

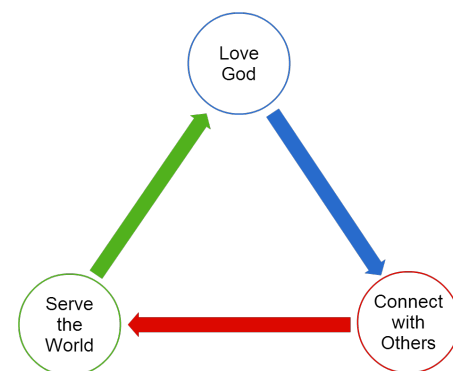
THE MESSENGER

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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January 2020



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

⁴A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

⁵The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hurries to the place where it rises.

⁶The wind blows to the south, and goes around to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns

⁷All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full;

to the place where the streams flow, there they continue to flow.

⁸All things are wearisome; more than one can express; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing.

⁹What has been is what will be, and what has

been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has already been, in the ages before us.

¹¹The people of long ago are not remembered, nor will there be any remembrance of people yet to come by those who come after them.

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven;

it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with.

¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:4-14

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

Another "new" year is upon us; with it comes the inevitable flood of resolutions. I find it ironic that we invest so much hope for what the future holds in a new year, while we cling to the nostalgia of "the good ole' days." Maybe that is what the preacher is getting at in the passage from Ecclesiastes.

Must it be, however, "an unhappy business that God has given to (us) to be busy with"? It may be if we are consumed with the notion that we must somehow change ourselves into persons acceptable to God – while pursuing the "vanity" (i.e. uselessness) of making ourselves acceptable to the world's standards revealed in the typical New Year's resolution.

In Hebrews 13:8, we are reminded that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever," with the intention that we might continue in our trust in the God revealed in Jesus Christ to fulfill our transformation into persons perfectly acceptable to God, rather than assuming the "unhappy" and impossible burden of doing so for ourselves.

Furthermore, Hebrews reminds us to "not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings." (13:9) This does not mean that we should abandon innovation in our expression or sharing of the gospel; but it does remind us that we must remain faithful to that gospel. That's why we can continue to sing "Give Me That Old Time Religion" without floundering in nostalgic irrelevance.

On January 5 – the first Sunday of 2020 – our worship service will consist of John Wesley's Covenant service, followed by the eucharist. It presents an opportunity to refresh our commitment to the gospel covenant made at our baptism and profession of faith. Additionally, we will take time to install and bless those persons who have given themselves to leadership positions in the congregation for the upcoming year, as well as, thanking those whose service is changing.

By renewing our covenant together, we have a grand opportunity to engage in the business that God has given us to be busy with through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit abiding among us.

Let us claim 2020 not as a "new" year, but as a fresh opportunity to claim our place in the kingdom of heaven in our midst.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



Anniversaries

- 7 Keith & Terri Burritt

In Our Prayers



Members & Friends

- Sandra Baxter
- Violet Collier
- Joe Hunt
- Lela Lameyer
- Lyons Meyers
- Marlene Meyers
- Deanna Morgan
- Jim & Barb Whitlock

Military Personnel

- Sean Conderman
- Tamara Duke
- Dan Harter
- Mark Kincaide

Mission

- Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn



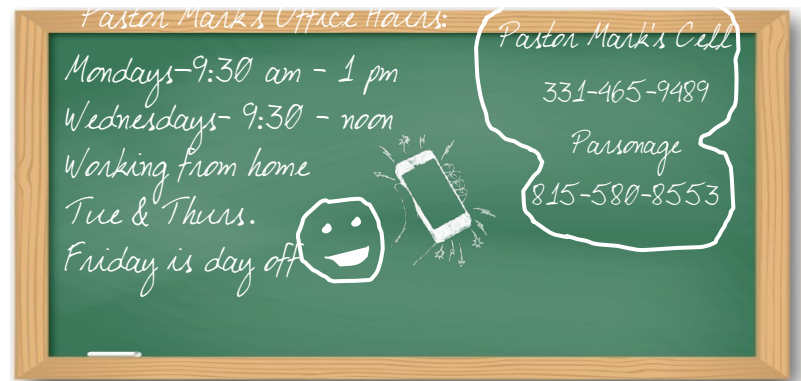
PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have prayer concerns that you wish to express, please fill out a prayer request card located in the Prayer Chapel. Please indicate how you would like your request shared via the check boxes at the bottom of the card and then place the concerns in the request box. You may also email your prayer requests to the secretary who will pass it on the Prayer Chain.

Church Council & Finance Meetings



The first meetings of 2020 for the Church Council and Finance Committee will be **January 7**. 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 6.



<i>Worship Leader Schedule</i>	<i>Sunday January 5</i>	<i>Sunday January 12</i>	<i>Sunday January 19</i>	<i>Sunday January 26</i>
<i>Liturgist</i>	Amy Flood	Sue Layng	Janet Bryant	Keith Burritt
<i>Greeter Team</i>	Mary Wilson Kathy Sundberg	Jane & LaVern Neff	Jan & Dave Mills	Jim Bryant Patty Campbell
<i>Usher</i>		Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt
<i>Media</i>	Andrew Schwartz	Patricia Irps	Patricia Irps	Patricia Irps

Next Generation Ministries

T A N Z A N I A

MISSION TRIP

MISSION OBJECTIVE:

- To support and encourage Pastor Kim in her mission work.
- To view her new campus; to understand its purpose; to understand its challenges.
- To experience her work in one of the villages developing discipleship training. (Nifuate training)
- To experience the daily life of the Tanzanian people in urban and rural areas.
- To experience the walk of faith of missionaries
- To grow more deeply in a personal relationship with the Lord!
- To bring back to the church family what we learned; and how to pray for Pastor Kim!

JULY 13—JULY 27, 2020

- 5-8 DAYS IN DAR SALAAM WITH PASTOR KIM
- 2-3 DAYS IN ZANZIBAR WITH PASTOR KIM
- 2-4 DAYS IN ARUSHA/SERENGETI RESERVE

ESTIMATED COST - \$3,500

INTERESTED?

CONTACT JUDY LONG

815-299-8637 OR

judylong1949@gmail.com



2020 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Church Council

Chair	Rev. Mark Harkness
Lay Leader	Scott Layng
Recording Secretary	Jaunita Barnes
Membership Secretary	Barbara Anderson
Lay Members to AC	Sally Hollembeak
	Sherry Gordon
Alternate Lay Member	Sue Layng
SPRC Chair	Amy Flood
Finance Committee – Chair	Sue Layng
Treasurer	Amanda Kloepfer
Trustees Chair	(elected by trustees)
Outreach & Evangelism Chair	Terri Burritt
Worship Committee – Chair	Juanita Barnes
Memorials Committee – Chair	Grace Harter

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Amy Flood (Chair)
 Karen Harter
 John Schwartz
 Carolyn Kloss
 Scott Layng (Lay Leader)
 Sally Hollembeak (Lay Member to AC)
 Sherry Gordon (Lay Member to AC)

Finance Committee

Sue Layng (Chair)
 Amanda Kloepfer (Treasurer)
 Jessica Bilderback (Asst Treasurer)
 Mary Lou Clevenger (Recorder)
 Jerry Redden (at-large)

Audit Committee

Sally Hollembeak
 Scott Layng

Outreach & Evangelism

Terri Burritt (Chair)
 Veronica Layng
 Amanda Kloepfer

Worship Committee

Juanita Barnes (Chair)
 Judy Krunfus
 Deb Seno
 Barb Clucas
 Jim Bryant
 Holly Snyder
 Patricia Irps

Board of Trustees

Keith Burritt
 Chris Flood
 Janet Bryant
 Mike Seno
 Dave Ward
 Charlie Schnuckel
 Patty Campbell
 Mary Wilson

Nominations Committee

Rev. Mark Harkness (Chair)
 Scott Layng (Lay Leader)
 Patty Campbell
 Sandra Schwartz

Committee on Memorials & Gifts

Grace Harter (Chair)
 Donna Layng
 Harry Buck
 Kathleen Sundberg
 Jordyn Burritt

United Methodist Women

Donna Layng, President
 Pat Newell, Secretary
 Kathleen Sundberg

United Methodist Men

Warren Gross, President
 Dave Ward, Financial Secretary

Upcoming Sermons

Below is a schedule of the sermons and scripture readings that Pastor Mark will be presenting. To prepare yourself, please read the scriptures beforehand. Printed copies of Pastor Mark's sermons are available on the church website (cherryvalleyumc.com). Click the worship tab.

January 5 Epiphany Sunday

Covenant Renewal Service

January 12 Baptism of the Lord

Call to Worship..... Psalm 29
 Scripture Lesson.... Acts 10:34-43
 Gospel Matthew 3:13-17
 Message Those Whom God Favors

January 19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Call to Worship..... Psalm 40:1-11
 Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 Gospel John 1:29-42
 Message Testify

January 26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Call to Worship Psalm 27
 Scripture Lesson.....1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Gospel Matthew 4:12-23
 Message Agreeing in Christ

Rock River Valley Food Pantry

Feeding Rockford One Meal At A Time



ROCK RIVER VALLEY
PANTRY
 Northern Illinois' Largest
 Community Food Pantry

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.



Northern Illinois Conference

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ROCKFORD DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Saturday, February 1, 2020

**Faith United Methodist Church
1440 S. Walnut - Freeport, IL**

8:00 am - 8:30 am	Check-In
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Opening Worship Preach: Bishop Sally Dyck
9:30 am - 9:45 am	Break
9:45 am - 10:45 am	Workshops I
11:00 am - 12:00 am	Workshops II
12:00 pm - 12:20 pm	Closing Gathering

WORKSHOPS

(Everyone is invited to sign up for 2 workshops)

GOAL 1: Making Disciples

- Children & Youth Ministry (Joy Hayag & Roger Bronkema)
- Media as a way of evangelism (Jarrod Severing & Jay Schaney)
- Ministering the Senior (Dee Mede)

GOAL 2: Working Against Racism

- Working against Racism (Violet Johnicker)
- Community Engagement (Stanley Campbell)

GOAL 3: Creating Vital Congregations

- Signs of Vitality in our congregations (Mike Jones)
- Apportionment & New Formula (David Quinn)
- Property Insurance (Dwayne Jackson)
- SPRC & Boundaries (Arlene Christopherson)

Please register by January 24, 2020

<https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/rockford-leadership-training-event>

For more information, please contact:

Pastor Donna Hoffman - 608 293 0194

2020 Offering Envelopes

The 2020 Offering Envelopes on the table by the elevator.



tor.

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

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.




Saying "dead" is so uncool!
Now we refer to it as being
"uploaded to the cloud".

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COME Worship WITH US

**Worship**
OPPORTUNITIES

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

Sunday @ 9:45 am—Worship
Sunday @ 11:00 am—Fellowship



Pastor: Mark Harkness
Secretary: Nancy Laurent
Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm