

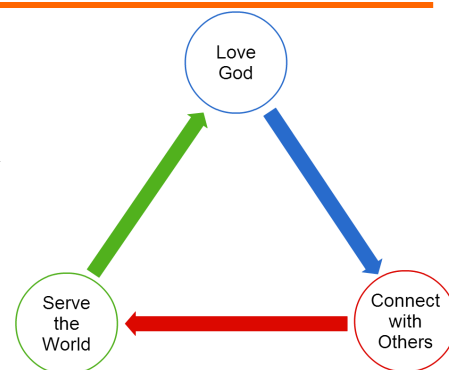
THE MESSENGER

October 2020

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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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

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be

thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."...¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him,

John 4:5-15, 19-23- (NRSV)

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

We United Methodists don't often talk about saints, except maybe once a year on All Saints Day which we often conflate with All Souls Day (a distinction best explained at another time.) However, October 2021 creates an interesting conflux of dates. Two Sundays, October 4 and October 18, are commemoration (feast) days for Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Luke the Evangelist, respectively. As a member of the Order of Saint Luke (formed by Methodists shortly after WWII), I am reminded of his influence within our denomination. Similarly, Saint Francis has been called "the one saint whom all succeeding generations have agreed in canonizing." In addition to canonization in the Roman Catholic Church, he is included in the Episcopal calendar of feasts and commemorations, the Lutheran Book of Worship and in the Methodist calendar "For All the Saints."

In his letter to all the faithful, after referencing Matthew 22:38-39 in which Jesus recites the Shema as the greatest law ("You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul ... and your neighbor as yourself"), Saint Francis of Assisi turns to the passage above calling on followers to "love God and adore him with pure heart and mind, for this is what he seeks above all when he says, 'True worshipers worship the Father in spirit and truth.' (see Jn 4:23)" This was an example that Saint Francis strived to demonstrate in life.

Although we don't venerate or pray to saints, we do look to them as examples of holiness and God's work in ordinary human beings.

Although most of us tend to think of Saint Francis as the patron saint of nature and animals due to stories about him preaching to the birds and "converting" a wolf, along with hymns such as

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“All Creatures of Our God and King;” we may not know much more about him. His devotion to God in all things serves as an example for us all. Even the fact that we often think of his name “Francis” as a godly or Christian name serves as an example.

Francis’ father was a prosperous businessman and had the same hope for his son, but was away on business when the boy was born. To his chagrin, he returned to find out that his wife had named their son, Giovanni, after St. John. Because of his admiration for France and his business connections, he renamed the boy, Francis. Francis was proficient at being a spoiled rich kid and actually had some success. He’d aspired to become a noble and even set forth to join one of the Crusades. However, when he heard God’s call on his life and began to give away his wealth, his father rejected him and demanded that he return all that he’d been given. Francis went a step further and left naked. Francis had to leave behind everything in order to pursue his love for God.

Although I don’t believe God expects all of us to renounce the entirety of who we were/are in response to his call, each of us must consider how we love God with our whole heart, mind, and soul with spiritual devotion rather than going through the motions. Each of us is also called to consider what portion of what we possess that God is calling us to share with the ministry of the church and in other endeavors that demonstrate our love for our neighbors.

In the next few weeks, we will be mailing out a letter including an “Estimate of Giving Card” as the congregation’s leadership plans for our ministry in the upcoming year. Only the aggregate total and trends are shared with the Finance Committee and Church Council. By returning the card on October 18 during worship or via mail, you help our leaders to be good stewards of our resources and to plan for our ministry. Remember an “Estimate of Giving” is just that; it is not a promissory note or contract.

Whether you return the card or not, by taking time to prayerfully contemplate what portion of the resources God has entrusted to you are to be used for our shared ministry, we avail ourselves of a holy opportunity to remember who we are as Christians and what that means in comparison to the world.

A famous prayer attributed to St. Francis concludes:

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in the giving that we receive,
it is in the pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in the dying that we are born to eternal life.*

This prayer reminds us, that as Christians, the way we live stands in juxtaposition to the world. Rather than living as those who are entitled by what we have or even our relationship with Jesus Christ, we live as those who are enriched by what we give of ourselves.

This month, may each of us look towards the examples of the saints in our own lives and the saints of the church to discover how God can use us to bless the world with the love of Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ.


Rev. Mark Harkness



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 and on the small table in the sanctuary. 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 prayer request box in the chapel or fold and put into the offering plate. Your request will be given to the pastor or forwarded to the Prayer Chain. You may also email your prayer requests to the secretary who will pass it on the Prayer Chain.

Update on Pastor Kim’s School

The Global Missions Secondary School in Tanzania, recipient of this year's Bishop's Appeal special offering, passed its first building inspection. Even though construction on the school was behind schedule, local education officials extended the deadline and completed the first inspection on September 11. "The first school inspection was successfully done because God made a way in an impossible situation," said GBGM Missionary and Project Coordinator Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim. "When we failed to reach 75% of construction by August 2020 according to the Ministry of Education, a light of HOPE to open the school in January 2021 was almost dimmed. But God turned the situation around and a district education officer and a chief school inspector gave me one more chance to finish the priority buildings and be ready for the 2nd inspection on November 15, 2020."



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.

October 4 18th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 19
 Scripture Lesson Philippians 3:4b-14
 Gospel..... Matthew 21:33-46
 Message "Enthusiasm"
 Series *Aligning Our Hearts* - 2

October 11 19th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 106:1-12, 19-23, 47-48
 Scripture Lesson Philippians 4:1-9
 Gospel..... Matthew 22:1-14
 Message "Violation"
 Series *Aligning Our Hearts* - 3

October 18 20th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 99
 Scripture Lesson 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
 Gospel..... Matthew 22:15-22
 Message "Cheerfulness"
 Series *Aligning Our Hearts* - 4

October 25 21st Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 90:1-6
 Scripture Lesson Deuteronomy 34:1-12
 Scripture Lesson 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
 Gospel..... Matthew 22:34-46
 Message "Passing On"



Pastor's Bible Study



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

Pastor Mark is preparing a Bible Study to begin in late October. Check the weekly announcements at church for date, time, and subject. We will have more information in the coming weeks.

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.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

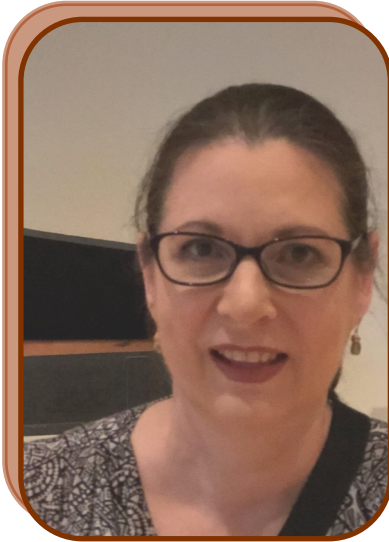
Wednesday Morning Bible Study has resumed at the church on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am.

It is a "drop-in" type of study which means no registration is required and it is come as you can.

If you would like more information, please see Patricia Irsps, Sherry Gordon or Mary Lou Clevenger.

All are welcome!

Introducing Nola Carnine, Music Director



Hello, Cherry Valley United Methodists!

My name is Nola Carnine. I live in Roscoe with my husband, Glenn. We are blessed with two grown children, Kathleen & Hunter.

I loved serving as organist & accompanist for 25 years at my home church, Roscoe Methodist.

I have been enjoying retirement following 35 years of teaching Music, Band, and Choir.

My parents needed in-home care until they passed away, and I was so thankful to be able to spend their precious final year with them.

Now, I'm ready for my next adventure: becoming part of the Worship and Ministry team here at Cherry Valley UMC. I'm looking forward to sharing my passion for music and devotion to the Lord with all of you as we navigate this journey together.

My inner teacher (known as Mrs. Car9) would like to give each of you a small assignment: Would you please **email** a list of your favorite hymns, praise songs, contemporary Christian titles, gospel, oldie, or your childhood church memory titles to me? ncarnine@gmail.com

If you'd prefer texting: 815-299-7938. Goal: so I can get to know you a little, while incorporating as many of your suggestions as possible into our future worship services together.

You can share why the song is special to you or simply send the title. It is always a blessing (and more fun) for me when I'm preparing and playing a piece of music that I know holds a special meaning for someone.

I believe that the Lord gives us music so we can taste a little bit of what heaven will be like. I can't wait to get to know you all! I look forward to the time when we can all express our love for God and each other by singing out loud together!

Warmly,

Nola Carnine



"Where words fail, music speaks."

Hans Christian Anderson

Birthdays & Anniversaries



October Anniversaries

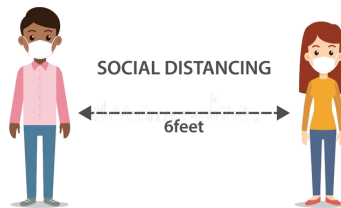
- 9 Mike & Melynda Mungor
- 12 Jim & Pat Newell
- 13 David & Dana Ward
- 14 Charles & Lora Schnuckel
- 26 Jim & Barbara Whitlock
- 29 Dave & Jan Mills

October Birthdays

- 4 Marybeth Sundberg
- 5 Charles Voorhies
- 8 Leigh Sterrenberg
- 12 Carol Conderman
- 13 Jim Whitlock
- Carol Behning
- 28 Erinna Kauffman
- Ericka Kauffman
- 30 Heather Wilt



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.

Atrium Renovation

The atrium work is now completed and it looks marvelous! It is such an improvement from the tired and trashy looking entry way that it once was. In addition to looks...it is also much more safe. The material on the floor is non-skid and the threshold of the door has been modified to help keep water from entering the hallway making it much safer, especially in the winter when ice would often accumulate in that area making it very treacherous .

This area is the area that visitors who come to the church during the week see and it is very important that it be a hospitable environment. Thank you to all who had a part in making the renovation happen.



Early Voting Location

It has been announced that the Meadow Mart Mall will serve as a new Early Voting location in Winnebago County. The vacant "Citi Trends" will be transformed into a vote center at 6401 N. Second Street, Loves Park. It will serve voters residing outside the city limits of Rockford during the two-week Early Voting timeframe prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Elections.

The Meadow Mart Mall location will be open weekdays, starting Monday, October 19th, from 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m., and weekends, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

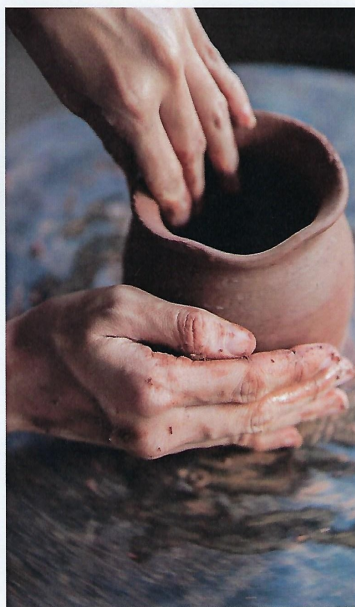
Early Voting for Winnebago County voters residing outside the City of Rockford Election District is also taking place at the Winnebago County Administration Building, 404 Elm Street, Rockford, weekdays, September 24 – October 16, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. except the Monday, October 12 holiday. Extended hours at Elm Street start October 19, weekdays 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. and weekends 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, the polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Refer to your Voter ID card for polling locations or visit WinnebagoCountyClerk.com. Voters are encouraged to wear a mask when entering their polling location.

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



Jim Whitlock

John 3:5, 6

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

The phrase, “born of water” speaks of the natural birth and pertains to a baby being born. Being “born of the Spirit” speaks of a spiritual birth, which is brought about by God Alone. The one (flesh) has no relationship to the other (Spirit) and cannot be joined.



John 3:36

“He who believes on the Son has Everlasting Life and he who believes not the Son shall not see life, but the Wrath of God abides on him.”

This proclaims to one and all the simple Plan of Salvation. The consequences are eternal. There is only one way to be Saved, that is by trusting Christ and what He has done for us at the Cross. The only way to be cleansed from sin is by the Precious Blood of Christ, and our Faith in that finished work; to not do that means that sin remains, the Wrath of God must evermore be opposed to sin, and those who allow it to remain in their lives.

John 3:8

“The wind blows where it listeth, and you hear the sound thereof, but cannot tell from where it comes, and whither it goes, so is every one who is born of the Spirit”

This presents the way in which Jesus explains the “born-again” experience. He likens it to the wind which comes and goes, but is impossible to tell exactly how. It is a spiritual birth, so it cannot be explained intellectually.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

This presents the God kind of love. God gave Him up to the Cross, for that is what it took to redeem humanity.

John 3:18

“He who believes on Him is not condemned, but he who believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the Name of the Only Begotten Son of God.”

He who believes is not condemned to be eternally lost in the Lake of Fire forever and forever (Rev. 20:11-15). All of this refers to Christ and what He did at the Cross in order to redeem humanity. Salvation is never by works, but rather by grace through faith, with the Cross ever the object of that faith.



On the first Tuesday of September we had scheduled a bike hike around the campus of Rock Valley College. It rained, so we started a Zoom meeting; our scouts stayed home and watched a movie that was shared from the screen of our Troop’s Zoom expert. (gotta be flexible!)

The second Tuesday was scheduled for fire-building in Baumann Park. It rained, so we went back to a Zoom



meeting; this time our Zoom administrator shared a series of videos about First Aid produced by scouts, and others, that were found on YouTube. (gotta be flexible!)

On the third Tuesday, we went to RVC campus. Some of the scouts rode bikes a few miles on their bike paths. Other scouts found a place on the lawn and played outdoor games; most of these guys like to run! We ended the meeting with ice cream (our Committee Chair brought a commercial-size tub of chocolate chip ice cream; everyone got to share). When the adults got home, we did a committee meeting on Zoom.

The Troop has reserved the indoor trampoline park for its meeting on the fourth Tuesday.



On the final meeting of the month, we’ll meet at the Fire Station and go through Troop equipment in the camping trailer to familiarize the newer scouts with those items, and reorganize them.

We have now paid a deposit for Summer Camp 2021. The Troop is planning to go to our own Camp Lowden near Oregon, IL. This will be a great time!

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 www.bsatroop181.org. You may call Terry Nichols, Scoutmaster, 815/540-5900 with all your Boy Scouting questions.

Church Council & Finance Meeting



Church Council and the Finance Committee will have their final regular meeting of this year on November 10, via Zoom.

Finance Committee meets at 6:15 pm and the Council meets at 7:00 pm. Committee chairs should have their written reports to the secretary no later than the day prior to the meeting.

October 2020

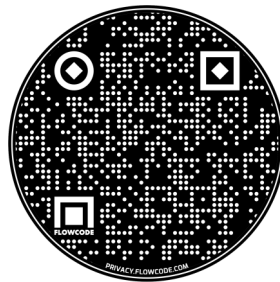
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	2	3 9:00 am GA
4 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	5 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	6 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	7 9:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustee Meeting via Zoom	8 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	9 6:30 pm <i>Burritt/Nystrom Wedding Rehearsal (Time subject to change)</i>	10 9:00 am GA 4:00 pm <i>Burritt/Nystrom Wedding</i>
11 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	12 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	13 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	14 9:00 am Bible Study	15 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429 <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16	17 9:00 am GA 10:15 am Memorial Committee
18 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	19 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	20 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	21 9:00 am Bible Study	22 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	23	24 9:00 am GA
25 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	26 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	27 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	28 9:00 am Bible Study	29 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429 	30	31 9:00 am GA 

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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CHERRY VALLEY
IL 61016



It's Fall Y'all



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