

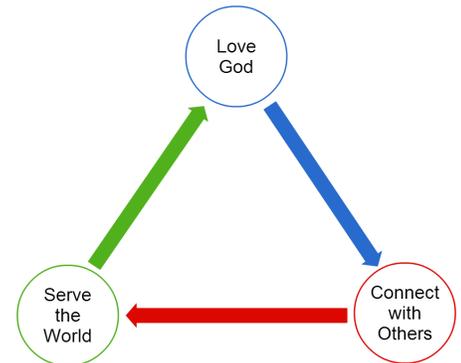
THE MESSENGER

February 2019

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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Parsonage: 815/580-8553
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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

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 5:1-5 (NRSV)

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

Have you ever looked up and just pondered the heavens at night? On a clear night when the stars are out? Away from city lights where the band of the Milky Way is visible? I have.

As a teenager, I would often lie outside in the front yard and just ponder the vastness of the universe. In college, I took a Planetary and Space Science course. I understand how scientists calculate the age and distance of stars. But when I look up at the night sky, I'm hard pressed to identify anything but the Dippers (Big and Little) or Polaris (the North Star). I've had experts point out the constellations before, but it never really sticks.

However, my phone has a sky map app. Point it at a portion of the night sky, and it identifies the stars, planets and constellations. There's a trick to using it. It has to be calibrated first. Through a series of flipping, twisting, and spinning the phone it gets its bearings so that it will be accurate. Without that step, one might aim the phone directly up into the sky, while the phone says you are looking at the horizon. Trying to navigate by the night sky in such circumstances would be confusing.

It's like that in life, too. Isn't it? We know there are explanations and signs of how to live and act and to know purpose. But we just can't make sense of it. Try as we might, things can just seem a little off. Even those places where God has promised to give us guidance like Scripture confound us. But what if we could calibrate our senses – our spirit – so that we could understand better? Maybe not with all the answers to our yearnings but a starting point directing us to those answers?

For me that comes in the Jesus Prayer, a prayer of centering that offers an opportunity to put myself in a place where I can view things from God's perspective. It's a simple prayer:

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Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God. Have mercy on me, a sinner.

A simple prayer, but one that helps us to put things into perspective. As St. Paul said in the passage above, we are justified by faith and have peace with God. Even still, the busyness of the world and the seemingly endless cacophony of daily experiences can lead us into disorientation.

I invite you to find a centering prayer - whether it is the Jesus Prayer above or another. Find a prayer that can be repeated simply and frequently – to calibrate your soul. You will discover new perspective in your relationship with God, with others, and with yourself.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



GRACE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – 2019
When you read this, I will be in Thailand.
What a remarkable story! This building represents God’s vision for the educational needs of the missionary community in Southeast Asia. It also is God’s way of disciplining to the people of Thailand.

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!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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

Dave Harter & Grace Harter family

Military Personnel
Sean Conderman
Tamara Duke
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide
Mike Oldham

Mission
Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn
Shirley Barnes 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.

Methodist Women

The Methodist Women met on January 13th following worship. As we began the new year, the group also underwent a new beginning. Ann Harned replaced Kathy Sundberg as treasurer and Judy Krunfus replaced Pat Newell as the secretary. Thank you to Kathy and Pat for their years of service.

In celebration of Valentine’s Day on Sunday, February 10th, we will offering baked goods for sale both before and after worship.

Please mark your calendars for March 5th as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with our traditional pancake supper.

The congregations support of these events enables us to serve our church, our community, and our God in a variety of ways. We are truly thankful for your support.

Our next meeting will be held on March 10th following worship. I extend an invitation to women of all ages to join us as we strive to serve God.

Donna Layng

REMINDER:
We are in the process of conducting the annual church audit 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.

Finance/Church Council Dates



The following are dates for Finance Committee and Church Council meetings. If you are a part of these committees, please put these dates in your calendar.

Finance Committee meetings will be at 6:16 pm, all dates.

Church Council will be at 7:00 pm, all dates.

26 Feb 2019 09 Apr 2019 21 May 2019 09 Jul 2019
 20 Aug 2019 08 Oct 2019 19 Nov 2019

SPRC Meeting Dates

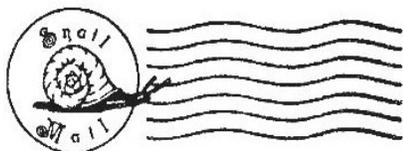
The following are dates for the Staff/Pastor Relations Committee (SPRC) meetings. If you are a part of this committee, please put these dates in your calendar. Meeting times are at 6:30 pm, all dates.



12 Mar 2019 28 May 2019 23 Jul 2019

2018 Giving Statements

The 2018 Giving Statements are on the table in the sanctuary by the elevator. I am sure most of you are



aware that first class postage has increased to 50 cents per stamp. **Please help us save on postage by picking up your statements.**

Rockford Rescue Mission

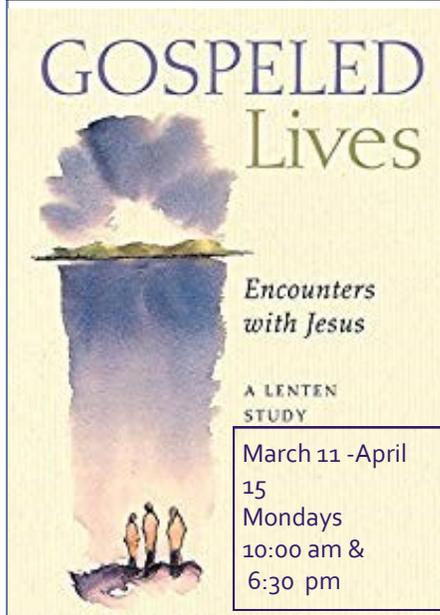
1 John 3:18 "Dear children, let us not LOVE with words or tongue but with ACTIONS and TRUTH".

On January 20, Twenty-one servants represented CVUMC at the Rockford Rescue Mission. Thank you for being our partners in this mission.

Terri Burritt

See more pics and comments on Cherry Valley United Methodist Church Facebook. Page.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



"Leading Gospeled Lives"

Pastor Mark will be leading a Lenten Bible Study using the book "Leading Gospeled Lives".

Sign-up sheets will be available. Anyone who wants a paper copy of the book should sign up by February 17.

"Gospeled" lives are lives that have encountered Jesus Christ.

Christ's call leads to a continually unfolding story for each of us.

An encounter with the living Christ demands a response, John Indermark says. In this book you will learn about New Testament characters who encountered Jesus. Some responded with joy and gratitude. Others ignored or rejected his offer of good news.

Here are a few of the New Testament characters we will explore:

- Bartimaeus
- The women at Jesus' tomb
- Mary and Jesus' family
- The slave of the high priest
- A rich young man
- Herod Antipas
- The woman with the hemorrhage
- The Gerasene demoniac
- Mary Magdalene
- Ten lepers

Paper books are \$14.99 (payable to church)
 Kindle and EPub Books are \$9.99 and can be downloaded at <https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/K1658/gospeled-lives.aspx>



By Jim Whitlock

Read Mathew 14:22-33

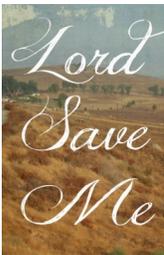
When Jesus heard that John the Baptist was beheaded, He was very sad and wanted to be alone to pray. But there was a multitude that followed Him. He had compassion on them and healed the sick.

He then told his disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side of the sea. After they were out in the sea, a great storm came up. The wind blew and the big waves threatened to sink the boat. When Jesus came walking on the water, the men were troubled thinking it was a ghost. Jesus called out, "Be of good cheer. It is I." Peter called out to Jesus, "Bid me come to you." Jesus answered, "Come." Peter left the boat keeping his eyes on Jesus, and he began walking on the water toward Jesus. With each step he took, the waves were stilled. Then Peter took his eyes off Jesus and saw the waves and the boisterous wind and began to sink into the sea. Peter called out to Jesus saying, "Lord! Save me!" Jesus immediately stretched out His hand to Peter and caught him. Jesus said to Peter, "Oh, you of little faith. Why did you doubt?" Then they came into the boat, the wind ceased. The storm ended.



The lesson here is when we are in the midst of a life storm and are facing the waves of despair; we should keep our eyes on Jesus, the man walking on the water. Keep your faith in Jesus—don't have faith in anything or anyone else. Don't let the storms of life destroy your faith—pray harder. Ask the Holy Spirit for more faith and believe God will answer. Storms don't last forever.

Peter's prayer to Jesus for help when he was sinking was "Lord! Save me!" This is one prayer that Jesus will always answer. Even for the vilest sinner, Jesus will always say "Come" and immediately the person is saved. It is the only way to find peace in the midst of the storm.



- 23 Mark Snyder
Ron Sodko
- 28 Pam Grothman

Birthdays

- 3 Riley Sundberg
- 5 Mary Wilson
- 6 Matthew Gross
Natalie Herold
- 9 Keith Burritt
- 12 Taylor Gross
- 13 Kathy Ware
- 17 Mary Lou Clevenger
- 19 Teaghan Brown
- 20 Mark Harkness
- 21 Judith Krunfus



Anniversaries

- 14 Ryan & Janis Gordon

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

February Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday February 3	Sunday February 10	Sunday February 17	Sunday February 24
<i>Liturgist</i>	Charles Schnuckel	Boy Scout Troop 181	Keith Burritt	Janet Bryant
<i>Greeter Team</i>	Charlie Schnuckel	Boy Scout Troop 181	Charlie Schnuckel	Patricia Campbell Kathleen Sundberg
<i>Usher</i>	Youth Group	Boy Scout Troop 181	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt
<i>Media</i>	Andrew Schwartz	Patricia Irps	Matt Gross	Sol Keip or Matthew Hartman
<i>Fellowship</i>	Choir	Emmaus Group	Mission Team	Methodist Women

Upcoming Sermons

Below is a schedule of the sermons and scripture readings that Pastor Mark will be presenting in February. To prepare yourself, please read the scriptures beforehand.

February 3

Call to Worship ...Psalm 71:1-6
 ScriptureJeremiah 1:4-10
 GospelLuke 4:21-30
 Message.....The Call



February 10

Call to Worship ...Psalm 138
 Scripture1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 GospelLuke 5:1-11
 Message.....Nothing But Net

February 17

Call to Worship ...Psalm 1
 ScriptureJeremiah 17:5-10;
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 GospelLuke 6:27-30
 Message.....The Sophist's Abandon

February 24

Call to Worship ...Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
 ScriptureGenesis 45:3-11, 15
 GospelLuke 6:27-38
 Message.....Turning to Promise



Pastor Mark's Office Hours:

Mondays-9:30 am - 1 pm
 Wednesdays- 9:30- noon
 Working from home
 Tue & Thurs.
 Friday is day off

Pastor Mark's Cell

331-465-9489

Parsonage

815-580-8553



BREAKING NEWS

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

You alone are what I need, Lord,
 Living Water, Bread of Life.

-John 6:35

If you do not have a friend in the world, you will find one here.



Rockford Rescue Mission Team, January 20, 2019

Colossians

3:17 ESV

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

January was an exciting month. We needed to change a few plans. Our first meeting became a cooking challenge (each patrol received the same ingredients; they needed to create an appetizer, then an entrée). Each item was interesting.

The first outing of the new year was at the Hoard & Curtis Scout Camp on Lake Ripley, near Cambridge, WI. Besides the property, the lake was frozen, so that added 420 acres to our playground.



We walked across the lake to a real playground, with equipment. We made some very good meals. Our night hike was 2.13 miles, all on ice. At one point, we all laid down on the ice and listened to the amazing sounds created by an amazing body of ice.

Our second Tuesday meeting was a couple of our scouts offering advice to everyone else about camping hints. Boys leading boys. Our third meeting invited several members of the Rockford Photo Club presenting tips about picture-taking and presenting Photography Merit Badge. A few of our scouts and adults went to the first Council-wide Klondike Derby at Camp Lowden (over 500 attendees). The final meeting of January presented small, fun challenges. It is crafted after the show: *Minute To Win It*. That's a lot of enjoyment.

February is the anniversary month of the Boy Scouts of America. The 53rd annual Continuous Fire will burn at Spring Creek United Church of Christ from February 2 through February 9. We will visit that Fire for our first meeting of the month. Our Troop will be camping-in at Russell Woods in DeKalb county during the second weekend of the month. We will come back to the Sunday Service at Cherry Valley United Methodist Church on **February 10. That is Scout Sunday.**



The second meeting of the month will find us at an Ice Hogs hockey game. The third meeting of the month will be a LEGO night. Any scout may bring his Lego's for others to make creations; his stock will not be comingled with anyone else's. If you want to see us on the fourth Tuesday, you'll want to come to East High School and jump into the pool. Swimming begins.



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.

"We must change boys from a 'what can I get' to a 'what can I give' attitude."
Scouting isn't just about earning badges and recognitions, Scouting strives to prepare youth to become a responsible, participating citizens and leaders who are guided by the values of Scout Oath and Law. You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.

Robert Baden-Powell



ROCKFORD DISTRICT TRAINING EVENT

February 2, 2019

Faith UMC
 1440 S. Walnut, Freeport

8:00 am - 8:30 am	check-in
8:30 am - 9:45 am	workshops - session 1
10:00 am - 11:00 am	plenary with Bishop Dyck
11:15 am - 12:30 pm	workshops - session 2

Any Church Member May Attend

Training opportunities for your church's leaders.

Register by January 26 at:
www.umcnic.org/calendar (click on the date of Feb 2)
 For more information, call: 815-561-8285

Workshops offered:

Everyone is encouraged to register for two sessions:

Offered during each workshop session:

- STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (for committee members and pastors)
- PROPERTY INSURANCE & ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS (for trustees and pastors)
- GOING GREEN IN YOUR CHURCH (for trustees and all ecologically-minded people)
- YOUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL FUTURE (for finance and trustee committees)
- STATISTICAL REPORTS/APPORTIONMENTS (for church administrators, pastors, and finance)
- MINISTRY WITH THE VULNERABLE (for women, men, study groups, pastors)

These two are offered only once each, at different sessions:

- YOUTH LEADER ROUNDTABLE (at 1st workshop slot only) & MISSIONS (at 2nd workshop slot only)



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
3 8:00 am UMM @ CV Café 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	4 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	5 12 Noon Preschool Board Meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	6 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429	7 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	8	9 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
10 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 11:15 am Methodist Women <i>Scout Sunday</i>	11 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	12 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	13 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	14 6:00 pm Cub Scouts  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 <i>Newsletter items due</i>	16 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
17 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	18 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 	19 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	20 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	21 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	22	23 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
24 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	25 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	26 6:15 pm Finance 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Church Council	27 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 429 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	28 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

Let us
WORSHIP
Together



 **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