

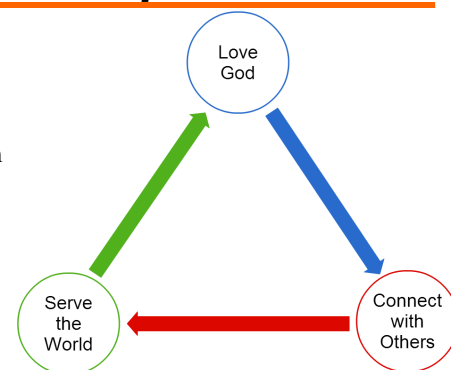
THE MESSENGER

April 2021

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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E-mail: churchinthevalley@comcast.net
Web Site: cherryvalleyumc.com
Facebook: Cherry Valley United Methodist Church



Our Mission: *Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by loving God, connecting with others, and serving the world.*

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

Luke 24:13-16, 28-33 (NRSV)

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

Good news: April is upon us. Good news: April begins with three opportunities to gather for worship in the first four days!

Last year frustrated me. Holy Thursday, Good Friday and even Easter Sunday worship was relegated to virtual gathering via video. Moreover, I was relegated to my office in the parsonage rather than streaming from our church sanctuary.

This year is different. Although we continue to stream worship via ZOOM and YouTube, with the exception of December, we've been gathering for in-person since mid-July. This year, we'll be able to gather in-person for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter!

Although masks still cover our faces, I see more people returning to in-person worship each week as members get vaccinated. As more of us get vaccinated we can help push the state towards vaccination levels that will ease restrictions so that we can see each other's faces.

Meanwhile, we rejoice that as positivity rates have decreased and our members have been faithful in safe practices that we will resume singing during worship on Easter!

In the passage above, ordinary disciples like us had been disheartened by recent events (like us); and they had heard good news about resurrection but it didn't seem real.

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Alleluia!



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Then it happened, in the breaking of the bread, they noticed that Jesus was with them for their entire journey; and they rushed to where the others were gathered together. Yet, Jesus wouldn't appear to others (e.g. Thomas) for another week, or to many others for weeks. Today, we continue to anticipate his return.

Although we still await that day when a new Jerusalem arrives on earth heralding the completion of God's kingdom on Earth, we are moving in that direction. Likewise, although we are not yet able to gather without masks, we are moving in that direction.

If health concerns have led you to worship from home, I hope that you will avail yourself of vaccination and consider returning to in-person worship trusting that we will continue to do those things necessary in order to gather safely. If you're averse to wearing a mask, I get it (I'm tired of having the blasted thing get caught up on my microphone several times each Sunday); but I also invite you to consider returning to in-person worship for your own sake and to encourage others as we celebrate these steps on the way – not back to normal – towards a renewed ministry and purpose together.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee would like to remind everyone that even though restrictions are being relaxed, and more people have been vaccinated, it would still be prudent to keep maintaining social distancing and face coverings. Also, a few reminders when you are in church:

1. With the return of more in-person worship, we need people to assist in greeting. If you are interested, please see either Juanita Barnes or Sherry Gordon.
2. Instead of passing the offering plate, we will continue to have it remain on the railing as you enter the church so you may drop your offerings.
3. Please remember to write your prayer concerns on the clip board located on the table in the sanctuary.
4. The Special Project and Apportionments envelopes are located on the table in the sanctuary.
5. We will have palms to be distributed on Palm Sunday.
6. Although we didn't get to have the usual order for Easter flowers, we will still have Easter lilies on Easter.

Welcome back to in-person worship! It's great to see everyone again. Have a blessed Easter!



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.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

March	28	10:00 am Palm Sunday Worship
April	01	7:00 pm Holy Thursday Worship
April	02	7:00 pm Good Friday Worship
April	04	10:00 am Easter Worship

This year will be a bit different for Easter. We will not be enjoying our usual breakfast and fellowship before worship, however, we will still joyously celebrate by singing aloud once again!



Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the surprise Valentine treat! Lucky for me you were so brave to come out on such a cold day.

Blessings and love,
Lodena Wilt



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.

April 4 Easter Sunday
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 118:1-2. 14-24
 Scripture Lesson Acts 10:34-43
 Gospel..... Mark 16:1-8
 Message "Me, Afraid?"

April 11 2nd Sunday of Easter
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 133
 Scripture Lesson 1 John 1:1-2:2
 Gospel..... John 20:19-31
 Message "In Our Midst"

April 18 3rd Sunday of Easter
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 4
 Scripture Lesson Acts 3:12-19
 Gospel..... Luke 24:36b-48
 Message "Victory in Jesus"

April 25 4th Sunday of Easter
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 23
 Scripture Lesson 1 John 3:16-24
 Gospel..... John 10:11-18
 Message "Perpetual Preaching"



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.

"The church changes the world not by making converts, but by making disciples."

— 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⁺

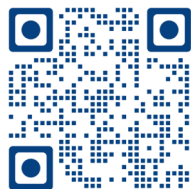
Access Your Church Anytime

Ministry Brands

Designed for iPhone

★★★★★ 4.3 • 27 Ratings

Free



Tracing Sign In

At this time, we are still tracking those persons who enter the church during the week. Hopefully, these requirements will relax in the coming months as more people become vaccinated. In the meantime, we must still wear a mask and sign in on the tracing sheet provided on the table in the gathering room. Please continue to use social distancing and face masks along with good hygiene habits to keep yourself and others safe.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 14 Dawn Hollebeak
- 26 Patricia Irps
Rebecca Lemus
- 27 Scott Layng
- 29 Jennifer Gordon
David Ward

April Birthdays

- 1 Doris DeVries
- 2 Kayte Kloss
- 5 Mike Seno
- 6 Sandra Baxter
Mary Bowling
- 7 Nancy John
- 10 Lorraine Robbins

April Anniversaries

- 7 Gary & Carol Conderman
- 25 John & Sandra Schwartz
- 28 Mark & Holly Snyder



Missions Update

The Mission committee continued its intentional outreach to nurture our homebound members with a second ‘care’ package on Valentine’s Day – February 14. Our homebound members who already have limited social contact because of health issues have become even more isolated during this pandemic. So, on a very cold Valentine’s day our determined committee members dropped off Valentine care bags filled with note cards, valentine cookies, a cross and of course a Valentine’s card to 18 homebound church members. Several committee members shared thoughtful stories of their visits and how the gifts were received with surprise and gratitude. Because of Covid-19 restrictions some individuals could not be visited directly, but the bags were still delivered.



We continue to plan to expand our outreach of care and support to other groups in our community. We met Thursday, March 11 to discuss how we can proceed with our ‘Monthly Missions Moment.’ With some uncertainty about the lifting of the pandemic restrictions and its implications for church attendance, we weren’t sure if we could successfully launch our new “*Monthly Missions Moment*” to our worship service in May. We discussed various ways to set it up and decided we will initially ask groups to provide us with a short video clip explaining their work and their needs. Assignments were given to make contact with Miss Carly’s as our first ‘Missions Moment’ organization either for the May or June worship service.

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/missions committee, please contact Terri Burritt.

Our next zoom meeting will be April 15 at 7 pm.

With God’s grace we grow together! Judy Long

Beginning the third week of April, Pastor Mark will resume in-person visits at private homes. He will use the prescribed precautions of face covering and distancing during the visit.

We are still awaiting information about in-person visits to nursing homes and independent living facilities.

You are always in our prayers.



The March/April issue of the Upper Room is available in the sanctuary and in the atrium. The May/June issue will soon be arriving. Pick up your copy and take one for a friend.

THE MESSENGER

The April Messenger is also available. Pick up a copy and take one for a friend.

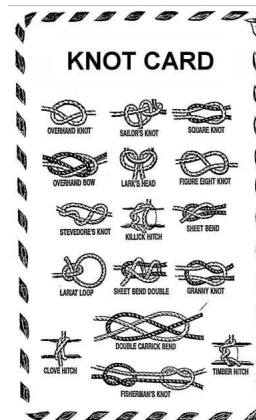


In the boy troop 181B, we welcomed 5 new boys and their parents into the troop since the last newsletter. We held a crossover ceremony for them as part of our quarterly court of honor. During this court of honor we also celebrated one adult and youth for completion toward their higher training.

During this last month we have been focusing on advancement and the learning of new skills. We even had a merit badge class on auto mechanics. We have our first campout in a long time planned in April. We are excited to get back into a weekend in the great outdoors. Since the last newsletter we also have two new Eagle Scouts. So much to celebrate.

The Girl troop 181G- have been busy. We also had a crossover ceremony and have welcomed in 5 new scouts and their families into the troop.

We spent a Saturday learning how to use our compass's and doing some orienteering in the deep snow. We spent another Saturday with the boy troop going on a winter hike and learning how to tie lashings. We had a troop night filled with challenging games (lots of laughs).



Last week we worked on knots and are also preparing for our first campout ever as a troop in April. We are having such a great time!

Both units enjoyed Scout Sunday and as always want you all to know how much we appreciate how the church supports us in Scouting.

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.

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.

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.

Update on Pastor Kim and the Global Missions Secondary School

The smiles say it all! It is always an exhilarating feeling to finish a major project – especially in a foreign country! *With God anything is possible.* The students helped with cleaning, painting and laying pavers. After all it is their school. All 40 student's scholarships were funded. Can you imagine how excited they must feel to get their *very first* opportunity for a secondary education! Their future is a wee bit brighter and their journey of faith is just beginning.



Our Missionary in Tanzania

Young Seon (Christina) Kim continues her mission to help bring secondary education to the people of Tanzania with the construction of The Global Mission Secondary School.

DONATIONS:

You may send a check to:
 Advance GCFA
 P.O. Box 9068
 New York, NY10087-9068
 With the advance
 number on the memo line
Advance # 3022281

Contact information for Young
 Seon Kim
 Telephone: +255 68 976 1708
 Email: yskim1023@gmail.com
 Facebook: Young Seon Kim
 Kakaotalk: yskim1470

The Bishop dedicated the school at a school-wide ceremony on March 15, 2021.

Pastor Kim was recently granted a one-year work permit. She said the government is 'rigid' with work permits for missionaries. She has filed an appeal. *Please pray!*

Coming in April !

We will be collecting peanut butter all during the month of April, all sizes, all brands, all types.

Get Ready!

Our barrel arrives March 31.



⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

1 John 4:7-9 (NRSV)



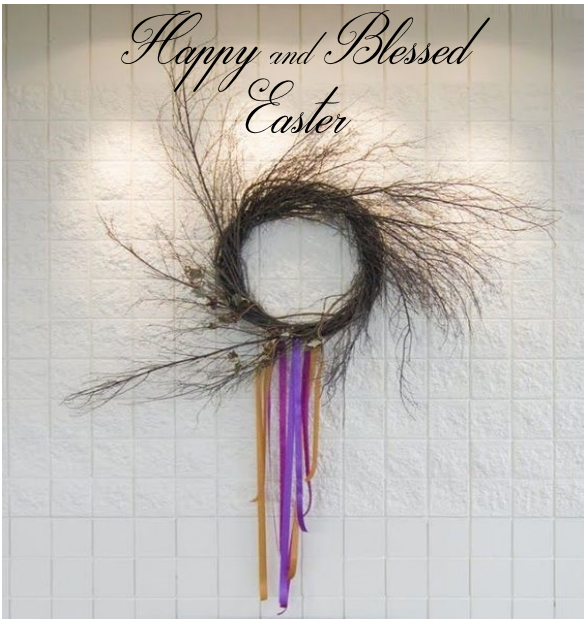


April 2021




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service 	2 7:00 am pm Good Friday Service 	3 9:00 am GA
4 10:00 am Worship <i>Easter Sunday</i> 	5 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	6 6:15 pm Finance via Zoom 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 7:00 Church Council via zoom	7 9:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees via Zoom 7:00 pm Missions Committee Zoom Meeting	8	9	10 9:00 am GA
11 10:00 am Worship	12 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	13 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	14 9:00 am Bible Study	15 <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16	17 9:00 am GA
18 10:00 am Worship	19 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	20 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	21 9:00 am Bible Study	22	23	24 9:00 am GA
25 10:00 am Worship	26 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	27 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	28 9:00 am Bible Study	29	30	

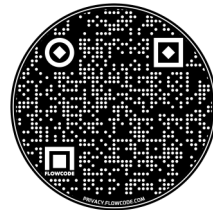
Messenger items are due to the secretary on the 15th of each month.



*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)

 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