

THE MESSENGER

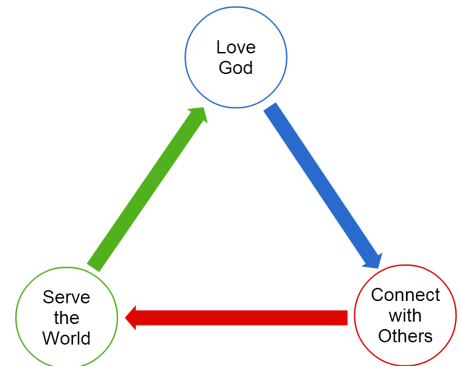
March 2020

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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Facebook: Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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

1. *We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.*

Refrain:

*For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.*

2. *We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.
(Refrain)*

3. *We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.
(Refrain)*

4. *We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God.
(Refrain). H. Ernest Nichol, 1862-1928*

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

I'm not a big fan of social media. I set up a Facebook account when my daughter was in high school only to keep track of her posts, and have only posted four or five times during the intervening fifteen years. My Twitter account exists only because it was a requirement for an on-line course that I took several years ago. Ironically, I find that the best thing about these and other social media sites is the same thing that I dislike.

Once people transitioned to social media, they quit forwarding jokes and questionable (I'm being charitable.) news articles to my email accounts. Because I don't check my Facebook feeds or read Twitter or Instagram, I don't have to deal with the additional mental clutter. While attempting not to sound like a curmudgeon, I just don't like it.

Several years ago, I received a forwarded e-mail from a parishioner which I could tell he'd shared with many others. The news was meant to be inspirational; but it was wrong. Although I'm generally loathe to do so, I hit "reply-all" in order to correct what had been shared. I don't doubt that the man who forwarded that item was sincere. I suspect that he had received it from somebody he trusted. That was my concern, people trusted him. That's how it goes.

Although I'm generally in favor of sharing information, we need to be sure what we share is the truth. As Christians, truth is important. In the parable of the talents, the master rewards the two servants who were faithful "in little things" by putting them in charge of greater things; but the servant who buried the little that had been entrusted to him lost everything and more. We need to be faithful with little truths and diligently avoid even inadvertently passing on those things that aren't true.

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We have a pretty bizarre and far-fetched truth to share, that God became human in Jesus Christ, that he died for our sins, and that he rose again. How can we be believed with that truth if we are not diligent in maintaining a commitment to only sharing the truth of more “reasonable” information?

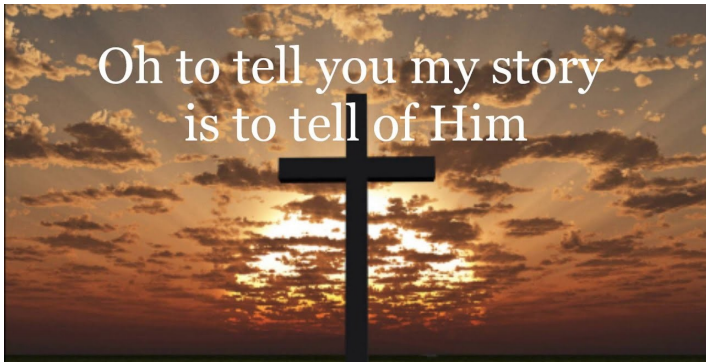
Unfortunately the near anonymity of posting and forwarding of information via social media tends to encourage zingers and incomplete news void of any nuance. What if we as Christians expected better, if only of ourselves? Our friends and families likely trust us. Therefore, we must be diligent in retelling (by reposting or even “liking”) that which we can confidently say is true, even when that means curbing an impulse to immediately pass on those things that confirm our own opinions.

We have a story to tell to the nations that can conquer darkness. May all that we do build confidence in our integrity for the sake of that story.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

PS: Please know, I've not seen (I rarely use social media for anything other than seeing photos of my grandsons) anything from any of you that has inspired this particular article. However, I'm finding that too often when I read the news, the articles (even in newspapers) will often include a string of Twitter responses that I think contributes to the degeneration of honest and respectful discourse.




Military Personnel
 Gage Christensen
 Sean Conderman
 Tamara Duke
 Dan Harter
 Mark Kincaide

Mission
 Pastor Kim & the Next
 Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn



Members & Friends
 Sandra Baxter
 Violet Collier
 Joe Hunt
 Lela Lameyer
 Lyons Meyers
 Marlene Meyers
 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. You may also email your prayer requests to the secretary who will pass it on the Prayer Chain.

JOIN THE GREETER MINISTRY AT CVUMC



Greeters serve at the main church entrance prior to worship services.

These Ministers warmly welcome all to CVUMC.

They also:

- Hand out bulletins
- Answer inquires
- Assist other Ministries, such as:
 - *Call an usher to help seat a special needs person
 - *Direct parents to the day care
 - *Direct parents to where the Sunday School is being held for children.

For more information contact:

Sherry Gordon, 815-332-5180
 or
Juanita Barnes, 815-332-9612

Called to *Serve*



The women met on February 9th following worship. Devotion reading was entitled *A Day of Grace* written by Walter De La Mare. It focused on the unexpected gift of the extra day Leap Year provides us. It should be celebrated as a day of grace. Grace is available for each of us each and every day, we just have to remember to ask for it with a grateful heart and try not to worry about whether there will be enough for tomorrow.... **There will be!**

Our next meeting will be March 8 following worship. All women of the church are welcome. Grab a cup of coffee and a pastry and check us out!



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

*Yes, there's still time to join the class!
Speak with Pastor Mark*

MONDAYS

MARCH 2—APRIL 6

TWO SESSIONS FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE

10:00 AM OR 6:30 PM

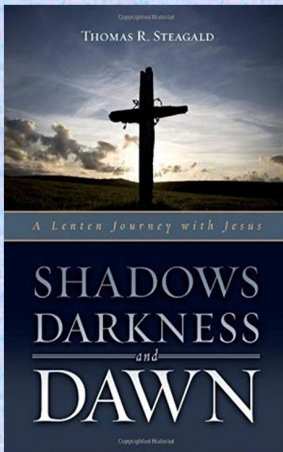
SHADOWS, DARKNESS, AND DAWN:

A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH JESUS

BY THOMAS STEAGALD

This study explores Jesus' spiritual journey in the wilderness and the lives of some of those who were touched by him: Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the man who was born blind, Mary and Martha after the death of their brother, Lazarus, along with religious and civil leaders.

Perhaps you'll find some similarities between these people's spiritual journeys and your own. As Jesus bravely enters the thickening shadows of conflict and rejection, you'll be led to explore shadows in your life. You'll discover the power of Christ's love to set you free from sin and the fear of darkness.



Coming in April !

We will be collecting peanut butter all during the month of April, all sizes, all brands, all types.

Get Ready!



Rock River Valley Food Pantry



ROCK RIVER VALLEY
PANTRY
Northern Illinois' Largest
Community 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.

Lent & Easter Worship Schedule

LENT

- April 5 9:45 am Palm Sunday Worship
 April 9 7:00 pm Holy Thursday Worship
 April 10 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship

EASTER

- April 12 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Worship
 8:00 am Easter Breakfast
 9:45 am Easter Worship

All are welcome to join us for Easter breakfast and fellowship after the Easter Sunrise service. The 9:45 am Easter worship will be a different worship service from the sunrise worship, so enjoy breakfast and stay for the worship service at 9:45.

If you have friends or relatives from out of town, please invite them to come with you to church. If you know of people who don't have a church, invite them as well. Easter is such a joyous time, so it's a great time to ask people to church.

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 & Anniversaries



- 26 Jill Hollebeak
 Katie Brown
 27 Deborah DeWitt
 Jeffrey Layng

March Anniversaries

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

March Birthdays

- 2 James Barnes
 6 Sue Wilt
 14 Jim Newell
 17 Joe Hunt
 19 Juanita Barnes
 22 Linda Calhoun



2020 Church Council Meeting Dates



The following are Church Council and Finance Committee meeting dates for 2020. The Finance Committee meets at 6:15 pm, all dates and the Council meets at 7:00 pm, all dates.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| March 31 | May 5 |
| June 16 | August 11 |
| September 22 | November 10 |

Committee chairs should have their written reports to the secretary no later than the day prior to the meeting.

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

March Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday March 1	Sunday March 8	Sunday March 15	Sunday March 22	Sunday March 29
Liturgist	Amy Flood	Charlie Schnuckel	Sue Layng	Keith Burritt	Scott Layng
Greeter Team	Kathleen Sundberg Charlie Schnuckel	Grace Harter Patty Campbell	Jan Mills Dave Mills	Charlie Schnuckel	Judy Krunfus Ann Harned
Usher	Volunteer	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt	Chris Flood
Media	Andrew Schwartz	Patricia Irps	Patricia Irps	Patricia Irps	Andrew Schwartz

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.



- March 1** First Sunday in Lent
 Call to Worship Psalm 32
 Scripture Lesson Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
 Gospel Matthew 4:1-11
 Message *Naked Truth*
- March 8** Second Sunday in Lent
 Call to Worship Psalm 121
 Scripture Lesson Genesis 12:1-4
 Gospel John 3:1-17
 Message *So That All Might Be Saved*
- March 15** Third Sunday in Lent
 Call to Worship Psalm 95
 Scripture Lesson Romans 5:1-11
 Gospel John 4:5-42
 Message *200 Proof Love*
- March 22** Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Call to Worship Psalm 23
 Scripture Lesson Ephesians 5:8-14
 Gospel John 9:1-41
 Message *Open Eyes For Open Lives*
- March 29** Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Call to Worship Psalm 130
 Scripture Lesson Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Gospel John 11:1-45
 Message *Vivified*

The Good News.....



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.



2020 Bishop's Appeal

Bishop Sally Dyck has designated the Secondary School in Tanzania as the recipient of the 2020 Bishop's Appeal. Churches are encouraged to fundraise to help the second stage of the school's construction and bring their offering to the Northern Illinois Annual Conference in June.

"I am so thrilled to hear this unexpected great news," said Rev. Kim. "Mungu ametenda maajabu, which means God did a great thing." As I started to raise funds for the second stage of school construction, I prayed so many times that many churches in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference would support this mission project. This Bishop's Appeal has increased my faith and set my heart on fire!"

For more information and resources that will be added over the next few months, visit www.umcnic.org/bishopsappeal.

Read Pastor Kim's letter posted on the mission bulletin board in the fellowship hall and on the bulletin board located over the table in the entrance to the sanctuary.



By Jim Whitlock

2 Samuel 22:1-8

And David spoke unto the Lord the words of this song in the day *that* the Lord had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: and he said, The Lord *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; ³the God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my savior; thou saves me from violence. ⁴I will call on the Lord, *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. ⁵When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; the sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; in my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry *did enter* into his ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was angry.

David always praised the Lord for victory over his enemies. God will move heaven and earth to answer our prayers.

2 Samuel 11:2-26

And it came to pass in an evening tide that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, Is not this Bath-Sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. ⁵And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, "I *am* with child". And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. ¹⁶And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men *were*. ¹⁷And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell *some* of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also. And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

David was not perfect, but he loved the Lord always. David killed Bath-Sheba's husband because he lusted after her. God could not abide this sin.

2 Samuel 12

God spoke to David, "Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight? Thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife *to be* thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. ..David responded "The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die."

David's heart was always with God. God was angry with David, but David repented for his sin knowing that the consequence of his sin would be the death of his child. David mourned for his child but understood that all sin has consequences. David repented of his sin; God bestowed forgiveness and grace upon David. David expresses God's forgiveness and grace to him when he states "But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." David would be in heaven with his child by God's forgiveness and grace that was brought about by David's repentance and humility to God.

Last month, February, as always, is a busy month for Scouting and Troop 181. We had another adult complete his Okpik (cold weather camping) Training by doing the over-nighter in the snow and cold. He did well.

The first Troop meeting of the month found members at the annual Continuous Fire, commemorating the 110 years of the Boy Scouts of America, was held in the backyard of the Scout Office this year, facing Perryville Road. Sixteen of the Troop's youth attended (30 Troop people total).

Scout Sunday at Cherry Valley United Methodist Church was February 9. All scouts were invited. The scouts participated in all aspects of the service, serving as greeters, liturgist, and ushers. There were Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and leaders attending. Thirty scout people attended the service; 18 in uniform. To Pastor Mark's delight, all of our youth joined him for the children's sermon!

In the second weekly meeting of the month, scouts did a LEGO night, and discussed the possibilities of a high adventure outing in 2021. On the third Sunday of February, our Boy Scout Troop joined the Girl Scout Troop for downhill skiing at Chestnut Mountain; beautiful weather.

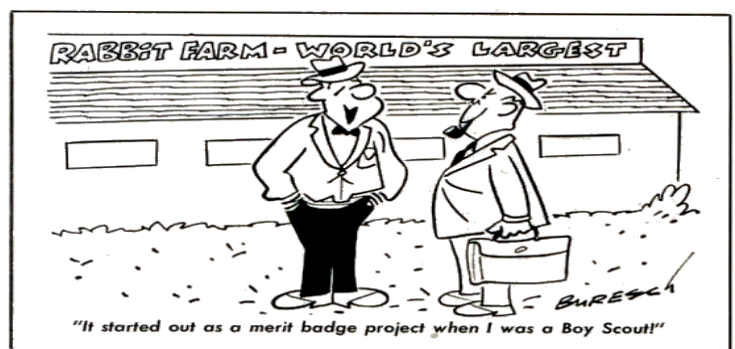
The third Tuesday troop meeting included craft night, and a visit to the Village council meeting for a badge requirement on local government. This is also the week for the monthly PLC meeting (Patrol Leaders Council) and the adult Committee meeting. The final Troop meeting will be our first swim night of the year. Swimming for fun and badges.

Looking ahead to March






- We are looking forward to the addition of new scouts to the Troop. We're expecting some Webelos (Arrow of Light) Scouts to cross over into a Boy Scout troop. That same night, our youth will elect some of the new honor campers into the Order of the Arrow.
- Early in March, the Blackhawk Area Council will recognize some adults as Silver Beaver recipients and recognize the 2019 Eagle Scouts.
- The Troop is going to swim again in the East High School pool for our second swim of the year.
- Our newest scouts will get an early start on requirements on the Troop's Advancement Campout.
- Our more experienced scouts will get to do some teaching by exercising their skills of instruction with the EDGE method.

The fourth meeting of the month will be a quarterly Court of Honor and Information Night for all related to the Troop. We get to swim again for the final meeting of March.

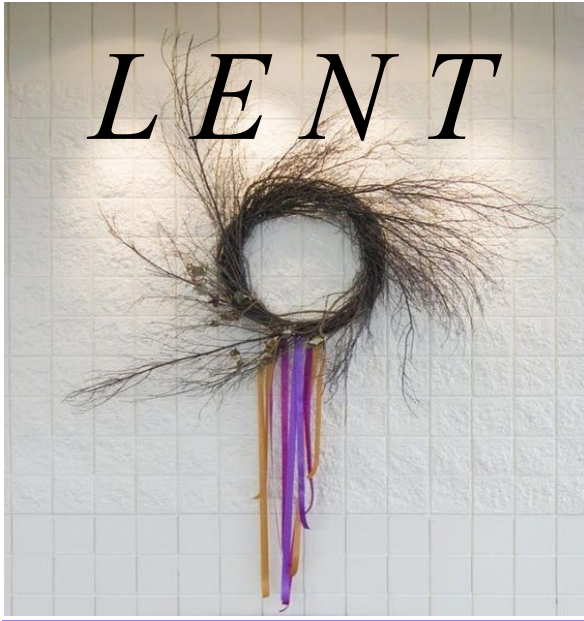
Every youth, and parent, interested in the Boy Scout program of Troop 181 should visit a meeting on Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:00pm. Also, questions about Troop 181, or scouting in general, may be directed to Terry Nichols, Scoutmaster, 815-540-5900.





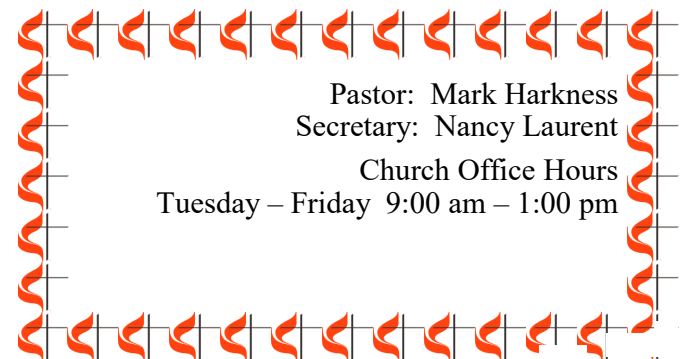
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 8:00 am UMM @ CV Caf� 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	2 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study	3 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SPRC	4 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Caf� 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Choir	5 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429	6 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	7 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3
8 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 11:15 am Methodist Women 2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins 	9 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study	10 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts Messenger items due today... early for this month, only.	11 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Caf� 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Choir	12 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429	13 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	14 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3
15 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 3:00 pm Eagle Court of Honor—Andrew Schwartz	16 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study	17 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts  <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i> Secretary Vacation	18 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Caf� 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Choir	19 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429  First Day of Spring	20 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	21 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3
22 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	23 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study	24 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts Secretary Vacation	25 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Caf� 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Choir	26 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429	27 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	28 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3 1:00 – 3:00 pm Studio 3 Group Class
29 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 6:00—7:30 pm Studio 3 Group Class	30 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study	31 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts 6:15 pm Finance Committee 7:00 Church Council				

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



Sunday School @ 8:45 am for all ages. September—May
Sunday @ 9:45 am—Worship
Sunday @ 11:00 am—Fellowship
All are welcome!

Worship
OPPORTUNITIES



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Barbara Anderson, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 30th

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____

Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$10.30 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$10.30 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$ 9.90 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



Order your

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