

THE MESSENGER

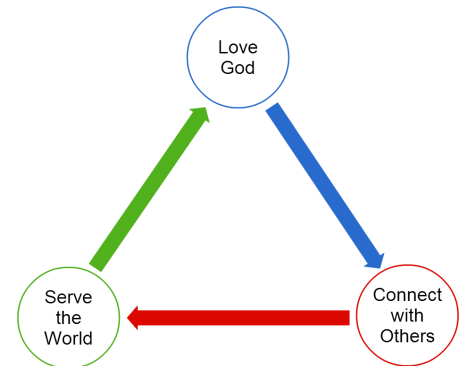
May 2020

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

³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us

with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:3-13 (NRSV)

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

How things have changed in the past month. When I looked back at my message for the April newsletter (written before the restaurants were ordered closed or the shelter-in-place order) I had so much hope about April, Easter, and May. Now there is even doubt whether I will be able to celebrate my grandsons' birthdays (Colin's first) with them at the end of May. My home study – even with the dedicated prayer space and futon for quick naps – has begun to feel like a prison cell at times.

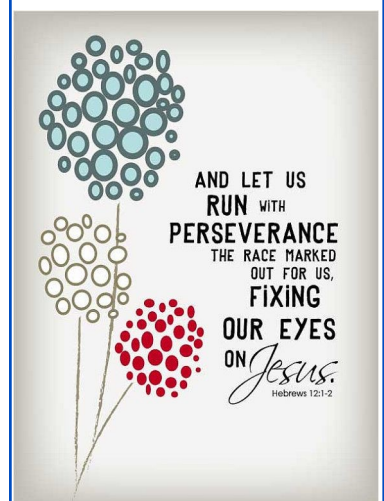
Like Paul, however, I am grateful to God when I remember you constantly in my prayers. Like Paul in his imprisonment, I long to be reunited with all of you: always hoping that it will be sooner rather than later. Unlike Paul, however, I am not a prisoner suffering for the sake of the gospel. As challenging as it is to lead a virtual gathering for worship and the metaphysical and theological challenges that creates, I am encouraged by the commitment of so many in our congregation and others to seek out worship. Ironically, invitations to join in worship and hearing the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ which had long been ignored or rejected are now starting to bear fruit as family members and friends whose shadows have not darkened the threshold of a church building are "visiting" our worship whether live or recorded. I suspect that anonymous ability to "attend" unnoticed plays a large part.

How many have yearned to hear good news, but have stayed away from churches because so much of what gets presented to the world is the false witness of the prosperity gospel and condemnation? Yet, we bear witness to the truth in Cherry Valley (and now the world) that although Jesus Christ may not have come to condone, that he did not come to condemn but to offer life.

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The discouragement of our shared confinement pales in comparison to the encouragement that I have received from so many of you through your emails and telephone calls, the yearning to care for one another, to plan for our time together, and even to continue plans to share the promise of Jesus through Vacation Bible School. These are the things that sustain me in my personal moments of discouragement and in those moments when I get overwhelmed with the practical concerns of the institutional church like finances and good use of our resources. Even then, I find encouragement when I gather the mail from the post office and find that so many of you are continuing in your support of our ministry. Thank you. Although those two words feel inadequate, I can think of no others that would be sufficient.

Let us use this time now to anticipate how we can grow in our ministry. Already this year, our Church Council was making plans for game nights and movie nights in which we could gather in one another's company in a vein that might allow members to invite those suspicious of Christians to some more familiar encounters. So many of you are using your time free from our usual distractions to check in with one another.

In invite you to tell me where you are (maybe a hopeful "were" by the time you read this) finding hope in the midst distancing. What has stirred in your heart? What has the Holy Spirit open your eyes to see? I can't preach like Peter; I can't pray like Paul; but the balm isn't bound to Gilead but springs forth in our midst, today. May our trust in the good grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ serve to sooth and heal a discouraged world.

Your brother in Christ,



Rev. Mark Harkness

Beginning Sunday, May 3, everyone will need to use a password in addition to the meeting code to access Zoom. The password is 122500. To make it easier to remember, it is Jesus' birthday, 12/25/00. The numbers should be all together with no spaces.

Pastor Mark Vacation

Pastor Mark will be on vacation May 18-May 29. Rev. Rich Rubietta will lead the worship on Sunday, May 24. via Zoom.

*Rev. Rich Rubietta
Abounding Ministries
Leading Worship With
Word & 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.

Continued Financial Support of the Church

The church continues to need financial support even while the office is closed and while we are unable to meet in person.

Winter weather events earlier which impacted our attendance and contributions had already put a strain on our church finances. Now, with the COVID-19 restrictions we've actually encountered a few extra expenses such as fees for streaming worship and meeting on-line.

Although our utility usage is down those services come with set costs. Likewise, the Church Council has committed to continue payroll support for our staff who are working from home and striving to find ways to continue in their ministry.

Many of you have continued to be faithful in your giving. We thank you. You have a few options for continued giving:

1. You may give electronically by going to the church website www.cherryvalleyumc.com and selecting the "donate" button in the upper right hand corner. You might also consider adding a couple of dollars to offset the processing fees.
2. You may mail your tithes and offerings to Cherry Valley UMC, PO Box 235, Cherry Valley, IL 61016.
3. For those receiving stimulus money from the CARES Act, please consider tithing (10%) of that unexpected income to the church.

Easter Flower Memorials

The following are the people who purchased flowers for Easter to honor their loved ones .

Dave & Barb Anderson (1 daffodil, 1 lily)
 In memory of Harold & Irene Anderson
 In memory of George & Selma Miller & Russ
 In honor of our precious children and their families

Jim & Juanita Barnes (2 tulips, 1 lily)
 In memory of our parents
 In honor of our children and grandchildren

Jim & Janet Bryant (1 daffodil, 1 lily)
 In memory of our families

Harry Buck (1tulip, 1daffodil, 1 lily)
 In memory Annette Buck
 In memory of Mamie Buck & Delbert Buck
 Harold & Irene Anderson

Clevenger, Larry, Mary Lou & Zane (2 daffodils)
 In memory of Wib & Cindy Billman
 In memory of Papa Paul & Grandma Alyce Kotz

Barbara Clucas (1 lily)
 In memory of my mother, Elizabeth Emily Eldridge

The Flood Family (1 tulip)
 In memory of Carol Flood, Henry Robbins
 Glenn & Ethel Banks

Sherry Gordon (1 tulip, 1 lily)
 In memory of parents, John & Pearl Robbins
 & husband, Ron Gordon, Sr.

Marion Hampton (1 lily)
 In memory of William Hampton, husband

Donna Layng (1 daffodil)
 In memory of Chuck
 In honor of family

Powell (1 tulip)
 In memory of parents

Seno (2 daffodils)
 In memory of Roberta Malthe
 In honor of Helga Seno

Dave & Dana Ward (1 tulip, 1 daffodils, 1 lily)
 In memory of those who have gone before us
 In honor of our children & grandchildren and parents



*Cast all your anxiety
 on him because
 He cares for you*

1 Peter 5:7



Rock River Valley Food Pantry



Feeding Rockford One Meal At A Time

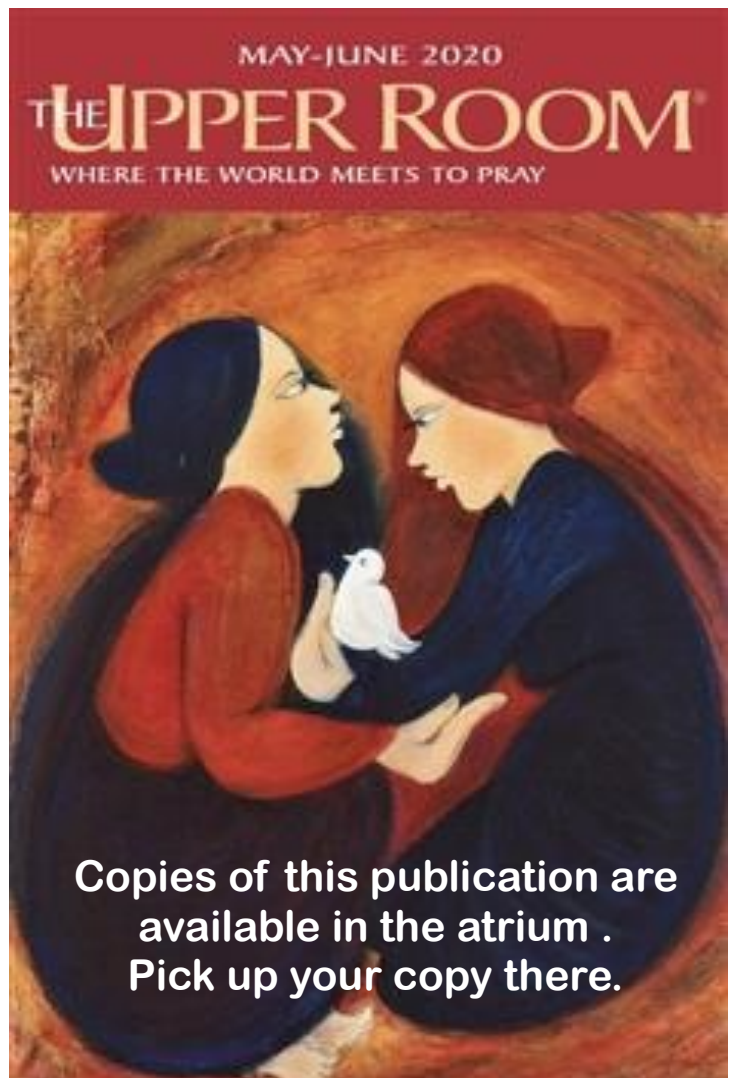
Thank you for your continued support of the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. The pantry currently serves approximately 6,800 clients per month. You can help by bringing your non-perishable foods and placing them in the basket located in the foyer of the church.

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.



Copies of this publication are available in the atrium . Pick up your copy there.

By Jim Whitlock

II Samuel 6

The Philistines had the Ark of the Lord for seven months at this time. It caused many curses by God on the Philistines. The Philistines sent it back to the Israelites. The Ark finally was stored in the house of the Obed-Edom. Obed-Edom was blessed by God because the Ark of the Lord was at his house. King David was asked by his people to bring the Ark to the tabernacle in Jerusalem. When those who bore the Ark had gone 6 paces, the priest and the people would stop and the priest would sacrifice a bull and a fattened calf until they reached the city of Jerusalem and the tabernacle.

This seemed extravagant because so many oxen and calves were killed and sacrificed to make amends for sin. But animal sacrificing by the Hebrew people did not erase any sin. It only covered the sins; it was not until Jesus shed His blood and became the sacrifice for sins past, present, and future that our sins are forgiven forever.

Mark 14

The soldiers took Jesus away and beat him. They put on him a purple robe and made a crown of thorns and pushed it into his head. They beat him with a leather whip. Blood ran down from his head and back. Then Jesus took up the cross and began to carry it to Golgotha, "the place of the skull". He fell with the cross, so weak was he from the loss of blood. The soldiers stripped him of his clothes and pounded nails through his hands and feet for him to hang on the cross. Blood ran down the cross from his many wounds.

Jesus went to the cross and shed His blood for you. He took all of our sins onto himself. For those who accept him as their Savior, their sins are forgiven and all the benefits of the cross are theirs.

He is RISEN!! He is Risen!! Christ Jesus is Risen!! Praise God!! Praise God!!



- 27 Amy True
- 29 Gwendolyn Flood
- 31 Bill Fisher

May Birthdays

- 1 Pat Gorsuch
Trudy Hunt
- 12 Jeff Sundberg
- 13 Judy Gough
- 16 Kyle Ward
- 25 Kelley D. Ellison

May Anniversaries

- 21 Jim & Mary Coulter
- 26 Herman & Judy Krunfus



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.

Due to the coronavirus stay at home order the May meeting will be conducted via ZOOM. Use code 717 281 592 to join in the meeting.

- 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.



May Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday May 3	Sunday May 10	Sunday May 17	Sunday May 24	Sunday May 31
Liturgist	Amy Flood	Janet Bryant	Charlie Schnuckel	Rev. Rubietta	Sue Layng
Greeter Team	Jane & Lavern Neff	Grace Harter Judy Krunfus	Jan & Dave Mills	Patty Campbell Charlie Schnuckel	Jim & Pat Newell
Usher	Volunteer	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt	Chris Flood
Media	Andrew Schwartz	Patricia Irps	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.

May 34th Sunday of Easter
 Call to WorshipPsalm 23
 Scripture Lesson1 Peter 2:19-25
 GospelJohn 10:1-10
 Message*Common Lot*

May 105th Sunday of Easter
 Call to WorshipPsalm 31:1-16
 Scripture Lesson1 Peter 2:2-10
 GospelJohn 14:1-14
 Message*A Godly Home*

May 176th Sunday of Easter
 Call to WorshipPsalm 66:8-20
 Scripture LessonActs 17:22-31
 GospelJohn 14:15-21
 Message*Loving Jesus First*

May 247th Sunday of Easter
 Call to WorshipPsalm 68:1-10
 Scripture Lesson11 Samuel 6:12-21
 GospelJohn 4:19-24
 Message*Chance to Dance*
Guest : Rev. Rich Rubietta, Abounding Ministries

May 31Day of Pentecost
 Call to WorshipPsalm 104:24-35
 Scripture Lesson1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
 GospelJohn 7:37-39
 Message*Let Loose*

Accessing the Directory Via Our Website

If you need to contact a person from our directory, you may access the Elexio System via the Cherry Valley UMC website. Enter cherryvalleyumc.com into your browser. When you have arrived at the home page, go to the red menu bar at the top of the page. There are 3 options; Calendar Donate Members. Select the *members* option and it will take you to a place to sign in using your email and your password.

If you do not have a password or can't remember it, email the church at churchinthevalley@comcast.net and we will send you an email that will detail instructions on how to access the system.

Once you have accessed the system, you may update your personal information, upload a photo, and print the directory or simply find a name, phone number, etc. in the directory.



2020 Bishop's Appeal

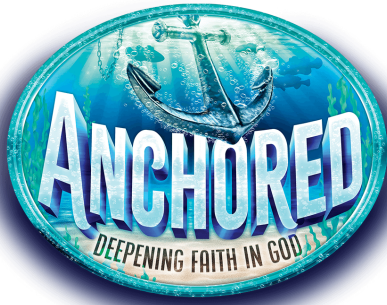
The Global Mission Secondary School with The United Methodist Church in Tanzania is the recipient of the 2020 Annual Conference Bishop's Appeal. Donations will help complete the second phase of construction on the co-ed boarding school for children ages 13-18.

NIC Elder and Global Missionary Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim is the project director. The school has been her vision and dream to give boys and girls in Tanzania the opportunity of an education.

Rev. Kim seeks prayers for the country of Tanzania. The government confirmed its first case of coronavirus on March 19. Schools are closed for 30 days. Tanzania has no healthcare system or health workers to deal with this pandemic. If the virus spreads, it will be chaotic, and many will die without any medical treatment.

Meanwhile, construction on the missionary school continues. Crews are working on roofing and racing to finish before the rainy season comes. "Don't worry about me. I am not panicked and have no fear. I have peace and hope in Christ. Let us pray together for God's grace and mercy," said Rev. Kim. Words of encouragement may be sent to Christina at ykim1023@gmail.com





This year's VBS will be held on the weekend of July 31—August 2.

The theme this year is "Anchored Deepening Faith in God". A flyer is forthcoming with further details.

We plan on marching in the Cherry Valley

4th of July Parade, providing the bouncy house and possible other activities at the church as well.

We are really in need of new VBS team members...if you wish to be part of this exciting team, please contact Deb Gross at 815/222-8139.

Have any questions or need anything else, please let me know.

Thanks in advance,
Blessings,
Deb Gross



The Boy Scouts in our area (and probably across the country) were asked to suspend all gatherings.

Troop 181 had to cancel our March and April campouts, and Troop meetings in the church. We did. Then, for the last two weeks, we resumed meetings, via Zoom. We've had two successful meetings now with good attendance. They were a 2-part topic to help our youth earn Cyber Chip (a series of short videos and discussions on the proper use of all electronic devices in an effort to keep our kids safe!). This was a great opportunity to see each others' faces again.

We hear that our Council is progressing with plans to conduct summer camps at our local properties. We are all expecting programming to continue when we get clearance from the proper authorities.

Every youth, and parent, interested in scouting with Troop 181 is encouraged to contact our leaders to ask about opportunities. Also, questions about Troop 181, or scouting in general, may be directed to Terry Nichols, Scoutmaster, by phone or text, at 815-540-5900.

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 cherryvalleylib.org

A little levity...

Ode to my Hairdresser



Wish I could come
and sit in your chair;
let you be the one
who chops off my hair!
But I must stay home,
and you must stay there.
I miss you a ton,
and so does my hair!

~Joyce Geelynse



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>With the stay home order extended to the end of May, you may join the worship services via Zoom by visiting the web site or app and enter the meeting ID 717281592 or by telephone by dialing 1-312-626-6799 and when prompted enter the meeting code above. Don't forget to mute your phone. You may also livestream via YouTube channel. There is a link at cherryvalleyumc.com web site.</p>					1	2
3 10:00 am On-line Worship	4	5 7:00 pm Finance & Church Council On-Line Meeting	6 6:30 Trustee On-Line Meeting	7	8	9
10 10:00 am On-line Worship <i>Mother's Day</i>	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Messenger items due</i>	16
17 10:00 am On-line Worship	18 <i>Pastor Mark begins vacation</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 am On-line Worship <i>Rev. Rich Rubietta, Abounding Ministries</i>	25	26	27	28 <i>Pastor Mark Returns from vacation</i>	29	30
31 <i>If stay home order has been lifted!</i> 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>Otherwise, On-Line Worship.</i>						

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

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CHERRY VALLEY
IL 61016




Worship
OPPORTUNITIES

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