

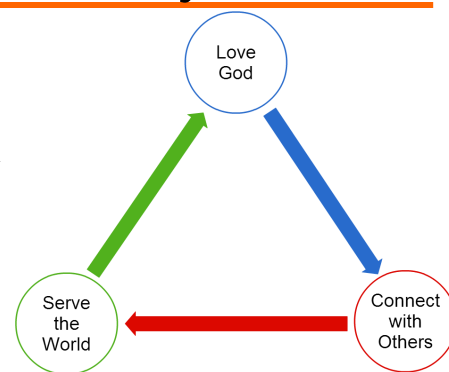
THE MESSENGER

May 2021

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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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

You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's

will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully

¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Colossians 1:5b-12 (NRSV)

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

March comes in like a lion, then goes out like a lamb: so the saying goes. Except that the lion seems to have stuck around much later than usual. While waiting anxiously to plant the vegetables which I've started indoors, I heard that snow could be in the forecast in late April. What about those April showers that lead to May flowers?

I'm looking forward to flowers. I've seen a few hardy blossoms popping up in the forest preserve during my daily hikes. My neighbor's daffodils have already appeared, but they've needed cover (extra protection) to preserve them against the cold. Not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed with the beauty of the lilies. (Mt 6:29) Flowers are wonderful.

Flowers provide a flash of color that actually make the green and brown grass prettier. Flowers add an aroma of hope and promise. The right kind of flowers even keep the mosquitos away, allowing us to enjoy summer more fully.

The colors and the smell serve to attract bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Their nectar nourishes each, and even leads to the sweet honey that brings joy to our lives. However, that is not their purpose.

Flowers serve the plant leading to pollination to produce fruit. The blossoms appearing on the trees in front of the church will soon become cherries. The blossoms which I hope to see soon in my garden will yield snap peas, tomatoes, squash and watermelon. Flowers that are cut and placed in a vase to be gazed upon, never get to produce fruit (seeds).

In the church, we sometimes face a paradox about flowers. Either we get so focused on doing good deeds (i.e. producing fruit) that we forget that flowers (beauty) are



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Old things
are passed away;
Behold, all things
are become new.



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essential in the process; or we emphasize providing appealing activities (including worship) that will display the church's beauty that we deny the opportunity to yield fruit. We need both.

To bear fruit – to bring the hope of salvation and all it entails to others – requires a church with appeal and purpose. At the same time we must recognize, that some things take time. The seeds which I planted in early March await transplantation to the garden. Even if I'm lucky, tomatoes won't arrive until June; watermelons and winter squash much later. Will the wait be worth it?

Recently, I heard from a church member who told me about her granddaughter and her family. As a child the granddaughter attended Cherry Valley United Methodist Church on weekends and during summers when visiting her grandparents. That was the extent of her exposure to church. Although she had found memories of that experience, as an adult, she didn't attend church. Eventually she married a self-avowed atheist. As their family expanded with the addition of two children, still no church and no direct sense of Christ's presence in their home.

Then they moved. The husband had to be away for three weeks at a time for work. During that time the next door neighbors' children who had befriended their children, invited them to attend church with them. Mom and the kids accepted the invitation. When dad arrived home for his three weeks at home before going away for work again, the kids were up early getting dressed on Sunday morning. "What's going on?" "We're going to church." Dad – the atheist – even joined them.

From the car, the granddaughter sent her grandmother a picture of the family with the captioned, "On our way home from church." Just to be sure, the grandmother asked for confirmation. Yes, the entire family had been attending church. Eventually, she'd receive a video in which mom, the two children, and even dad were baptized in their backyard pool (Covid restrictions prevented using the church baptistry). Imagine grandmother's joy. Imagine heaven's joy.

That grandmother and this congregation had planted and nurtured the flower of faith which eventually bore fruit. That flower served to attract a young girl with music, the joy of fellowship, and the wonderful words of life in Scripture. Then when another flower appeared in neighbors whose lives showed forth the hope that Christ alone provide and then extended an invitation to see and experience, when the light shined, and the water of baptism rained upon them the church bore fruit. The church in Tennessee, the church here in Cherry Valley, and the church universal has drawn four souls to the promise of life abundant.

As the cherry blossoms appear outside the church in the next few weeks preceding the promise of cherries to follow, let us consider how our life together as a church and our individual lives will serve to attract the flighty humming birds, flitty butterflies, and even stinging bees to the promise of new life through God's love.

(Continued in next column)



Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide

Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Violet Collier
Joe Hunt
Lela Lameyer
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Lorraine Robbins
Jim & Barb Whitlock
Lodena Wilt

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next
Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

Jim Barnes, Sr. Family



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.

Will we dare to invite a neighbor - a friend - a child or grandchild- a parent to the experience the joy that we know in Jesus Christ?

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. The offering plate will remain on the railing as you enter the church so you may drop your offerings instead of passing the plate.
3. Please remember to write your prayer concerns on the clip board located on the table in the sanctuary.
4. Please recycle your bulletins as you leave.

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.

May 2.....5th Sunday of Easter
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 22:25-31
 Scripture LessonActs 8:26-40
 Gospel.....John 15:1-8
 Message“Grafting New Branches”

May 9.....Mother's Day
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 98
 Scripture Lesson1 John 5:1-6; Acts 10:44-48
 Gospel.....John 15:9-17
 Message“Mother, May I?”

May 16.....Ascension Sunday
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 47
 Scripture LessonActs 1:1-11
 Gospel.....Luke 24:44-52
 Message“What are You Staring At?”

May 23.....Day of Pentecost
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 104:24-35
 Scripture LessonRomans 8:22-27
 Gospel.....John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
 Message“Everybody's a Prophet”

May 30.....Trinity Sunday
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 29
 Scripture LessonRomans 8:12-17
 Gospel.....John 3:1-17
 Message“God”



Methodist Women

It has been a difficult year for all of us. I always struggle during the winter but the social isolation this year added to my stress. I've missed you! I can't tell you, how much I am enjoying the raising of some of the restrictions, the spring weather, the green grass and the sunshine.



I see things moving forward. We are back in the sanctuary for worship on Sunday morning. We continue to wear masks and social distance but we are in community. While our group has been on hiatus, Cherry Valley United Methodist Church has continued to serve our congregation.

I so admire the Mission Group and their outreach to our shut-ins. They have adopted the desire to undertake a service project each quarter. I am asking you to support them by volunteering when they ask for help. I am always impressed with our willingness to give. I already have Christmas stockings for this year's donation to Rock House Kids. The container for Peanut Butter and donations for the Food Pantry were overflowing last Sunday. We give willingly.

I would like to ask you to give more, more of yourselves. I am suggesting that each of you, the entire congregation, step beyond your comfort zone. Make a phone call or send a card to someone outside your immediate circle. For in giving you will receive.

Wishing you a safe and healthy month. Striving to serve.

Donna Layng

Thank You

Thank you to the BSA troops who donated **lots** of peanut butter and other food. **YOU. ARE. AWESOME!**



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.

May 18	June 29	August 10
September 14	November 9	

Committee chairs should have their written reports to the secretary no later 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

Church Management Software

The church has transitioned to a different format 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.

We are still working with the new format and learning new things. It is very different from the previous version, so please bear with us as we transition to this new phase.

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+

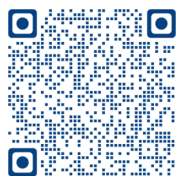
Access Your Church Anytime

Ministry Brands

Designed for iPhone

★★★★★ 4.3 • 27 Ratings

Free



Birthdays & Anniversaries



May Birthdays

- 1 Pat Gorsuch
Trudy Hunt
- 12 Jeff Sundberg
- 13 Judy Gough
- 16 Kyle Ward
- 18 Dawn Lester
- 29 Gwendolyn Flood
- 31 Bill Fisher



May Anniversaries

- 21 Jim & Mary Coulter
- 26 Herman & Judy Krunfus



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.

Cherry Valley Public Library Programs

...And now for something completely different. The Cherry Valley Public Library has several programs for adults that one can participate in virtually. The book discussion group meeting on May 13 at 6:00 pm this month will discuss “Grounds for Murder.” This group meets every other month on Thursday evenings at 6:00 –7:00 pm. Registration is required one month in advance. Books may be checked out at the time of registration. There are seats still available for the May session, but you must register now. Go to the library website

<http://www.cherryvalleylib.org> to get more details. To register, go to

<https://cherryvalleylib.librarymarket.com/events/grounds-murder-mystery-book-group-13>

The library has many other offerings for adults, please check out their web site for current listings and hours of operation.

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.



This is the picture of our peanut butter donations the week before the ending of the rally! Your response to the needs of the hungry is phenomenal. Thank you so much for your care and compassion for our community.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

1 Peter 3:8 (NRSV)



Scouting News



In the boy troop 181B- We have been working on swimming requirements this last month. We have been learning about health and safety around water. That includes a lot of first aid skills and learning the rules we must follow to be safe. Our last meeting we were in the pool practicing what we learned and working on taking our swimming tests. Big news is we will have our first camping trip this weekend. Can't wait to tell you all about it next month.



The Girl troop 181G- have been working on swimming skills in our meetings too. We even learned about boat safety and how to safely use a canoe. Hopefully

soon we will practice this in the water. We have been working on preparing for our first campout. We have been looking through donated gear. There has been a lot of sorting, conducting inventory, setting up tents and washing all of the items as we prepare for our first campout ever this weekend. Wish



us luck. I must also mention we welcomed two new girls to our unit too.



You may have noticed we did our annual scouting for food donation to the church. It was nice to do something for the place that does so much for us. Thank you for providing these groups a place to call home during our scouting meetings.

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.

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.

Next Generation Ministries in Tanzania

As you all know, Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim is a missionary and Director of Next Generation Ministries in Tanzania. We have seen the progress of the secondary school in many of the articles she has shared with us. It has been a long, arduous undertaking, but the school is now finally open. Please continue to support this mission with prayers and if you have the means, monetary donations. Below is an excerpt by Rev. Kim from a previous article detailing Next Generations Mission.

The Next Generation Ministries exist to empower Tanzanian youth (age 13-35) to become healthy, growing, and devoted followers of Jesus Christ. The Next Generation Ministries provides essential Christian trainings, retreats, seminars, sponsorships, scholarships, and resources to fulfill its God-given vision. It is committed to serve youth in and beyond the United Methodist Church of Tanzania. Since June 2015, it has been hosting a youth leadership retreat every three months. Continuity, allowing the gradual development of spiritual growth, is essential. Between retreats, I visit local churches in different districts, meet with church leaders and the youth, provide leadership trainings, and encourage them to follow the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. These two practices have inspired the youth and their churches. Also, I got a grant from Young People's Ministries of the GBOD. I have been preparing for Swahili training materials for discipleship, leadership, and UMC & UMCT history study. I always look for mission partners and sponsors who want to make a difference in young people's lives. Through sponsorships and scholarships, 4 young adults study at the Grace Bible college. 2 youth study at King's Vision Secondary School. 9 young adults learned English, and 3 young adults will study at VETA vocational training schools.

**I would like to see youth building a good foundation of their life in the Word of God.*

**I would like to see youth pursuing their dreams, serving God in/outside the church, and doing the right thing for their community.*

**I would like to see youth empowering other youth with their talents and experiences and getting actively involved in their community.*

**I would like to see youth becoming a driving force for their church development and revival.*

**I would like to see strong pastoral and lay leaders who will bring people together and make the community move forward for fulfilling its mission.*



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

Spiritual Insights

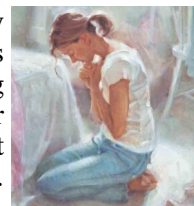
By Jim Whitlock

Matthew 6:6 "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Christians are called on to perform many services that are observed openly, such as feeding the poor by donating food, participating in missions to restore homes, and many other needed and worthwhile projects. But the greatest service done is often the secret service of prayer. When we pray, we are projecting our spirit personally to those we are praying for. In prayer, we can touch others in need and change situations that are all around the globe. This is the power of prayer through the Holy Spirit.

Our prayers are heard and can be acted on through God's will as quickly as we speak or think them. When we pray, we should also listen to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will bring to our heart and mind what we need to pray for such as a foreign missionary that is ill or a group of Christians who are being persecuted in a foreign country.

Our prayers are not limited to space or obstructed by walls. Our prayers go freely and secretly into places where our God is being forbidden to be worshipped openly. Through prayer, Christians can exert a tremendous effect on people and on nations that are without God.



May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 am GA 10:00 am-2:00 pm Boy Scout Court of Honor Jacob Costa
2 10:00 am Worship	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	4 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	5 9:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees via Zoom	6 	7	8 9:00 am GA
9 10:00 am Worship <i>Mother's Day</i> 	10 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	11 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	12 9:00 am Bible Study	13	14	15 9:00 am GA <i>Messenger items due today</i>
16 10:00 am Worship	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	18 6:15 pm Finance 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 7:00 pm Church Council	19 9:00 am Bible Study	20	21	22 9:00 am GA
23 10:00 am Worship <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	25 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	26 9:00 am Bible Study	27	28	29 9:00 am GA
30 10:00 am Worship	31 <i>Memorial Day</i> 					

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

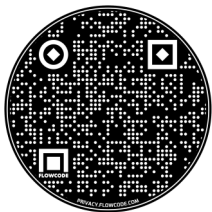
Happy Mothers Day!

*To all mothers
Here and in Heaven*

including grandmothers, aunts, cousins, step-mothers, foster mothers
and all women who have nurtured and supported us.



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 and
Zoom meeting @Cherry Valley
United Methodist Church.

Go to cherryvalleyumc.com to join the meetings.

Pastor: Mark Harkness
Secretary: Nancy Laurent

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