

THE MESSENGER

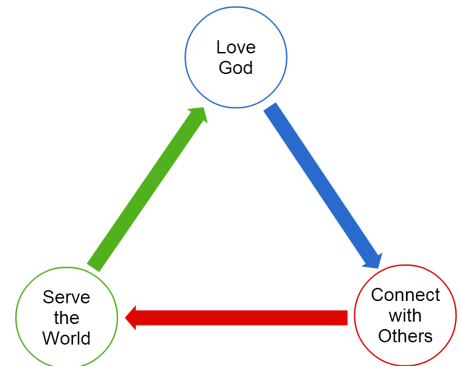
July 2020

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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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

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,

there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 (NRSV)

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

I tend not to address charged issues in the midst of contemporary events, not because I aim to avoid them, but because too often the emotional facet of circumstances tends inhibit (if not prevent entirely) persons' abilities to listen and rationally process challenging information and/or new perspectives. I find that such topics can better be addressed when passions aren't highly inflamed – and when we've not had our fears stirred up by public and social media. At the same time, I acknowledge, that people often avoid addressing those charged issues when there doesn't seem to be any immediate relevance. Such is the dilemma.

In response to recent event, racism has moved to the forefront of our public consciousness – at least for the time being. My fear is that – for those of us for whom the consequences of racism are not experienced as a daily burden – that our interest in hearing and discerning will fade away once more and that waning intensity will deceive us into believing that racism has been weakened or eradicated.

In 2005, I was invited to be one of the original members of the anti-racism team being formed by the Illinois Conference of Churches (ICER – Ill. Christians Encountering Racism). For several weeks over the next year, I joined with other Christians: Presbyterians, Disciples of Christ, Friends (i.e. Quaker), United Methodist, United Church of Christ, Episcopalian, and Roman Catholics, to learn about racism and strategies to address it within the world and the church. After years of frustration trying to get our own Annual Conference to utilize ICER resources and repeated snubs by the NIC Committee on Religion and Race, I reluctantly resigned from ICER in September 2019.

When, only a few months later, our annual conference declared that one of its three priorities was to eradicate racism, I had mixed feelings. Actually I called B.S. during a District Shepherding Meeting, using the full expression rather than the initials. For too long racism, has been ignored or addressed with white-liberal pity within our annual conference. I hope that will change. I hope the current team assembled by the conference will help to address racism in the world, but I also know that we need some introspection as to how racism continues to exist in the church, our annual conference, and in our local congregations.

One of the primary challenges is having language that helps us to understand what racism is. Too often, we conflate racism with bigotry and prejudice. Although related, these are not the same. One can be racist (benefit from a system that disadvantages some because of their race) without being a bigot. Likewise, the nature of how information comes to us confounds our ability to recognize that incidents of police brutality or requests for police assistance due to the presence of a person of color are only acute symptoms of racism's chronic toll on persons.

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For those of us in the "majority" it can be difficult to understand. Therefore, I'd like to take some time to define terms that often befuddle us, and then to share some of my life story in such a way that I hope it can help us understand what racism is so that we can conquer it together.

First, I'd like to begin with some definitions as developed by ICER:

- Prejudice** - a prejudgment on insufficient grounds, it can be positive or negative
- Bigotry** - a more intensive form of prejudice and carries the negative side of prejudgment
- Stereotyping** - attributing characteristics to a group simplistically and uncritically
- Discrimination** - the act or practice of according negative differential treatment to individuals or groups, instead of placing it on the person(s) or group(s) to whom blame or failure actually belongs.
- Scapegoating** - the act or practice of assigning blame or failure to persons or groups, instead of placing it on the person(s) or group(s) to whom blame or failure actually belongs.
- Racism** - an oppressive system of power, involving attitudes and behaviors of persons and institutions, with the *effect*¹ of denying full participation of people in society on the basis of race.

¹ Although I've used the word "effect" in order to nuance the definition and to lessen any sting that would prevent people from attending to the message, in the definition we develop as ICER the word is "purpose."

As we proceed, let me be clear: every single one of us is prejudiced. By that I mean every single one of us has prejudices. We make prejudgments. It's actually a result of our biology which evolved to keep us safe, alerting us to situations that may be unsafe and needing to flee or fight (i.e. fear response.) For example: a supertaster (an actual term) may have a prejudice against all green vegetables because of his sensitivity to bitterness (a signal of possible toxicity), even though only certain green vegetables are bitter. The prejudice makes him suspicious, however, of all green vegetables, and not only Brussels sprouts (which I find delicious). He learned his prejudice from one experience and then projected it where it didn't belong. Likewise, his daughter (although not a supertaster) may learn to view green vegetables with suspicion by watching her father, and because they are "foreign" to her life.

Personally, I have a prejudice towards multiple tattoos. When I was a boy, in the seventies, tattoos were rare. Full sleeve tattoos were an anomaly. The only people that had scads of tattoos (it seemed) were violent biker gangs like the Hell's Angels. My prejudice, however, does not preclude me from liking and even admiring some people with scads of body art. In fact, being aware of my prejudice helps me to push aside the visceral reaction so that I can see the person

in front of me rather than my prejudice. Does that make sense? Ignoring or denying our own prejudices actually prevents us from overcoming them. Prejudices are like feelings: to a great extent they are what they are. What matters is how we recognize them and what we do with them.

Prejudices can be taught. They can be learned from experience or frequent exposure to biased images and stories. Each of us is susceptible to prejudice regardless of race, sex or age.

Bigotry, like prejudice, exists among people regardless of race, sex or age. In a sense, it is an intentional prejudice because there is intentionality in rejecting information that contradicts the prejudicial negative stereotypes and it is focused so heavily towards demeaning others often to scapegoat one's own or society's ills upon others rather than owning one's own role. In the context of race, bigotry not only assumes but projects the worst on those from different racial or ethnic backgrounds.

What confuses many white people about racism or racist advantage is that we presume that as long as we are not an intentionally prejudiced bigot promoting stereotypes and discrimination that we have no role in racism as a system. Much of that is because we've not experienced the negative consequences of racism directly. Likewise, our American individualism often obscures our ability to see the forces working against others. One can't pull himself up by his bootstraps if he has none; it doesn't help when one's bootstraps are taken from him.

The recent elevation in unrest among persons of color springs forth from their day to day experience of racism (i.e. a social system that inhibits or prevents them from realizing their God-given potential because of social structures, or which is disinclined to prevent abuse by others within society.) Responding to "Black lives matter," by stating that "All lives matter," is racist because in our current social system all lives don't matter equally. The point of saying that "Black lives matter" is to draw attention to that point.

The goal isn't to deprive others of their God-given rights and potential but to draw attention to where those rights are being denied and potential is being squashed by immoral discrimination. In this context, George Floyd's death while in police custody isn't the primary issue. Instead the concern is that people who look like George Floyd or come from a similar background are much more susceptible to targeting ("black people are suspicious because they are black") by police in the first place. Again, many of the prejudices are not intentional but reinforced by procedures that tend to reinforce negative perceptions.

As a white man, maybe sharing some of my background and experience can put this into perspective.

I was born and raised in the Peoria-area of central Illinois. East Peoria where I spent most of my childhood, rural Mapleton, and Bartonville, were almost entirely white. It wasn't until high school that I encountered a person of color in school. Even then, less than 1% of my high school was non-white.

I actually remember the first time that I met a person of color. Laverne was a black woman who worked with my grandmother at the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

I was only about four-years old when my grandmother introduced me to her. She shook my hand; and I remember looking at my palm to see if it rubbed off. As a first experience it was novel; nothing more. All that mattered to me was that she was a nice lady, even though my young mind didn't understand why she was so much darker than anyone I'd ever met. As I began to be exposed to bigotry, my parents made it clear that bigotry was intolerable. However, as I got older and started to reflect on race, it now occurs to me how odd it was that Laverne (my grandmother's peer) was introduced to me by her first name rather than as "Ms. *Name*." I know that it was not an intentional snub, but something that just seemed "natural," even though adults were to be addressed more formally.

As a boy growing up in central Illinois, I remember walking and riding my bicycle through the neighborhood or in town either carrying an air rifle or with it laid across the handlebars. No one ever stopped or questioned us. In my teenage years, when the deputy came to the house because a curmudgeonly neighbor felt the need to report firecrackers and bottle rockets being detonated during the final week of June, we were admonished to stop so that he didn't have to come back and actually do something (He never did say what exactly he intended to do.)

In high school I was snubbed by the National Honor Society even though my grades were superior to others who were admitted. I came to find out later it was because I hadn't participated in enough extracurricular activities (I had a job that I used to pay for my own clothing.). Likewise, I'd miss out on scholarships (to students from wealthier families) because I hadn't been involved in enough volunteer activities. I didn't know any better. My parents were the first generation to graduate High School, they didn't have that "institutional" knowledge of how to advance and to encourage me to take those opportunities.

What if I was black? If I were a black male youth walking through Cherry Valley in 1979 carrying an air rifle (indistinguishable from a .22), would I be ignored? What about in 2020? Few black teenagers reported to the police for shooting off fireworks a few days before the 4th of July get told to knock it off. Instead, now there's cause to frisk and investigate further if only to humiliate.

What about families who were denied the opportunity to attend college or use the GI Bill for education and decent housing after World War II? Is it likely that those families will have the knowledge about how to navigate the system (which kept them out) to pass on to their children and grandchildren?

When school funding is determined by the prosperity of a district's residents, how likely is it that one who's only fault was being born in a struggling neighborhood because his father and grandfather before him were pigeon-holed into low wage jobs or red-lined from "better" neighborhoods?

Addressing racism is about so much more than addressing bigotry. When Christians who mean well and who reject bias and bigotry don't take the time to listen and understand from the others' perspective not only of individual discrimination but structural barriers within our social system, we help to perpetuate this offense to God. It's nothing new. St. Paul railed against the racist bias against Gentiles in the church. When others demanded that

Gentile followers of Jesus first become Jews by circumcising themselves (not a particularly pleasant experience) and adhere to the fullness of Jewish life, Paul called them out. In Acts 15, James had advised Paul and the other apostles that the only requirements that apply to all Christians (in this case Gentiles) was to abstain from things polluted by idols, form fornication (sexual relations outside monogamous marriage), meat that had been strangled, and consuming blood. (Acts 15:20) Gentiles didn't have to become Jews. Likewise, when we expect persons from different heritages to act like western European settlers regardless of the essential shared ideals we perpetuate racism.

So what do we do with this? To better recognize, I invite you to think about your youth and experiences, including any encounters with police. How might those experiences have been different if your skin color or accent were different? Consider how resources that were kept from others helped your parents to prosper so that you had better bootstraps. Address any fear that by directing resource to assure opportunities for other you are somehow losing. Then instead of feeling guilty or giving lip service to repentance, ponder how you can build relationships and how your decisions about where you buy and sell, and for whom and what you vote affect that system.

Our notion of "race" is itself a social construct. Although there have been conflicts between people for millennia, the African slave trade in the Americas is a main turning point in how we view race. As such racism served a purpose and was intentionally promoted. Even though we may hope or believe that such racism isn't intentional in our country or community, its mere presence continues to undermine the best in all of us. Twelve years of education for a student is cheaper than four years of incarceration. The anxiety of wondering whether one will be immediately suspect because she has "too much" melanin is physically, emotionally, and spiritually damaging.

We don't have to demonize police officers to recognize that they are us, and that even the prejudiced decisions of where to deploy then contribute to denigration of persons of color and create suspicion. Saying that "Black lives matter" doesn't devalue the lives of police officers or white people. It merely calls us to a new way of living: in our relationships and encounters (identifying and putting aside our pre-judgements), and in re-evaluating how our shared resources should be utilized for the benefit of all.

In Genesis 1: we are reminded that God made **human-kind** in his image including the only true biological difference of male and female, as Christians it behooves us to strive for a world that recognizes that through Christ Jesus there is no longer even male or female, any more than slave or free (social class), or Jew or Gentile (social distinction by race or ethnicity).

Your brother in Christ,



Rev. Mark Harkness

NOTE: You may notice that instead of "African-American", I used wrote "black." That was intentional. Although, African-Americans (many as descendants of slaves) bear the brunt of burdens resulting from the legacy of slavery and segregation, other dark-skinned people rather African, Jamaican, etc., also face many of the same discrimination in our culture.



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.

Finance Committee News

The finance committee has been meeting about once a month via Zoom since the Stay at Home Order was issued. We greatly appreciate all of your faithful giving during this time of virtual worship via Zoom. Your generous contributions have allowed us to continue the ministries of our church including the salaries of our employees during this time, keeping the lights and heat/air conditioning on and all services running as normal in both the church and the parsonage.

However, we have received a few invoices for items that have been ordered or services contracted by church members. In the future, if you order anything or schedule any service that will be invoiced to the church, please email the church treasurer at treasurer.cvumc@comcast.net, with the name of the company, what it is you ordered or service contracted, the amount to be invoiced and what account it should be paid from (for example – what marked fund or from the general fund). Once you have received the item(s) ordered or the service has been completed please follow up with the treasurer to let her know that it has been received or completed. This communication will hopefully eliminate the questions that may delay the payment of the invoice.

Sue Layng
Finance Committee Chair

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.

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.

Thank you to the ReTurn team that Pastor Mark has assembled. The team will follow the plan put out by the Northern Illinois Conference UMC to plan for our return to worship together safely. The team is: Juanita Barnes, Worship Chair (dental hygienist), Terri Burritt, Mission & Outreach Chair (registered nurse), Dave Ward (Trustees), Nick Brown (Custodian), Deacon Danice Loveridge (respiratory therapist), and Pastor Mark. The team will meet (in person) again on July 2 at 7:00 pm.





July Anniversaries

- 2 Ryan & Natalie Herold
- 24 Michael & Dawn Maffioli



Happy Anniversary!

July Birthdays

- 2 Sydney Schwartz
- 4 Lodena Wilt
- 9 Nathan Schwartz
- 10 Kathy Kruger
- 11 Herman Krunfus
- 21 Dana Ward
- 25 Scott Farrell



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.

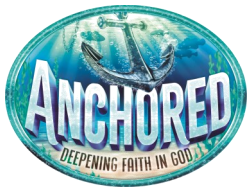
Due to the coronavirus social distancing the meetings may be conducted via ZOOM. Use code

717 281 592 to join in the meeting.

- 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.

Vacation Bible School



Our Vacation Bible School for this year has been postponed due to Coronavirus concerns. Hopefully, we will be able to provide a safe program by next summer.

Team members who have curriculum books may return them and place them in the box labeled "VBS" in the gathering room. Thank you to all who volunteered to assist with the program. We look forward to next year!



By Jim Whitlock

John 1:29-34 "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel. "Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

When John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God" it was a prophetic message referring to Jesus when He would be the final sacrifice to take away the sins of all people—past, present, and future. Jesus was 100% God and 100% man.

When Jesus was baptized, he was baptized as a human man. John the Baptist said at Christ's baptism, he saw a dove descend and land on Jesus. This was the Holy Spirit anointing Jesus Christ. Jesus performed all His miracles as a human by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, never as God.

Matthew 11: 2-6 "When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

John the Baptist was losing his faith in prison. We should not lose our faith due to our circumstances, what is occurring around us, or anything of the earth. Our faith should rest 100% on what Jesus accomplished on the cross.



Live in HARMONY with one another.

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.

July 5.....5th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to WorshipPsalm 45:10-17
 Scripture Lesson.....Romans 7:15-25a
 Gospel.....Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
 Message.....The Believer's Paradox

July 12.....6th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to WorshipPsalm 119:105-112
 Scripture Lesson.....Romans 8:1-11
 Gospel.....Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
 Message.....Broken Spirits, Broken Bodies
Broken—Good News for Tough Times (1)

July 19.....7th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to WorshipPsalm 139:1-12
 Scripture Lesson.....Romans 8:12-25
 Gospel.....Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
 Message.....Labor Pains
Broken—Good News for Tough Times (2)

July 26.....8th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship105:1-11
 Scripture Lesson.....Romans 8:26-39
 Gospel.....Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
 Message.....Inseparable
Broken—Good News for Tough Times (3)



We are planning (tentatively) to resume in person worship on **July 19**. Following CDC and Northern Illinois Conference guidelines we will be limiting attendance to 50 persons and masks will be required. A return to worship health team is currently working on other procedures for sanitation. Worship services will continue to be lives-streamed on YouTube when we return, so that those unable to return during the pandemic may still participate. Until then, please join us via Zoom.

1. To join the Zoom meeting, visit our web site cherryvalleyumc.com where you may click the link and enter the ID 717281592.
2. Download the Zoom app and enter the meeting ID 717281592.
3. Livestream via YouTube channel.
4. Join by telephone by dialing 1-312-626-6799 and when prompted enter the meeting code above. Don't forget to mute your phone.



Rockford Urban Ministries

Many of you have heard that the Just Goods Fair Trade Store on 7th street has closed. Sales simply did not keep pace with cost of operations even though the staff made valiant efforts to keep the store alive.

Rockford Urban Ministries office space is a part of the building that housed the store and paid the store rent. Currently, RUM is working with Centennial United Methodist and Christ United Methodist Churches to buy the building.

The two churches have created a foundation called Rockford New Hope and plan to develop affordable housing in the space. Significant dollars have been raised to purchase the building and the two churches and RUM are working with the City to finalize the sale. RUM, in this new configuration will continue to rent part of the space for its office.

The other major change for RUM is the decreased funding from the Northern Illinois Conference for United Methodist Churches. Dollars are tight for all groups right now including NIC.

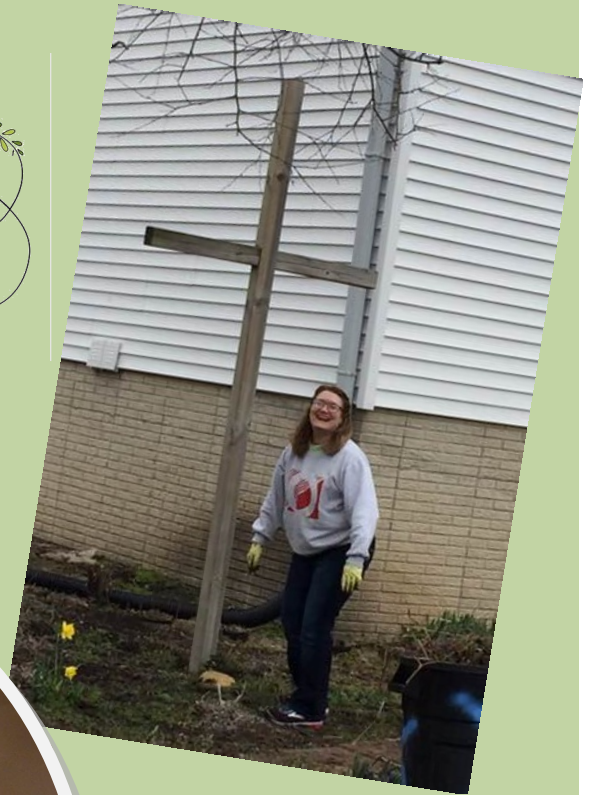
Next year, RUM will no longer be supported by the conference. With that transition RUM is planning to become its own 501c3 not-for-profit organization. That will allow RUM to raise funds directly to support the organization. Prior to this change, funds would have gone to the conference so that donors could receive a tax deduction.

More than ever, RUM needs our support both prayerfully and financially. The organization is a vital link to outreach and missions in the Rockford community. If you have questions, please ask me. I serve as the representative on the council for Cherry Valley.

With God's grace we grow together!

Judy Long

Memories



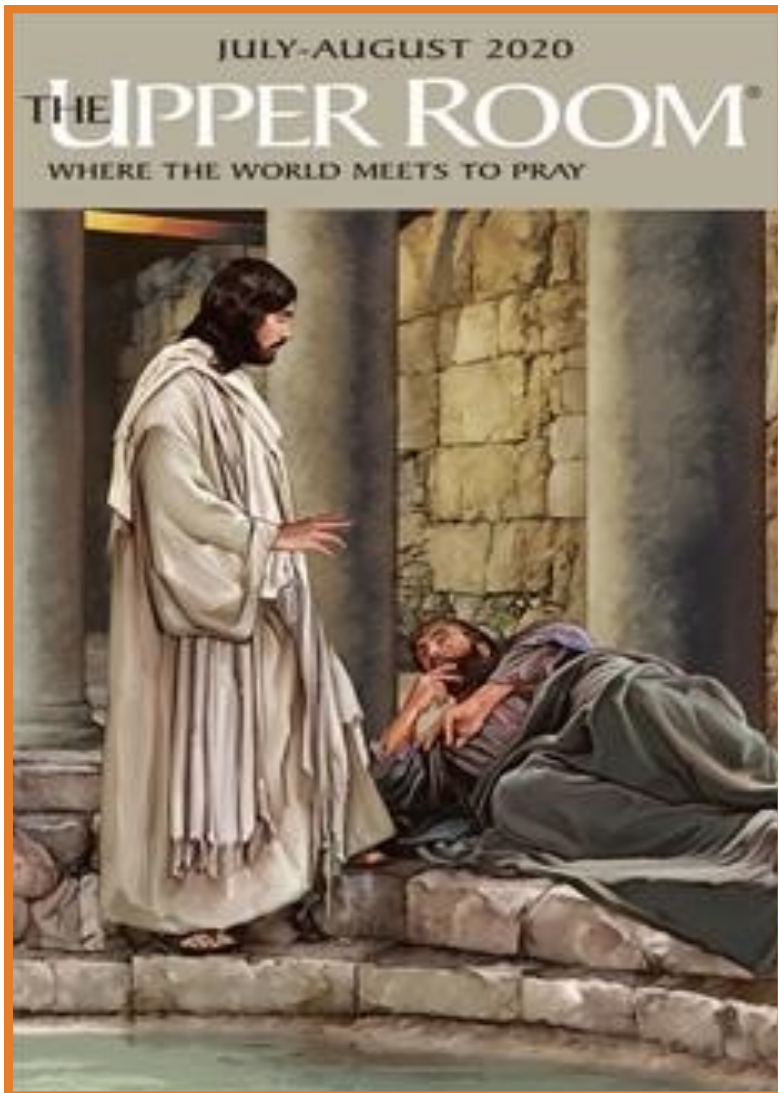
Accessing the Directory Via Our Website

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 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.

Pick up your copy of the July-August Upper Room available in the atrium. Take a copy for a friend!



Tracing Sign In

As we prepare to come back in the church in person, we will be following the ReTurn Plan guidelines from the Northern Illinois Conference UMC. We are required to trace/track those persons who enter the church. All persons entering the church must wear a mask and sign in on the tracing sheet provided on the table in the gathering room. Please follow this procedure if you come to the church for any reason. Please continue to use social distancing and face masks along with good hygiene habits to keep yourself safe. All these precautions helps everyone.

Messenger Mailing List

In an effort to streamline our newsletter mailing list, and to possibly eliminate some of the waste we incur, we are conducting an audit of the mailing list.



If you are receiving *The Messenger* via USPS mail and do not wish to continue to receive it, please let us know so we can take your name off this listing. We understand that there are those who do not have access to a computer, are in care, or simply don't want a lot of email so we will continue to accommodate those by sending paper copies.

If you wish to receive *The Messenger* via email instead, you may call the church at 815-332-5075 or email us at churchinthevalley@comcast.net and we will add you to the email listing.

Another way to subscribe is by visiting our website, cherryvalleyumc.com and scroll down on the home page. You will see "The Messenger Newsletter" banner. Click on the banner and the subscribe page will be displayed. Enter your email information in the space provided.

Pastor is on Vacation



Pastor Mark will be returning from a *much needed* vacation July 2. If you need pastoral care while he is away, Pam Rossmiller (Grace UMC) is covering for him during this time. Her phone number is 815-543-4186

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.

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 yskim1023@gmail.com



Rockford Urban Ministries (Insight)

The majority of funding for RUM currently comes from the Northern Illinois Conference of United Methodist Churches and it has been around since the early 70's.

The purpose of RUM is to serve as a motivator in getting churches in the Rockford area involved in mission and outreach. Stanley Campbell, Executive Director, is one of the best networkers I know in the Rockford area when it comes to knowing the different social service agencies. He is particularly effective in bringing churches and other organizations together to work toward a common cause. Last year he was the recipient of the Excalibur Award for his long time efforts in serving the community in many different social service projects.

Currently, RUM supports Miss Carly who provides hot meals for individuals in the inner city of Rockford. RUM also directs the Rockford Work Camps. This year the work camps will start in July - delayed by one month because of the COVID limitations. Cherry Valley UMC has participated in the work camps a couple different times. RUM also directs the Crop Walk which brings in about \$30,000 each year. The Crop Walk started in 1987. Stan is very effective at bringing churches together when they share a similar goal in missions. He worked very effectively with Zion Lutheran when they were working on affordable housing along the 7th street area; and also with the Patriot Gateway Community Center. Currently Stan is working with Christ United Methodist and Centennial churches to purchase the building at 201 S. 7th Street (former Just Goods store). The 2 churches have created a Rockford New Hope Project/foundation and are planning to buy the property. They hope to develop it into affordable housing. They have raised significant funds and are working with the city to complete the sale. Stan helped organize a chapter of the group called "People for a Safer Society." about 4 years ago. **People for a Safer Society** is a gun violence prevention organization that was founded in early 2013, shortly after the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. It originated in a Chicago suburb and works with several other groups in Illinois particularly focusing on gun laws legislation.

RUM needs our support both prayerfully and financially. The organization is a vital link to outreach and missions in the Rockford community. To learn more about the Rockford Urban Ministries, and how you can make a donation, visit the web site at <http://rockfordurbanmin.org/>

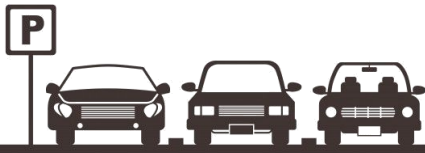
Atrium Renovation

The atrium entrance to the church will be closed from **August 24-26** while the floor is being painted. The beams and walls will also be painted at a time to be determined.

This project has been made possible by Memorial Funds given in remembrance of church members to glorify God through our church.



Parking Lot Repair



Although we don't have a set date as yet, please be aware that the church parking lot will undergo repair, resealing and re-striping.

This project is being paid for with marked funds given for this project rather than from the general offerings.

Rockford Rescue Mission Chapel Service

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, we will not be able to lead chapel service and serve meals as scheduled on July 26.

Because county health department guidelines require that meal preparation must be done in a commercial kitchen, we are accepting special donations to give to the Mission to purchase the food that we normally would have prepared for that service.



We look forward to the next time when we can safely provide this service to the Mission. In the past when we have provide a worship service and meals, we were all truly blessed to see the work that is being done at the Mission.

In-Person Visits

At the direction of the Bishop, Pastor Mark has been unable to make in-person visits with members of the congregation since the COVID restrictions began.

Upon obtaining further information and approval by the Bishop, Pastor will resume some in person visits. However, due to restrictions at congregate living facilities, it's likely that he will be unable to visit nursing home/assisted living residents for some time.



Worship in the Park

The Annual Worship in the Park event has been cancelled this year due to concerns about the spread of the Coronavirus. Thank you to the Worship Committee for making this event possible in the past and hopefully we will be able to reinstate the practice of worshipping and picnicking in the park next year.



"Careful, Honey, she seems a little bitter."

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 pm Trustee Meeting	2 7:00 pm ReTurn Team Meeting (in person @ church)	3	4 
5 10:00 am Zoom Worship	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:00 am Zoom Worship	13	14	15 <i>Messenger items due</i>	16	17	18
19 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect!</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect!</i>	27	28	29	30	31	

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

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Have a great summer!



**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