

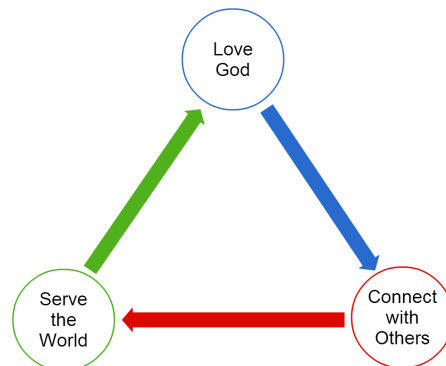
THE MESSENGER

September 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

Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one look down on you.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures,

passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 2:15 – 3:6 (NRSV)

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

The air was crisp and cool. I don't remember the exact date, but I do remember it seemed like early spring. The year was 1985: of that I'm sure. I turned 18-years old that February. My cousins and some of their neighbors were outside playing football in the street, (Kids used to do such things.) when one of my younger cousins came out of the house and said, "Mark, Grandma wants you."

I walked into my aunt and uncle's house to where my grandmother was sitting. She handed me a pen and a piece of paper. "Sign here, you're registering to vote." She didn't ask if I'd like to register to vote or explain why I should, she just said, "You're doing it." Of course, I signed the voter registration form (the first of many).

In my family it was presumed that we would vote: honoring our duty to do so and the privilege of the opportunity. Although I generally avoid primaries (I'm not a fan of either major party.) I've voted in all but two general/local elections. The two times that I didn't vote, I had moved shortly before the election (prior to the advent of same day registration) so could not register in time.

As Christians we have a duty to obey the authorities (unless contrary to Scripture and God's direction) and duty bound to strive for forming a just world. In our country, we are privileged to have the opportunity to vote. This serves as one means of striving for a just world in which each individual can find opportunity to live out his/her life to the fullest.

That belief is what led Christians to form the abolitionist movement and to take a leading role in the civil movement: although imperfectly and with many exceptions. That belief is what should inspire each of us to stand up for our fellow citizens striving to do their duty to our community and us by exercising their right to vote.

Continued on page 2)

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"Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces." Psalm 34:5



Too often fear gets in the way of our faithfulness to our duties. Fear of financial loss and civil unrest caused too many Christians to support slavery. Fear of the unknown, fueled by bigotry, caused too many Christians to ignore or shun the civil rights movement.

A wariness about exposure to the SARS2-COVID-19 coronavirus might cause some people to shirk their duty to vote this year. We need not be afraid.

Recently, Lori Gummow, the Winnebago County Clerk, spoke to my Rotary Club. All clerks offices in the state have been directed to send every registered voter an application for an absentee/mail-in ballot. You don't need an excuse to fill out the application. She told us that when ballots are returned that no less than three persons verify that the signature on the ballot envelope matches the voter registration card. For those worried that recent slowdowns with the postal service will delay their vote (or even those wanting to save the cost of a stamp) there is a secure ballot drop off box outside of the Winnebago County Clerk's office.

I've only voted by mail once (while I was away at college), there's just something about the ritual of voting in person. This year, however, I may: not just for my own safety, but for the safety of my fellow citizens and poll workers. (If I could only remember what I did with that application).

For a procrastinator, that means I need to get busy looking at the platforms and positions of every candidate, as I prayerfully consider how each (or each combination) my best serve the Kingdom of God. I hope that each of you will do the same. Honor your duty to one another as a Christian and as a citizen who enjoys the privilege of having a say in government.

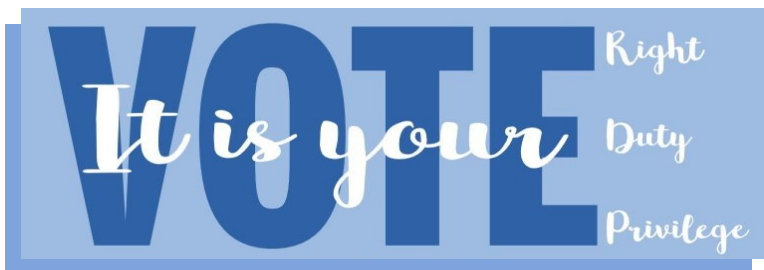
As your pastor, I won't say for whom I think you should vote (that is your decision) or promote my voting decisions. However, as your pastor, I will say that exercising your informed right to vote is a Christian obligation. My grandmother would say that it is a sin not to vote. I tend to agree.

Please take advantage of the opportunities that we have now to do the right thing by voting whether by early voting, mail-in voting, or going to the polls in person; and don't let fear or wise caution get in the way.

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.

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.

September 22 November 10

Committee chairs should have their written reports to the secretary no later than the day prior to the meeting.

Update:

Global Mission Secondary School Project:

COVID-19 caused difficulties to raise funds for school construction in the USA and Korea. We are facing two challenges: One is about a lack of funds (\$232,000) for Stage Two. The other is about additional costs that the contractor unfairly asked. We have been working on this matter. Ilala district council told us that 75% of construction has to be done by August to start a school registration process. It seems it will take God's miracle to open GMSS in Jan. 2021. Every day I sing the song "Way Maker" and take these challenges to God. Through QT God's message was: "I am your God. Go as Grace flows." What I know is: COVID-19 can stop me, but not God. He is at work. It's time to wait & expect God's justice and solution.

For more information and links to read Pastor Kim's newsletter, see the article on page 6.

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.

September 6..... 14th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 149
 Scripture Lesson Romans 13:8-14
 Gospel..... Matthew 18:15-20
 Message "How to Fight Like a Christian"
 Series "No Fair" - 1

September 13..... 15th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm
 Scripture Lesson Romans 14:1-12
 Gospel..... Matthew 18:21-35
 Message "The Math of Forgiveness"
 Series "No Fair" - 2

September 20..... 16th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
 Scripture Lesson Philippians 1:21-30
 Gospel..... Matthew 20:1-16
 Message "A Fair Wage"
 Series "No Fair" - 3

September 27..... 17th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
 Scripture Lesson Philippians 2:1-13
 Gospel..... Matthew 21:23-32
 Message "Thoughtfulness"
 Series "Aligning Our Hearts" - 1



Rock River Valley Food Pantry



Feeding Rockford One Meal At A Time

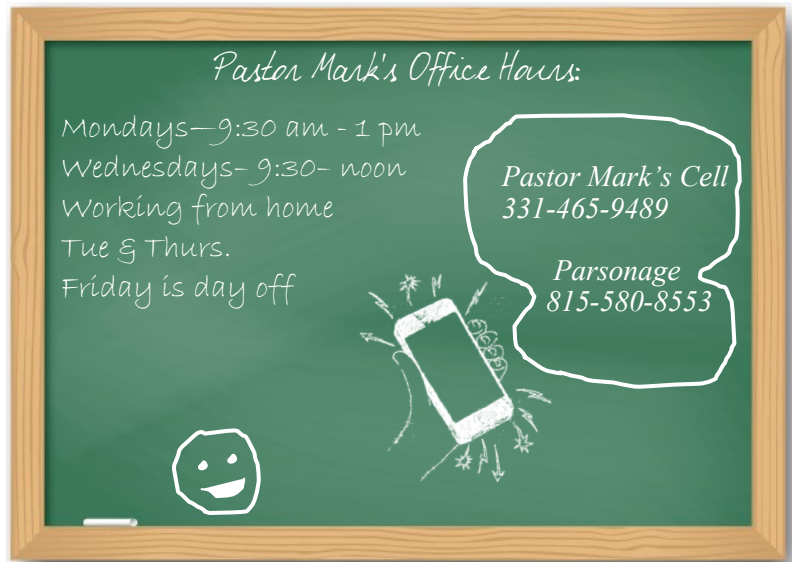
Thank you for your continued support of the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. The pantry currently serves approximately 6,800 clients per month. You can help by bringing your non-perishable foods and placing them in the basket located in the foyer of the church.

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.rryp.org/peanut-butter-endowment/> and view the brochure outlining the program and you can donate on line.



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 the use of it....

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

Dear CVUMC,

It is with much joy and anticipation that my husband Mike and I join the Cherry Valley UMC congregation. We have been lifelong Boone County residents and know the Cherry Valley area very well. Mike is the General Manager at Menzies Aviation at O'Hare Airport and I am a Deacon in the UMC.



As fellow clergy, I share in the mission of the UMC to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. My ministry specialties have been Ministry With the Poor, Missions and Outreach and Congregational Care. Since becoming a Deacon, I have worked at Poplar Grove UMC, Rockford Urban Ministries, Love INC, Belvidere Boone County Food Pantry and as a Chaplain at OSF St. Anthony.

Recently, I became a Certified Health Coach in my own ministry that empowers individuals through the help of Christ to attain optimal health in mind, body, spirit and finances to become all they were created to be. This is very transformative work in the life of the individual and in the life of the Church. I absolutely love what I do and welcome a conversation with any of you in regards any time.

The SPRC and I are still developing how I might best serve the life of CVUMC as a non-paid staff member. I plan to volunteer about 4-5 hours per week in Missions and/Care Ministries. If you have thoughts on these ministries, let's connect and chat about what has gone well here and what, as a church, we would like to accomplish in the future. I will also preach on occasion when Pastor Mark is on vacation/ill and cover for pastoral care emergencies.

Please come up to me in worship and introduce yourself. I may need to be reminded a time or two of your name, but soon, we will be good friends. Do not hesitate to reach out to me for whatever you need. See you on Sunday!

Be well and stay safe,

Rev. Danice Loveridge, Deacon

Cell/Text: 815-509-9445
 Email: danice.loveridge@gmail.com
 FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/danice.loveridge>

1 Cor 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.



September Birthdays

- 2 Mary Coulter
- 6 Marlene Meyers
Grace Harter
- 7 Melynda Mungor
Warren Gross
- 8 Zane Clevenger
- 10 Amy Flood
- 22 David Burritt
- 23 Jeanette Krueger
Monica Plummer

- 24 David Ziemke
Chris Flood
- 25 Mandy Kloepfer
- 27 Sherry Gordon
- 28 Patty Campbell
- 29 Holly Snyder

September Anniversaries

- 3 Gary & Sue Wilt
- 11 LaVern & Jane Neff
- 12 Daniel & Julie Halley
- 14 Joe & Trudy Hunt



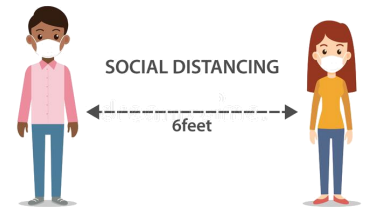
Happy Anniversary!



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.



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.

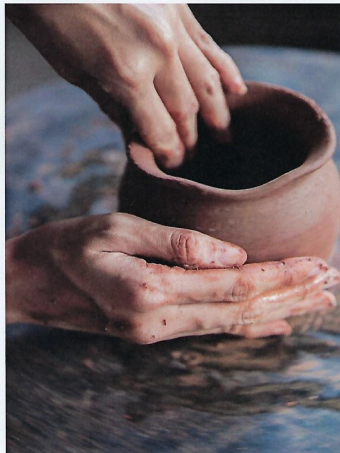
Thank You

Thank you to the ReTurn Team for the work you are doing for the safe return of in-person worship services. Also, please remember to say thank you to **Pastor Mark & Susan Harkness** for all that they have done to conduct worship services during the shut down. Some of you may not be aware of the hard work that went into making the Zoom and You Tube services happen. There was a lot of work that went on behind the scene, so thank you, Pastor Mark & Susan!

Rockford District Lay Academy presents:



Lay Servants Lead in Conflict Resolution



October 5, 12, 19, 26 & Nov. 2

Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

via Zoom video conferencing

Attendance at all five classes required to complete the course

Please register by September 26, 2020

Cost: \$10

Students will need to purchase the textbook "The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation" by Thomas Porter. Available on Amazon or Cokesbury.com.



Questions about registration? Contact **Laura Lopez** at llopez@umcnic.org

Questions about this course or others?
Contact **Leslie Stanford** at jptmom8@gmail.com

umcnic.org/calendar/rockford-district-lay-academy-1



Music Director Farewell



Dear Church Family,

Last autumn, I expressed a wish that we would have another five years together. Alas, this is not to be, and our journey together will end on September 20th 2020. I will move to the Seattle area, and I do not intend to return. My family's matriarch, Deanna Morgan, died on January 13th of this year. While recovering from my own trauma, I've been living in her home since the spring of 2018, taking care

of her and her home while she slowly succumbed to the bone marrow cancer that eventually claimed her life. I finally hit upon a new plan right before a global pandemic made this impossible to execute quickly. Though the world does not appear to be regaining any level of sanity, I am compelled to go, and another delay would only keep me in a place I can no longer thrive. The Rockford area holds nothing for me anymore.

Before the final Sunday comes, I want to say thank you for the past six years. You turned me around in ways I expected, and in ways I did NOT expect. My life was not going in a stable direction in 2014, and the support of the church and its fine people brought me the peace and stability I needed. You showed me kindness and compassion when I first took up the choir. You supported our musical offerings every Sunday. You helped me raise the roof on Easter 2017 with the "Glorious Day" performance. You came to my shows on occasion. You were here for me when my world was ripped apart in the aftermath of Mark Bedker's murder. And you showed overwhelming support when Deanna died.

This is not a sad goodbye. This is me getting on with the second half of my life, and I regret that I cannot take you with me. Working as the music director of CVUMC will always be an experience I hold close to my heart, and I will remember it fondly. Thank you for everything. And a special thank-you is due to all those who participated in the choir over the six years. Everything you did made a difference to me, made my dreams a reality, and I shall not forget it. I am proud to serve as your choir director, organist, accompanist, and music director, and I have enjoyed my time here.

-Scott Farrell
Music Director, CVUMC

Choir Roster (2014-20):

Mark Bedker, Keith Burritt, Pat Campbell, Violet Collier, Carol Conderman, Mary Coulter, Deb Dewitt, Patty Ellison, Amy Flood, Hannah Flood, Lesa Fox, Philip Fox, Ronn Gordon Jr, Karen Harter, Jenniffer Maragia, Jan Mills, Tess Morris, Melynda Mungor, Laurie Phillips, Holly Snyder, Leigh Sterrenberg, Marilyn Strong(?), Michael Thompson, Jessica Tift, David Westerdahl, Barbara Whitlock, Sue Layng.

It rained on the third Tuesday of July, so we had to go to Plan B; we met in the fellowship hall of the church. The scouts learned about campfire program planning, and learned and practiced some skits to perform at a later date. [The Troop left a copy of its entire attendance sheet there, and sanitized all surfaces before we left.]

The following week was an Information Night & Court of Honor; everyone brought lawn chairs and we met in a very large circle in the parking lot of the church. Family groups stayed together and social distanced from others. The weather made it a beautiful evening!

On the first Tuesday of August, the scouts and a few parents played Duct Tape Ball in Baumann Park. [It has the same rules as baseball, except the ball is made from a roll of TP, wrapped with duct tape. Any scout can catch it without a glove. There are no strike-out's! Everyone gets to hit the ball, no matter their ability level.]

The second Tuesday of August found us back in Baumann Park. The older scouts taught, and the younger scouts learned and practiced using saws and a hatchet and axe. They worked toward their Tote' n Chip Card. Of course, all rules of safety were taught first. Beyond those rules, you'll find scouts practicing social distancing and wearing masks where that isn't practical.

I am very proud of these scouts; when we are forced into smaller quarters, I ask all members to wear their masks, and every one of them (who isn't already) reaches into their pockets and pulls out a mask to wear. These guys follow the rules of the state, and the rules of Scouting!



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.

Bishop's Appeal Update

Global Missionary Rev. Christina Kim is overjoyed with news from the Korean United Methodist Women (KUMW) in the Northern Illinois Conference who are selling acorn noodles and honey to support the 2020 Bishop's Appeal for the Global Mission Secondary School in Tanzania, which is currently under construction. Rev. Kim says they've already raised more than \$20,000 for the offering! Also, nine individual KUMW members gave their \$1,200 pandemic relief government checks toward the school construction. "I was deeply moved and empowered by their love, generosity, and dedication," said Rev. Kim. "KUMW and I have a long relationship since my seminary years at Garrett-ETS. They've supported me wherever I have served in the NIC, even in Tanzania." **Read Rev. Kim's recent August missionary letter.** To learn more about how your church can support the Bishop's Appeal, visit umcnic.org/bishopsappeal.

(Continued in next column)

Rockford Urban Ministries helped send out the latest CROP Hunger Walk newsletter. As you will see, we are doing a virtual (or as David Jones calls it, "a spiritual") walk this year which means that we should all try to sign up online and then do our walk in small groups. I'm going to try and have the new CROP t-shirts available if you would like to walk as a group (of course with social distancing).

I thank Pastor Uziel Hernandez for help with a translation. Jim Andrews and I raised some money to cover the losses of the west side Hispanic ice cream vendor who was robbed. Jim set up a "GoFundMe" which raised more than was needed, but thanks to Pastor Hernandez's, we discovered he needed help with immigration. We hope that the best immigration attorney in town can help him out, and we will keep you informed.

RUM has also been taking food and supplies to Miss Carly's on Fifth Avenue. The facility is open, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the afternoon, but really she is accessible almost 24 hours a day. Items are usually accepted in the alley.

Stan Campbell
executive director
Rockford Urban Ministries
201 Seventh St
Rockford IL 61104

815-964-7111
cell: 621-9417
rockfordurbanmin@aol.com

Check out our website: <http://rockfordurbanmin.org/>

(Continued from previous column)
Excerpt from Pastor Kim's August letter....

Dear Mission Partners,

Grace & peace. I want you to know that I pray for you every day. God never abandons us. We will go through this pandemic, go deeper in faith and grace, and experience God's unfailing and empowering love for the next season of our lives.

My quarterly missionary letter is long, but I hope that you will see God working in my life and work through it.

Also, you can check my Facebook for weekly updated news. <https://www.facebook.com/yskim2>.

School construction updated video.
https://vimeo.com/432166260?ref=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR27oJ7XppXrGOHOUDhOv0GSG1S NFhDB5VEk6VE6_AwSzLgKpABoTRtqo8

The Song "Way Maker" that I sing countless times every day. I hope that this song will empower your faith in God. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsypFJ5mNw0>



God is with you. Blessings to you.

Christina (Young Seon Kim)

See Christina's update article on page 2.





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2	3	4	5 9:00 am GA
6 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	7 <i>Labor Day Holiday</i> 	8 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	9 6:30 pm Trustee Meeting via Zoom	10	11 	12 9:00 am GA
13 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	14	15 6:00 pm Boy Scouts <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16	17	18	19 9:00 am GA
20 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	21	22 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:15 Finance 7:00 Church Council via Zoom	23	24	25	26 9:00 am GA
27 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	28	29 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	30			

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

In Remembrance of
September 11, 2001



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