



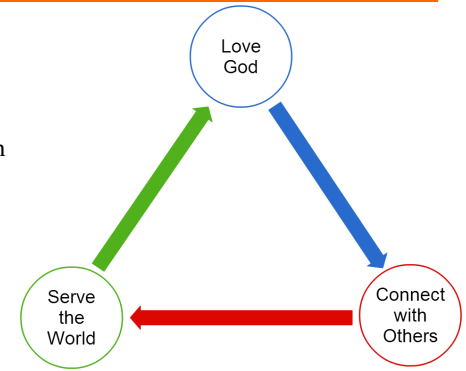
THE MESSENGER

September 2021

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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Pastor's Cell: 331-465-9489
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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

^{18:1}At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²He called a child, whom he put among them, ³and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. ⁶"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matthew 18:1-6 (NRSV)

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

I heard an unfamiliar noise Monday morning August 9th. I'd just hit the snooze button anticipating a few more minutes of sleep before arising to take the dogs for our "daily" hike in the forest preserve when I heard it: a clap of thunder and then the sound of rain. Was it real? Or a wishful hope? What fortuitous timing.

Rain had been forecast in the afternoon and early evening Friday, August 6th and again during the day on Saturday, August 7th. As much as our community needed rain, that forecast led to anxiety: We were hosting Vacation Bible School outdoors (due to COVID) under a tent those two days. Although warm, the weather was perfect. Even that Sunday when children shared their praise for God's faithfulness in our midst along with parents and grandparents (either strangers or infrequent visitors) filling the sanctuary, the sun shined from the sky as the Son shined through those children. God's timing was perfect.

As I pray that the drought that has dried out our lawns and lowered the water table in our community has come to an end, I'm reminded of another drought facing our larger community. The fastest growing "religious" affiliation in our country (and in much of the northern hemisphere) is none. Although there is a tendency to bemoan a decrease in church membership in denominations and congregations, it merely represents the symptoms of a greater drought. Consider that the grass turns brown as it withers and flowers fade when rain eludes the earth, but life thrives when rain and sunshine are abundant. Isaiah 40:8 says, "The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever."

Too often the Church asks how it can grow as if the drought is a lack of participants rather than a dearth of hope brought on by hoarding (i.e. not sharing) the good news (the gospel) that each soul is made in the image of God Almighty, and our unique proclamation that that very same God entered our suffering even to the point of death so that everyone who claims that promise might have hopeful and eternal life. For thirteen children and their families – for the leaders who volunteered their time and the benefactors who supported Vacation Bible School with additional offerings – that drought was broken for a moment that first full weekend of August.



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TO
Everything
there
is a Season
and a
time to every purpose
under Heaven

Ecclesiastes 3:1



(Continued from page 1)

Whereas an intermittent shower may help our lawns and gardens survive for a few more days or weeks, thriving requires consistent rainfall. Doesn't it? After a drought, it takes time for lawns and gardens to fully recover and to begin growing beyond the limits of our backyards and garden plots. Doesn't it?

Grass withers and flowers fade; but the word of our God stands forever. How do we persist in sharing that word of hope? In the passage above, Jesus calls us to welcome children in his name. He also warns us about creating stumbling blocks. What might those stumbling blocks be? Extra time serving children's ministry by those who have "done my time"? Reluctance to invest financial resources to bring children to gather with the faithful for Sunday School and worship so that might receive the constant watering that will allow them to blossom? Fear of "practical" considerations regarding messes in the building, etc.? Forgetting that our call as the Church (the body of Christ in the world) is to share the hope of salvation rather than prolonging institutional survival.

In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus says that "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 18:10) Allow me to rephrase that: joy abounds in heaven for each soul that learns to trust God, because God is faithful.

I am convinced that God is calling Cherry Valley United Methodist Church to make it our priority to share the gospel hope with children; and that by doing so, we'll forget about surviving because God's love will be thriving.

A couple of months ago, I mentioned one of my ideas on how to expand our outreach to children. I don't know whether that was merely Mark's (my) idea in response to the God's call or God's directive. I will say again, however, that I am convinced that God's call is for us to share the good news with children. Doing so will require investing our time and treasure in that ministry. I am convinced, also, that God will put on your hearts how best to implement that call. I am also convinced that whatever he instills in you will be better than any idea that I can imagine. Trust God and share those inspirations so that we can discern together how to respond to God's call.

I'm still waiting for watermelons to grow in my garden almost four months after planting the seeds; and know that I have at least a month more to wait for the harvest. Likewise, it will take time for the seeds of faith planted in young lives to take root, to sprout up, to blossom, and to bear fruit. When we are faithful planting those seeds, feeding those roots, protecting the shoots, and pouring out the water of hope that God instills in us when we see drought surrounding those young lives, that we will find our own hope renewed and our anticipation grow as we wait to see even one soul filled with the hopeful promise of life that comes through Jesus Christ.

(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)

I'm thankful that we will be having a Sunday School class for younger children beginning in September. I'm thankful for all the volunteers that made Vacation Bible School a success. I know that God will speak among us – if not already – on how to bring the hope of life to Cherry Valley and the world as we nurture that hope in children. Remember the joy of August 8th when children's voices sang God's praise, and know that the Lord is faithful: a truth we see when we trust God.

Let us remember: God's faithfulness provided needed rain on a Monday, after insisting on sunshine for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday so that faith could be watered in Son-shine during Vacation Bible School.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness
Rev. Mark Harkness

Church Conference Date

SAVE THE DATE



The Church Conference for Cherry Valley UMC will be Sunday, December 5 at 10:00 am during the usual worship time. The SPRC will meet prior to the Conference at 9:15 am.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
The Clevenger Clan walked a long, hard road this summer. There are not enough words of gratitude to those who walked, prayed, gave hugs or whatever you did for my son, Jason. He is now in OT and PT with a possible return to (part-time) work on October 1st. God is good all the time!

Mary Lou Clevenger.

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.

September 5..... 15th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 125
 Scripture LessonProverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
 Gospel.....Mark 7:24-37
 Message“A Good Name”
 Series: *A Good Life #1*

September 12..... 16th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 19
 Scripture LessonProverbs 1:20-33
 Gospel.....Mark 8:27-38
 Message“A Good Mind”
 Series: *A Good Life #2*

September 19..... 17th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 1
 Scripture LessonProverbs 31:10-31
 Gospel.....Mark 9:30-37
 Message“A Good Community”
 Series: *A Good Life #3*

September 26..... 18th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 124
 Scripture LessonEsther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
 Gospel.....Mark 9:38-50
 Message“A Good Cause”
 Series: *A Good Life #4*



Secretary's Notes

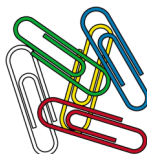


The wall calendar in the gathering room is there for your benefit. If you have anything to schedule, please enter the time and other information on the calendar so that others can see upcoming events and meetings. With our society getting back to a pre-covid “normal” we

need to be sure that if you schedule something at the church, there is no conflict with another group who is scheduled at the same time.

The mail boxes in the gathering room is where information is filed that is pertinent to a particular committee. Some of the file folders are **STUFFED** with papers that have not been purged in quite some time. In our efforts to clean up the space and make it more inviting to visitors who drop in, Committee Chairs should go through their folders by the end of this month and recycle any papers that are outdated or no longer useful.

The secretary will be on vacation beginning Thursday, September 2, returning to the office on Thursday, September 9. If you have anything that needs her attention, please see her before or after those dates.



Methodist Women

Fall is fast approaching; kids are returning to school and it is time for the Woman's Group to resume our meetings also.



We will continue to meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month following worship service. Mark your calendars for our first meeting on September 12th. This group is open to any and all women of our congregation. Please consider this a personal invitation to all women.

Recently there was a devotion in the Upper Room that really spoke to me. It was the Tuesday, August 10th reading entitled *Moving Mountains*. John Grube spoke of his moving back to his small town little church from a large city church. He assumed that the church was too small to be of much significance. "Surely, he thought, *it's light could not shine as bright a that of the large urban church he had attended in the city*" His assumptions were wrong. "Remember the first disciples of Christ were only 12 people. Though small in number, they revealed God's greatness to an entire world."

Our group may be small in number but, we too, may be great in service. I look forward to seeing you September 12th.

Striving to serve, Donna Layng

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.

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.



COOL PEOPLE
JOIN THE CHOIR



Contact Nola
at 815-229-7938
or
ncarmine@gmail.com

No Experience Necessary
Beginners Welcome
ARE YOU COOL ENOUGH?



Seeing the sanctuary filled with children during VBS was pure joy!

We have in our midst:

- * Master Teacher- Melynda
- * Master Builder- Dave
- * Master Story Teller- Scott, to name just a few.

Shouting Hallelujah with those children and feeling the strength and energy of the volunteers, (even in the heat-wearing masks!) gave me just a little glimpse of what awaits us in Heaven as we all gather around the throne to sing "Holy, Holy, Holy."

If you want to feel a bit of that energy, joy, and fun; why not give Choir a try? Hope to see YOU in the Choir loft soon.

My compliments to Deb and the entire VBS team of good and faithful servants on a job well done!

In Christ,
Nola

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 You Tube. You may also watch it later along with previously streamed worship services.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays
of the Month

September Birthdays

- 2 Mary Coulter
- 6 Marlene Meyers
Grace Harter
- 7 Melynda Mungor
Warren Gross
- 8 Zane Clevenger
- 10 Amy Flood
- 22 David Burritt
- 23 Jeanette Krueger
Monica Plummer

- 24 David Ziemke
Chris Flood
- 25 Mandy Kloepfer
- 27 Sherry Gordon
- 28 Patty Campbell
- 29 Holly Snyder



September Anniversaries

- 3 Gary & Sue Wilt
- 12 Daniel & Julie Halley
- 14 Joe & Trudy Hunt



Outreach / Mission Team Update

We hope you all have enjoyed these warm (perhaps hot) summer months. We want to express our gratitude to all of you for your thoughtful and generous donations to Miss Carly's. We filled the back of an SUV with food, diapers, soaps and other much needed items. We also collected just under a \$1000. When we arrived at Miss Carly's with our donations they had just run out of chips for the lunch being served. We arrived just in time to meet that need! God is good! Thank you!

Now as we approach the fall, our outreach will focus on teachers at our neighborhood schools. Our next Mission Moment will be **Sunday September 19**. Carolyn Kloss will enlighten us on how we can help our schools and especially our teachers. Carolyn will talk about various volunteer opportunities not only at her school but also others as well. Her school is distinctive because of the multi-language, ethnically diversified and low-income populations that are served by Hillman. However all schools welcome volunteers in various capacities. Come with an open mind and a willing heart to hear how you can support our schools.



The Outreach/Mission committee will meet soon to discuss how we can gather together bags of snacks and supplies especially designed to nurture our teachers at Cherry Valley and Hillman Schools. See you in Church! Join us at our meetings!

P.S. Several of us are making peanut butter & jelly sandwiches at Grace United Methodist Church every Friday at 8:30. So far this outreach project to Miss Carly's has made 25,000 sandwiches. You are welcome to join us. Just show up!

With God's grace we grow together! Judy Long

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.rvvp.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

Global Mission Secondary School Update

On July 21 the District Superintendent Reverend Isaka, other pastors and leaders of the Dar Salam community came together to pray for phase 2 of the remaining construction of the Global Mission Secondary School. Weather, funding, Covid and other barriers slowed down the progress but Pastor Kim and her team is undeterred. Built always on faith, all is moving forward now. Registration is now open for 'form one' or 'first year' students for January, 2022. Pray for the construction, the funding and the teaching staff as they finish God's work.

With God's Grace We Grow Together!



Please consider supporting Pastor Kim not only through prayer, but also through funding!

VBS Team Thank You

One word to describe this year's Vacation Bible School again is "AWESOME"! We had 13 kids in total over the weekend. This was our best attended VBS in a long time! Hopefully you got a chance to see the phenomenal props and decorations to make the "Anchored" theme come to life and make it special for the kids including a safe outside tent. I think everyone would agree, we felt like we were under the sea and it made a big hit with the kids...especially the anchor itself.

The hard work, passion and dedication this crew has is amazing to witness. Not only did they do a fantastic job with great teamwork, but they helped me above and beyond as I was physically unable. This can only help our church grow in strength and faith. The kids that came were amazing and they were very interested to hear that Jesus is our lifesaver and his faithful love endures forever and if we believe in him, we will have eternal life with God.

We hope and pray that VBS will bring kids to our Sunday School, but most importantly, whether we ended up with 5 kids or 20...we made a difference in their lives. As we know, God can and does work in mysterious ways.

The Crew would like to thank everyone who donated to VBS this year, for a total of \$730. We are blessed to have some very generous church members. It really helps take a burden off and we couldn't have done it without all the contributions (including chips, water bottles and parade candy). A BIG "thank you" to the following crew members and parade participants from the bottom of my heart. A vision never looked so spectacular...couldn't have done it without you and we are truly blessed to have you at CVUMC:

Pastor Mark Harkness

Dave Ward	Nancy Laurent	Donna Layng
Scott Layng	Michelle Jones	Roni Layng
Susan Harkness	Andrew Schwartz	Nathan Schwartz
Melynda Mungor	Sydney Schwartz	Johanna Podezwa
Sandy Schwartz	Juanita Barnes	Jamie Spears
Mason Spears	Jameson Spears	Warren Gross
Linnea Peterson	Willow Northcott	Cindy Kerr
Judy Long	Sherry Gordon	Nola Carnine

Sincerely and God Bless,

Deb Gross, 2021 VBS Director

Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl group will resume monthly meetings at 10:00 am on the third Wednesdays of each month. People interested in this rewarding ministry should speak with Ann Harned at 815-393-4676. No experience necessary. These are a group of talented individuals who can teach and are on hand if any assistance is needed.

By the way, men are welcome to join this group. During the pandemic, a lot of men took up knitting and crocheting as a means of relaxing and passing time. The benefits of joining this group are twofold for women or men: It is a soothing activity and these shawls are made to give comfort to those who need prayer and comfort.

ANCHORED

Deepening Faith in God
Vacation Bible School—August 6-8, 2021




Photos courtesy of Susan Harkness

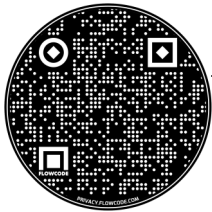


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees	2	3	4 9:00 am GA
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	6  LABOR DAY	7 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	8 9:00 am Bible Study	9	10	11 9:00 am GA
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women	13 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	14 6:15 Finance 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 7:00 Church Council	15 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16	17	18 9:00 am GA
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	20 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	21 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	22 9:00 am Bible Study  First Day of Autumn	23	24	25 9:00 am GA
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	27 No Scout Meeting this week	28 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	29 9:00 am Bible Study	30		

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



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

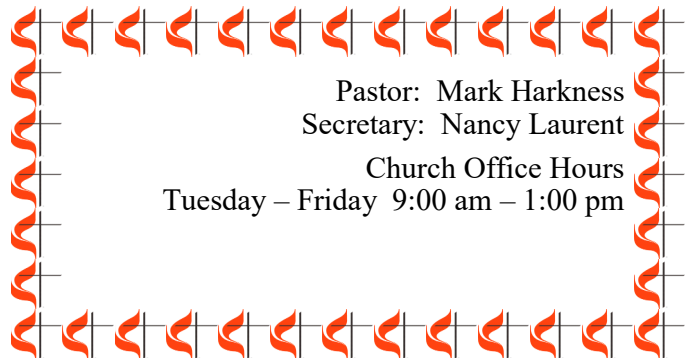


Let us
WORSHIP
Together

Sunday @ 10:00 am—In-person
Worship

Live You Tube streaming at
Cherry Valley United Methodist
Church.

Go to cherryvalleyumc.com to access You Tube.



Pastor: Mark Harkness
Secretary: Nancy Laurent

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