

THE MESSENGER

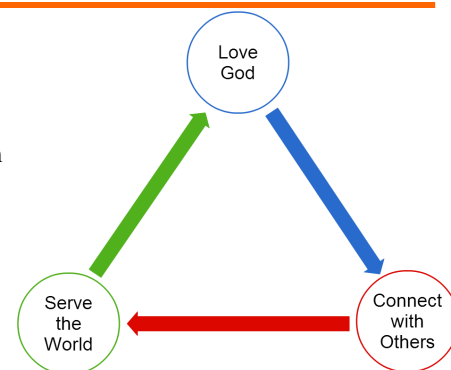
March 2021

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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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

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea,

across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matthew 4:12-17 (NRSV)

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

We've all heard the old adage about March, “In like a lion; out like a lamb.” However, as I sit huddled in my office while the temperature has finally risen to 7° F, I can't help but think that March is approaching more like a Yeti (the abominable snowman) than like a lion.

I have seen lions in zoos and on nature programs. I've petted lamb's. Their wool has kept my feet warm on cold days. Their flesh has nourished me on more than one occasion. Lions and lambs make sense. A yeti, on the other hand, perplexes me.

Are Yeti's even real? Are they mere myth? If they are merely mythical, what does that tell us about ourselves? The Yeti is also called Metoh-Kangmi which translates as “Man/Bear – snowman. The term “Abominable Snowman” (first mistranslated as “filthy snowman” because a previous writer had incorrectly substituted “metch” for “metoh”) was coined by Henry Newman in 1921 writing a newspaper article in India.

Because that name stuck (at least in the west), the Yeti took on new characteristics similar to Sasquatch. What we miss is that the Himalayan name for the creature refers to a man/bear (a bear that acts like a man?). In fact, many suspect that the mythic creature is merely a misidentification of the Himalayan bear.

Why is your pastor talking about Yetis – Abominable Snowmen? Other than the frigidness in which we find ourselves enveloped as we approach March, the Yeti represents our tendency to turn our uncertainties/insecurities into something an almost god-like force which must be appeased rather than overcome.

The last Sunday in March is Palm Sunday: a day when we re-encounter Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We know, however, that in the following week, disciples who rejoiced with confidence on Sunday would face uncertainty and insecurity as the week progressed, even as they anticipated feasting on the Passover lamb. Even Peter, who was with Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration and witnessed Moses and

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Elijah speaking with Jesus about what was going to happen, resisted. He drew his sword, slashing one of those who had come to take Jesus away.

What ideas formed in his mind and the minds of the other disciples faced with the insecurity of Jesus' arrest and death? The uncertainty that it meant for their lives, their safety, and their livelihoods?

It's not just now -it's not just March -it's not just the year of COVID, even though I wait anxiously for my chance to be vaccinated – that we face insecurity and uncertainty. We live in a world shrouded in uncertainty and insecurity, which like a blizzard can blind us to what is within our reach. We could yield to our insecurity and uncertainty, by attributing to them overwhelming god-like power over our fate. Likewise, we could rail against it hoping to find our way clear.

Jesus said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mt 4:17 KJV) He made that pronouncement after returning from his temptation in the wilderness and upon hearing that John the Baptist (his cousin) had been arrested. That word "repent" means more than turning from sin, but means to turn to – to reach out to – God and his kingdom for hope rather. Because it is at hand, we have the assurance that - even though we may not be able to see clearly or understand perfectly – that God will lead us.

We approach March through an abominable season filled with various uncertainties,. One thing remains certain: Jesus Christ lives! The lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world is at hand to guide each of through uncertainty and into life. Avail yourself of the opportunity, allow him to lead you through life by staying close to him through worship, prayer, and attending to his word in holy Scripture even as uncertainties and adversities bound. He went to the cross to confirm his commitment to lift you above the sins of the world, and into life.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Tamara Duke
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide

Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Violet Collier
Joe Hunt
Lela Lameyer
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Jim & Barb Whitlock

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

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the "heart" bag of goodies. I am blessed by your thoughtfulness. Blessings to all of you and yours.

Take care and be safe. With all my love xoxo

Doris DeVries



The Jelly Bean Prayer is a fun Easter prayer for your family. Make up some jars of jelly beans to give away with the prayer during the Octave of Easter (Holy Week). Put them on display for the rest of Lent to remember that we are walking this Lenten journey with the hope of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord on Easter. When Easter comes, attach the Jelly Bean Prayer to the jars and give them away to family, friends, elderly neighbors, or anyone who might need a little extra joy this Easter.

Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood Christ gave.
Green is for the grass he made.
Yellow is for the sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made.

White is for the grace He gave.
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
Pink is for each new tomorrow.
In a handful of jelly beans, colorful and sweet
Is a prayer, a promise, and a loved one's treat!

Upcoming Sermons

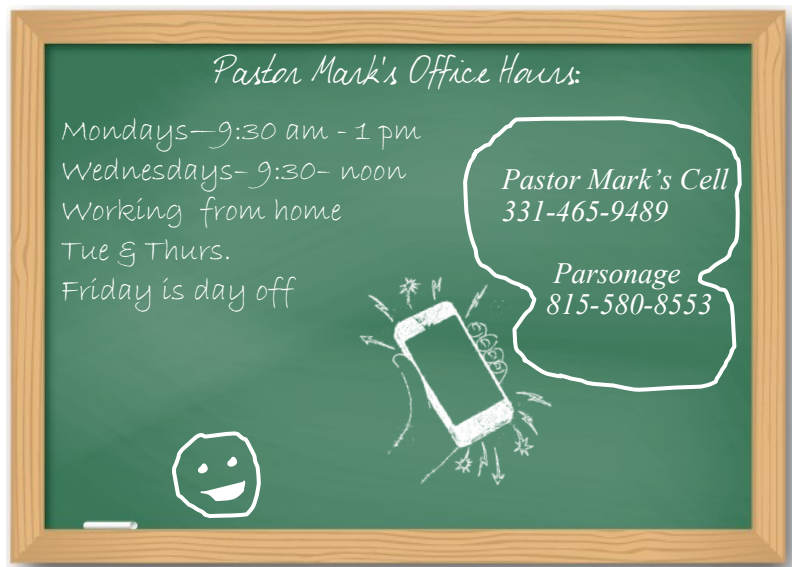
Below is a schedule of the sermons and scripture readings that Pastor Mark will be presenting. To prepare yourself, please read the scriptures beforehand. Printed copies of Pastor Mark's sermons are available on the church website (cherryvalleyumc.com). Click the worship tab.

March 7.....3rd Sunday in Lent
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 19
 Scripture Lesson1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 Gospel.....John 2:13-22
 Message“The Destruction that Brings Life”
 Series: The Power of Sacrifice #3

March 14.....4th Sunday in Lent
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 107:1-9
 Scripture LessonNumbers 21:4-9
 Gospel.....John 3:14-21
 Message“The Spotlight of Grace”
 Series: The Power of Sacrifice #4

March 21.....5th Sunday of Lent
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 51:1-7
 Scripture LessonJeremiah 31:31-24
 Scripture LessonHebrews 5:5-10
 Gospel.....John 12:20-33
 Message“Sacrificial Bravery”
 Series: The Power of Sacrifice #5

March 28.....Palm Sunday
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 118:14-29
 Scripture LessonPhilippians 2:5-11
 Gospel.....Mark 11:1-11
 Message“Joy Before Sorrow”
 Series: The Power of Sacrifice #6



Membership Listing

We are still in the process of updating our Membership List. If you have moved or have changed phone numbers, have a new addition to the family, or have children that have moved away but are still listed as church members under your heading, please call or email us with your current information. We will have a comprehensive list in upcoming newsletters of those people for whom we know we have incorrect addresses. Those persons for whom we have no contact information, and/or we haven't heard from in years will be put forward for removal at our next Church Conference at the end of this year. Please help us keep our membership listing current.



2021 Church Council Meeting Dates



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.

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 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.

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

— John Wesley

New Church Management Software

The church has transitioned to a “new” (same company) software management program.

The new program allows us to record on-line giving directly into the database, along with access to an app that will allow church members to view upcoming events, record worship attendance (even while joining via YouTube or ZOOM), update contact information, view the church directory, and more.

Download the app and select Cherry Valley United Methodist Church as your church. Although there is an option to “request an account” it is not needed if we have your email address and cellphone number. Merely enter your e-mail address and cell phone number. If they match what we have in our records, you will receive a texted confirmation code to complete the setup.

Please watch for improvements to come. Also, you may give to the church via text (still have to follow a link), by sending a text to: 815-393-5435 EZEKIEL with either the word “give” or “gift”. Likewise, “here” will lead you to attendance, and “pray” will lead you to a prayer request form.

Links are embedded below. Just click on your device type.



Church by MinistryOne ⁴⁺

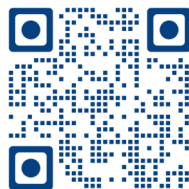
Access Your Church Anytime

Ministry Brands

Designed for iPhone

★★★★★ 4.3 • 27 Ratings

Free



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



March Birthdays

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 14 Jim Newell
- 17 Joe Hunt
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng

March Anniversaries

- 16 Christopher & Amy
Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 27 Patrick & Colleen
O’Kane



Spiritual Insights

By Jim Whitlock

If I were to title this message, I would title it “A little amount plus Jesus is always enough”.

Read Matthew 14:15-21

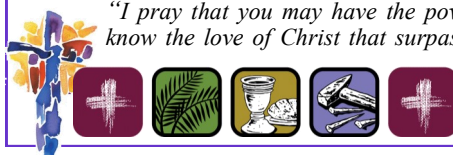
When Jesus heard of the murder of John the Baptist, He went into a deserted place to worship. A large multitude followed him. Five thousand men as well as women and children were present. Jesus had compassion on them and healed the sick among the multitude.

Jesus felt compassion on the multitude. He felt sadness at the death of John the Baptist. He felt all the human emotions as any other human. Jesus was 100% God and 100% human. All the miracles He performs He did as a human with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

It was now evening and them multitude needed food. The disciples told Jesus to send them away into the cities to eat. But Jesus said “Feed them”. The disciples told Jesus they only had five loaves and two fish to feed them. Jesus blessed the loaves and the fish. He broke the bread and gave it to the disciples to give to the multitude. After all the people ate, the disciples collected the leftover pieces. It totaled twelve baskets full! With God, all things are possible.

Only a little amount plus Jesus and the Holy Spirit is always enough.

“I pray that you may have the power to comprehend... and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”
Ephesians 3:18-19(NRSV)



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 Tube If you can't come to church for in-person 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 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.

Both troops are allowed to meet in person again and boy are we glad to get off zoom and do just that!



In the boy troop—to keep it simple and get back into the swing of things—we had a Lego night. During this time we also had scouts meet with adults to complete their next rank.

Next, we braved the cold and snow and visited the continuous fire at our service center. This fire is kept going by volunteers for a week straight to recognize the anniversary of scouting in America. Scouting was 111 years on February 8th, 2021.

We had to reschedule our ski trip due to the extreme temps. This month we have had scouts learn about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, put together and present a presentation on environmental concerns and are learning how to keep themselves and their families safe during a potential disaster. We are always learning to Be Prepared.



The Girl troop spent a day sledding at the Twin Sisters sledding hills.

We also spent a night learning all about the basics of first aid. Things such as choking, cuts, insect bites, snake bites and many other possible first aid needs.

We also had to reschedule our ski day but will get there. Soon we are headed to Severson Dells to learn all about orienteering. This will be so fun and something we do not think we would have learned without scouting.



We had an incredibly special gift presented to us this month. We had another troop buy us a trailer. The trailer is ordered and should be ready to be picked up in 9 weeks.

Thank you again church for giving us this place to hold our program.

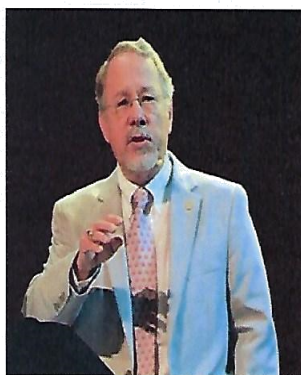
We encourage boys and girls 11-17 to visit our Troop meetings on Monday (girls) and Tuesday (boys) at 6:30 pm, and bring their parents. At this time, any visits need to be coordinated with Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567 or sandyri@comcast.net.

Join Us on MARCH 13, 2021



SPRING
Communion Service (No Breakfast)
Broadcast Live
or attend in person
GraceUmcRockford.org

Our Special Speaker is
Gil Hanke: "Why Men's Work is Important"



SPECIAL MUSIC: Dan Holmes



Gil Hanke serves as general secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. He is a former president of the commission and Nat'l Pres. Of NACP. Statements from Gil Hanke on our work at GCUMM
I want all the men of this denomination and all the youth we have in scouting to have an on-growing relationship with Jesus Christ. And we have the materials and leadership to bring men and youth into that transformational relationship. That is why GCUMM is a national leader in scouting and men's ministries.

We want churches and communities to be transformed by the work done in men's ministries and scouting ministries. This is not a time to be idle, or a time to wait. This is a time to actively welcome folks of all ages into the loving community of Christ. We have the resources and expertise to guide you and your church to these challenging and exciting ministries.

This Service will be Broadcast Live from the Grace UMC or attend in person.

Website. **GraceUmcRockford.org**


Join us at **Grace UMC** for Worship, Renewal
3555 McFarland Rd, Rockford, IL 61114
9:00 am Worship/Communion

Please contact the church to reserve your spot!
(815) 637-4561
There will not be a Breakfast

March 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
|  | 1 6:30 pm Scouts BSA | 2 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 181 | 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 Effect</i> | 8 6:30 pm Scouts BSA | 9 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 181 | 10 9:00 am Bible Study | 11 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429 7:00 pm Mission Meeting via Zoom | 12 | 13 9:00 am GA |
| 14 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i> <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>  | 15 6:30 pm Scouts BSA <i>Messenger items due today</i> | 16 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 181 | 17 9:00 am Bible Study  | 18 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #429 | 19  | 20 9:00 am GA  |
| 21 10:00 am Worship <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i> | 22 6:30 pm Scouts BSA | 23 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 181 | 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 <i>ReTurn Procedures in Effect</i>  | 29 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Holy | 30 6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troop 181 Week | 31 9:00 am Bible Study | |  | |

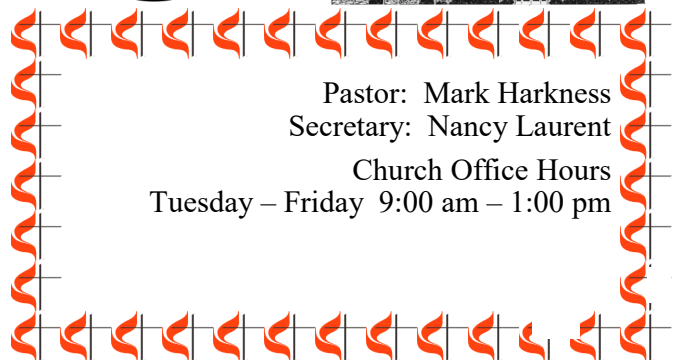
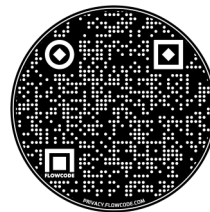
Messenger items are due to the secretary on the 15th of each month.



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



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