MESSENGER

February 2021

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

<u>Our Mission</u>: 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

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, And relents from punishing.

Joel 2:12-13 (NRSV)

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

February is an interesting month. Although it's the shortest month of the year, it also seems to be one of the busiest – filled with special days: Feb 2 – Groundhog Day/Candlemas, Feb 12 – Lincoln's Birthday, Feb 14 – St. Valentine's Day, Feb 21 – Washington's Birthday, and most of all Feb 20 – my birthday.

Although it seems self-indulgent to mention my birthday in the list of other February celebrations/commemorations, that's not the intention. If you were to look at each of those dates on the calendar, you'd notice that only one falls on a Sunday: St. Valentine's Day. When she reads this, Susan will probably moan, "Not again."

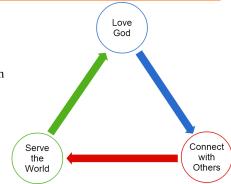
Since before we were married, church things always seemed to pop up for those special days. Instead of having dinner together on our first Valentine's Day, I spent the evening ministering to a family in crisis. Three years ago, Ash Wednesday coincided with Valentine's Day. Two years ago, Our Anniversary has, at times, fallen on Easter Sunday and Maundy Thursday. On other years, those dates fall so close to our anniversary that we've not been able to plan time away to celebrate our marriage more intentionally. This year, my birthday – once again – falls in the midst of the Lenten fast. Church can be inconvenient to a pastor's life, so it seems.

Several years ago, I moved the baptismal font in the church from the front to the back near the entrance to the sanctuary. (Historically, the baptistery was always located just outside the entrance to the church as a reminder that baptism was our initiation into the body of Christ). When I moved the font, I made a point of placing it right in the doorway. As I took care of some other Sunday morning preparations, I noticed that someone had moved it so that it wouldn't be in the way, and it would be "easier" to get into church without turning sideways and squeezing by. I moved it back, and commented that it was there for a reason. (In fact, it was related to the sermon that day.)

Although we don't think about it, our baptism can be inconvenient (when we remember it). Our emergence from the water of baptism, like our emergence from the water of the womb, is an entry into a new life in Jesus Christ. Our baptism unites us with Christ so that our lives become a re-presentation of Jesus to the world.



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That can be inconvenient, because it reminds us that we are to take up forgiveness instead of vengeance, that we are to offer love rather than indifference, that we grow more in suffering than in privilege, and that we are glorified in humility rather than pride.

Too often Lent gets treated as a bother. It's inconvenient that I won't get to have a fancy birthday meal this year (I can't even use the Sundays don't count loophole). However, that's still my choice; God doesn't impose that upon me. Instead, Lent offers the opportunity to reset our priorities in anticipation of Holy Week and the Easter feast. What spiritual practices have served to sustain you and to nurture your faith? Instead of being inconvenienced by Lent and our baptism, why not take the opportunity to begin or renew holy habits that will become automatic responses in our time of need when faced with the real inconveniences of life?

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. / h AH

Rev. Mark Harkness

What is Candlemas?

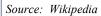
You will notice in Pastor Mark's letter, he mentions the important days in February. He lists <u>Candlemas</u> as February 2, and various other days in February that are important. But what is Candlemas? For those of us who do not have a theology degree, I looked it up and herein is the explanation of Candlemas:

Candlemas (also spelled Candlemass), also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Feast of the Holy Encounter, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is based upon the account of the presentation of Jesus in Luke 2:22–40. In accordance with Leviticus 12: a woman was to be purified by presenting a lamb as a burnt offering, and either a young pigeon or dove as sin offering, 33 days after a boy's circumcision. It falls on February 2, which is traditionally the 40th day of and the conclusion of the Christmas–Epiphany season.

While it is customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve), those in other Christian countries historically remove them after Candlemas.

On Candlemas, many Christians (especially Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans, Orthodox and Roman Catholics) also

bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year; for Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who referred to Himself as the Light of the World.







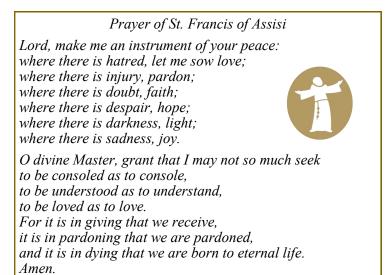
Members & Friends Sandra Baxter Violet Collier Joe Hunt Lela Lameyer Lyons Meyers Marlene Meyers Jim & Barb Whitlock Military Personnel Gage Christensen Sean Conderman Tamara Duke Dan Harter Mark Kincaide

Mission Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn John Schwartz Family (John's Sister Jean)



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.





Confirmation Class will be held on February 10th and 24th at 3:30 pm via Zoom. Zoom information will be emailed prior to meeting dates

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.

February 7	. 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
Call to Worship	
Scripture Lesson	
Scripture Lesson	. 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Gospel	. Mark 1:29-39
Message	. "Secrets, Secrets, Secrets"
Series: Jesus, Man of My	vstery #5

February 14	Transfiguration Sunday
Call to Worship	Psalm 50:1-6
Scripture Lesson	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Gospel	Mark 9:2-9
Message	"Exposed"
Series: Jesus, Man of My	stery #6

February 17	Ash Wednesday
Call to Worship	
Scripture Lesson	
	2 Corinthians 5;20 <i>b</i> —6:10
Gospel	
Message	

February 21	1st Sunday of Lent
Call to Worship	Psalm 25:1-10
Scripture Lesson	Genesis 9:8-17
Gospel	Mark 1:9-15
Message	"Expand Your Mind"
Series: The Power of Sac	rifice #1

February 28	2nd Sunday of Lent
Call to Worship	Psalm 22:23-31
Scripture Lesson	Romans 4:13-25
Gospel	Mark 8:31-28
Message	"What Matters Most"
Series: The Power of Sac	rifice #2

Don't

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2021 Church Council Meeting Dates

2/7

The following are Church Council and Finance meeting dates for 2021. The Finance Committee meets at 6:15 pm, all dates, and the Church Council meets at 7:00 pm, all dates.

February 23 April 6 May 18 June 29 August 10 September 14 November 9

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



Membership Roll

The following are names of people who are on the Membership Roll, but for whom we do not have addresses or they have not been to church in many years. If you know any of these people and are in contact with them, please ask them to call the church with their current address and phone number or have someone indicate whether or not they wish to stay members. If there is no response, the names will go to the next Annual Conference to be removed from the Membership Roll.

Adami	Kelly
Allen	Andre
Allen	Rebecca
Allen	Steve
Allen	Tammy
Allton	Adam
Allton	Greg
Allton	Hillary
Allton	Karin
Andrews	Deneen
Austin	Laura
Baker	Eloise
Banks,	David
Banks,	Dwight
Barnes	Jill
Barrickman	Morgan
Baxter	Bethanie
Baxter	Kyle
Baxter	Tonia
Beach	Julie
Belcher	Chenoa J
Belcher	Hilary
Bogle	Susan
Bowling	Mary
Brandebury	Anthony
Clark	Bridgette
Clark	Caroline
Clark	Sara
Conderman	Timothy
Coulter	Brian
Coulter	Brittany
Coulter	Collin
Coyne	Jody
Coyne	Kasey
Coyne	Kevin
Coyne Cronk	Korey
Cronk	Stanley Vicki
Edmison	Colin
Edmison	Margit
Ellison	Kelley D
Ellison	Patricia
Erickson	Jonathan
Erickson	Marc
Erlandson	Bethlyn
Litanuson	Seanyn

Gartner Alex Gehrke Diane Gillingham David Gordon Janis Gordon Jennifer Robin Gordon Gordon Ryan Wendy Gulotta Brian Halley Hallev Daniel Halley Julie Stacie Halley Hart Bill Hart James Hart Kelsey Hart Paula Hauck Alexis Hauck Dylan Hauck Lori Hauck Toby Hicks Stephanie Himmel Jim Himmel Yvonne Hollembeak Chad Hollembeak Cheryl Hollembeak Dawn Jill Hollembeak Todd Hudson Hudson Tricia Husolo Robert Husolo Ronald Ingersoll Robyn Lisa Ingram Donald Kleindl Kleindl Gayle Knautz Kevin Knautz Sandra Jodi Kvle Lamping Judy Brad Larson Larson Edward Larson Jean Larson Stacy Bridget Lavng David Layng Jeffrey Layng

Tammy Lavng Lemmons Angela McCullough Doreen Mesch Brandy Mitchell Brandi Montana Debra Douglas Morehead Morehead Jane Moyer Dale Moyer Jordon Moyer Mary Murphy Trevan Shirley Nash Neff Martin Shirley Neff Nelson Chris Nelson Lauren Palmer Tiffany Kerry Peters Peters Mary Sarah Peters Porter Denise Prather Emily Sarah Rasmussen Cathleen Reynolds Reynolds Renae Reynolds Tom Ries Dallas Heather Rosenthal Schweitzer Erik Severson Jodi Sue Simonson Slothower Stacy Smith Linda Michael Smith Sodko Sarah Patricia Stegemann Erik Steiner Nicole Steiner Amanda Strewlow Ashley Strewlow Stunkel Jane True Amy Bryan Jeff True True Linda True True Louis Tryggestad Justin Brad Ware Ware Kathy White David

Notes from the Organ Bench

Greetings to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you. I remember you in my prayers night and day. I am reminded of your faith.

So many of Paul's letters in the New Testament begin this way. They are real love letters of encouragement to the early fledgling churches. What a wonderful greeting to give or to receive any time of year, but especially during this particular endless winter!

We all miss fellowship and family so terribly right now. Paul says to Timothy, "Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy."

Faith is believing in things unseen. We need to encourage each other in the faith now, more than ever. My hope is that the worship music ministry is encouraging you, in some small way, from one week to the next.

I have been able to see your hard work behind the scenes right here, in real life. I have witnessed many selfless acts of caring and generosity during my few short months here with you. This encourages me greatly, because:

1- I know that you are bringing God's love to life, in spite of all the challenges we're fighting these days.

2- God's love and generosity are infinitely greater than what we human beings can comprehend.

Thank you for the love, encouragement and hope for the future!



A Note on Faith

After this past year, if your faith in America is wavering, please turn your radio on to AM 1490 on Sunday mornings at 11:50 a.m. It is only 10 minutes but your mind will be refreshed and know that our country is the greatest. It is not always the same every Sunday, but you will agree that it is the best 10 minutes of your day.

God Bless you and God Bless America

Doris Kuelz

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. All these precautions helps everyone.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mary Lou Clevenger

Teaghan Brown

Mark Harkness

Judith Krunfus

Mark Snyder

February

Anniversaries

There were no anniversaries

listed for the month of February



February Birthdays

- 3 Riley Sundberg
- 5 Mary Wilson
- 6 Matthew Gross
- 9 Keith Burritt
- 12 Taylor Gross
- 13 Kathy Ware



Monthly Missions Committee Update

We begin this New Year with an intentional outreach to nurture our church family and its surrounding community. The pandemic has isolated many and created new expectations for all of us. We need to find creative ways to connect and support each other. We had our first 'care' project in December when we sent Christmas cards to all of our homebound church members. It was a small, but meaningful first step in our attempt to reach out to those in need.

Our next care package will again target the homebound with a Valentine's care package. The package that we deliver on February 14 will contain cookies, wooden crosses, note cards, hymnals and Valentine treats and of course a Valentine!!



Our hope is to expand our outreach of care to other groups particularly affected by the pandemic – such as the fire and police departments, nurses, other first responders, schools, Rosecrance, Miss Carly and the Rockford Rescue Mission. If you know of a group that needs to be nurtured, please let us know.

Starting in May we will introduce a new "*Monthly Missions Moment*' to our worship service. Various community-based service groups will be asked to speak for a 'moment' during our worship service. Our hope is to create greater awareness of how we could support our community.

As we develop further projects we will keep you informed and invite you to join us in reaching out to these various groups. If you wish to be directly involved in the outreach committee, please contact Terri Burritt at *burritt5@hotmail.com* <u>Our</u> <u>next meeting will be January 31 right after church,</u> when we create the Valentine packages. Our next <u>zoom meeting</u> <u>will be March 11 at 7 pm.</u>

Judy Long, Secretary

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 can't come to church for in-person You Tube worship or feel uncomfortable attending, 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. There you will find the link to follow for Zoom and You Tube. You may also watch it later along with previously streamed worship services.

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 panty 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 The Peanut Butter Endowment was specific goal. 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.

Scouting News

The Scouts, despite Covid 19 are doing our best to keep scouting alive and well. The boy troop 181B had their annual tree lot and sold out in record time this year. Thanks to those at the church who continue to support us by buying your wreaths and trees from us. The tree lot also gives us some outside time where the scouts came up with some fun games



that still followed all the social distancing rules in place.

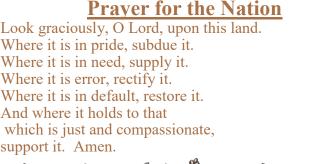
The boy troop this month focused on leadership and communication through our zoom meetings. We just had our annual re-chartering and are pleased to say we have 36 youth and 35 adults registered.

The Girl troop 181G is also off and running. We have 15 girls who are getting to understand the program and are getting to know each other and many have completed their first rank, "Scout".

All of the scouts are working on Merit Badges that have been made available virtually. Over the next month both units will holding a recruitment event, so expecting our numbers to grow.

Thank you church for your continued support and giving us a place to help the youth we serve become the best versions of themselves. We hope to see you on Scout Sunday February 21st.

We encourage boys 11-17 to visit our Troop meetings on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm, 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, Terry Nichols, 815/540-5900. You may call him or Sandy with all your Scouting questions. Visit our website at http://www.bsatroop181.com.







The beginning of the Holy Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Join us for a special Worship service At 7:00 pm

Ashes will be available at the church beginning at 6:00 a.m.

Global Mission Secondary School Update

Happy New Year - 2021 from Pastor Young Seon (Christina) Kim

Dear Mission Partner,

Regardless of COVID-19, challenges, and problems, God has made a way for the Global Mission Secondary School. Essential school construction was done by December 12; the Final school inspection was successfully done on December14; we got the School registration NO. 5442 on December 16. This was God's miracle. I praise Him forever.

God used your support and prayers to give me so much peace and hope during the construction this year, and also made all my work possible in Tanzania. Asante Sana (Thank you so much). You have been with me in mission together all year, and I look forward to the privilege of being on mission with you in the year to come.

Global Mission Secondary School will open on January 18, 2021. My winning team has been working hard to get the word out and recruit students since we were blessed with school registration NO. I believe that God who has led me this far will bless me to get 40 students for the awesome beginning.

I look forward to continuing to share with you the ways that God is moving and speaking in my work, and I hope that you will share with me from time to time how you see God showing up in your daily life.

On this last day of 2020, my heart is full of gratitude. I hope that you can also find things to give thanks to God who always keeps you, regardless of your difficulty or things that make you afraid. Remember Isaiah 41:10, "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." Our God is the Promise Keeper.

May 2021 bring us blessings yet unknown, and I pray that we will be able to continue to be in ministry together. Have a blessed new year!!!

With gratitude, Young Seon (Christina)

You can see my recent posts:

https://web.facebook.com/yskim2?_rdc=1&_rdr

UPDATE: As of January 11, 32 students have registered. The goal is 40 by January 18. Please pray that all goes as planned and the goal is reached!

How to Give: The Advance is an official program of the United Methodist Church. 100% of all Advance giving goes to the chosen mission project or ministry.

To provide a scholarship to students:

Advance GCFA P.O. BOX 9068 New York, N.Y. 10087-9063 \$50 per month

You can choose my salary support (#3021957) the Next Generation Ministries/School Project (#3022281) or a student scholarship (#3022281). Please send a check to "Advance GCFA" at P.O.Box 9068 New York, NY 10087-9068 with the Advance number on the memo line. Thanks a million!

Online giving: https://advance.umcmission.org/Projects.aspx? PREGION=AF&PCNTRY=TANZ&page=3#results

Age—It's Just a Number

Ever notice how people in their 80's and 90's brag about how old they are? Ever wonder why they will stop you in the middle of the grocery aisle and talk to you about their age? Yeah, me too. They share so proudly their age and will tell you they feel great. Now, I think I'm starting to understand.

I recently had a birthday. It wasn't a milestone like 21 or 30 or "Lordy, Lordy, Look Who's Forty!" or even the milestone of 65 (Yeah, Social Security, Baby!). It was turning 73. Seventy-three, how blah! Not even an even number. Funny thing, in my mind, I still feel like I'm 25, but when I act like I'm 25, people say, "oh, the poor dear, look, she's lost it!"

But turning 73 meant something to me. It meant that I have lived longer than my mother did. She died at age 72 and that age was always hanging over my head. She had diabetes and I have diabetes and I always thought of myself being so much like my mother. I had to keep telling myself that I am not my mother; that I have lived a completely different life than she did. Diabetes care and medications have come so far since she was diagnosed and suffered daily with it. Her life was also much harder than mine. I would probably not have survived as long as she did if I'd had all the hardships she managed in her lifetime.

When I was 60 and was asked my age by anyone, I'd tell them that I was almost 70 just so I could get the startled look and then....."Wow, you look great! I would have never taken you for that old." That was my way of assuring a compliment. As I progressed through my 60s, the compliments got fewer and less enthusiastic. The comments then became, "yeah, I was going to say 70 or 75," or "Oh, I thought you were about my age, I'm 78." So, now I'm going to have to find another way to fish for compliments.

But here I am...73 years old....and still walking around, still lucid, most of the time, and able to do so much physically that I see some of my peers unable to do. Some of you will say, "oof, you're so old...and others will say, "HA! You're a spring chicken!" Actually, I'm neither of those, but I am a <u>blessed</u> 73 year old who is still physically and mentally capable. And, now I know why the people who are in their 80's and 90's brag about their age...THEY'VE MADE IT! They have lived this life full and long and darn proud to have accomplished that...and in their mind they are still 25. So, the next time I stop you at the grocery store and brag about how old I am, hopefully you'll understand and congratulate me on living so long....and tell me I look great....lie if you must!

Nancy Laurent



Echiany-2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	2 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 181 <i>Candlemas</i> <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3 9:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees via Zoom	4 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	5	6 9:00 am GA
7 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in</i> <i>Effect</i>	8 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	9 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 181	10 9:00 am Bible Study	11 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	12	13 9:00 am GA
14 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in</i> <i>Effect</i>	1.5 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA <i>Messenger items</i> <i>due today</i>	16 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 181	17 9:00 am Bible Study	18 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	19	20 9:00 am GA
Happy Valentine's Day	PRESIDENTS DAY		ASHWEDNESDAY BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT			
21 10:00 am Worship <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> <i>ReTurn Procedures in</i> <i>Effect</i> <i>Scouting Sunday</i>	222 6:00 pm-8:00pm Scouts BSA	23 6:15 pm Finance Committee (via zoom) 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 181 7:00 pm Church Council (via zoom)	24 9:00 am Bible Study	25 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429	26	27 9:00 am GA
28 10:00 am Worship Second Sunday in Lent ReTurn Procedures in Effect						

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

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.





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

REMINDER:

We are in the process of conducting the annual church audit. All groups with checking accounts must gather your files in preparation for your audit. You may drop off your files at the church office. We will contact you to make an appointment for your audit. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Layng or Sally Hollembeak.





Sunday@ 10:00 am—In-person Worship

Live You Tube streaming @ Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

