

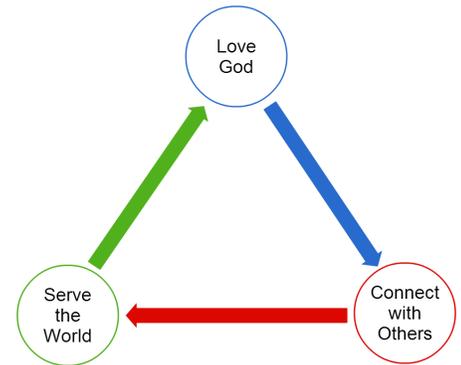
THE MESSENGER

March 2019

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 the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

Genesis 12:1-5 (NRSV)

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

Advent and Christmas – Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week-and Easter – come every year. As a pastor these are busy times for me every year. Therefore, you'd think I already know everything that is coming. However, Advent and Christmas were my first Advent and Christmas in Cherry Valley. Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter will be my first Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter in Cherry Valley. More than that, Tuesday March 5 will be my first Fat Tuesday meal in a church ever! It got me thinking.

I'm excited to have the opportunity to engage in the Fat Tuesday pancake supper and all the fellowship. I know the history for Fat Tuesday. It began as a cleansing of the pantries and larders of all the rich foods that would not be used during the Lenten fast. In some places (think New Orleans) it has evolved into a raucous festival with connotations of a last hurrah before the dreary days of Lent.

Lent, however, is a season of preparation. It originated as the final days of catechism (Christian formation) for those who were preparing for baptism during the Easter vigil. Its solemnity linked not to deprivation, but to the seriousness of what would follow. I imagine that for those first catechumens Lent was an exciting time filled with anticipation and preparation. So what happened? Why do we think of Lent as a burdensome and sad season?

Yes, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes by which the ashes on our foreheads – invisible to ourselves but easily seen by others – remind us that we continue to sin and that we delude ourselves if we think our sins are hidden. That sounds like a bummer... if we stop there. The Lenten practice of fasting sounds like deprivation... if we stop there. In fact, there's nothing good about Good Friday... if we stop there. The imposition of ashes, fasting, and even the awful remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion don't stand on their own. They have meaning, only because they prepare us for Easter. That should be cause for celebration.

Looking back to the passage from Genesis above, it doesn't seem to have any readily perceptible relation to Lent. Maybe it's because I've moved from one home to another in the past year, but in that last verse when we hear that Abram took all his possessions and servants, his nephew and wife with him we see that it didn't happen over night. He had to pack. He had to decide what to keep and what to pitch. In some ways life got more cluttered. When Susan and I were preparing to move, we quit going to the grocery store, using up what we had on hand.

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We did that not because we were content with an empty pantry, but because we were preparing to move to Cherry Valley. Abram and Sarai were preparing to claim the land that God had promised to them. During Lent, I will be preaching a sermon series "God Moves." Hence, the references to moving.

Even if you haven't moved lately or don't intend to do so, that sort of preparation can speak to us. Lent is a forty day opportunity to get ready for a party. The reflective time (even the ashes) are like time spent in front of the mirror to get our hair and face right. Fasting can be compared to going without new socks in order to save up for the party outfit. When claim Lent as a season of preparation it is exciting and exhilarating in itself so that we don't really need a last hurrah. Instead Fat Tuesday can claim its joy as a preparation for the preparation. And the days preparing for Fat Tuesday?... I think you can see where this is going.

Welcome Lent! Welcome to the promise that we have – are – and will receive as Easter people.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Electronic Giving

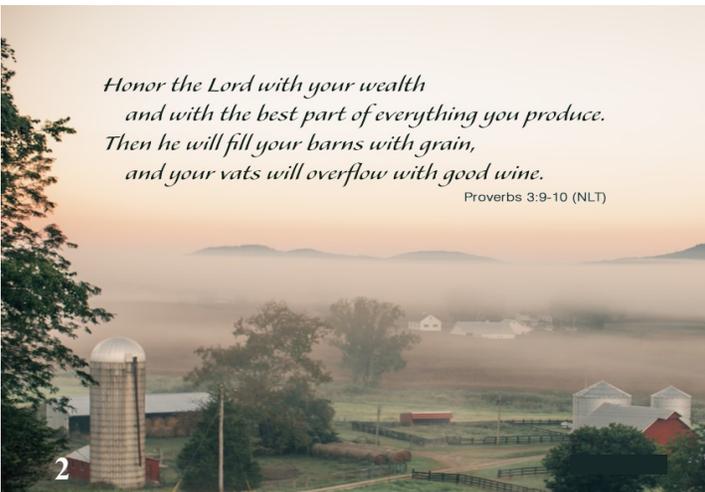
If you are absent from church, your giving doesn't have to be absent. You can download the GivePlus app on your smart phone or device and you can make your donations from the golf course, hospital, or wherever you may be. You may make secure one-time or recurring donations. Place your Q-reader over the QR Code to go directly to either Google Play or Apple iTunes to download the GivePlus app.



Download app at
Google Play Store



Download app at
Apple I-Tunes



*Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the best part of everything you produce.
Then he will fill your barns with grain,
and your vats will overflow with good wine.*

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NLT)



Members & Friends

Trudy Hunt
Lela Lameyer
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Jim & Barb Whitlock
Keith Kruger
Pearl Robbins
Bill Roberts
Jerry (Juanita Barnes BIL)
Keelee (Holly Snyder friend)

Sandra Baxter
Sally Baeverstad
Violet Collier
Military Personnel
Sean Conderman
Tamara Duke
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next
Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

Barnes Family
Behning/Zemke 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 Woman's Group held their Valentine Bake Sale on February 10th before and after worship. The sale was a success because of you, the congregation; you continually support us and we thank you. Your support allows us to serve our congregation, our community and our church in many ways. We did not meet in

February as the date conflicted with the Bake Sale.

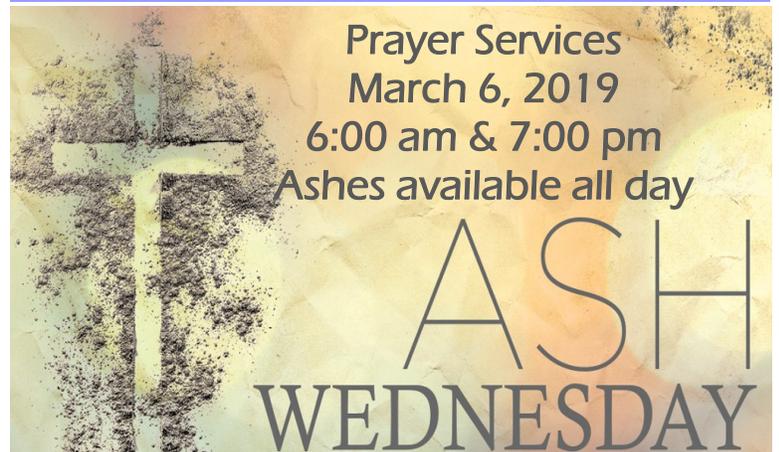
Please mark your calendars for March 5th as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with our traditional pancake supper. The women's group, with help from others, will be serving pancakes, sausage, applesauce, juice and coffee. The supper is free but donations are gratefully accepted. Serving begins at 4:30 pm and will continue until 6:30 pm. Please join us and bring a friend for fun, food and fellowship.



Shrove Tuesday

Our next meeting is March 10th, following worship. Our meetings are open to all who are interested in serving Our Lord.

Striving to serve, Donna Layng



Prayer Services

March 6, 2019

6:00 am & 7:00 pm

Ashes available all day

ASH
WEDNESDAY

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 6:15 pm, all dates.

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

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

Updating Your Personal Information



If you have recently moved, changed your phone number or have finally gotten rid of that land line and are now using your mobile phone exclusively, we need to know about it. It is important for our record keeping that we have current information for you.



You can update the information yourself if you go online at <http://cherryvalleyumc.com> and go to the **member** section in the **red line menu**. The screen will come up to input your email and password, the next screen will be your personal info. You can make your changes and you can even upload a new picture of yourself...get that perfect selfie on there! If you have any questions about how to do this procedure, you can call the secretary at 815-332-5075 or you can just email the information at churchinthevalley@comcast.net and we will update it for you.

Thank You

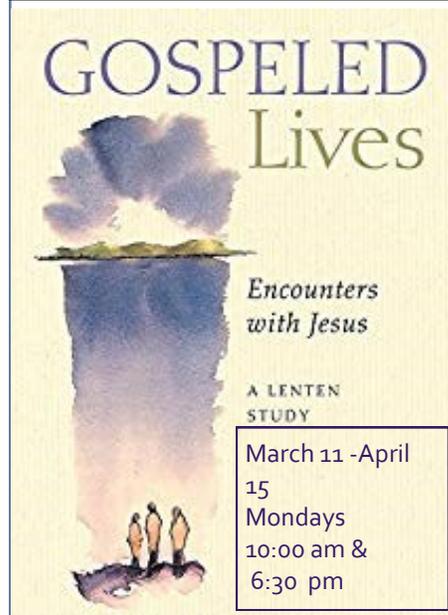
Dear Cherry Valley UMC Congregation,

Thank you for the 77 pounds of food we received from you in February. This food will help to feed the approximately 6,400 people who visit us each month. We sort the food and fill the shelves so that people who visit us may choose the food they need. The amount they may select is based on family size. We also supply a list of other resources available to the families. By allowing those at risk of hunger to choose their items, they take only the food that they know they will eat. This eliminates waste and saves money. The choice system allows people to feel like they are shopping instead of being given a handout, which upholds their dignity.

Thank you for caring about our community.

Kim Adams-Bakke, Executive Director
Rock River Valley Food Pantry

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



“Leading
Gospeled
Lives”

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

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

You may sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the sanctuary, or call the secretary at 815-332-5075 to reserve your seat in the class.

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>

Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), begins on **Ash Wednesday** and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter.

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally “turn around” and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

By Jim Whitlock

If I were to title this message, I would title it "A little amount plus Jesus is always enough".

Read Matthew 14:15-21

When Jesus heard of the murder of John the Baptist, He went into a deserted place to worship. A large multitude followed him. Five thousand men as well as women and children were present. Jesus had compassion on them and healed the sick among the multitude.

Jesus felt compassion on the multitude. He felt sadness at the death of John the Baptist. He felt all the human emotions as any other human. Jesus was 100% God and 100% human. All the miracles He performs He did as a human with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

It was now evening and the multitude needed food. The disciples told Jesus to send them away into the cities to eat. But Jesus said "Feed them". The disciples told Jesus they only had five loaves and two fish to feed them. Jesus blessed the loaves and the fish. He broke the bread and gave it to the disciples to give to the multitude. After all the people ate, the disciples collected the leftover pieces. It totaled twelve baskets full! With God, all things are possible.

Only a little amount plus Jesus and the Holy Spirit is always enough.



"I pray that you may have the power to comprehend... and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."
Ephesians 3:18-19 (NRSV)



Birthdays

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 14 Jim Newell
- 17 Joe Hunt
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng

Anniversaries

- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 27 Patrick & Colleen



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

March Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday March 3	Sunday March 10	Sunday March 17	Sunday March 24	Sunday March 31
Liturgist	Sue Layng	Charlie Schnuckel	Keith Burritt	Andrew Schwartz	Janet Bryant
Greeter Team	Charles Schnuckel	Jim & Pat Newell	Charles Schnuckel	Pat Campbell Kathleen Sundberg	Jim & Pat Newell
Usher	Youth Group	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt	Chris Flood
Media	Andrew Schwartz	Patricia Irsps	Matt Gross	Solomon Keip or Matthew Hartman	Tjaden Keip
Fellowship	Choir	Methodist Men	Mission Team	Methodist Women	Youth Group

Upcoming Sermons

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

March 3

Call to Worship ...Psalm 99
First LessonExodus 34:29-35
Second Lesson.....2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
GospelLuke 9:28-36
Message.....Son Glasses



March 6—Ash Wednesday

Call to Worship ...Psalm 51:1-71
First LessonJoel 2:1-2, 12-17
Second Lesson.....2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
GospelMatthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 10

Call to Worship ...Psalm 91
Scripture Lesson..Deuteronomy 26:1-11
GospelLuke 4:1-13
Message.....Good Moves...Into the Desert

March 17

Call to Worship ...Psalm 27
Scripture Lesson..Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
GospelLuke 13:31-35
Message.....Good Moves...Past All Obstacles

March 24

Call to Worship ...Psalm 63:1-8
Scripture Lesson..1 Corinthians 10:1-13
GospelLuke 13:4-9
Message.....Good Moves...Over the Fence

March 31

Call to Worship ...Psalm 32
Scripture Lesson..Joshua 5: 9-12
GospelLuke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Message.....Good Moves...Down the Road



Congratulations

Congratulations to the newlyweds, Matthew and Jennifer Hartman who were married on February 9. On February 17, the congregation celebrated their marriage by sharing cake in the fellowship hall.

Photo courtesy of Amy Flood via Facebook



SERMON SURVIVAL TIP: If during the sermon, you drift off to a peaceful slumber...and your spouse gently nudges you, pretend you were praying, and just quietly say..."Amen".

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.



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 II Preschool

The groundhog may not have seen his shadow but we're wondering if we'll ever see spring!

We've been giving the preschoolers lots of opportunities to be active indoors with Super Bowl games, parachute play and will even be having baseball Spring Training games!



With so much snow this year the preschoolers got creative and made fun little "snow blowers"! We had visits from a mom who is a surgical nurse, a grandpa who plays the accordion, a cute baby goat, and once again the kids enjoyed having Pastor Mark read to them.



Happy St. Patrick's Day and enjoy this Irish blessing: "May green be the grass you walk on, may blue be the skies above you, may pure be the joys that surround you, may true be the hearts that love you."

Joyfully Teaching, Carol Palmer (Director/Teacher)

Boy Scout Troop 181

February was the anniversary month of the Boy Scouts of America; 109-years. The 53rd annual Continuous Fire burned Saturday to Saturday. The picture is the actual lighting of the Fire at 4:00 pm on February 2.

January and February have presented interesting Winter weather, especially on Tuesday, our meeting nights. Since the National Weather Service advised people to stay off the roads, a few of our meetings were canceled. The sledding hill at Russell Woods was closed by the Forest Preserve on the weekend of our camp-in. Scouts joined the worship service at CV United Methodist Church on February 10th for Scout Sunday. Scout families added 27 people to the congregation; 18 in uniform. Included were some Boy Scouts, Junior Girl Scouts, a Daisy, Cub Scouts, Venturing scouts, and a few adults in uniform. They participated in nearly all facets of the service; we left the sermon for Pastor Mark! This Congregation is an amazing contributor to its community! Also, in this month, the Troop conducted a session on internet safety, an attempt to keep our young people aware of the dangers on line. Swimming began this month.



March brings more adventures. We will welcome 9 new scouts into our Troop from 4 different Cub Scout packs. We will orient them and their parents into the world of Boy Scouting during the first meeting, a new experience from Cub Scouting. We'll be swimming this month also in the East High School pool. Toward mid-month, the Troop will conduct its semi-annual troop elections. Some new scouts will step-up to take control of their own future by making decisions for their own Troop. The end of the month's Troop meeting will be an Information Night and Court of Honor. We hope to assemble all our new scouts and parents with the existing scouts and parents.

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.

"Throughout my life and career, I have continually been impressed with the importance of integrity - whether it was growing up as a Boy Scout, working in one of my first jobs as a university janitor, or being a





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1 10:30 am Studio 3 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	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 3:15 pm Studio 3 3:45 pm Studio 3 4:15 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	5 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 3:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Studio 3 4:30 pm-6:30 pm <i>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</i>	6 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 7:00 pm Ash <i>Wednesday Worship Service</i>	7 3:00 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	8 10:30 am Studio 3	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	11 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study 3:15 pm Studio 3 3:45 pm Studio 3 4:15 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study	12 3:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Studio 3 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 Trustees 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	14 3:00 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	15 10:30 am Studio 3 <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 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study 3:15 pm Studio 3 3:45 pm Studio 3 4:15 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study	19 3:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Studio 3 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 <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21 3:00 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	22 10:30 am Studio 3	23 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
24 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	25 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study 3:15 pm Studio 3 3:45 pm Studio 3 4:15 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study	26 3:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Studio 3 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 3:00 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	29 10:30 am Studio 3	30 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
30 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship						

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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 5, 2019
4:30—6:30 pm

- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Applesauce
- Juice
- Coffee
- Activities
- Fun for all



The supper is free but donations are gratefully accepted.

Ash Wednesday Prayer Services
March 6, 2019
6:00 am & 7:00 pm
Ashes available all day



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