

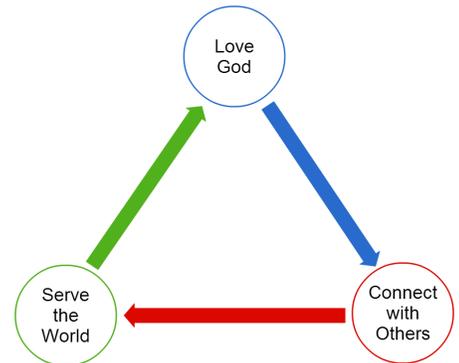
THE MESSENGER

January 2019

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
Office: 815/332-5075
Parsonage: 815/580-8553
Cell: 331-465-9489
E-mail: churchinthevalley@comcast.net
Pastor's E-mail: mark.harkness@gmail.com

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

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."... ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:21-22, 39-40 (NRSV)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Faith,
Grace and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we prepare for the new year, allow me to share a quick math quiz. If December 25 is the first day of the twelve days of Christmas, then January 1 is which day of Christmas?

If you calculated that January 1 is the eighth day of Christmas, you are correct. Now take a moment to revisit the first verse in the Scripture passage above. Notice anything? The date that begins our calendars each year is the day when the Christ child was circumcised and named Jesus. It's the day that he became an "official" member of humanity.

Although his name *Jesus* literally means "salvation of YHWH," on the day he was named and for years afterwards, he depended on human beings to tend to his needs and to raise him up to be the one who would bring God's salvation to all the world. Returning to the passage above we hear in verse 39 that Mary and Joseph "finished everything required by the law of the Lord." They didn't take any short cuts. Jesus would be one of us and perfectly in tune with God's purpose for his life. So the passage concludes telling us that he grew and the favor of the Lord was upon him.

Jesus grew! He continued to grow in strength, wisdom and divine favor throughout his life. In fact, it wasn't until that last moment as he hung on the cross when he said, "It is finished." (Jn 19:30)

Most of us enter a new year with some sort of anticipation (or maybe some anxiety) about what the new year will bring. We begin with resolutions to change something in our lives. I think I'm safe in assuming that those resolutions strive for growing into a better existence. The new year presents an opportunity to consider how we might thrive in our lives. I've never heard of a resolution to just get through – or to survive – the next year. What point is there in that?

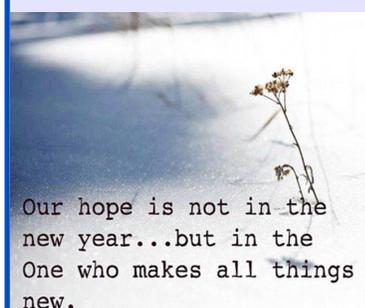
No death certificate has ever listed "Failure to Survive" as the cause of death. On the other hand, "Failure to Thrive" has.

Claiming the most of out of life entails a continual striving to grow: in intellect, in our relationships, in care for our bodies, and in our faith. Sometimes that means recognizing that even though the growth spurts of our youth are behind us, that each of us has room to grow in our appreciation for the life God has bestowed upon us so that we might indeed thrive in life.

(Continued on page 2)

In this issue

RFD Rescue Mission.....	Page 2
Methodist Women	Page 2
Prayer Requests.....	Page 2
Congratulations.....	Page 2
Church Council	Page 2
Rock House Kids.....	Page 3
Shoe Box Thanks.....	Page 3
Offering Envelopes	Page 3
Church Audit.....	Page 3
Spiritual Insight.....	Page 3
Youth Cookie Bake.....	Page 3
Grace International	Page 4
Worship Leaders.....	Page 4
Birthday/Anniversary....	Page 4
Worship Committee	Page 4
Sermon Series	Page 5
Missionary	Page 5
Pastor's Schedule	Page 5
Prayer Shawl	Page 5
Recycle Program	Page 5
Food Pantry.....	Page 6
Boy Scout Troop 181	Page 6
Creative Learners II	Page 6
Calendar.....	Page 7



Our hope is not in the new year...but in the One who makes all things new.

(Continued from page 1)

I invite you to strive to thrive in the upcoming year and to claim opportunities for growth in whatever ways they present themselves so that you may discover the fullness of God's promise for you in Jesus Christ. Likewise, as a congregation let us look for ways to thrive in our purpose of presenting Jesus Christ to the world as we trust him to fulfill the life of each one who encounters him.

Let us thrive in the knowledge that it's not just the year, but our thriving begins when the child of Christmas is called savior.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

As an added tidbit: It is not an accident that our calendars begin on the day when Jesus was circumcised and named. It was an intentional decision when the Julian calendar was adopted.

Rockford Rescue Mission




Sometimes the game doesn't go the way the players want it to. They get knocked down, make a mistake and are penalized, or don't make a play. They can get hit from behind unexpectedly. And sometime players get hurt.

Our lives can be like that too. But we have teammates to work beside; teammates who will pick us up, brush us off, and help us to try again. Even if it seems as if we are losing the game, if we are on God's Team we will always be winners! And when we get to Heaven it will be better than our favorite team winning the big game.

We will once again be going to the Rockford Rescue Mission on January 20, 2019 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 three 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.

Methodist Women



The Methodist Women Group met on Sunday, December 9 at the home of Kathleen Sundberg. She and Pat Newell hosted a delightful luncheon for fourteen of us. Both Kathy and Pat shared inspirational messages with us. It was nice to have Sandra Baxter and Barb Whitlock able to join us.

If you were unable to attend, you missed a wonderful time of friendship and sharing and we missed you.

Our next meeting will be January 13 following worship. I humbly extend an invitation to all women of the congregation to join us.

Striving to Serve, Donna Layng



Members & Friends

Trudy Hunt
Lela Lameyer
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Jim & Barb Whitlock
Keith Kruger
Pearl Robbins
Sandra Baxter
Sally Baeverstad
Violet Collier

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 Jenny Maraglia and Matthew Hartman on their engagement! Wedding plans will be announced at a future date.

Church Council & Finance Meetings



The first meetings of 2019 for the Church Council and Finance Committee will be **January 8**. 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 7.

Thank You

Dear Friends of Rock House Kids,

We at Rock House Kids sincerely thank you for your donation of \$75.00 on December 4, 2018. Without ongoing support we receive from donors like you, we would not be able to continue to provide our services to the inner-city children in our area.

We're thankful you recognize the need for what we do and see the difference we are making in the lives of those hurting and hungry children—not just for today, but for eternity.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Deanna "Dee" Lacny
Executive Director



Operation Christmas Shoe Box



Thank you to everyone for the tremendous support of our efforts in the annual Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Shoe Box. We collected 56 boxes and all the shipping charges of \$9 for each box for a total of

\$504. Everyone was complaint with the requirements of what to include and what to exclude. Great job, everyone!

2019 Offering Envelopes

The 2019 Offering Envelopes on the table by the elevator.

The envelopes are unnumbered and if you use them, please be sure to put your name on them.



If you have numbered envelopes at home, you may continue to use those, however we are no longer using envelope numbers to record your offering. Please be sure you put your name on them.

REMINDER:

We will conduct the annual church audit beginning in the new year. All groups with checking accounts must gather your files in preparation for your audit. We will contact you to make an appointment for your audit.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Layng or Sally Hollembeak.



Spiritual Insights

By Jim Whitlock

2nd Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

When I was attending Bible college at North Central University in Indianapolis, I made some New Year's

resolutions. I resolved to get up at 6:00 am and pray for one hour. I would read the bible for a half hour and pray one hour before going to bed in the evening. I did this for about two weeks and couldn't keep it up. I realized I was following laws and not grace. When we mingle grace and laws, we are corrupting the grace of God. Paul makes this clear. When we are under law, we are in bondage. The test of the Gospel is grace.



Youth Cookie Bake

Thank you to all who donated cookies and treats for the cookie walk. We could not do this popular fundraiser without your help.

Special thanks to the Youth Group and leaders who came to the church on Saturday and made cookies for the Sunday Cookie Walk.



My dear friends in Christ,

I am excited to share with you my return to Thailand. New construction on the Grace International School campus started in July and is on target for completion in June. The goal is to have the basic facilities up and ready for use in the next school year. That is ambitious yet necessary. GIS will lose their current facilities in June and will need to move on.

For the last 4 months I have been working with the architect and library staff on site to review the original library blue print. The new high school/elementary libraries will be conjoined utilizing one common service desk; computer lab and other shared resources. Eventually the library will also be open to the community. This vision was approved over 10 years ago. Yes, ten years! I often wondered if it would become a reality. I have learned to be patient with such change. It takes time to move organizations and communities.

I will be in Thailand the month of February and will help the library staff create a floor plan for the move. I also will visit the Chiang Rai International Christian School where I helped the librarian design her new library. And, of course, I will take time to re-connect with my dear Thai friends. I am thrilled!

Grace International School Campus



So, my friends ~ I need your prayers for good health and energy. It is a long trip! And, if you are in a position to donate funds, the foundation still needs funds to meet the final goal. It is tax-deductible! It would be a great Christmas gift!

Donations by check, online, or in other ways can be made through the Grace International Educational Foundation (GIEF). GIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that supports education for the children of missionaries serving in Asia. Contributions to GIEF are tax deductible within the United States. Total needed to be debt free: 75,000,000 Baht (\$2,300,000 USD)

With God's grace we grow together! Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long – your 'retired' Wycliffe missionary!

Birthdays of the Month

Birthdays

- 1 David White
- 3 Jan Mills
- 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

Celebrating Anniversaries this Month

Anniversaries

- 7 Keith & Terri Burritt

Thank You

Thank you to Juanita Barnes and the Worship Committee for their beautiful decorations of the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.

Thank you to Barb Anderson for once again managing the poinsettia project. It is a very detailed project to coordinate all the orders and insure that they are all correct and that all those to be remembered and honored are named.



January Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday January 6	Sunday January 13	Sunday January 20	Sunday January 27
<i>Liturgist</i>	Scott Layng	Janet Bryant	Keith Burritt	Sue Layng
<i>Greeter Team</i>	Kathleen Sundberg Charlie Schnuckel	Chris Flood Patty Campbell	Beth Erlandson Charlie Schnuckel	Patty Campbell
<i>Usher</i>	Warren Gross	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt
<i>Media</i>	Andrew Schwartz	Patricia Irps	Matt Gross	Sol Keip or Matthew Hartman
<i>Fellowship</i>	Choir	United Methodist Men	Mission Team	Methodist Women

Upcoming Sermons

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.

January 6 Covenant Renewal Service
Installation of Church Leaders

January 13
Call to Worship - Psalm 72:1-4
Scripture - Isaiah 43:1-7
Gospel - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sermon: "Out of the Water and Into the Fire"

January 20
Call to Worship - Psalm 36:5-10
Scripture - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Gospel - John 2:1-11
Message: "Share the Joy"

January 27
Pastor Mark will be on vacation



*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

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



A little bird told me...



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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will resume our usual meeting on January 16 at 10:00 am, weather permitting. If the weather is incimate, we will meet the following month on the third Wednesday at 10 am.

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.



Ink Cartridges Recycle Program

Just a reminder that we are still collecting used ink cartridges to recycle. Quill credits us with "Quill Cash" that may be used towards our office supply purchases. In the last 180 days, we have been credited with \$56 towards our purchases.

Additionally, by recycling your used printer cartridges you're saving the lives of many animals, reducing the emission of dangerous greenhouse gases and preventing the contamination of toxic chemicals which can leak into soil surrounding landfills and cause harm to humans and wildlife. Thank you for recycling!



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.

Boy Scout Troop 181

Thank you to all the people who bought real trees from Troop 181! Your support is appreciated! December was dedicated to selling Christmas trees. All the Troop meetings were staged at the Tree Lot. Outdoor games are fun (a great break from electronic games)! Our Troop Christmas Pizza Party at the church was a great success; just over 100 people came for food (pizza & cookies), fellowship, and the gift exchange game.

January will be an exciting month. We'll be working on Fire Safety Merit Badge for a couple meetings. Our first outing of the new year will be at the scout camp on Lake Ripley, near Cambridge, WI. We'll be in a cabin next to a frozen lake; that makes for a HUGE playground. Also in January, the Black Hawk Area Council will stage a camp out at Camp Lowden, *Call of the Klondike*; some of our scouts and leaders will be tent camping and enjoying a whole array of activities (sled races, rifle range, 2-man saw, snow shoeing, tomahawk throwing and more).



The Arrowmen will enjoy their annual Winter Banquet in Monroe, WI, on another weekend. There will be a Merit Badge Midway on a different weekend allowing scouts to experience a variety of vocations and earn badges. Our own Troop will stage Photography Merit Badge at a regular troop meeting at the church. And, for fun, we will present a series of challenges at our last meeting of the month. Have you ever seen *Minute To Win It*? That will keep our boys active.

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.

Dear Preschool Families,

After much thought and prayerful consideration I have decided that this will be my last year of teaching. I will be retiring in May, at the end of this school year. My husband is retiring this December and with his recent and past health issues, confirmed my decision to also retire. We really look forward to being together during our retirement!

I have enjoyed working with Mrs. Anderson & she has been great with your kids. However, she has decided not to continue after May as she needs a full time job with both of her daughters going to college. Unfortunately, this means this will be the end of our Creative Learners II Preschool program. I especially wish the T/Th class all the best finding a different preschool for the fall.

I am incredibly grateful for my 23 years of teaching at Creative Learners and for all of the wonderful children, like yours, that I've been able to teach!

With Heartfelt Blessings,

Mrs. Carol Palmer



Pre-School Board Comments

The above letter from Mrs. Carol Palmer was shared with the Church Council on November 27 and with the congregation on December 4. This was necessary to inform the public because registration for 2019/2020 school year would have begun in January/February. Of course, now this will not be the case.

Carol and Sue have been working for very low salaries and for their love for the program. We have raised fees over the years, but we cannot afford to hire a new director and a teacher at the salaries they would require.

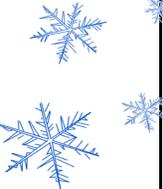
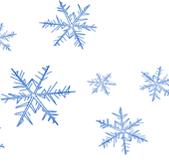


God has been good to us by walking with us and providing guidance in the operation of our program over the years.

If anyone has questions, feel free to contact any of the Board members, Barb Anderson, Grace Harter, Donna Layng, Karen Harter, Theresa Murphy. Thank you to our church for supporting and sponsoring this program for many years.



January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed 	2 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	3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	4	5 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
6 8:00 am UMM @ CV Café 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:00 am Fellowship 	7 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	8 6:15 pm Finance 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Council	9 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429	10 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 	11 	12 8:00 am-5:00 pm Boy Scout Event 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
13 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 11:15 am Methodist Women 	14 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 	15 6:30 pm Boy Scouts <i>Newsletter items due</i>	16 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 10 am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	17 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	18	19 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
20 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	21 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance 	22 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	23 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	24 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 	25 	26 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 
27 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	28 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	29 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	30 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	31 6:00 pm Cub Scouts		

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 9
CHERRY VALLEY
IL 61016



COME Worship WITH US




GROWING through
GOD's 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