MESSENGER

June 2021

Love God

Connect

with

Others

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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<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

¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of God, the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the

called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 (NRSV)

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

We've all heard the news that Illinois has now entered a "Bridge Phase" in response to COVID-19. This means that capacity limits for meetings and gatherings has been increased to 60%. For Cherry Valley United Methodist Church with a seating capacity of 200+, this means that we can safely welcome 120 persons into worship at a time. Likewise, CDC research and guidance indicating that fully vaccinated persons are unlikely to contract COVID-19 and extremely unlikely to convey the virus if exposed means that fully vaccinated persons don't need to wear masks in most situations (including church services and even singing together in choirs). Meanwhile, we wait for June 11 when Illinois is expected to enter "Stage Five" in its COVID-19 mitigations removing capacity limits.

Following these guidelines, fully vaccinated persons are no longer required to wear masks in the church or during worship. During the past few months, many of you have returned to in-person worship following vaccination and have shared that information. We won't be checking vaccination cards at the door, because we trust that those seeking to worship God wouldn't lie about vaccination status (in word or deed) to do so (especially considering the eternal consequences). Meanwhile, we also know that many members have not (some cannot) been vaccinated and that others will continue to wear masks out of an abundance of caution or concern for others. We will not discourage masks, nor will we disparage those who do.



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the

World

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Because so many of you have chosen to be vaccinated, life is returning to normal. What, though, does "normal" mean? On June 13 (the first Sunday of "Stage Five") we will hold a cookout following worship, even as we look towards a return of fellowship time. I hope that normal means that those of you who've joined worship via ZOOM or YouTube will return to in-person worship, even if that means you continue to worship in your pajamas for a while.

I also hope that "normal" doesn't mean being content just to return to doing what we were doing. The challenges during the past year and the ways we've had to rethink work and worship tell us that opportunity awaits. How will we as a church reach out to others with the good news that Jesus Christ offers for each of them and the world?

During the most recent Church Council meeting, I asked church leaders to list five things that we could do (cost NOT to be a consideration) to connect with others so that we can share the gospel. Out of that, we're looking at the possibility of serving ice cream (for no charge) outside the church during the village street dance in July, among other ideas. What are your ideas? Share them? Don't limit them. I'm convinced that if we act in accordance with God's plan, provision will arrive.

How "foolish" can we be for the gospel and bringing souls to salvation? Remembering the days of the old church bus or "joy bus" that would pick up children on Sundays or for church events, I've even begun researching how much it would cost to charter a school bus for just that purpose. The preliminary estimate is \$360/ wk for house-to-house pickup (two or three designated stops would reduce price). Although that sounds expensive, what would it be worth to bring ten – twenty – thirty – or more children to church so that they can learn about God's love in Jesus Christ even if for some it facilitates parents sleeping off a hangover? What about including older adults who can't drive? It may increase Sunday offering. Would it increase Sunday life?

Life – church vitality that tells the good news – is the goal. The past year is our excuse for ridiculous foolish trust in God's strength. Your wacky, expensive (whether money or effort), big idea may be even better (I hope even better ideas arise). I invite you to be generous in sharing your ideas that will allow our congregation to boldly bear witness to the promise of Jesus Christ that is our source of hope and life.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Special Projects fund.

Recently, the church had two large expenditures: installing a compressor to replace the failing (29 yr. old) compressor pump for the fire suppression sprinkler system, and removing a tree that has caused extensive damage to the parsonage driveway and garage floor. Together, these two projects cost around \$3000. Because of your faithful giving to the Special Projects fund, we were able to act on those needs.

Your continued support of the Special Projects fund, allows us to be prepared for unexpected expenses and to address more expensive needs like repairing the damaged driveway.



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

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn Lodena Wilt 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.

Thank You

.....



Dear Cherry Valley UMC Congregation,

Thank you for your prayers, cards and expressions of condolences at the recent passing of our brother, Kurt Laurent. Your words were very kind and meant so much to us during this difficult time. May God continue to bless this congregation.

Sincerely, Craig and Nancy Laurent

Vacation Bible School Recruitment

The church needs your help to spread the word about Vacation Bible School which will be August 6-8. We will begin on Friday, August 6, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Saturday, August 7, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm and Sunday, August 7, from 9:45am to 11:00 am.

We need people to be game leaders and we will need volunteers to help with snacks.

In addition to inviting/bringing your own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and neighbors, help is needed to distribute door hangers promoting VBS.

See the flyer on page 9 for details.

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.

nd Sunday After Pentecost
salm 138
Corinthians 4:13-5:1
lark 3:20-35
Seeing Beyond Suffering
-1

June 275th Sunday After Pentecost Lay Speaker, Scott Layng will be preaching.





Mister Rogers

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.

*July 6

August 10 September14

November 9 *Note this change. Previous scheduled date was June 29. Please change your colondars to reflect

Upcoming

Meetings

Please change your calendars to reflect the new date. Committee chairs should have their written reports to the secretary no later 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

"There are three ways to ultimate success. The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind."



Paston Mark's Office Hours:



Methodist Women

Greetings to all women in Cherry Valley United Methodist Church congregation.

We have not yet resumed our monthly meetings and probably won't until fall, but I wanted to take this opportunity to encourage you to support the Mission/Outreach Team. They are collecting items for Miss Carly's Place. (See the



Mission Team news article on page 6.) Our group is small but united with others in our congregation. We can make an impact on our community!

Striving to serve, Donna Layng

Congratulations Grads!



Congratulations to all our grads this year. It has been a very challenging year all around. Your perseverance is to commended! We honor these individuals for all the hard work they

have done to earn their degrees.

- Zane W. Clevenger—grandson of Mary Lou Clevenger is a graduate of the University of Illinois-Chicago. His course of study was history.
- Connor Kloss—son of Carolyn Kloss is a graduate of Montana State University, Biological Sciences. He is returning to MSU to work as a Community Director for Residence Life.
- Gwendolyn Flood—daughter of Amy and Chris Flood is a graduate from East High School. She will be attending Bradley University in the Fall, studying engineering.
- Janelle Richards Brown—daughter of Nick and Katie Brown has graduated from Belvidere High School.

Best wishes to all. May God continue to bless you in all your endeavors.



Music Notes

Notes from the Organ Bench



It's time to get the Choir together! Call, text, email, or leave a note if you're interested. We'd love to have you. We will be getting together regularly this summer.

I've noticed that our congregational singing is getting stronger, and it's

exciting to hear everyone joined in song during wor-

ship!

I am going to be starting the hymns using the microphone, then backing off so you can keep soaring. I learned a long time ago, that congregations will sing softer if there is a hymn-leader, because they hold back to listen for it. You are ready to sing out strong.





By now, you have heard my friend, Karrie Porter Brace, joining us in song during worship. We've been BFF's since our moms got us together when we were 2 years old.

We have been singing together our whole lives, accompanied by her great

guitar playing. We have sung from our hearts for 30 years with 2 other gals, and we call ourselves the "Heartstrings."

I appreciate all the prayers and concern you have expressed for Glenn's ongoing health struggles. It is so nice to feel that we are cared for!

Remember: The forest would be silent if only those birds who sang the best were allowed to sing. God made your voice just the way it is, and He's looking forward to hearing YOU.

Let's sing out strong during worship.

I look forward to working with you in the CHOIR!!

Nola Carnine



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.

3



June Birthdays

- Jim Bryant 1
- 4 Gary Wilt
- John Fisher 6
- Natalie Herold
- 11 Brandon Seno Catherine Bernard
- 12 Kelsey Sundberg
- 13 Jill Barnes
- 16 Tom DeWitt
- 18 Andrew Schwartz
- 19 Judy Long
- Jane Neff 20
- 22 Shirley Cardini **Denise** Porter
- Sally Hollembeak 23
- Doris Kuelz 24 Violet Collier
- 28 John Schwartz Sandy Schwartz



Dear Pastor Harkness and Congregation,

Thank you for the 220 pounds of food and for supporting the Rock River Valley Food Pantry! We are so fortunate to have donors like you who allow us to provide for those in our community that face food insecurity on a daily basis.

Did you know that the majority of our neighbors who visit the Pantry need only temporary help? In fact, more than 65 percent of our clients receive our assistance only one to three times per year. Whether it's an unexpected medical expense, car repair bill, or reduced hours at work, something brings them to the Pantry looking for a little help to get them through a rough time.

While you may never know the individuals that you've helped, you will know that you have made a difference, and they know that someone cares.

Sincerely.

Kim Adams-Bakke, Executive Director





June Anniversaries

14 Harold & Doris

18 Bud & Shirley Neff

20 James & Nancy John

DeVries

Tom & Debbie DeWitt



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 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 <u>http://</u><u>www.rrvp.org/peanut-butter-endowment/</u> and view the brochure outlining the program and you can donate on line.

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

Jeannette Krueger has sold her house and she and Scott will be travelling in their motorhome beginning in early June.

Their headquarters will be at her daughter's home in Columbia, MO. Information is as follows:

Daughter: Ruthanne Michalek 400 Woodridge Dr. Columbia, MO, 65201 Emergency phone: 1-254-833-3633

Jeannette's cell phone is: 1-779-208-6284

Scouting News

In the boy troop 181B- We have been working on a lot of swimming requirements. Things like how to rescue someone and how to be rescued if the need arises. At this time we have now been on two campouts. The April Campout we learned tons of camping skills. From the basics of how to set up a tent



and more advanced skills like fire building and using an axe and saw. We cooked and ate as patrols and had a great time despite the cold nights. Last weekend we spent our campout fishing, kayaking, hiking and just enjoying the outdoors.

The Girl troop 181G- We have also been doing the same swim requirements as the boy troop. It is great to have aquatics part of our program. We went on the same campout as the boys in April. The big difference was this was our first campout ever. The girls did great working together to learn a ton of skills. They will be expert campers in no time. We also held our troop elections this past week. The girls are getting more confident and are running for the positions that are needed to help a troop run. At this time we are planning our campout this weekend where we are going to the Lake Geneva area where we will work on our 5 mile hike requirement and many other nature related skills. It will be about 30 degrees warmer this weekend than last month. Crazy weather.

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 <u>sandyri@comcast.net</u>.

Silent, Strong Dad

By Karen K. Boyer © He never looks for praises. He's never one to boast. He just goes on quietly working For those he loves the most. His dreams are seldom spoken. His wants are very few, And most of the time his worries Will go unspoken, too. He's there...a firm foundation Through all our storms of life, A sturdy hand to hold onto In times of stress and strife. A true friend we can turn to When times are good or bad. One of our greatest blessings, The man that we call Dad.



Source: https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/silent-strong-dad

Mission Updates

Terri Burritt gave an inspired and heartfelt "mission moment' message during our church service on Sunday, May 16. The 'Mission Moment' messages will become a part of our 3rd Sunday service as the Mission Team identifies different groups in our community that need our help.

For our first 'Mission Moment,' Terri vividly captured the story of Miss Carly; how she was led to help those very much in need; and how she directly supports the marginalized in our community.

We need your support. During the month of May, we collected items and funding for Miss Carly, and will continue to do this through the month of June At the end of this article I will include a list of most needed items.

Monetary donations can be sent to the church and we will order items such as men's and lady's underwear. Please mark your donations with "Miss Carly' or 'Mission Outreach.' Items will be ordered and shipped directly to Miss Carly.

If you want to give specific items, we will be collecting lunch items at church. Lunches are served 3 days a week feeding anywhere from 500 to 1000 people.

If you want to dive in and help directly with a Miss Carly project, Grace United Methodist Church members make peanut butter & jelly sandwiches every Friday from 8:30 till done at their church. To date, they have made over 17,000 sandwiches. They would welcome extra hands to make the work go quickly.

For the' Mission Moment' message in June we will have a speaker who has done hands-on volunteer work at Miss Carly's. She will describe her experiences and how the organization functions on a day-to-day basis. For more information, you can find pictures and stories on Miss Carly's Facebook page.

If you want the Mission team to focus on a certain mission in Rockford, please let us know. We will feature different organizations in our community during our 'Mission Moment' message the 3rd Sunday service throughout the year. And, of course if you want to join the Mission committee, please contact Terri Burritt.

Needs – For the collection at church we are focusing on items to go with lunches such as bottled water, chips, crackers, cookies, pudding, fruit cups and granola bars.

Funding donations will be used to purchase men's and lady's underwear. (The committee will order through Amazon and have them delivered directly to Miss Carly's)

With God's grace we grow together! For the Mission team, Judy Long

For more information about Miss Carly's, visit the web site at <u>https://www.misscarlys.org/</u>

Address: 1125 5th Ave, Rockford, IL 61104 Hours: Opens 3PM Phone: (815) 275-9465



FROM THE BISHOP:

To view this article more clearly, go to https://www.umcnic.org/Reporter

Questions about the Future of The United Methodist Church

Over the next few months, I want to discuss some crucial bedrock issues that will determine the future

of our church at every level. In the coming issues of the Reporter, I will present key questions that each of us must understand to help us move forward together in ministry. Each question has more history than I can tell and more nuances than I can explore. I simply want to engage you in understanding the importance of these questions and let you make your own decisions.

Let me be clear from the beginning. The questions I propose require more than a mental choice. You will need to answer each question with your daily decisions as a follower of Jesus Christ. They are your choices to make considering what you understand about Jesus and his Church. How you live out your choices will determine the future of The United Methodist Church.

The first question is: "Is the Church a Movement or an Institution?" "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18).

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus proclaims his intention to establish the church following Peter's confession of faith. The church, called the Body of Christ by Paul, is the institution that will carry on the message and ministry of Jesus."

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matthew 28:19). Following his death, the resurrected Jesus commissions his disciples to be a movement to make disciples and baptize them into the church and the saving message and ministry it offers to the world.

Jesus and the church are bound together; you cannot have one without the other. This ecclesiology is reflected and preserved in the Methodist Book of Worship. "Dearly beloved, the Church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time, for the conduct of worship and the due administration of his (sic) Word and Sacraments, the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world. All, of every age and station, stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies." (The Book of Worship for Church and Home, The Methodist Publishing House, 1964, 1965)

Our history is that we are a movement that created institutions. Our missionary movement to "spread scriptural holiness" led to new converts, class meetings, new congregations, church buildings, schools, colleges, hospitals and homes for children and seniors all over the world. Our ability to organize, raise money, establish endowments and set up an episcopal and democratic form of church governance has been remarkable. All these accomplishments were based on a spiritual movement that empowered countless individuals to take responsibility for sharing the gospel in words and deeds. Nathan O. Hatch, a Presbyterian and a Methodist

scholar, wrote: ...Methodism in America transcended class barriers

and empowered common people to make religion their own. Unlike Calvinism, which emphasized human corruption, divine initiative, the authority of the educated clergymen, and inherited ecclesiastical structures, the Methodists proclaim the breathtaking message of individual freedom, autonomy, responsibility, and achievement.

More African Americans became Christians in ten years of Methodist preaching than in a century of Anglican influence. Methodism did not suppress the impulses of popular religion, dreams and visions, ecstasy, unrestrained emotional release, preaching by blacks, by women, by anyone who felt the call. It was under Methodist auspices that religious folk music white and black spirituals—prospered."1

Every United Methodist has a pastor, a lay leader, a district superintendent and a bishop. Pastoral care and accountability are primary. We are layered with local church, district, annual conference, jurisdictional (or central) conference and general church structures. All these institutional manifestations of our movement have served us well for a long time.

However, in the last couple of decades, there is more criticism and expectation of the institutional church at the same time. Do you really think the institution is responsible for the movement? Or is the movement responsible for the institution? Consequently, we spend an inordinate amount of time trying to change the institution with money, organizing, political action and legislation while the movement languishes. This is certainly true at the general church level, where caucus groups want to determine the future of the church with a legislative or judicial decision. I have found manifestations of this approach at the local church as well.

When I served as pastor of The Methodist Temple UMC across the street from the University of Evansville in Indiana, I remember a day when two lay members came into my office, one after the other. The first lay member was a businessman working on a personal ministry to help people in poverty get a start in business. He was full of excitement as he told how he gathered a group of members from several churches to provide practical and spiritual support to a female plumber to start her own business. His energy and story were contagious. I wanted to be a part of his project, although he did not need anything but a prayer with me. Less than 10 minutes later, another lay member came

Less than 10 minutes later, another lay member came into my office who had some concerns about how our church welcomed visitors. Apparently, the pew pads did not collect the right information and were not straightened properly between services. As usual, I asked if she had spoken with the person responsible for the pew pads and if she would like to volunteer to help with the improvement. "No," she said. "I just wanted to let you know so you can fix it." She had a legitimate concern and thought she was doing ministry but had no personal commitment. I made a note of her concern and passed it on, but my energy was low.

passed it on, but my energy was low. A pastor once told me, "You cannot row a boat and rock it at the same time!" My experience is that if the boat is stuck, some rocking can help. However, if you stop rowing, you just sit there going nowhere. I like to think that the boat is like an institution and the rower creates the movement. There are times when a local church or perhaps a global denomination needs to be rocked to change its course. We just cannot stop rowing! *INathan O. Hatch, "The Puzzle of American*

Methodism", Church History, Volume 63, Issue 2, June 1994, pp. 175 – 189

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:30 pm Trustees	3	4	5 9:00 am GA
6 10:00 am Worship	7 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	8 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	9 9:00 am Bible Study	10	11	12 9:00 am GA
13 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Church Picnic	14 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	15 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>Messenger items</i> <i>due today</i>	16 9:00 am Bible Study	17	18	19 9:00 am GA
20 10:00 am Worship <i>Father's Day</i>	21 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG <i>First Day of</i> <i>Summer</i>	22 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	23 9:00 am Bible Study	24	25	26 9:00 am GA
27 10:00 am Worship	288 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	29 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	30 9:00 am Bible Study			

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

Finally we can meet socially again! Join us for a cookout June 13 after worship. The United Methodist Men will supply all food and drinks. All you need to bring is yourselves and several friends.

X





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





Let us WORSHIJ 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.



AMCHORED

Deepening Faith in God

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church Sat. 12:30-3:30, Sun. Service 9:45-11) at 112 S. Cherry St., Cherry Valley, August 6th _o 8th (Fri. 5:30-8:30, For ages 3 years to 5th grade

815/332-5075 or visit cherryvalleyumc.com Register or for more info – please cal