

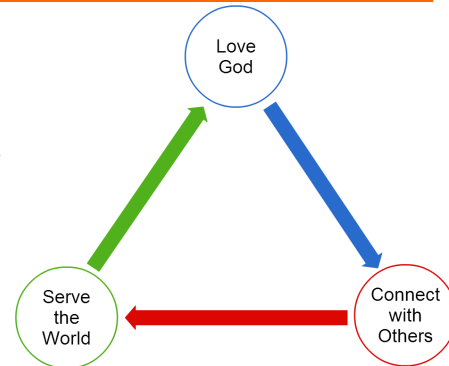
THE MESSENGER

January 2021

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

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord..

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

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

Whenever I go to a new doctor's office, I chuckle when I fill out the "Patient Information" form, especially in the spot where it asks for "patient's name." I chuckle because "patient" is not a word that suits me particularly well. That may be why my blood pressure is so much higher in the doctor's office after waiting until half an hour or more after my appointment time to see the doctor. The past year has exasperated my impatience the longer that COVID mitigations stretched out, although I agree with the general rationale (if not all of the specific implementation).

Maybe it's just me, but I've noticed that impatience has seemed to rise over the past few decades. Culturally, we expect immediate results. Whereas in past centuries it might take days, weeks, or even months to get a reply from a letter, we now expect an immediate reply to a text message or e-mail. Whereas in the past, we might have to wait for a trip to the library to find an answer to a question, now we ask Google, Siri, or Alexa and expect to hear right away. As we've grown from an agrarian economy that plants and then waits into an industrial and service economy we expect immediacy.

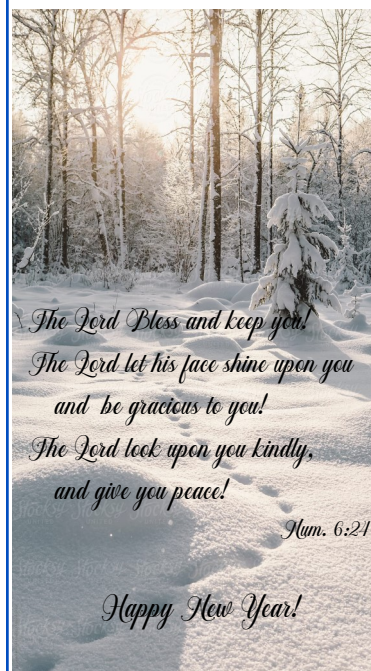
Sometimes we approach the new year in a similar fashion. Maybe the reason that so many resolutions fail is that they require long term solutions for our immediate desires. Losing weight, quitting smoking, increasing a skill all take time to develop. Too often the quick "solutions" fade as quickly as they arrive.

As Christians, we might want to remember that even God takes his time. Even the story of creation takes place over six days rather than in an instant. That our new year begins on January 1 instead of December 25 reflects this reality. January 1 is the eighth day of Christmas. The eighth day was the day a Jewish boy was named and became an "official" human being. Then we have to wait until February 2 (Candlemas) for Jesus to be presented in the Temple along with

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*The Lord Bless and keep you!
The Lord let his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you!
The Lord look upon you kindly,
and give you peace!*

Num. 6:24

Happy New Year!

(Continued from page 1)

Mary, and another thirty years later for him to begin his ministry. After that, it took about another 1500 years before the good news about Jesus would even come to the American continents.

Good things – lasting things – take time to do right. Through Jesus, we’ve been promised an everlasting kingdom in God’s presence. That’s a good thing – a lasting thing – that’s why God has taken his time. God’s patience reflects that divine desire to give every soul the opportunity to claim the promise.

The passage above begins, “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Isaiah wrote those words centuries before Jesus was born because God revealed to him that the promise had been conceived. However, in verse he speaks in the future tense saying in response to the darkness, “the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you,” reminding us that God’s love moves forward through each age and even now.

This new year brings with it new possibilities that we may not have noticed before. As we resume in-person worship -eventually seeing each other’s face and through our song together rejoicing that we are yet alive – we have a new opportunity to invite others into Christian fellowship. As we look to resuming Sunday School next year, we have the opportunity to reach out to families who may not have been a part of church life prior to the pandemic but now recognize a deeper need for meaning which only Jesus Christ can provide. As we look to how we can serve others within our congregation, community, and world we have the opportunity to invite others among us to that work.

Some of these things will take time. Let us begin by preparing the ground and sowing the seeds, so that as the Holy Spirit’s presence flows and the Son shines, we may then join God by tending to those whom he has called to new life.

In the world, we see that vaccines are already being distributed and know that it will take time. Likewise, we know that the virus will persist just as darkness persist. However, as we claim the light that has risen upon us and will rise through Christ’s presence in us we can look toward that day when disease and evil meet their irrelevance, not by pushing forward impatiently, but by trusting God to lead us.

Now is the perfect “excuse” to renew our commitment to Jesus Christ and his church whether we’ve been away because of COVID mitigations or have been away for longer, because we’ll all be starting over in a new season of hope.

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.

Thank You

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. Although we didn’t get to enjoy it in person, we were able to enjoy it via the Zoom meetings and You Tube streaming.

We had to forego our tradition of purchasing live poinsettias for the sanctuary this year, but thanks to Juanita Barnes, we had poinsettias to decorate the altar area.



Confirmation

Pastor Mark will begin confirmation classes in January via ZOOM.

Anyone interested in joining or knowing more should contact Pastor Mark.

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.

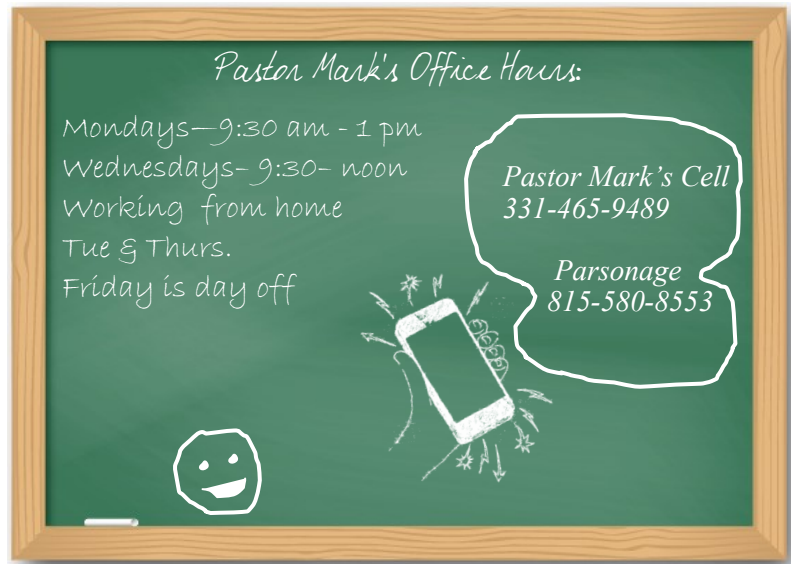
January 3 Epiphany Sunday
Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service

January 10 Baptism of the Lord
Call to Worship Psalm 29
Scripture Lesson Acts 19:1-7
Gospel Mark 1:4-11
Message "The Reveal"
Series: Jesus, Man of Mystery, Part 1

January 17 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
Call to Worship Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Scripture Lesson 1 Samuel 3:1-10
Gospel John 1:43-51
Message "Now You See It, Now You Don't"
Series: Jesus, Man of Mystery, Part 2

January 24 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
Call to Worship Psalm 62:5-12
Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel Mark 1:14-20
Message "An Urgent Mission:
Series: Jesus, Man of Mystery, Part 3

January 31 4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Call to Worship Psalm 111
Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel Mark 1:21-28
Message "Extra! Extra! Read All About It"
Series: Jesus, Man of Mystery, Part 4



Spiritual Insights

Jim Whitlock

2 Corinthians 5:17 "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; all things have become new..."

As the New Year begins, we should look at the new year and also say "The old things are passed away, and all things have become new." We should forget old grudges, old hurts from others, and let go of bitterness toward others. We should think on the New Year as an opportunity to show more love toward others.

2 Corinthians 5:18 "All things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself thru Jesus Christ."

As God has reconciled us to himself, we should also in this New Year, reconcile ourselves to those who we have hurt or harmed on purpose or be accident. We should put away our overabundance of sinful pride and embrace the Godly virtue of humility. In this New Year, we should strive to love Jesus more than anyone or anything in this world.



Notes from the Organ Bench

What's that in my mailbox? Is it a hand-addressed envelope? Could it be something special: a tiny piece of heaven that stands out from the rest? Spotting *just one* in my soon-to-be-recycled junk mail stack suddenly transforms my heart! I am taken from this chaotic, isolated world into a forgotten place, sparking a moment of child-like *anticipation*. Who could it be from? Will it be a surprise? Is it just *for ME*? I can *hardly wait* to open it.

Singing the music and hymns of our faith *for* you here at CVUMC has been my *privilege*. Pastor Mark pointed out that *offering our music* TO: God, FROM: ALL OF US, is like sending him one card, signed by all of us.

I think our Heavenly Father waits longingly to hear our praises, songs, and prayers with anticipation. He *wants* to connect with us, to lovingly receive our gratitude. What a beautiful way to take our souls out for a desperately-needed "REJOICING" break during a long winter!

I will sing to the Lord on your behalf, as you continue to sing in your hearts, until that time when we can all raise our voices in song to Him *together* again.

Nola

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thess. 5:16-18. RSV



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Susan Harkness
28 David Anderson
Donna Layng
30 Harry Buck
31 Lyons Meyers
Jim Coulter



January Birthdays

3 Jan Mills
5 Kathleen Sundberg
7 Connor Kloss
13 Nancy Laurent
15 Taryn Ward
18 Jordyn Nystrom
Nick Brown
27 Lavern Neff

January Anniversaries

7 Keith & Terri Burritt



Thank You

We are entering 2021 and God's mission is still active and so are your missionaries! Your prayerful giving to God is a blessing and our United Methodist connection makes every dollar of every gift count 100% to mission through the Advance. To keep missionaries in service it takes faithful givers like you who not only give, but also pray for your missionaries and the communities they serve. On behalf of the entire missionary community of over 300 folks, thank you so much for the blessing of your time and resources to God's mission. Thank you for the support that you have generously given to sustain United Methodist Missionaries and ministries.

The United Methodist Missionary Association has put together a thank you video with the help of missionaries serving from everywhere to everywhere, even during this time of pandemic. You can access the [video here](#) on vimeo.

We look forward to continuing to be in mission with you as we go forward into 2021.
The Itineration Team

*Eric Angel,
Senior Manager of Itineration & Missionary Support
Brandolyn Pope, Program Associate
Erica Oliveira, Missionary Support Coach*



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



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.



Global Mission Update

Word was just received from Pastor Young Seon Kim that the school inspection scheduled for Dec. 7 came through with positive news. **The school has passed inspection!** The school can now move forward – hopefully to open in January. Pastor Kim had mentioned earlier that the essential buildings (minimum construction for school registration) were not completely done. However, she said, “my faith tells me that God will make a way for the Global Mission Secondary School to move to the FINAL STAGE for getting a school registration number.’ That has now happened! Praise the Lord.

This continues to be such a God-filled journey. Pastor Kim expressed disappointment with irresponsible and dishonest people, but God of the Word was faithful and the Light was visible in the darkness. Also, she said God surprised her with a lot of breakthroughs at the last minute. Indeed, she was reminded that God is the expert in turning the tide. Recently there was a big question in her mind- whether the GMSS could still recruit 40 students since they were behind in the schedule.

The Holy Spirit gave her these words: *One thing at a time.*

Dear friends, please join me to pray for last-minute preparations to recruit students and open the school in January.

With God’s grace we grow together! Judy Long

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.

Tracing Sign In

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.

...and now on a lighter



Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Church Leadership - 2021

Church Council

Chair/Pastor	Rev. Mark Harkness
Deacon	Rev. Danice Loveridge
Lay Leader	Scott Layng
Recording Secretary	Juanita Barnes
Membership Secretary	Barbara Anderson
Lay Members to AC	Sue Layng Dave Ward
SPRC Chair	John Schwartz
Finance Committee – Chair	Jerry Redden
Treasurer	Sue Layng
Trustees Chair	(elected by trustees)
Outreach & Evangelism Chair	Terri Burritt
Worship Committee – Chair	Juanita Barnes
Memorials Committee – Chair	Grace Harter
UMW – President	(elected by women)
At-Large Member	David Mills

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

John Schwartz (chair)
Carolyn Kloss
Keith Burritt
Kathleen Sundberg
By Office: Scott Layng (Lay Leader) ,
Sue Layng (Lay Member to AC)
Dave Ward (Lay Member to AC)

Finance Committee

Jerry Redden Chair)
Sue Layng (Treasurer)
Mary Lou Clevenger (Recorder)
Jerry Redden (at-large)
Lucille Powell (at-large)
Mary Coulter (at-large)

Audit Committee

Sally Hollebeak
Scott Layng

Board of Trustees

Dave Ward
Charlie Schnuckel
Patty Campbell
Mary Wilson
Janet Bryant
Dave Anderson

Nominations Committee

Rev. Mark Harkness (Chair)
Scott Layng (Lay Leader)
Sandy Schwartz

Outreach & Evangelism (Missions)

Terri Burritt (Chair)
Veronica Layng
Amanda Kloepfer
Mary Coulter
Judy Long
Dave Ward
Janet Bryant
Jim Bryant

Worship Committee

Juanita Barnes (Chair)
Judy Krunfus
Deb Seno
Barb Clucas
James Bryant
Holly Snyder
Patricia Irps

Committee on Memorials & Gifts

Grace Harter (Chair)
Donna Layng
Harry Buck
Jordyn Burritt
Lavern Neff

United Methodist Men

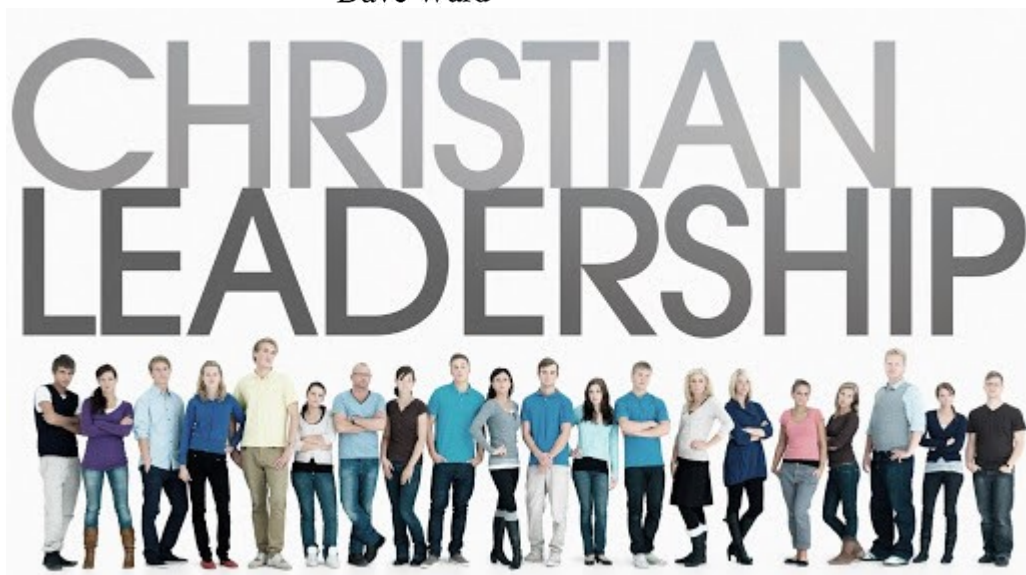
Warren Gross, President
Dave Ward, Financial Secretary

United Methodist Women

Donna Layng, President
Pat Newell, Secretary
Kathleen Sundberg

Lay Members to Annual Conference

Sue Layng
Dave Ward



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 9:00 am GA
3 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	4 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	5 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 181	6 9:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees via Zoom	7 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	8	9 9:00 am GA
10 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	11 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	12 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 181	13 9:00 am Bible Study	14 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	15 <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16 9:00 am GA
17 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	18 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	19 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 181	20 9:00 am Bible Study	21 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	22	23 9:00 am GA
24 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>	25 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	26 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 181	27 9:00 am Bible Study	28 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	29	30 9:00 am GA
31 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>						The Gamblers Anonymous group that meets at the church on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. have suspended meetings until further notice. Please make a note of the changes and watch for updates when they become available.

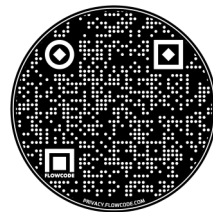
Messenger items are due to the secretary on the 15th of each month.

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face
shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up
His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

Happy New Year



Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016



Let us
WORSHIP
Together

Sunday @ 10:00 am—In-person
Worship

Live You Tube streaming @
Cherry Valley United
Methodist Church

Pastor: Mark Harkness
Secretary: Nancy Laurent

Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm