was growing up, how upset it used to make my mother when she would see “X-Mas” instead of Christmas. Then, I went to seminary, and discovered that there is no reason that this should upset Christians.

Let me explain. The Greek word/spelling for *Christ* is Χριστός. Did you notice that the first letter in the Greek spelling is Chi (X)? X serves as a monogram for Christ. Seminarians/clergy/theologians often use the monogram X for Christ [along with Θ for God (Θεός)] as shorthand while taking notes. In that shorthand, X^{tn}=Christian, X^{inty}=Christianity, etc.

X-mas likely originated as such shorthand for Christmas. The ultimate point being – even if someone tries to take “the Christ” out of Christmas by substituting an “X”, they can’t do it. Although no one can take Christ out of Christians, let us remember to keep Christ as the focus of our Christmas anticipation.

To that end, in addition to the regular **7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service**, we will **also hold an 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship** service to accommodate those who cannot attend the 7:00 service or for whom a “midnight” Christmas Eve service is particularly meaningful.

Also, there will be an opportunity to receive Holy Communion each Sunday during Advent. On December 2 (the first Sunday of the month) this will be during the regular Sunday worship time. On the subsequent Sundays of Advent, there will be a short service at 8:30 a.m. prior to Sunday School.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Keep CHI
Xⁱⁿmas

In this issue

- Advent Communion..... Page 2*
- Methodist Women Page 2*
- Prayer Requests..... Page 2*
- Congratulations Page 2*
- Christmas Party Page 2*
- Christmas Eve Service .. Page 2*
- Blood Drive..... Page 3*
- Spiritual Insight..... Page 3*
- Hanging of the Greens.. Page 3*
- Cookie Walk..... Page 4*
- Worship Leaders..... Page 4*
- Birthday/Anniversary.... Page 4*
- Children's Program..... Page 4*
- Sermon Series Page 5*
- Pastor's Schedule Page 5*
- Missionary Page 5*
- RRV Food Pantry..... Page 5*
- Creative Learners II Page 6*
- Boy Scout Troop 181 Page 6*
- Prayer Shawl Page 6*
- Cookies for Rose Bud.... Page 6*
- Office Hours Page 6*
- Calendar..... Page 7*



Advent Communion



All are invited to join us for the second, third, and fourth Sundays of Advent for Holy Communion at 8:30 am. There will be a brief service before Sunday School. For the first week of Advent, Holy Communion will be during our regular worship time.

Methodist Women

The Methodist Women met on Sunday, November 11th, after worship. We were privileged to welcome several visitors to our group. We sold 205 units of cookie dough which were delivered to the church on November 29th.



We collected Christmas stockings for Rock House Kids again this year with a goal of 200 stockings. We met and exceeded that goal with the support of the congregation. We delivered them the last week of November. Thank you so much for your support of our endeavors. We couldn't do this without you!

Our Christmas party will be on December 9th at the home of Kathleen Sundberg. We will meet at 12:30 for fun and fellowship. All women of the church are welcome to join us. There is a \$10.00 gift exchange for those wishing to participate. Call Kathleen at 815-988-4536 for instructions on how to get to her home.

Our Annual Cookie Walk will be December 16th. We are in need of donations of cookies. We encourage people of the congregation to donate 3 dozen cookies...not only do we ask that you donate, we urge you to come and purchase cookies donated by others. Sales are open before and after worship. It is a delightful way to obtain a variety of cookies for your personal enjoyment or gift giving.



Our next meeting will be January 13th following worship. All women of the congregation are invited to join us.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas,

Donna Layng



Members & Friends

Trudy Hunt
Lela Lameyer
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Jim & Barb Whitlock
Keith Kruger

Military Personnel

Sean Conderman
Tamara Duke
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide
Mike Oldham

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next
Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn



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.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Janet and Jim Bryant on their marriage. The Christian Rite of Marriage ceremony was performed by Pastor Mark Harkness on November 10, 2018. The fellowship hall was beautiful and the meal was delicious.

It was delightful to celebrate this joyous event. Our best wishes for the happy couple!



*The Methodist Women's
Annual Christmas Party will be
Sunday, December 9, at 12:30 pm
at the home of Kathleen Sundberg.
All women of the church are welcome!
For directions to Kathleen's home,
call her at 815-988-4536.*

By Jim Whitlock

Luke 18:1-8:

Persevering Prayer—The Parable of the Unjust Judge.

“In a certain city was a judge who feared not God nor regarded man.” The judge was utterly selfish and godless. He did not care for anyone’s opinion. “And there was a widow who came to the judge saying, ‘Avenge me of my adversary’. (She is asking for justice).”

The widow was poor, friendless, and without any influence. She came repeatedly asking for help. The adversary is typical of Satan, as Peter says in Peter 5:8, “...your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walks about seeking who he can destroy.” The widow asks the judge repeatedly for help and because she constantly worried him with her requests, the judge gave in to her.

Jesus chose the judge to represent God. But, Jesus goes to great lengths to tell us that God is long-suffering, the loving sign of loving and gentle patience. Jesus tells us “...men should always pray and faint not...” Don’t lose heart, don’t give up. God will hear our prayers and answer them speedily for those that worship Him and are His own elect and call on Him day and night.

The winning quality in prayer is perseverance.



Join us on Christmas Eve

7:00 pm
and / or
11:00 pm

Rock River Valley Blood Center

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Blood Drive

Monday, December 10
2:30 pm—6:30 pm

RRVBC bus will be parked at
112 S. Cherry Street
Cherry Valley, IL

To schedule an appointment call
Barb Anderson @ 815-332-5226

All Blood is Needed!

Please bring a photo ID

Be sure to have plenty to eat & drink
before donating.

Walk-ins are Welcome!



Rock River Valley
BLOOD CENTER
Straight From the Heart



Saturday, December 1

3:00 pm

*Join in the fun of decorating the church
for Advent and Christmas*

*The Worship Team
will be on hand to assist.*

Don't miss the fun!

December Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 18 Keith Krueger
- 19 Karen Harter
- 23 Colleen O'Kane
- 26 Ann Harned
- 29 Ida Mae Fox

Anniversaries

- 3 Lyons & Marlene Meyers
- 29 Ryan & Jamie Spears

Birthdays

- 5 Nicholas Mungor
- 6 Delilah Herold
- 10 Carolyn Kloss
- 12 Pat Cowan
- 13 Lynn Berg
- 14 Bill Harned
Pearl Robbins
- 16 Craig Wilt
- 17 Lela Lameyer



Sunday, December 16, 2018
Before & After Worship



Come and shop a huge assortment of DELICIOUS Christmas treats baked with LOVE. Our bakers make only their best for this fantastic fundraiser, a favorite for Cookies will be sold before and after worship time, so get here early and have first choice!

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



December Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday December 2	Sunday December 9	Sunday December 16	Sunday December 23	Christmas Eve December 24	Sunday December 30
Liturgist	Keith Burritt	Hannah Flood	Warren Gross	Andrew Schwartz	Sue Layng	Charlie Schunckel
Greeter Team	Mary Wilson Charlie Schnuckel	Judy Krufus Ann Harned	Kathleen Sundberg Juanita Barnes	LaVern Neff Jane Neff	TBA	Jim Newell Pat Newell
Usher	Warren Gross	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt	Dave Ward	
Children's Message	Juanita Barnes	Sue Wilt	Christmas Program	Melynda Mungor	Jenny Maragia	Terri Burritt
Media	Andrew Schwartz	Patricia Irps	Matt Gross	Sol Keip or Matthew Hartman	N/A	Patricia Irps
Fellowship	Choir	Emmaus Group	Mission Team	Methodist Women	N/A	Youth Group

Upcoming Sermons Series

Pastor Mark will be presenting a sermon series in the coming weeks. Below is a list of the titles and the scripture readings. To prepare yourself, please read the scriptures beforehand.

December 2 Advent 1.....Living In Between—1
Call to Worship - Psalm 25:1-10
Scripture— Jeremiah 33:14-16
Gospel —Luke 21:25-36
Message: “Looking for the Fig Tree”

December 9 Advent 2.....Living In Between—2
Call to Worship - Luke 1:68-79
Scripture - Malachi 3:1-4
Gospel - Luke 3:1-6
Message: “Repent and Follow”

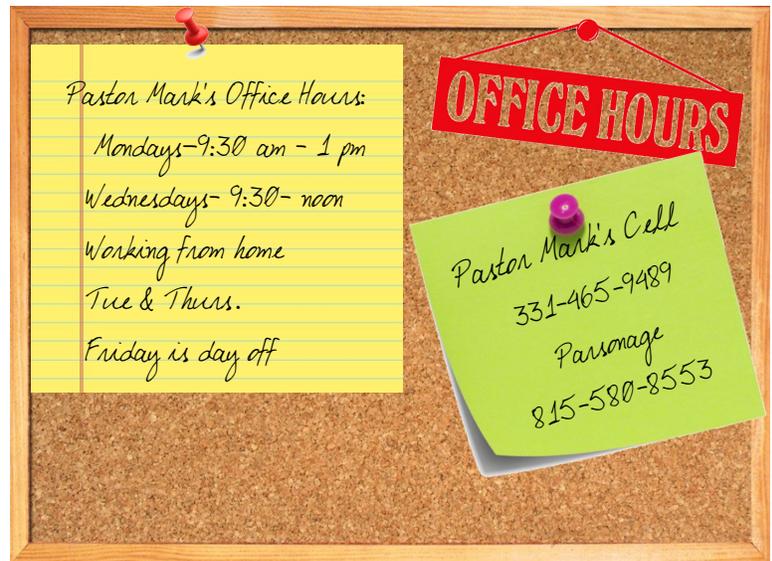
December 16 Advent 3.....Living In Between—3
Call to Worship - Isaiah 12:2-6
Scripture - Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel - Luke 3:7-18
Message: “What Then Should We Do?”

December 23 Advent 4.....Living In Between—4
Call to Worship - Luke 1:46b-55
Scripture - Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel - Luke 1:39-45
Message: “Can You Hear Us Singing?”

December 24 Christmas Eve.....Living In Between—5
Call to Worship - Psalm 98
Scripture - Isaiah 9:2-7
Scripture - Titus 2:11-14
Gospel - Luke 2:1-20
Message: “Salvation From the Margins”



December 30 1st Sunday of Christmas Living In Between—6
Call to Worship - Psalm 148
Scripture - Colossians 3:12-17
Gospel - Luke 2:41-52
Message: “The Sound of Silence”



Our Missionary in Tanzania

Young Seon (Christina) Kim continues her mission to help bring secondary education to the people of Tanzania with the construction of The Global Mission Secondary School.

DONATIONS:

You may send a check to:
Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068
New York, NY10087-9068
With the advance
number on the memo line
Advance # 3022281

Contact information for Young
Seon Kim
Telephone: +255 68 976 1708
Email: yskim1023@gmail.com
Facebook: Young Seon Kim
Kakaotalk: yskim1470

THE DAILY NEWS

www.dailynews.com

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SERMONS NOW AVAILABLE



**Printed copies of
Pastor Mark's sermons
are available on the
church website
(cherryvalleyumc.com)
Click the worship tab.**



Chamazi UMC in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Rock River Valley Food Pantry



Feeding Rockford One Meal At A Time

Thank you for your continued support of the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. The pantry currently serves approximately 6,800 clients per month. You can help by bringing your non-perishable foods and placing them in the basket located in the foyer of the church.

CURRENT NEEDS LIST

Canned Fruit	Applesauce	100% Juice
Canned Vegetables	Pasta and Rice	Cereal
Peanut Butter	Tuna	Soup

PEANUT BUTTER ENDOWMENT

The Rock River Food Pantry also has a Peanut Butter Endowment program in which charitable contributions of property, assets or funds are placed. Endowments are created for non-profit organizations in support of a specific goal. The Peanut Butter Endowment was created to purchase food to distribute to our clients. Join in this valuable cause by making a one-time or recurring donation. You may go to the web site at <http://www.rrvp.org/peanut-butter-endowment/> and view the brochure outlining the program and you can donate on line.

Creative Learners



Thanks to everyone who helped to support our Butter Braid fundraiser which helped with our yearly budget.

As part of our Thanksgiving unit we asked what the children were thankful for. We thought you'd enjoy some of their cute answers: God I love him, Mickey Mouse's birthday, sharing it's caring, macaroni that Nana cooks, God helping the world, a gobble-gobble bird, tigers cause they love everybody, saying praise God and making snow eagles!

The kids are excited anticipating the magic of Christmas and the birth of the baby Jesus. They will present their Christmas Programs on December 18th and 19th at 11:10 a.m.

Christmas blessings!

Joyfully Teaching,

Carol Palmer



Boy Scout Troop 181

The Troop 181 Christmas Tree Lot is in operation at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Perryville Road. If you need a Christmas wreath, or a quality tree (Scotch pines & Fraser firs) please pay a visit to one of our scouts, and help support your Scout Troop!



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, 815/229-5554 with all your Boy Scouting questions.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will not have a meeting in December but will resume our usual meeting time in January on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am at the church, if weather permits.



Pastor Mark will be consecrating the blankets and shawls that we make on the last Sunday of each month. If you are working on a shawl at home, please bring it to the church by the last Sunday so that it can be blessed before it is put into service.

Please remember the shawls, hats, scarfs and other knitted or crocheted items are for all purposes....they are not just for bereavement or illness.

Cookies For Rose Bud

Starting @ 9 a.m. on December 15, the Mission Team will be baking & packing cookies to send to the Rose Bud Mission in South Dakota. We need your Christmas Cookie Donations to help make this a Merry Christmas for the people of Rose Bud. See Mary Coulter to find out how you can help!

**CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAY
CHURCH OFFICE
SCHEDULE**

The church office will be closed on
Monday, December 24
Tuesday, December 25
Wednesday, December 26

December 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 3:00 pm <i>Hanging of the Greens</i>
2 8:00 am UMM @ CV Café 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:00 am Fellowship	3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	4 12:00 Pre-school Board 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	5 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Trustee Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429	6 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	7	8 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
9 8:30 am <i>Advent Communion</i> 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 12:30 pm <i>Methodist Women Christmas Party @ Kathy Sundberg's Home</i> 7:00 pm <i>Inspiration Quartet</i>	10 2:30 pm-6:30 pm <i>RRV Blood Drive</i> 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	11 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	12 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	13 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	14	15 9:00 am <i>Mission Team Christmas Cookie Project</i> 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous <i>Newsletter items due</i>
16 8:30 am <i>Advent Communion</i> 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>Methodist Women's Annual Cookie Walk</i>	17 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	18 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	19 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	20 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	21	22 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
23 8:30 am <i>Advent Communion</i> 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	24 7:00 pm <i>Christmas Eve Worship Service</i> 11:00 pm <i>Christmas Eve Worship Service</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day Church Office Closed</i>	26 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	27 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	28	29 2:00 pm—6:00 pm <i>Private Event Layng Family</i>
30 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	31 New Year's Eve 					

Messenger items are due to the secretary on the 15th of each month.

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CHERRY VALLEY
IL 61016



Blessed Christmas

CHRISTMAS



BLESSINGS



Sunday School @ 8:45 am for all ages
September—May

Sunday@ 9:45 am—Worship

Sunday@ 11:00 am—Fellowship

All are welcome!



Pastor: Mark Harkness
Secretary: Nancy Laurent

Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm