

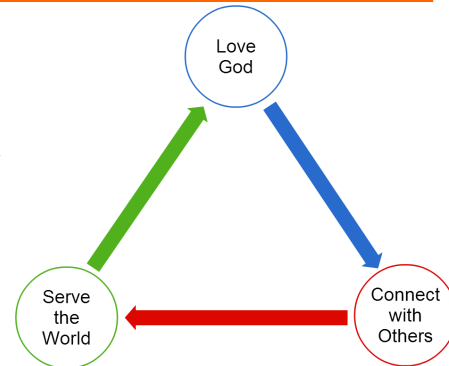
THE MESSENGER

August 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

¹Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."
 They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
 there is no one who does good.

²The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind
 to see if there are any who are wise,
 who seek after God.

³They have all gone astray, they are all alike
 perverse; there is no one who does good,
 no, not one.

⁴Have they no knowledge,
 all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat
 bread, and do not call upon the LORD?

⁵There they shall be in great terror,
 for God is with the company of the righteous.

⁶You would confound the plans of the poor,
 but the LORD is their refuge.

Psalm 14 (NRSV)

³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him."

John 18:37-38 (NRSV)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6 (NRSV)

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

"What is truth?" Pilate asked Jesus. Did you notice that he didn't ask, "What is true?" or "What is the truth?" Pilate's question implies an understanding of truth as relative and subjective rather than as objective fact. That attitude not only persists, but seems to prevail in modern discourse of those who proclaim to be open-minded (except when another's truth conflicts with one's own truth). Truth becomes improperly conflated with perspective, resulting in a faulty reverse logic that insists that one's precepts must also be fact, regardless of the evidence.

For instance, there are many things that we "know" as "fact" that have no basis in truth. How many of us know that humans only use ten percent of our brain function? (I remember learning this in grade school.) Motivational speakers seek to empower us to harness the untapped 90 percent. However, brain imaging reveal that we do indeed use our entire brain. Where did that "fact" originate? A likely source of this "fact" is a sentence by William James in *The Energies of Men* (1908), "We are making use of only a small part of our possible mental and physical resources." Evidence tells us otherwise, but the "fact" persists. Likewise we know that we must drink at least eight 8 ounce glasses of water a day, even though actual scientific studies relating to proper hydration do not present that same result. Hydration is important, someone once suggested eight 8 ounce glasses of water which seemed right; now it is "fact." Actual studies tell us that proper hydration is important and that the eight and eight guideline is useful; but it is not a fixed notion.

Many of us have even learned that even a drop of alcohol will cause an alcoholic to relapse. Even though actual physiological research has contradicted that "fact." The "fact" comes from Alcoholics Anonymous' teaching that an alcoholic cannot engage in drinking even the smallest



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amount of alcohol, even though that teaching acknowledges the difference between having a drink and the consumption of wine in a religious rite (e.g. Communion). Yet, that “fact” persists. Especially in this case it becomes evident that perspective matters. I don’t doubt that an alcoholic (or any addict) risks complete relapse by tempting themselves with that which they were unable to moderate. However, the temptation in this case rests on having a drink.

I learned this from a recovering alcoholic in one church that I served. As I prepared to take the youth group on a field trip to a church that used fermented wine for Holy Communion, I made a point to make the man (who was assisting as one of the chaperones) aware of this fact. His response, “Two things, pastor. First, that little bit of wine isn’t enough to trigger a physical relapse. Second, it’s the blood of Christ. I’m not drinking it to get high,” has stuck with me and actually led me to actually explore deeper certain assumptions that I “know” as “fact.”

I made the decision to be Methodist in 5th or 6th grade because a Sunday School teacher actually encouraged my questions, stating, “That’s how faith grows.”

Why all of this talk about truth, facts, and perspective?

Maybe you have noticed it, too. Our society has become polarized by “facts” that are often mutually exclusive, leading to conflicts and even estrangement in families. Why? Might it not be our tendency to cling so tightly to our own perspective that we are not even willing to entertain challenging what we know by asking questions to learn from others and to challenge ourselves so that our perspective gets placed into perspective; so that we might better grasp the truth.

On a practical level, this happens in church with Holy Communion. During the height of the pandemic, it made some sense to use the prepackaged communion elements, because coming forward to a designated site to receive the gift would put us in the midst of a pre-vaccine aerosol mist. Even before the current pandemic, people worried about germs in communion. Some people have even insisted that it is more sanitary to pass around a plate of bread cubes (that includes everyone touching) and a tray of individual cups (and anyone coughing over), than to approach together via intinction. Likewise, wouldn’t it be more sanitary for each individual to tear of his/her own piece of the holy bread? Except that then everyone would touch it, attempting to get the tiniest piece so that fingers cannot avoid getting wet in the cup. Therefore, it has been and will continue to be my practice to tear and hand the gift of communion to those who present themselves. It’s not only more sanitary, but theologically sound recognizing that Christ gives his body and blood to us, rather than as something we take from him. Should we resume intinction? What about the germs? What about Covid?

Studies as early as the 1940’s have shown that even those drinking from a common communion chalice are not any more likely to be infected with illness than non-communicants or the general population, and that even any additional risk is extremely rare. (If you’re interested, links to those studies are below.) Likewise, a scientific literature review in 2020, concludes:

“From the part of the science, the common communion cup may serve as a potential vehicle for transmission. However, the risk is considerably lower compared to other conditions of social gathering. Furthermore, ***the transmission of any infectious disease has never been documented.***” (emphasis added).

(continued in next column)



Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next
Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn



Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Violet Collier
Joe Hunt
Lela Lameyer
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Lorraine Robbins
Jim Whitlock

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.

(continued from previous column)

Communion together is as physically safe as any moment of life. The manner by which we spiritually receive that gift comes with risk but with great reward.

By daring to accept God’s grace revealed to us in Jesus Christ (the way, the truth, and the life) we grow in ability know “What is truth,” not just in faith, but in the world. I invite you to dare to allow yourself to question the facts that you “know”, by inviting other perspectives, and evaluating the evidence. I’m convinced that the evidence leads to Christ when we see it fully through. By asking questions as we listen, others too ay find their way to the truth.

Your brother in Christ,



Rev. Mark Harkness

Articles Mentioned above:

Experiments on the Communion Cup (Cambridge University Press, May 15, 2009)

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/article/experiments-on-the-communication-cup/0640F2E6BCE1490EAFD5630CA0C0AEFB>

Holy Communion: A Literature Review (June 21, 2020)

<https://www.cureus.com/articles/34524-holy-communion-and-infection-transmission-a-literature-review#references>

The hazard of Infection from the Shared Communion Cup <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/3284951/>

Infections Associated with Religious Rituals (November 2021) <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/3284951/>

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.

August 1 10th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 51:1-12
 Scripture Lesson 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
 Gospel John 6:24-35
 Message "Found Failing"
 Series: *Consequential Chutzpah #2*

August 8 11th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 130
 Scripture Lesson Ephesians 4:25-5:2
 Gospel John 6:35, 41-51
 Message "Staying Anchored"

August 15 12th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 111
 Scripture Lesson 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
 Scripture Lesson Ephesians 5:15-20
 Gospel John 6:51-58
 Message Rev. Danice Loveridge

August 22 13th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 84
 Scripture Lesson Ephesians 6:10-20
 Gospel John 6:56-69
 Message "Clap Along"

August 29 14th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 72
 Scripture Lesson James 1:17-27
 Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
 Message..... Righteous Work or Work Righteousness?

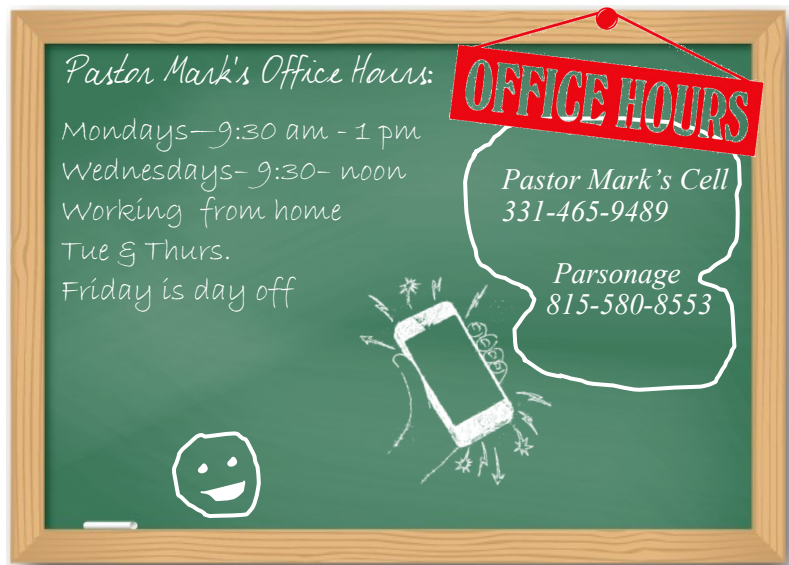


Worship Committee

Thank you to the Worship Committee and the Health Team who have done a wonderful job of keeping the church a safe place to be during the pandemic and the period now following the worst of the pandemic. So many things had to change and it was an ongoing learning process for all.

We can once again have a variety of greeters and liturgists. If you are interested in either of these programs, please speak with Juanita Barnes about becoming a greeter. If you wish to be a liturgist, please speak with Pastor Mark.

If you wish to donate flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays, please let Juanita Barnes or Janet Bryant know on which Sunday you will bring them. If the flowers are to honor a special event, please let the secretary know so that it can be mentioned in the bulletin for that particular Sunday.



Finance News



In the first six months of 2021, we have received \$62,066.00 in general fund contributions. With those contributions, we have been able to support the salaries of our pastor, our secretary and our music director, (including pension and health insurance as required). We have been able to maintain our church and the parsonage. The church has provided a place where several scouting troops and other groups

such as Gambler's Anonymous can meet in a safe environment. YOUR contributions have made all of this possible.

Some of the maintenance completed during the first six months of 2021 have included the repair of an air compressor at the church and the removal of the tree from the front yard at the parsonage.

In years past we have struggled to pay our apportionments. The finance committee set a goal of paying \$8,000.00 this year for apportionments. Halfway through 2021 we have paid \$3,155.00. With your continued support this goal is achievable.

Thank you to all who faithfully support our church. Your continued support will allow us to continue with the ministries of our church. THANK YOU!



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.

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.

JOIN THE CHOIR

It's time to join the choir! We have official approval to move forward with Choir Rehearsals. We are blessed to have plenty of space in the choir loft for social distance while still making beautiful music together!

YES, There's room for YOU!



- Beginners Welcome
- No experience Necessary
- COOL PEOPLE JOIN THE CHOIR!

Contact Nola at 815-299-7938 or
ncarnine@gmail.com

Methodist Women



Oh my, I'm having trouble putting my thoughts into words. First, I'm so pleased to see so many of you in the position to call a meeting to order. Summers are family time and family keeps me busy. But, we will resume meetings in September, as of now the date is undetermined.

We have begun to provide service to our congregation in serving funeral luncheons. My thanks goes out to those of you that organize these events and to those of you who are so willing to serve and donate food.

I appreciate all you did to support the Mission Team's goal to assist Miss Carly's Place. I was impressed by the donations. Now I am asking you to support Vacation Bible School in any way that you can. We have always provided the food for this event and will continue to support this event in any way needed.

Our group may be small, but we are mighty when we stand together.

Striving to serve,
Donna Layng



Birthdays & Anniversaries



August Birthdays

- 9 Susan Layng
Karlene Brown
- 12 Barbara Anderson
- 18 Sally Lawton
- 18 Terri Burritt
- 18 Sean Conderman
- 20 Jennifer Dienberg
- 25 Kameron Taylor
- 26 Charlie Schnuckel
- 27 Larry Clevenger
Daniel Halley
Ryan Herold
- 29 Julie Halley

August Anniversaries

- 14 Larry & Mary Lou
Clevenger
Glenn & Nola Carnine
- 16 David & Barbara
Anderson
- 17 Michael & Debora Seno
- 18 Nick & Katie Brown
- 22 Warren & Debbie Gross
- 23 Jim & Juanita Barnes



Thank You!

I think many of you are unaware of how hard Pastor Mark has worked during the past year. It has been very trying with all the computer glitches and trying to coordinate the service so that as many people as possible would be able to attend worship, whether it be in-person, via zoom or livestreamed on YouTube. It may be time for some good-old "Pastor Appreciation" pats on the back. There are a few more people who deserves a big "thank you."

- * Susan Harkness has put in quite a bit of energy during the past year to ensure that the church family is informed and can attend worship via zoom or YouTube and she diligently posts pertinent information on Facebook.
- * Patricia Irps who comes in during the week to work on the order of worship and is hard at work on Sunday mornings.
- * Mandy Kloepfer who assists with the order of worship on Sundays.

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.

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

Joy is the echo of God's life within us.

Scouting News

Both Troop 181 Girls and Boys have been very busy making the most out of this summer. We did a combined camp-out at Rotary youth campsite in June. The big goal of this campout was to give everyone some more skills and confidence with their camping skills as they prepare for summer camp. It was a hot camp-out, so they played some low key games and had fun with some water games completed with songs and skits at the end of the day.



Both troops just got back from summer camp. The boys went to Canyon camp near Stockton IL and the girls went to Ed Bryant camp in Mauston Wi. Both groups spent the week fishing, climbing, boating, shooting, hiking swimming, playing and learning some

independence and creating memories to last a lifetime. We are all very thankful we have been able to meet in person and resume the "out" 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.

The A,B,C and D's of Medicare

On Monday, August 23, from 6 to 7:00 pm, the Cherry Valley Public Library will hold an in-person session on the details of Medicare. The class is designed for adults. Class size is limited. In this class, participants will:

- ◆ Learn what Medicare covers and does not cover
- ◆ Learn what one needs to do and when
- ◆ Find out about Medicare supplements Medicare Advantage / Part D drug plans
- ◆ Discover rights and options with Medicare

The class will be held in the Friends of the Library Public Meeting Room. Register on line, call 815-332-5161 or in person at the library. Registration closes on August 23 at 6:00 pm. To register or for more information visit the web site at: <http://www.cherryvalleylib.org/wpcherryvalley/>

The History of the Rockford Peaches at Cherry Valley Library.



Wednesday, August 4 at 6 PM via Zoom – As men went off to war in the 1940s, many women stepped up to take their place. Join in to discover Rockford's place in Baseball History. Presented by Midway Village Museum.

Registration is required. Register using the library's online calendar or call the library at 815-332-5161. Registration will close at 4 PM the day before the program so that the meeting link can be emailed to all attendees.



Some really great shots of the 4th of July float. (Photos courtesy of Susan Harkness)

Thanks to:

- Dave Ward for building that fabulous anchor and for the use of his truck to pull the float.
- Pastor Mark for the use of his trailer for the float.
- Everyone who donated candy
- Everyone who helped to build the float.
- Those who donated money in order for us to purchase needed items.
- Those who marched in the parade.

This was a whole church event and many of you took part. VBS would not be possible without your support.

THANK YOU!

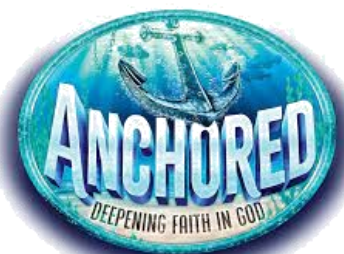
Vacation Bible School

Please see the donation board in the foyer of the church. We are in need of donations to purchase items for VBS. Please help us to make this a memorable and meaningful time for the kids who will be attending. We also need your help in help to spread the word about Vacation Bible School

The dates are:
 Friday, August 6th, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
 Saturday, August 7, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.
 Sunday, August 7, from 9:45am to 11:00 am.

In addition to inviting/bringing your own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and neighbors, we are asking that you take door hangers to your neighborhood and hang them on doors, especially those neighbors who have children in the age 3 to 5th grade category. We still have some door hangers to distribute. Pick up some from the table in the sanctuary or from the secretary.

Questions? Email Deb Gross at warren.gross@comcast.net



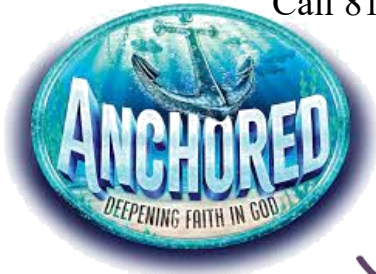
Registration form on page 9

August 2021

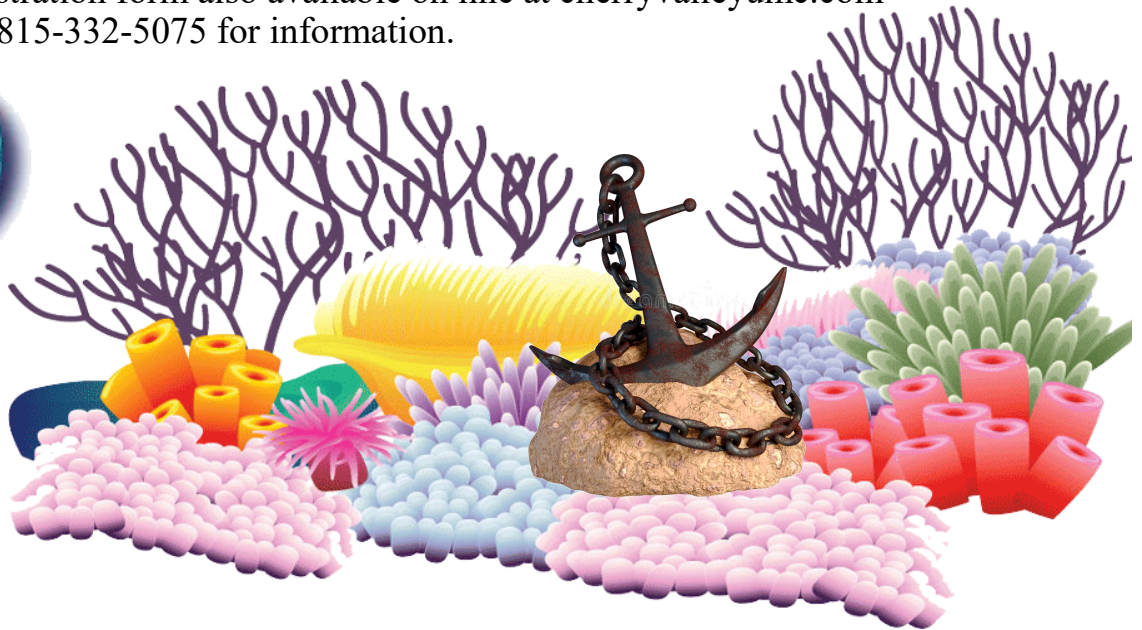
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 10:00 am Worship	2 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 6:30 pm Trustees	5	6 5:30 pm-8:30 pm VBS	7 9:00 am GA 12:30 pm-3:30 pm VBS
8 9:45 am -11:00 am VBS 10:00 am Worship	9 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	10 6:15 Finance 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 7:00 Church Council	11 9:00 am Bible Study	12	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	18 9:00 am Bible Study	19	20	21 9:00 am GA
22 10:00 am Worship	23 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Bible Study	26 4:00 pm-8:00 pm Palmer Rehearsal Setup Fellowship Hall	27 6:00-10:00 pm Palmer Rehearsal Dinner Fellowship Hall	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship	30 No Scout Meeting this week	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

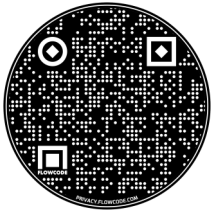
Registration form also available on line at cherryvalleyumc.com
Call 815-332-5075 for information.



**AUGUST 6TH,
7TH, 8TH!
ALL KIDS AGE 3
YEARS TO 5TH
GRADE**



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 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



REGISTRATION FORM

(One Per Child)

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cellphone: (_____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____