

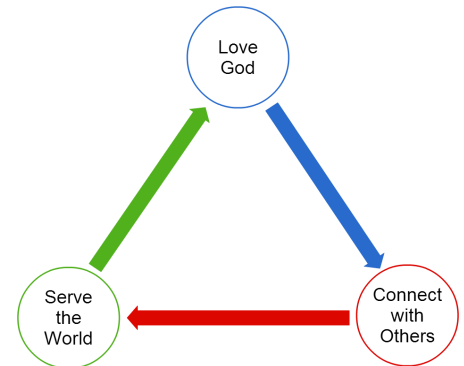
THE MESSENGER

April 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

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Matthew 28:1-10 (NRSV)

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

April begins – almost immediately – with Holy Week. April 5 is Palm Sunday leading to Easter Sunday on April 12. For me, Holy Week is the most exciting time of the year. Worship opportunities abound driving us toward the climatic celebration of the Resurrection.

In my youth the new life of Easter manifested itself in the brand new Easter clothes that would serve as my church clothes each Sunday in the upcoming year. I doubt that my mother made much of the theological connection that Easter clothes as Sunday clothes marked each Sunday as an ongoing celebration of Easter. Yet that is the connection. Each Sunday is the same remembrance of the Easter Sunday, even as Easter Sunday itself feels somehow different. Easter Sunday worship is different somehow. Is it the abundance of flowers? The new clothes? The new or seldom seen faces in worship? But is it really different?

I'm reminded of a story (I can't remember the source) about a man who would only attend church on Easter Sunday even though his wife would plead with him to accompany her more often. "Why should I?" He asked, "It's the same thing every time I go."

I refuse to dismiss those whom I may only see at Easter or Christmas, because they are responding to a yearning for the great truth of the Gospel. Yet, at the same time that I profess that every Sunday is the same as we go by the cross acknowledging Jesus' sacrifice upon it, we refuse to get "hung up" there, instead recognizing the power of life we receive in the Resurrection. Does Easter Sunday need novelty to invigorate our enthusiasm for what God has done? No!

(Continued on page 2)

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Alleluia!



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However, the Pascha Festival (i.e. the festival of Resurrection) is the primary festival of the Church. Festivals embody enthusiasm. There is an irony that our worship services on Easter Sunday this year will seem novel even though they are ancient expressions of the hope that claims us.

At the sunrise service, we will gather outside the front doors of the church around a kindling fire before processing in the ancient Service of Light that was in the earliest centuries celebrated during the Easter vigil – the most holy and joyful time of the Christian year. During the service we renew our baptism covenant in the tradition of Easter baptism. After breakfast, our “regular” Sunday service will include the pageantry and celebration rightly due to the church. Processions will restore the sanctuary that had been stripped on Holy Thursday and which lay barren for Good Friday reminding us that Christ is risen, indeed.

That **same old** practice of **new** clothes for Easter presents a certain irony or paradox. Those Easter clothes of my youth were always best on Easter morning. They were crisp and fit me just right. As the year progressed, the colors faded, the creases waned, pant cuffs and shirt cuffs left more exposed. Yet even this reminded me that Easter was coming and Sunday – the Lord’s Day – would be renewed.

Let’s gather on April 12 to hear that same story that we hear each Easter that the tomb is empty, but with festive enthusiasm that invigorates our anticipation for encountering Jesus anew each Sunday and every day of the year. Come for something different than the world offers. Come to encounter that same eternal truth that God in Jesus Christ loves you and gives life.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Holy Communion



Holy Communion will be served each Sunday during Lent at 8:30 a.m. in the chapel. All are welcome to come and partake of this Holy Sacrament.

Save These Dates in May

Saturday, May 16—Studio 3 Spring Recital.
More information and exact times to follow.

Sunday, May 24—Rev. Rich Rubietta will lead the worship service with word and song.



Members & Friends

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

Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
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.

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 7:30 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.

Methodist Women



The Women met on March 9th following worship. Business was conducted as usual.

We opened with a devotional reading entitled "Dressed for Service". We heard the Secretary's report, followed by the Treasurer's report, followed by our collection of money for the Food Pantry.

We received a very gracious thank you note from Scott Farrell expressing his and his family's appreciation for our support. Support we couldn't have given without your cooperation in supporting the fund raiser we hosted. The congregation of this church always comes through when the need arises. Thanks to all of you for being there when we ask. *(You may read Scott's note below.)*

We plan to assist the Schwartz family in celebration of Andrew's Court of Honor on March 15th.

We selected Tuesday, April 21st for our "dinner out" this year. So women, please mark your calendar. All women are welcome. More information to follow at a later date.

Donna Layng



Dear Methodist Women Group,

Thank you for organizing the fundraise to assist with Deanna Morgan's final expenses. My family and I truly appreciate the support and kindness and generosity during a difficult time.

*Peace and Prayer,
Scott Farrell*

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men continue to meet each first Sunday of the month at the Cherry Valley Café. All men are invited to attend. Our next meeting is April 5.



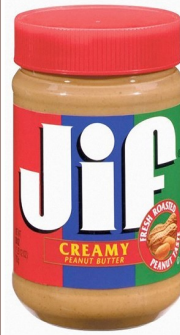
*Easter
Breakfast*

Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 12, at 8:00 am when the UMM will serve Easter Breakfast.

All are invited to come and partake of good food and good fellowship.

Hope to see you there!

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



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.

Spiritual Insights

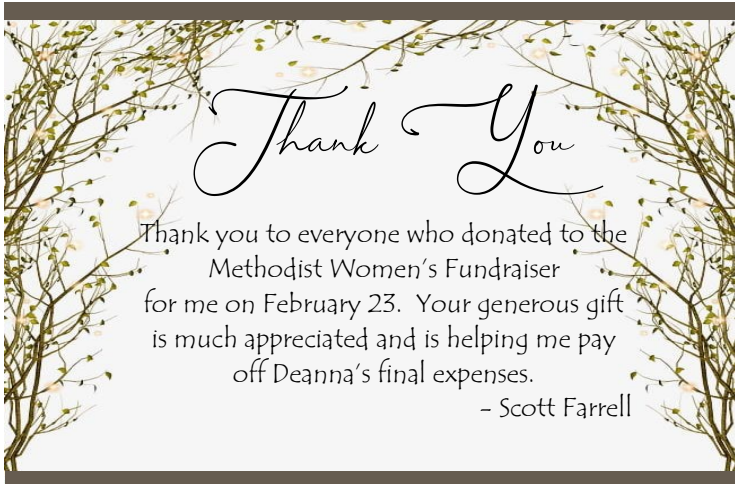
By Jim Whitlock

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.



Birthdays & Anniversaries (updated)



- 14 Dawn Hollebeak
- 21 David Mills
- 26 Patricia Irps
- 27 Scott Layng
- 29 David Ward

April Anniversaries

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



April Birthdays

- 1 Doris DeVries
- 5 Mike Seno
- 6 Sandra Baxter
Mary Bowling
- 7 Nancy John
- 10 Lorraine Robbins
- 13 Kayte Kloss



2020 Church Council Meeting Dates



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

- 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.



April Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday April 5	Sunday April 12	Sunday April 19	Sunday April 26
Liturgist	Janet Bryant	Scott Layng	Charlie Schnuckel	Keith Burritt
Greeter Team	Kathleen Sundberg	Jim Bryant Patty Campbell	Grace Harter Ann Harned	Jim & Pat Newell
Usher	Volunteer	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt
Media	Andrew Schwartz	Patricia Irps	Patricia Irps	Patricia Irps

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.

April 5.....Palm Sunday
 Call to WorshipPsalm 118:19-29
 Scripture Lesson.....Isaiah 50:4-0a
 GospelMatthew 21:1-11
 Message.....*Bittersweet Joy*

April 9.....Holy Thursday
 Call to WorshipPsalm 116:12-19
 Scripture Lesson.....1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 GospelJohn 13:1-17, 31b-35
 Message.....*The Great Betrayal*

April 10.....Good Friday
 Tenebrae Service

April 12.....Easter Sunrise
 Call to WorshipPsalm 118:14-24
 Scripture Lesson.....Colossians 3:1-4
 GospelMatthew 28:1-10
 Message.....*Rejoicing With Jesus*

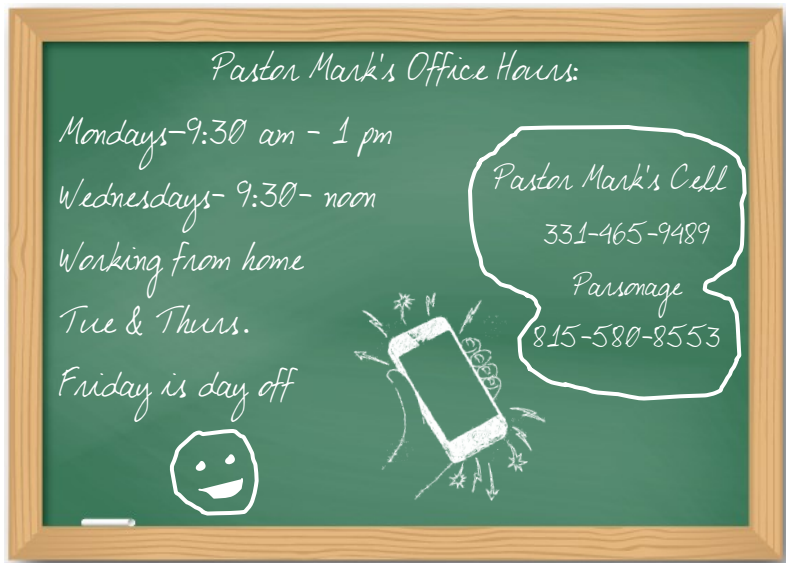
April 12.....Easter
 Call to WorshipPsalm 118:14-24
 Scripture Lesson.....Colossians 3:1-4
 GospelMatthew 28:1-10
 Message.....*Rejoicing With Jesus*

April 19.....Second Sunday of Easter
 Call to WorshipPsalm 16:5-11
 Scripture Lesson.....1 Peter 1:3-9
 GospelJohn 20:19-31
 Message.....*First Forgiveness*

April 26.....Third Sunday of Easter
 Call to WorshipPsalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 Scripture Lesson.....Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 GospelLuke 24:13-35
 Message.....*Washed and Ready*



Lord God,
 You who breathed the spirit of life within me.
 Draw out of me the light and life you created.
 Help me to find my way back to you.
 Help me to use my life to reflect your glory
 and to serve others as your son Jesus did.



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!"

School construction will be finished in three phases. During the first and second phases, the construction will be what the government requires. During the third phase, there will be more construction of facilities, including a multi-purpose hall, a volunteer missionary house, additional classrooms, and an outdoor activity center. We need \$432,764 for the second phase and \$325,500 for the third phase.

Through individual donors and churches, God has provided \$400,000 for the first phase of the school construction.

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

We will take a special offering on April 19 to take to the Annual Conference in June for the Bishop's Appeal to help support the Secondary School in Tanzania.

Read Pastor Kim's newsletter 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.



Nashville Strong



Please pray for the people of Nashville that lost family and friends in the tornado that devastated the area early in the morning of March 3, 2020.



NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The tornado that tore through Nashville toppled the bell tower of a historic church and destroyed an ornate stained glass window, but the pastor, Rev. Judi Hoffman is confident that East End United Methodist Church will survive the damage.

Senior Moments Group



Fun for Seniors

Attention All Seniors! The Cherry Valley Library has a group for older adults that spend time together to laugh, talk, and have fun. All seniors are invited to join the group. There are some events that require registration, so you

will want to check with the library to see the events and determine your interest in participating in any of them.

It has been proven that staying socially active as one ages has great benefits. Among them are:

- **Better cognitive function.** Social activities keep us sharp and mentally engaged, and this is important to prevent the onset of dementia or Alzheimer's disease.
- **Maintaining good emotional health.** Connecting with others helps keep you in a positive mood, which in turn wards off depression.
- **Improving physical health.** Socially active seniors tend to be more physically active, too. Plus, you tend to eat more and make better food choices when you [eat with others](#).
- **Boosted immune system.** Studies show that seniors who stay engaged with others, and life around them, have higher levels of immune-system functioning.
- **Enjoying restful sleep.** If you have difficulty sleeping at night, it could be that you're feeling isolated and lonely. Research shows that people who have more fulfilling relationships in their lives tend to sleep better than those who don't.
- **Increased longevity.** Live a longer, happier life by keeping your social circle strong. Friends and loved ones help you deal with life's daily stresses, and are often key to encouraging you to live a healthier lifestyle, too.

Contact the library at 815-332-5161 or www.cherryvalleylib.org

UMCOR



Tornadoes in Tennessee

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR works with vulnerable communities to strengthen self-sufficiency and encourage partnerships. UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases of poverty, ministers to refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and actively works to reduce hunger.

You may find out more about UMCOR at:

<https://www.umcmission.org/umcor>

To make a donation for the relief of the people of Tennessee, visit the website:

<https://www.umcmission.org/umcor>

You may choose to donate by one of the following methods:

1. GIVE TO TN TORNADO 2020
(Tennessee Conference Disaster Response with Credit Card or PayPal) Checks may be sent to:
TNUMC Disaster Response,
304 S. Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 1
Nashville, TN 37211
2. GIVE THROUGH UMCOR (United States Disaster Response and Recovery through Advance #901670)

Boy Scout Troop 181









Boy Scout Troop 181 meets at the church each week. To learn more about Troop 181 and their activities, you may call the Scoutmaster, Terry Nichols at 815/229-5554. Visit the


website at www.bsatroop181.com.

Boys ages 11-17 are encouraged to visit the Troop meetings with their parents.

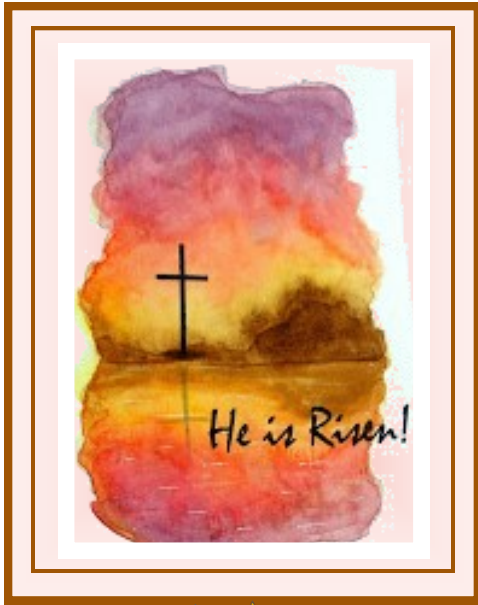
April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Choir	2 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429	3 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	4 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3
5 8:00 am UMM @ CV Café 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>Palm Sunday</i> 	6 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study (final) 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study (final)	7 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts	8 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Choir	9 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service 	10 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service 	11 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3
12 <i>7:30 am Easter Sunrise Worship</i> <i>8:00 Easter Breakfast & Fellowship</i> 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 	13 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3	14 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts	15 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Choir <i>Messenger items due</i>	16 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429	17 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	18 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3
19 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	20 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3	21 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts	22 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Choir	23 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429	24 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	25 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3 1:00 – 3:00 pm Studio 3 Group Class
26 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 6:00—7:30 pm Studio 3 Group Class	27 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3	28 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts	29 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 7:00 pm Choir	30 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429		

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

 Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016

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Have a Glorious Easter!

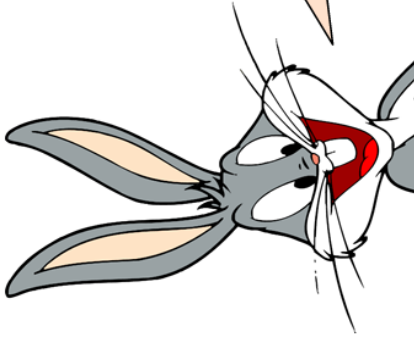


Sunday School @ 8:45 am for all ages. September—May

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



Hey Doc. Did you know that you can go to the church website and update your personal information and picture?

Don't know how to do it?
Instructions are on the back of this page... or call, we can help.
No access to the internet? Bring your picture or other information and we can update your file for you.
Or, we can even take your picture!

We are encouraging everyone to go to the web site at cherryvalleyumc.com to access the churches Elexio Data System to update personal information.

This data base is used for check in when you come to worship. Additionally, it helps us to more readily access your information in the system.

Most people have abandoned their land lines and now use mobile phones exclusively. We need to be sure that we have the most current information on file. If you no longer have a land line, please delete that phone number from your personal information. If you have a mobile phone, please input that information. If you do not want the phone number available in the directory, you may check the box, "private number" and if you don't want your address to be in the directory, select, "hide this address in the directory."

Snap a selfie and send it to us..... we will upload it to your file.



To access the system to change your personal information, add a photo, or access the directory, you:

1. Go to the website at cherryvalleyumc.com
2. Click on the "member" icon in the red menu line at the top of the page.
3. Sign in to the Elexio system by using your email address and password. If you don't remember your password, we can generate a new password that is selected by the system that will be emailed to you.
3. Once you access the system, you can go to the bottom of the page and reset your password. Don't forget to save your changes.

Across the top of your page, you have several different menu items that you can access. If you want to change your photo, just click edit and upload your new photo. You can view the directory to get the latest phone numbers, email addresses and view the picture of others on the directory. You can also track your giving at this site.

If you have any problems,



We will respond, we're nice that way!