

# THE MESSENGER

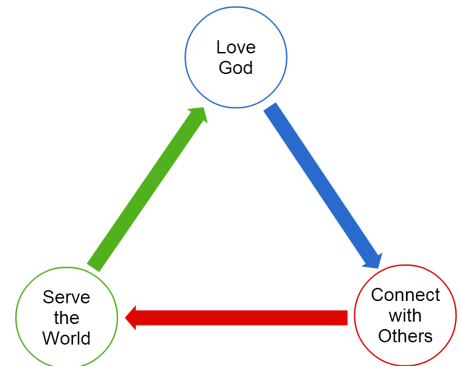
June 2020

## Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor  
Parsonage phone: 815/580-8553  
Pastor's Cell: 331-465-9489  
Pastor's E-mail: mark.harkness@gmail.com  
Office phone: 815/332-5075

E-mail: churchinthevalley@comcast.net  
Web Site: cherryvalleyumc.com  
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

*Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:*

<sup>2</sup>*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>3</sup>*We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of*

*everyone of you for one another is increasing.*

<sup>4</sup>*Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.*

**2 Timothy 1:3-13 (NRSV)**

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

I write this letter as Susan and I prepare to leave for vacation. We scheduled this time months ago, in order to attend a birthday celebration for my grandsons, Colin (1) and Aaron (3). Because they live in Kansas City, we aren't able to visit often. Therefore, we were looking forward to the opportunity to hold and hug them; to tell them we love them and to enjoy their presence. Things changed.

Knowing that it would be unlikely to find other camping reservations, we still plan on travelling to Kansas City; (Waiting on confirmation that the campground will be open.) but we don't expect to spend any time with my daughter or grandsons. We decided that even if the party were to occur, we'd stay away. That hurts. However, as much as I want to celebrate their birthdays with them, I much prefer that they get the best chance to celebrate birthday's next year. To that end, we expect to drive by the house, to drop off gifts (properly stored and sanitized), and to wave from the roadside. It's not ideal; but it is something and it doesn't detract from our love for one another.

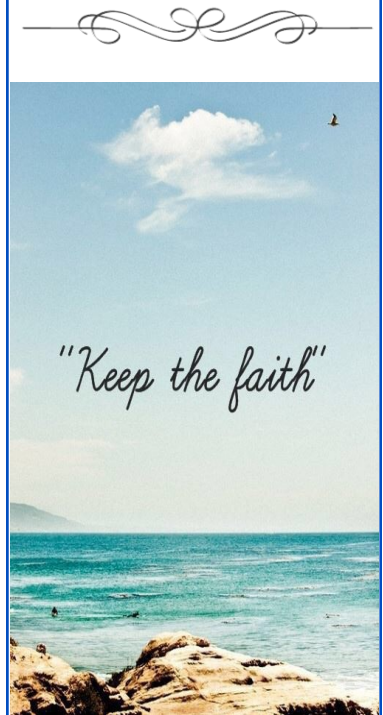
For more than two months, we've been unable to gather like we're used to gathering for worship. Those who join via our ZOOM gatherings can see one another's name and can share prayers together. It's not ideal; but it is something and it reveals our continuing love for one another. For that, I am grateful. Like Paul, I give thanks to God for each of you and the witness your "attendance" provides.

It looks like we'll be doing worship like this at least for the next month. Our bishop has assembled a team to develop a plan for best practices when are able to worship in person. Even though I hope for sooner rather than later, it will be different. Regardless of what recommendations come out, our love for one another means we will have to worship differently. At a minimum we will spread out by alternating pews, everyone attending in person will wear a mask, we'll rely more on the display screen as pew bibles and hymnals will be stored away lest they become harbors for the virus, communion would be distributed differently, and we'd have to

(Continued on page 2)

### In this issue

Prayer Requests .....	Page 2
Financial Support.....	Page 2
Feeding Neighbors .....	Page 3
Food Pantry .....	Page 3
Bishop's Appeal .....	Page 3
Spiritual Insights .....	Page 4
Worship Leaders .....	Page 4
Birthday/Anniversary ....	Page 4
Church Council Dates... ..	Page 4
Sermon Schedule .....	Page 5
Accessing Web Site.....	Page 5
Pastor's Schedule.....	Page 5
Upper Room .....	Page 5
VBS.....	Page 6
Calendar.....	Page 7



(Continued from page 1)

refrain from physical greeting like hugs and handshakes and even elbow bumps.

It won't be ideal but it can be something. We'll have to limit the number of people attending, not because we want to be apart, but because we love one another. When we are able to "open", we'll need to continue to livestream our worship services so that those who are most vulnerable may still witness the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ with us.

What was normal isn't normal anymore. Our choice isn't whether to accept or reject the new normal: it will be what it is. Our choice is whether we will embrace our commitment to love one another and to love our neighbors as the new normal unfolds.


Even though Susan and I are travelling, our travelling will change. Now, rather than finding a pit stop, we'll be using the facilities in our camper on the road. Rather than taking a meal break in a restaurant, PB&J will provide on the road nourishment. We're making those changes for a reason. We don't want to become a vector for anyone whom we love. Even though Missouri will be "opened up", we'll forgo some of the sights and stops that we'd intended to enjoy.

I understand the frustration that many people have with all that has been shut down. I too am frustrated; but I also recognize that everything isn't about me. To that end, I'm committed to wearing a mask whenever I'm in shop or business. (Although I expect I'll have to take it off to have my beard trimmed.) It may be inconvenient and for some a bit uncomfortable; but as Christians we recognize that John 3:16 says that God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that whomever believed in him might have life. God didn't allow Jesus to die on that cross for his sake, but for ours.

During this time while we wait for that day when we can be together, even as we mourn what was, let us be beacons of love for one another and for the world. Wear a mask even if you feel okay, not only to protect others but to put those overwhelmed by anxiety and fear at ease. Stay home when you feel a little bit sick. Even when we're allowed to resume some activities, let us do so only in moderation, holding ourselves to a higher standard as we explore what we can do: for ourselves and for our love for one another and the world.

Your brother in Christ,


Rev. Mark Harkness



**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.

## 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:

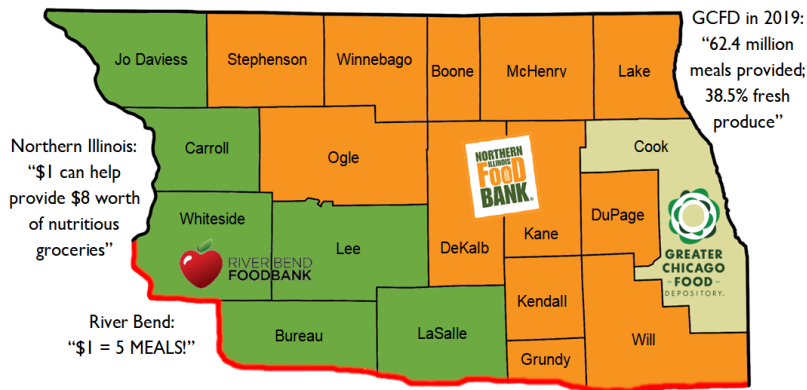
1. You may give electronically by going to the church website [www.cherryvalleyumc.com](http://www.cherryvalleyumc.com) and selecting the "donate" button in the upper right hand corner. You might also consider adding a couple of dollars to offset the processing fees.
2. You may mail your tithes and offerings 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.

## United Methodist Feeding Neighbors

During these times, many people are concerned about where their next meal will be coming from. Food pantries are being stretched to the limit. The United Methodist Foundation of the Northern Illinois Conference is sponsoring contributions to the 3 food banks in northern Illinois. If you can help, please go the website and make a donation to one or more of the pantries of your choice.

The map below indicates the area of northern Illinois served by each pantry.

[UMFNIC.org/foodhelp](http://UMFNIC.org/foodhelp)



*Jesus replied, "You give them something to eat."*

## 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.

## 2020 Bishop's Appeal

The Global Mission Secondary School with The United Methodist Church in Tanzania is the recipient of this year's Bishop's Appeal offering at the 2020 Annual Conference. The project is under the direction of NIC Elder and Global Missionary Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim. The school has been her vision and dream to give boys and girls in Tanzania the opportunity of an education.

To see a video and hear Rev. Kim give an update on the construction progress and her invitation for churches to be part of this exciting project, go to the website <https://www.umcnic.org/bishopsappeal>

Donations will help complete the second phase of construction on the co-ed boarding school for children ages 13-18. Fundraise in your congregation and bring your offering to Annual Conference from June 7-9, 2020.

\*\*\*Update\*\*\*

Missionary Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim is asking for continued prayers for Tanzania as COVID-19 continues to spread across the country. A three-day call for national prayer was held April 17-19. Despite the pandemic, construction on the Global Missions Secondary School, the recipient of this year's Bishop's Appeal, continues. "Confirmed cases of COVID-19 are increasing every day but there is no emphasis on social distancing," said Rev. Kim who added people are hungry and lacking sanitary supplies. Rev. Kim said if churches would like to donate to her Advance indicating the donation is for COVID-19 relief, she will work toward providing food and supplies to those in need. Fundraising is also continuing for the construction of the school, which is slated to be completed by Jan. 2021.

Give to Advance #3022281 for programs and ministry to help Rev. Kim provide food and sanitary supplies for COVID-19 relief in Tanzania. Please indicate your church and that the donation is for COVID-19 relief. Checks with the Advance # in the memo line may be sent to: Advance GCFA" at P.O.Box 9068 New York, NY 10087-9068.

Words of encouragement may be sent to Christina at [ykim1023@gmail.com](mailto:ykim1023@gmail.com)





# Spiritual Insights

By Jim Whitlock

Luke 18:1-8:

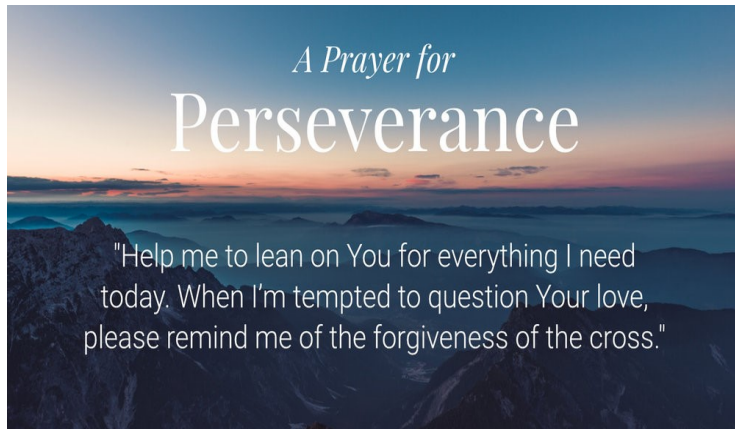
*Persevering Prayer—The Parable of the Unjust Judge.*

“In a certain city was a judge who feared not God nor regarded man.” The judge was utterly selfish and godless. He did not care for anyone’s opinion. “And there was a widow who came to the judge saying, ‘Avenge me of my adversary’. (She is asking for justice).”

The widow was poor, friendless, and without any influence. She came repeatedly asking for help. The adversary is typical of Satan, as Peter says in Peter 5:8, “...your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walks about seeking who he can destroy.” The widow asks the judge repeatedly for help and because she constantly worried him with her requests, the judge gave in to her.

Jesus chose the judge to represent God. But, Jesus goes to great lengths to tell us that God is long-suffering, the loving sign of loving and gentle patience. Jesus tells us “...men should always pray and faint not...” Don’t lose heart, don’t give up. God will hear our prayers and answer them speedily for those that worship Him and are His own elect and call on Him day and night.

The winning quality in prayer is perseverance.



# Birthdays & Anniversaries (updated)



- 20 Jane Neff
- 22 Denise Porter
- 23 Sally Hollembeak
- 24 Doris Kuelz
- 27 Violet Collier
- 28 John Schwartz
- Sandy Schwartz

## June Birthdays

- 01 Jim Bryant
- 02 Natalie Herold
- 04 Gary Wilt
- 06 John Fisher
- 11 Catherine Bernard
- Brandon Seno
- 18 Andrew Schwartz
- 19 Judy Long

## June Anniversaries

- 03 Tom & Deb DeWitt
- 14 Harold & Doris DeVries
- 18 Martin & Shirley Neff
- 20 James & Nancy John



Happy Anniversary



## 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.**

- 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.



June Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday June 7	Sunday June 14	Sunday June 21 Father's Day	Sunday June 28
Liturgist	To be announced	To be announced	To be announced	To be announced
Greeter Team	To be announced	To be announced	To be announced	To be announced
Usher	To be announced	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt
Media	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](http://cherryvalleyumc.com)). Click the worship tab.

**June 7**.....Trinity Sunday  
 Call to Worship .....Psalm 8  
 Scripture Lesson.....Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
 Gospel .....Matthew 28:16-20  
 Message.....*Song of Creation*

**June 14**.....2nd Sunday After Pentecost  
 Call to Worship .....Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
 Scripture Lesson.....Genesis 18:1-15  
 Gospel .....Matthew 9:35-10:8  
 Message.....*Following Through*

**June 21**.....3rd Sunday After Pentecost  
 Call to Worship .....Psalm 85  
 Scripture Lesson.....Romans 6:1b-11  
 Gospel .....Matthew 10:24-39  
 Message.....*Claiming Our Place*

**June 28**.....4th Sunday After Pentecost  
 Call to Worship .....Psalm 29  
 1st Scripture Lesson .....Isaiah 42:1-9  
 2nd Scripture Lesson .....Acts 10:34-43  
 Gospel .....John 4:19-24  
 Message.....*TBA*

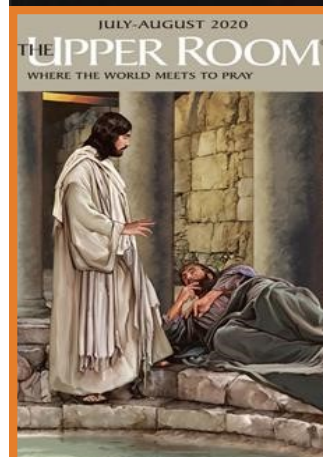


## Accessing the Directory Via Our Website

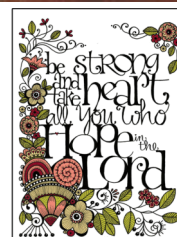
If you need to contact a person from our directory, you may access the Elexio System that we use to create the directory via the Cherry Valley UMC website. Enter [cherryvalleyumc.com](http://cherryvalleyumc.com) into your browser. When you have arrived at the home page, go to the red menu bar at the 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](mailto: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.



Coming Soon: July/August Issue



Amen



# Vacation Bible School 2020

Anchored: Deepening Faith in God  
is due to set sail the weekend of **July 31—August 2.**  
Come Aboard!



## *Plans in place at this time:*

- Marching in the Cherry Valley 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- Free Bouncy House at the church after parade
- Enlist dedicated new members

Become a part of this exciting team!  
Contact Deb Gross at 815/222-8139.




A little levity for which a lot of people can identify.



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to  
watching online worship from home.

# June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 Trustee Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>If stay home order has been lifted! Otherwise, On-Line Worship at 10:00 am</i>  NIC Conference →	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>If stay home order has been lifted! Otherwise, On-Line Worship at 10:00 am</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Messenger items due</i>	<b>16</b> 6:15 pm Finance 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>If stay home order has been lifted! Otherwise, On-Line Worship at 10:00 am</i>  <i>Father's Day</i>	<b>22</b> <i>First Day of Summer</i>  	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>If stay home order has been lifted! Otherwise, On-Line Worship at 10:00 am</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	If the stay home order is still in place, 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 <a href="http://cherryvalleyumc.com">cherryvalleyumc.com</a> web site.			

*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



  
**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