

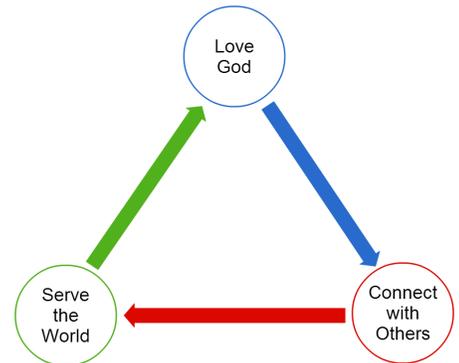
THE MESSENGER

April 2019

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
Office: 815/332-5075
Parsonage: 815/580-8553
Cell: 331-465-9489
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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

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.
John 20:11-14 (NRSV)

For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light.
Mark 4:22 (NRSV)

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

Spring has sprung! Well, at least the vernal equinox has come; and daylight has finally triumphed over night.

As happy as I am that the parsonage yard is no longer covered in several inches of snow and ice, I've noticed something else. As the ice recedes, ugly things that were hidden now become visible (not just because I have two dogs). There were old newspapers crumpled on the back lawn. I seldom read a newspaper preferring to get my news on-line. I discovered the remnants of a car's front end scattered along the edge of the front yard. Then there are all the birch branches. Ugh!

As the snow plowed mounds melt at the church, I've discovered more litter than I would have imagined. Bauman Park was coated with debris from the now receded flooding of the Kishwaukee river. Yes! Spring is here. We've hoped and prayed for it. But is it what we expected?

We are in the midst of Lent, yearning for the celebration of Easter. The great irony is that when we take Lent seriously, ugly things start to appear. Some of them are mere nuisance like the litter on a lawn, some of them are more serious like the flooding of a river. It may even cause us to yearn for winter once again, if only to cover up the disarray. But that's all that it would do.

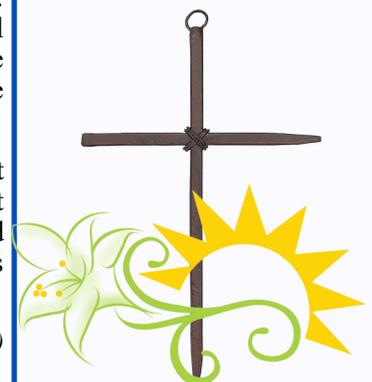
Sometimes the uncomfortable truths revealed by intentional spiritual reflection can be so unsettling that we're tempted to cover them up or ignore them. However, we need to remember that snowmelt of spring doesn't bring anything new into our environment, it only reveals what was already there; and presents us with the opportunity to address it. That takes work. Occasionally, it takes unpleasant work. Therefore, the temptation remains to leave it alone until the grass grows higher and the flowers bud, to conceal the debris. Ironically, that only makes the debris more dangerous because were no longer able to avoid stepping on the sharp car part or the dog's "gift".

His disciples kept trying to ignore him, when Jesus spoke about his impending crucifixion. But it was only after he was crucified and they were compelled to face what he'd been teaching that they were able to experience the joy of his Resurrection. Mary and Salome and Joanna, Peter and John, only got to see the empty tomb because they went there. Hope wasn't just restored; it was confirmed! Salvation revealed itself as real, not just wistful longing.

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As we long for Easter, let us be willing to claim the opportunity that Lent offers to address the clutter and ugliness that we may find in our lives, not with shame or embarrassment, but with a confirmed hope in what is coming.

Easter arrives on April 21st, this year. I'd like to say that spring will be fully sprung, but it won't be. The grass will be greener, and the tree buds will be there; but the leaves and most of the flowers will be waiting yet to bloom. That will happen.

Even Jesus' closest disciples struggled with fully claiming the promise of his Resurrection. Jesus hung out with them on and off for forty days afterwards, and each time they learned something new. But the promise had been confirmed and they were ready to grow.

Jesus confirmed his promise for each one of you. The Easter festival gives each of us an excuse to come to church whether it's been a week, a year, or more since we last crossed its threshold. The promise is fresh with opportunity to shed those things that would steal our joy.

I invite you to share that hope, that joy, that promise together.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness, OSL



Military Personnel

Sean Conderman
Tamara Duke
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

Family of Heather McLellan
Family of Jean Banks
Family of Robert Gentry

Members & Friends

Sally Baeverstad
Sandra Baxter
Violet Collier
David Harter
Keith Kruger
Lela Lameyer
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Pearl Robbins
Bill Roberts
Jim & Barb Whitlock



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 following worship on March 10. We reviewed the recent Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which was a big success. We served more pancakes than we ever have in the past. We are ever so grateful to the Men's Group for their assistance. We couldn't do the things we do without their help and the congregation's support.

We are having our annual Ladies Night Out on **April 23** at the Machine Shed. The event is open to all the women of the congregation and we encourage all to attend. Please mark your calendars.



We discussed plans for the 4th of July and Vacation Bible School. We also talked of having a sale when the village has their sale days in the fall. We would not sell any clothing, just items of interest that are no longer of use to you. We will be sharing more information at a later date.

We will not meet in April as our meeting date conflicts with Palm Sunday and we will not meet in May because of Mother's Day, therefore **our next meeting day is June 9**. All women are invited to come to our meetings and see what we are about.

Striving to serve, Donna Layng

Dear CVUMC,
Thank you for your kindness and support to dad, Bob Gentry, and our family.

Barb O'Hara



Annual Conference Mission Challenge

The Annual Conference is June 2-4, 2019.

The Rockford District has been challenged to bring 2000 each

*1-gallon plastic sealable bags
3-4 ounces bar soap*

All products must be new and in their original packaging.



You may bring your items to the church now until the time of the conference.

Project Coordinator: Donna Layng



All items brought to the conference will be delivered to the United Methodist Relief Supply Center

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

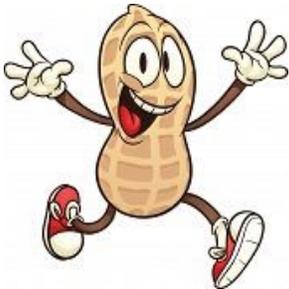
SPRC Meeting Dates

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.



7 May 2019 23 Jul 2019

Peanut Butter Rally



We will be supporting the peanut butter rally again this year during the month of April. A barrel will be arriving Wednesday, April 3rd. It will be near the sanctuary during the entire month and we will collect the peanut butter for the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. It is a must for those children who do not have a lunch during the summer while not in school.

We're Looking For a Few Leaders!

Thank you to all the people who volunteer to be worship leaders each week. We are looking for MORE people who want to take an active part in the worship service. We need people who will usher, greet, sign in members and visitors and read scripture.

We have a core group of people who faithfully serve in these capacities. If you would like to take a more active part by volunteering for one or more of these duties, please speak with Pastor Mark or call the church secretary at 815-332-5075, Tuesday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm.



Get Involved!

Imagine what God could do through you.

Peanut Butter in April!



Peanut Butter Drive for the Food Pantry during the Month of April



We are collecting peanut butter during the month of **APRIL** for the Rock River Valley Food Pantry Summer Lunch Program. Each summer, the pantry needs over 12,000 jars of peanut butter. The program is designed to feed the kids that would normally receive subsidized lunches at school. Without this program, those kids would go hungry during the summer. We will be collecting until **APRIL 28TH**



We are also collecting jelly. PLASTIC BOTTLES ONLY



Thank You



Dear Pastor Harkness and Congregation,
 Thank you for your recent donation of 113 pounds of food. In February we saw a 30% increase in those who needed assistance. In most part, we attribute the surge to the government shutdown. However, one thing this tells us for sure is that there are so many in this community living from paycheck to paycheck. Going without just one paycheck can throw a family into crisis mode, and many must choose between keeping the lights on and feeding themselves and their families.

At the pantry, we sometimes feel like we are in crisis mode. Will we have enough to help our neighbors in need? That is why your donations are so important. We are so grateful for your support, and that you care about our community as much as we do.

Sincerely,
 Kim Adams-Bakke, Executive Director



"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Luke 6:38

April 21, 2019



Easter Breakfast

The UMM will serve a light breakfast between the Easter Sunrise service & Easter Morning service.

We will be serving egg casserole, fruit, rolls and coffee/milk/juice.

Hope to see you there!

April Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

- 1 Doris DeVries
- 5 Mike Seno
- 6 Sandra Baxter
- Mary Bowling
- 7 Nancy John
- 10 Lorraine Robbins
- 13 Kayte Kloss
- 14 Dawn Hollebeak
- 21 David Mills
- 26 Patricia Irps
- 27 Scott Layng
- 29 David Ward

Anniversaries

- 7 Gary & Carol Conderman
- 21 Rev. Mark & Susan Harkness
- 25 John & Sandra Schwartz
- 28 Mark & Holly Snyder



Harmony for Hunger
TRIUMPHANT concert



THURSDAY,
MAY 30, 2019
6:30 - 9:00 P.M.



See Dave Ward for tickets
TICKETS ARE \$15

HONONEGAH HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT FOOD PAN-
307 SALEM STREET ROCKTON, IL 61072

www.harmonyforhunger.org

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](https://www.kakaotalk.com/yskim1470)

April Worship Leader Schedule	<i>Sunday April 7</i>	<i>Sunday April 14</i>	<i>Sunday April 21</i>	<i>Sunday April 28</i>
<i>Liturgist</i>	Sue Layng	Amy Flood	Keith Burritt	Andrew Schwartz
<i>Greeter Team</i>	Linda Calhoun Mary Wilson	Ann Harned Judy Krunfus	Jane & LaVern Neff	Pat Campbell Jim Bryant
<i>Usher</i>	Youth Group	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt
<i>Media</i>	Andrew Schwartz	Patricia Irps	Matt Gross	Solomon 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 March. To prepare yourself, please read the scriptures beforehand.

April 7

Call to Worship ...Psalm 126
 Scripture Lesson..Isaiah 43:16-21
 GospelJohn 12:1-8
 Message.....God Moves...Us to Empty



April 14

Call to Worship ...Psalm 31:9-16
 Scripture Lesson..Philippians 2:5-11
 GospelLuke 23:1-49

April 18—Maundy Thursday

Message.....Unworthy
 Holy Communion



April 19—Good Friday

Message.....I Did It
 Nails in the Cross

April 21—Sunrise Service

Skit: Jesus Conquers the Grave
 Message.....He's Gonna Be Mad

April 21—Easter Worship

Call to Worship ...Psalm 118:14-24
 Scripture Lesson..1 Corinthians 15:19-26
 GospelLuke 24:1-12
 Message.....Good Moves...Out of the Tomb

April 28

Call to Worship ...Psalm 150
 Scripture Lesson..Acts 5:27-32
 GospelJohn 20:19-31
 Message.....A Surprising Turnaround



Rule of Christ Training

April 30 – 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

A few years ago, Bishop Dyck instated a policy of asking all congregations that have received a new pastor to engage in Rule of Christ training.

The Rule of Christ is based on Jesus' instructions in Matthew 18 in regards to how Christians are to address conflict or disagreement with one another in a spirit of love and restoration.

This training is especially important for members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Church Council; but it is also a useful experience for all members of the congregation as we seek to be the body of Christ together.

Please join us on April 30, when the Rev. Paul Lee (Waterman UMC) will lead us in this important work.

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.

Retirement Open House

The Creative Learners II Preschool Board members, and Lynn Billings, the previous Preschool Director, will host a Retirement Open House on **Saturday, May 18 from 2 pm—5 pm** at Cherry Valley United Methodist Church fellowship hall, lower level.

We will recognize the 23 years of service of Carol Palmer as a teacher, with the last 14 years being the Director. Additionally, we

will recognize Sue Anderson's 11 years of service as a teacher. The two will also be recognized at the worship service on **Sunday, May 19 at 9:45 am**. If you know past preschool families, please let them know about these two events.

Please respond to the Facebook event or email Karen Harter at keh9806@comcast.net by May 8 if you plan to attend.

Please bring any Pop tabs you have saved for the Ronald McDonald House Charity to the Open House.



Teacher Sue Anderson & Director/

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.

Spiritual Insights

The following is a reprint of a previous Spiritual Insight submitted by Jim Whitlock

John 13:1 and following...

Before the disciples went to eat at the supper table, their feet had to be washed. Jewish law required this to be done by slaves or a servant; disciples were not to do this lowly job. Jesus got up, took a basin of water and a towel, and began to wash the disciples feet as a model for them. When Jesus did what the apostles thought was beneath them, it must have been like a knife in their hearts, convicting them of their pride and unwillingness to be a servant. No wonder Peter said, "You will never wash my feet." (John 13:8). Jesus gave them a new commandment, "Love your enemy, pray for those who persecute you." this commandment was greater than the Old Testament commandment of "Love your neighbor as yourself."



Jesus gives a new commandment in John 13:34; "Love one another just as I have loved you. You are to love one another."

It is not possible for us to love as God loves. How are we to do this? Jesus' perfect love is now the standard for us. We cannot love on our own as Jesus loves. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to dwell within us so we can let Jesus love others through us. The Holy Spirit is our counselor, helper, and comforter. Jesus can love through us with his perfect love.



Boy Scout Troop 181

March is a great month; it starts out with wintery weather and ends with Spring-like new life. On the first Sunday, 4 of the Troop's new Eagle Scouts were recognized at the Annual Council Recognition Dinner. It was fun to celebrate their success. Then, this church made it clear that all people were welcome to enjoy a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday prior to our regular weekly meeting. Several scout families shared that experience.

Representatives of the *Order of the Arrow* visited our Troop to conduct the annual election. Some of our qualifying scouts will be inducted as honor campers at summer camp in July. Also, a couple of our experienced scouts taught some Boy Scout Badge requirements to our newest members. Further, we conducted a adult orientation for our newest parents. We got some good people joining! [We have 12 new scouts from 6 different packs.] Our second troop meeting put us in the pool at East HS. With our new members and some Cub Scout guests, 49 people swam. On the third meeting of the month, the youth elected new leaders (this is a boy-run troop with adult advisors). Our March camp-out/in is at MacQueen Forest Preserve in DeKalb County. This is an Advancement outing conducted for the purpose of teaching fundamental skills to the youngest members. In large part, the older, more experienced youth will convey their knowledge to the younger boys. The final troop meeting will find us in the fellowship hall involved in a Court of Honor / Information Night, where youth and adults alike will be recognized for their efforts.



April begins and ends with more pool time. We like to have all our scouts possess the basic skills in the water, and some will excel even further. A couple of our scouts are on swim teams for their schools, while others will get to be proficient enough to be earn Swimming and Lifesaving Merit Badges. A couple are already planning to swim the mile at summer camp. The second meeting of April will include several degrees of first aid, depending on the level of different scouts; basic first aid for the younger scouts to advanced skills for older scouts. Many of our scouts and adults are CPR trained biennially. At the third meeting we will reschedule some enthusiasts from the Rockford Photo Club sharing their interests in taking quality pictures and post-processing. The 4th meeting is geared toward fun. We'll go to the Cherry Bowl and allow scouts and family members to socialize and learn more about the sport. The outing for the month will be in a cave. There is already a lot of interest in spelunking and sleeping in that hole in the ground near Blue River, WI.



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.

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 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	2 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 3:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Studio 3	3 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir Peanut Butter Rally Barrel Arrives	4 3:00 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	5 10:30 am Studio 3	6 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
7 8:00 am UMM @ CV Café 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	8 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	9 6:15 pm Finance 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 3:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Church Council	10 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	11 3:00 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	12 10:30 am Studio 3	13 8:00 am-5:00 pm Boy Scout Training Event 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
14 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship Palm Sunday	15 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 <i>Newsletter items due</i>	16 3:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	17 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 10 am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	18 3:00 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service 	19 10:30 am Studio 3 7:00 pm Good Friday Service 	20 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 
21 7:30 am Easter Sunrise 8:00 am Easter Breakfast/Fellowship 8:45 am Kids Sunday School 9:45 am Worship	22 3:15 pm Studio 3 3:45 pm Studio 3 4:15 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	23 3:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm Methodist Women Night Out @ Machine Shed Restaurant	24 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	25 3:00 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	26 10:30 am Studio 3	27 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
28 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	29 3:15 pm Studio 3 3:45 pm Studio 3 4:15 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	30 3:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	27 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	28 3:00 pm Studio 3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Peanut Butter Rally Ends	29 10:30 am Studio 3	30 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 

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



alleluia



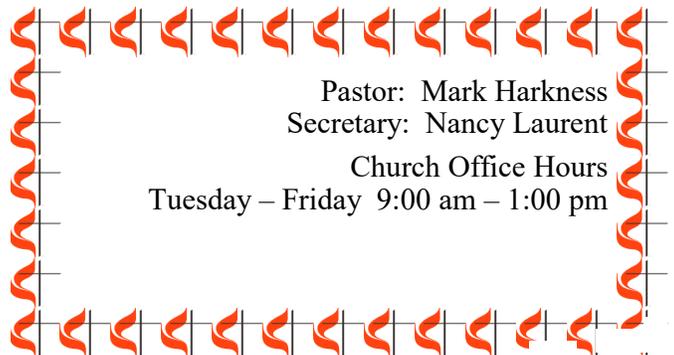

GROWING through GOD's Blessings

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