

THE MESSENGER

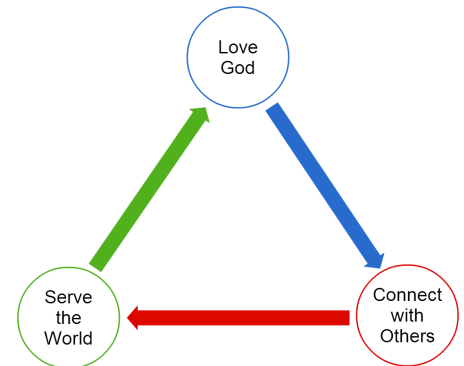
August 2020

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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Pastor's Cell: 331-465-9489
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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

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; ⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. ⁹What gain have the workers from their toil?

¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. ¹⁴I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. ¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by. **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 (NRSV)**

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

What time is it? How one asks that question determines our response, as does the meaning of the word *time*. "What time is it?" with the emphasis on it serves as a curious chronological (from the Greek *chronos* (χρόνος)) inquiry. "What time is it?" with the emphasis on time, however, implies that there's something meaningful about the time. In Greek this would be *kairos* (Καίρος) or the "time for" or "appointed time" as in "a time for every matter under heaven."

What time is it? By the calendar, we see that it is August. Astronomically we say it is late summer. Culturally we'd normally say that it's back-to-school time. Liturgically, we continue in ordinary time (days in order after Pentecost). In modern church life, we might say it's time for the new program year. For Cub fans, it's the time of year when usually we'd be hoping they'd just break our hearts now if they're going to blow it anyway; but not this year.

This year, things are different. Baseball season has only just begun. In our congregation, the usual return to Bible studies, choir practices and Sunday School has been disrupted. What exactly will *back-to-school* be? We really don't know.

Recently, we've returned to in-person worship in church. Rather than having time to extend our usual greetings or to engage in the Methodist third sacrament (eating) for fellowship, the physical distancing necessary to help prevent the spread of covid-19 gets in the way. We want to sing. We want to laugh. We want to dance. We want to embrace. We long for the time when we can and will do so.

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We long for opportunities to gather and to sing and experience the first line of that Methodist standard "And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?" unmasked and ready to continue, "Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!"

Although we may have to wait to see each other's face, we are yet alive. The changes that we've faced due to this pandemic, have befuddled my plans for ministry and plans that we'd made in church council earlier this year. We won't be gather for game nights, movie nights, potlucks and cookouts, or a church camping weekend in 2020. We won't be travelling to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center for mission service. We won't be able to lead worship and serve a meal at the Rockford Rescue Mission until next year. But we are still called to ministry. This may not be the time for those things, but it is a time when we can remember Pastor Kim and her ministry in Africa. Bishop Dyck had asked churches across our conference to support her ministry as a special appeal to be collected at Annual Conference in June. Although Annual Conference has been rescheduled as a virtual gathering in November (with much a much more limited focus), we can continue to support her ministry. To that end, I invite you to consider a special gift for her ministry, and a maybe a card and note of encouragement for her and those with whom she ministers that we can collect and send to her. I know there are more possibilities. In normal times, pastors are expected to be the planners, but we've been befuddled having to spend time learning how to record or live-stream virtual worship service, and trying to figure out how to provide pastoral ministry without visiting homes and hospitals. Seminary never covered this. This season, provides an opportunity for the church (i.e. the people of Christ) to find a new voice in ministry as we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through who we are. Together we can find new ways to praise God in worship, to build up one another in faith, and to serve Christ in our community.

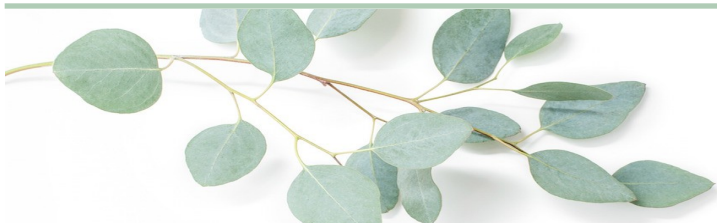
Is this a time to speak or to remain silent? Is this a time to mourn or to dance our way into new life? What time is it?

I think it's time for Bible studies to resume, even though that means using ZOOM instead of heading to the church. I know it's time to give glory and thanks to Jesus for his grace, as we seek out God's purpose for us even now.

Your brother in Christ,



Rev. Mark Harkness



Live in HARMONY with one another.



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

Jane Neff Family



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.

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.

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.

Address for the Bilderbacks

Dave & Jessica Bilderback have settled into their new home in Michigan. It would be wonderful if we sent them cards to let them know we're thinking of them.

Please remember them in your prayers.

Their address is:

Dave & Jessica Bilderback
49594 Manistee Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047



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.

August 2 9th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 17:1-7,15
 Scripture Lesson Romans 9:1-5
 Gospel..... Matthew 14:13-21
 Message "All Inclusive Grace"
Broken—Good News for Tough Times (4)

August 9 10th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 105:1-11
 Scripture Lesson Romans 10:5-15
 Gospel..... Matthew 14:22-23
 Message "The End of the Law"
Broken—Good News for Tough Times (5)

August 16 11th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 133
 Scripture Lesson Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Gospel..... Matthew 15:21-28
 Message "God is in Control"
Broken—Good News for Tough Times (6)

July 26 12th Sunday After Pentecost
 Guest Preacher—Rev. Danice Loveridge

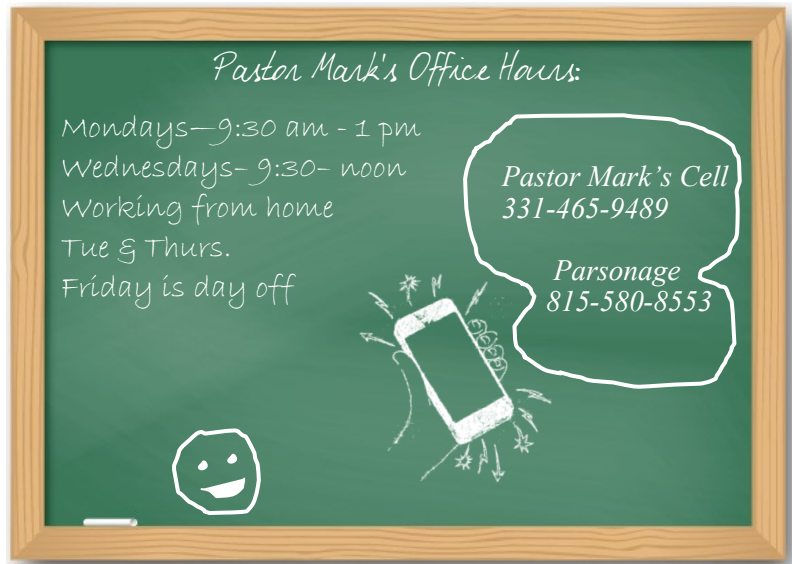
August 30 13th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
 Scripture Lesson Exodus 3:1-15
 Gospel..... Matthew 16:21-28
 Message "Who Am I to the I AM?"



Pastor is on Vacation

Pastor will be backpacking in the Porcupine Mountains August 18-28.

If you need pastoral care while he is away, you may call Rev. Danice Loveridge at 815-509-9445.



Accompanist Position Available

We are seeking an accomplished pianist for worship services on Sundays and for other special occasions. If you or anyone you know is interested in this position, please apply by emailing your resumé to churchinthevalley@comcast.net.

The duties are listed below and a copy of the ad may be found on our website at cherryvalleyumc.com or by emailing the secretary at the above email address.

Point of Contact: Amy Flood

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

THE CHURCH IN THE VALLEY

POSITION AVAILABLE

CHURCH ACCOMPANIST

If you know what this is AND you are accomplished in it's use...

WE WANT YOU...

to apply for the accompanist position available at Cherry Valley United Methodist Church



Duties include:

- Provide piano music, including choir arrangements at worship services
 - * Worship services are regularly scheduled for Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. each week
 - * Five special services throughout the year
- Rehearse once per week in the evening with the choir
- Provide special music, or facilitate special music when the choir is not scheduled to perform
- Attend scheduled worship planning meetings with clergy and the Choir Director for general planning and leadership of the church's music program each quarter, or as needed
- Have first rights of refusal to perform music for weddings or funerals held at the Church
- Compensation will be paid for weddings, funerals and memorial services

CVUMC allows for two Sundays off for vacation (with pay) per calendar year.

If interested, please send resumes to churchinthevalley@comcast.net



CHERRY VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

112 S. Cherry Street
 P.O. Box 235
 Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016
 Phone: 815-332-5075
 E-mail: churchinthevalley@comcast.net
 Web site: www.cherryvalleyumc.com

**Update on our Missionary
Reverend Young Seon (Christina) Kim**

Recently I was invited to participate in a zoom session sponsored by the Board of Global Missions. Pastor Kim was one of several pastors who spoke at this meeting. It was so good to see her in real time and witness her enthusiasm for her work in Tanzania. I listened carefully; took notes so that I could share with you her progress. It is nothing short of remarkable what she has accomplished in her eight years in Tanzania.

Pastor Kim works closely with the United Methodist Church in Tanzania. She said the church has identified over 2000 active youth in 10 districts. Early on she created a program called 'Nifuate' which means 'Follow me.' She wrote a *Nifuate* training book on discipleship and has used it throughout the 10 districts. For 3 years she intentionally visited all 10 districts; and taught the leadership program on discipleship. She had a very deliberate process of goal setting and evaluation to develop trainers to continue the training program in each district. Once each district successfully achieved the goals of the program they would receive goats as their reward. In Tanzania, goats generate income and are highly valued by the people. She has since written a second book in the Swahili language; and is in the process of writing a 3rd book.

Another project she has developed is the Nifuate Center. The building is locally owned; sits on 4 acres and is located in a heavily populated Muslim area. Currently there are 60 children and she and the trainers are making good progress in spreading the Gospel.

The Mission Secondary school will open in January 2021 with 40+ students. It will be a co-ed boarding school and will charge tuition. Knowing that many Tanzanian's cannot afford the tuition, Pastor Kim has created a **Scholarship and Sponsorship program** to provide funding for deserving students. Her target is to get enough funding for 25 young adults. Less than 10% of the youth now go or finish secondary education. The majority of students will come from those 2000+ youth identified as belonging to the Tanzania United Methodist Church. The campus encompasses five acres and is 2/3 complete. All administration and teaching staff will be from Tanzania and the school will follow a standard high school curriculum of the country. An after school program will be staffed by missionaries. **Anyone interested?**

Bishop's Special Appeal. To see a video and hear Pastor 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.

To Support Pastor Kim and her work!

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

Please keep Pastor Kim in your prayers. The COVID-19 pandemic surrounds her in a country totally

Birthdays & Anniversaries



August Birthdays

- 4 Barbara Whitlock
- 9 Susan Layng
Karlene Brown
- 12 Barbara Anderson
- 18 Sally Lawton
Terri Burritt
Sean Conderman
- 20 Jennifer Dienberg
- 26 Charlie Schnuckel
- 27 Larry Clevenger
Daniel Halley
Ryan Herold
- 29 Julie Halley

August Anniversaries

- 14 Larry & Mary Lou Clevenger
- 16 David & Barbara Anderson
- 17 Michael & Debora Seno
- 18 Nick & Katie Brown
- 22 Warren & Debbie Gross
- 23 Jim & Juanita Barnes



Happy Anniversary!



The familiar lines from Isaiah offer a comforting reminder of the presence of God in our stressful time.

DO NOT FEAR, FOR
I am with you.
DO NOT BE DISMAYED, FOR
I am your God

I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU
AND HELP YOU,
I WILL UPHOLD YOU
WITH MY RIGHTEOUS
RIGHT HAND.
ISAIAH 41:10

Boy Scout Troop 181

Since the beginning of April, Troop 181 resumed weekly meetings on Tuesdays. We started with virtual meetings on Zoom, learning *Cyber Chip* (a scouting effort to teach scouts how to be safe on the internet). A number of topics followed.

On June 26, the state of Illinois went into Phase 4 of Restore Illinois. Troop 181 met outside on June 30 for the first time in 16 weeks. We met at Rock Cut State Park. Every scout needed to *Be Prepared* with a mask, water bottle, & bug spray. The scouts got into their patrols and went on separate hikes around the Park to pick-up litter as a service project to our state and community.



On July 7, we met in Baumann Park for a scavenger hunt with the *GooseChase* app. The course was laid out by the troop's Senior Patrol Leader.

On July 14, the troop met in the parking lot at the church. It had been roped-off (the perfect place)! Our older scouts taught everything to know about food safety and eating. The stations included menu planning, equipment preparation, cooking eggs, making & eating banana boats, and proper clean-up of utensils.

We will be in Baumann Park again. And the final meeting of July will be a Family Night / Court of Honor. [All state and scouting guidelines will be followed for group sizes and social distancing, and the wearing of masks.]

All camping is still suspended for scouts, except for family camping. In August, our first meeting will include campfire planning for a future outing. We will follow the guidelines, and look for an opportunity to conduct the program. We will continue to innovate, design programs under current constraints, make exciting advances, and teach our scouts improve their lives under any conditions.

We encourage boys 11-17 to visit our Troop meetings and bring their parents. We have stories to tell you! At this time, any visits need to be coordinated with Sandy at 779-771-3567, or the Scoutmaster.

Visit our website at <http://www.bsatroop181.com>. You may call Terry Nichols, Scoutmaster, 815/540-5900 with all your Boy Scouting questions.

Reminder of Cancellation

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, two of our summer programs usually held in August have been cancelled. They are Worship/Picnic in the Park and Vacation Bible School. It is unfortunate that these two fun events have to be cancelled but please understand that it for the good of all and out of our care and concern that everyone remain healthy and not risk contacting the virus.

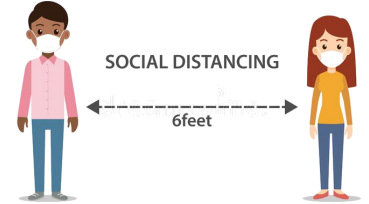


As any Chicago Cubs fan knows....there's always next year!

Tracing Sign In

We are following Re-Turn Plan guidelines set down for safe gatherings for our in person worship services. We are checking off names of those who attend worship for tracing requirements.

All persons entering the church during the week 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.

Flowers for the Sanctuary



If you would like to provide a small bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary, please let Juanita Barnes or Janet Bryant know you will be bringing them.

If the flowers are to honor a special occasion, a special someone, or just because you want to see flowers in church on Sundays, let us know and we will announce it if you wish to have it announced.



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.

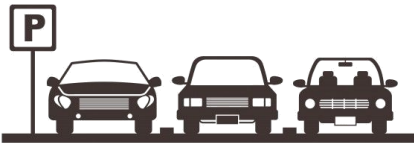
Atrium Renovation

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



The tentative date for the parking lot seal coating is August 3rd. The parking lot will be blocked off starting in the afternoon of August 2nd. The repairs completed

in July was to prepare for the resealing. This project is being paid for with marked funds given for this project rather than from the general offerings.

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.

You are always in our prayers.



You Tube Live Streaming



If you cannot make it to church or you feel uncomfortable attending gatherings at this time, you may still enjoy worship live via the You Tube live streaming service. Go to the app and search for

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church. You may also watch it later along with previously streamed services.

We are no longer using the Zoom app.

Spiritual Insights

By Jim Whitlock

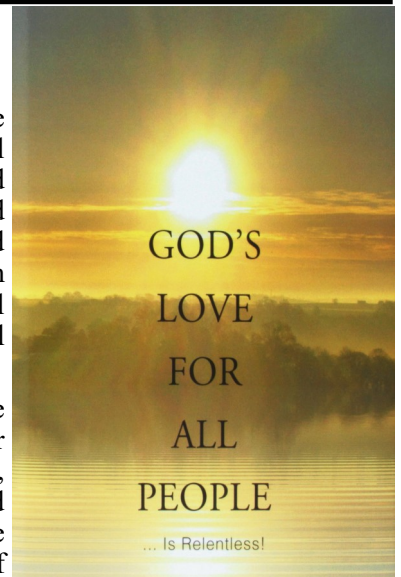
2nd Chronicles 7:14

“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Racism should not be present in any city, state, or nation. Violence, protests, anarchy, looting, and burning should not be tolerated as a means of doing away with racism. It

solves nothing; it only divides the races more. With all the horrible things that are going on now, you might think Satan has loosed hell on Earth. But that is not correct. God is always in control. God allows things to happen. But God never leaves His people who are saved and loves His son, Jesus.

God will always be there and provide help, peace, and comfort in our time of need. God gives us this promise in 2nd Chronicles. The important words here are “My people”. “My people” are those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior. The real Christians of this world have no reason to fear as God promises as we call on His name, He will hear and heal our land.



Rockford Urban Ministries

The Rockford Urban Ministries Executive Director has moved his office from the basement and into the storefront formerly known as Sustain Rockford. The space is connected to the listening room and the former JustGoods Store at 201 Seventh with parking in the back.

Donations for their office are gratefully accepted at their web site or can be dropped off at the office.

Visitors are always welcome. Please keep the Rockford Urban Ministries in your prayers.

Stanley Campbell
Executive Director
Rockford Urban Ministries
201 Seventh St
Rockford IL 61104

815-964-7111
cell: 621-9417

rockfordurbanmin@aol.com


The ReTurn Team have followed the plan put out by the Northern Illinois Conference UMC and have instituted procedures that will help us return safely to worship. Please be patient as we all adjust to the “new normal” and continue to follow the procedures for safe gathering. 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.



August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 am GA
2 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	3 <i>Parking lot paving project. Parking lot closed.</i>	4 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	5 6:30 pm Trustee Meeting	6	7	8 9:00 am GA
9 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	10	11 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:15 Finance 7:00 Church Council	12	13	14	15 9:00 am GA <i>Messenger items due</i>
16 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	17	18 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	19	20	21	22 9:00 am GA
23 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i> Guest Preacher: Rev. Danice Loveridge	24 <i>Atrium renovation and painting.</i>	25 6:00 pm Boy Scouts <i>Atrium renovation and painting.</i>	26 <i>Atrium renovation and painting.</i>	27	28	29 9:00 am GA
30 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	31					

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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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