

# THE MESSENGER

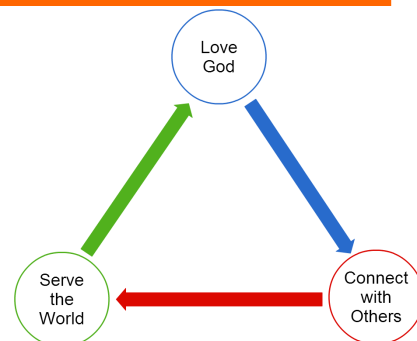
October 2021

## Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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Parsonage phone: 815/580-8553

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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

<sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup>For the Lord is a great God, and a great King  
above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

<sup>6</sup>O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his  
pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

<sup>8</sup>Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

<sup>9</sup>when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the  
proof,  
though they had seen my work.

<sup>10</sup>For forty years I loathed that generation and  
said,

"They are a people whose hearts go astray,  
and they do not regard my ways."

<sup>11</sup>Therefore in my anger I swore,  
"They shall not enter my rest." Psalm 95 (NRSV)

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

Psalm 95, above, is known as the *Venite*. *Venite* means *come* in Latin. This psalm serves as a regular call to worship in the Book of Common Prayer and the Lutheran Book of Worship. In The Book of Worship of The United Methodist Church, it is one of the recommended Scripture readings for morning prayer.

"Come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation... For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods... The seas is his... the dry lands are his... come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!" I invite you to say those words out loud. Read them above especially verses one (1) through seven (7): say them and listen to your voice as you do. Could you read them in a monotone? Did you? Or did you start that way, and begin to have something new come over you?

Sometimes I've been frustrated reading the psalms in unison when gathered with Anglican brothers and sisters. There's an intentionality about keeping an almost monotone tone so that our individual inflections don't overpower a unified voice. That may influence my affection for chanting/singing the psalms. Methodist's can do that. It's not too Catholic, Episcopalian, Lutheran... Have you ever noticed those little red dots over words in the psalter at the end of our hymnal? Those are chant marks. But, I digress: such is the power of singing God's praise.

In the psalm above we are encouraged to come before the Maker of the Universe, as a God whose name we know and who claims us as his, and who yearns for us to listen to (and for) his voice.

Our God is distinct from all other gods. Our God calls us into a different sort of relationship than any other god. All other gods – the pagan gods of Rome and Greece, the Norse and Hindu deities, the gods of Egypt and the ancient gods of sub-Saharan Africa and the America – are deities to be appeased and whose relationships to humanity are transactional. Our God – the Maker of creation – says, "I made you to be like me," and, "Rather than demanding that you do things to earn my favor, I am going to entrust you with the whole earth. Even though the sea is mine because I made it – even though the earth is mine because my hands formed it, I'm entrusting it all to you to care for it and for one another."

I'm not worthy. Are you? I'm not worthy, except that I've been made in God's image, and reborn through Jesus Christ. How can I be anything other than joyful in God's presence? How can I keep thanksgiving from overwhelming my soul? If that sounds a little too perfect; that's probably because it is.

(Continued on page 2)

## In this issue

Prayer Requests .....	Page 2
Church Conference .....	Page 2
Upcoming Sermons .....	Page 3
Church Council .....	Page 3
Pastor's Schedule .....	Page 3
Methodist Women .....	Page 3
Thank You .....	Page 3
Join the Choir & News ..	Page 4
You Tube Streaming .....	Page 4
Birthday/Anniversary .....	Page 4
Fall Bible Study .....	Page 4
RRV Food Pantry .....	Page 5
Tanzania Missionary .....	Page 5
Global Mission School ..	Page 5
Mission/Outreach .....	Page 5
Miss Carly's Update .....	Page 5
Prayer Shawl Group .....	Page 5
Webb's Newsletter .....	Page 6
Calendar .....	Page 7
Trick 'r' Treat .....	Page 8

O come, let us  
sing unto the  
Lord: let us  
make a joyful  
noise to the  
rock of our  
salvation.

Psalm 95:1



(Continued from page 1)

I confess, I am not always thankful. Too often, I let the worries of the world distract me from knowing the joy that God chose me – God chose you – to trust and to love. Because God can't be wrong, I must be worthy. To often, I allow myself to fret over whether I'm liked or respected by other, and I put God to the test, as if he needs to answer to me. In so doing, I notice what I don't have rather than the blessings that abound.

We are a blessed people: not because of our good fortune to live in a powerful nation, not because we may (or may not) have financial security, not because we belong to the "right" religion; but because we've heard the Word and experienced the promise that God chose us over every other creature to be like him. Moreover, God refuses to give up on us. He saved a remnant from the flood and sent Jesus to take our sin – our tendency to forget who we are and to seek satisfaction in our own devices. Even in the psalm above where it seems like God is giving up, we are reminded that because God loves us, he'll let us have our own way when we overlook the blessings we've been afforded.

As the pandemic continues and people stay away from churches for health concerns or out of habit, it would be easy to wonder whether God has given up on us or whether we might be giving up on God; but things are happening here: our growing attendance surpasses even some other "larger" congregations in our region and does so without neglecting practical (even if inconvenient) guidelines for inhibiting the spread of disease, Sunday School has resumed including at least one family who attended Vacation Bible School. We have two baptisms scheduled on the church calendar: one on October 31 when we celebrate All Saints Sunday, and another on November 7 when we'll be invited to renew our support for the missions and ministry of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Sometimes the word on the screen may get behind or the livestream broadcast might go wonky – sometimes the preacher will lose his place (or forgets to load up his sermon), or a reader may stumble on a word or phrase in Scripture. We come to make a joyful noise that God has chosen each of us and all of us together. We come to his presence with thanksgiving that each of us has been blessed with something to give for the sake of the world – and the church of Jesus Christ.

We have children in Sunday School! We have a new space in the back of the sanctuary where children can remain in worship and still fidget! We have singing! We have praying! We have old friends sitting together! We have new friends coming to know one another! We the hosts of heaven cheering us on as we waken God's joy through our joyful noise! Come, let us sing to the LORD and enter his presence with thanksgiving.

In the next month, you should be receiving a devotional for our "Desserts First" stewardship campaign (If not, contact the church and we'll get one to you either printed or electronically) in which members of our faith community share and reflect on why they are thankful and how they express that. I hope you will avail yourself of that devotional blessed to know that others are being encouraged by the exact same words. I would invite you also to begin each day in the upcoming month – whether as a part of that devotional or not – with Psalm 95 so that you may find yourself in God's presence as a sheep of his own fold each day and each moment.

Your brother in Christ,

  
Rev. Mark Harkness

*The first word or phrase of Psalms and other passages are often used to "name" them. For instance, the Gloria Patri means "Glory to the Father". This was especially useful in the time when many persons could not read but memorized the psalms and other passages for communal worship. Upon hearing the first word/phrase, they were able to join together.*

*In Hebrew YHWH (the divine name), identifying this as THE God above all other gods.*

(Continued in next column)



Lorraine Robbins  
Jim Whitlock

**Military Personnel**  
Gage Christensen  
Sean Conderman  
Dan Harter  
Mark Kincaide

**Mission**  
Pastor Kim & the Next  
Generation Ministry

**Those Who Mourn**

**Members & Friends**

Barb Anderson  
Sandra Baxter  
Patty Campbell  
Violet Collier  
Joe Hunt  
Doris Kuelz  
Lela Lameyer  
Lyons Meyers  
Marlene Meyers



**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)

PS: I mentioned above that there are two upcoming baptisms: Ryan Bilderback (October 31) and Cole Dwyer (November 7). I ask for at least six persons to join me in fasting and prayer for baptismal candidates on the day prior to a baptism. We don't have to limit ourselves to six. For those who choose to fast: a spiritual fast usually consists of forgoing morning and mid-day meals, and then having a light evening meal devoid of particularly rich foods. It serves to remind us of what we need and the abundance that we normally enjoy. In this context, it anticipates an abundance of God's grace for the baptized. Even if you don't choose to fast on September 30 or November 6, please pray for Ryan and Cole on those days.

**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.

## 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](http://cherryvalleyumc.com)). Click the worship tab.

**October 3** ..... 19th Sunday After Pentecost  
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 26  
 Scripture Lesson .....Job 1:1, 2:1-10  
 Gospel.....Mark 10:2-16  
 Message .....“A Good Practice”  
 Series: *A Good Life #5*

**October 10** ..... 20th Sunday After Pentecost  
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 22:1-15  
 Scripture Lesson .....Job 23:1-9, 16-17  
 Gospel.....Mark 10:17-31  
 Message .....“Pick It Up”  
 Series: *Pick Up Your Cross #1*

**October 17** ..... 21st Sunday After Pentecost  
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 25c  
 Scripture Lesson .....Job 38:1-7, 34-41  
 Gospel.....Mark 10:35-45  
 Message .....“Refocus”  
 Series: *Pick Up Your Cross #2*

**October 24** ..... 22nd Sunday After Pentecost  
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 34:1-8  
 Scripture Lesson .....Hebrews 7:23-28  
 Gospel.....Mark 10:46-52  
 Message .....“Ask For Help”  
 Series: *Pick Up Your Cross #3*

**October 31** ..... 23rd Sunday After Pentecost  
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 146:1-10  
 Scripture Lesson .....Hebrews 9:11-14  
 Gospel.....Mark 12:28-34  
 Message .....“A New Time”



### Church Council Meeting

The Church Council and Finance Committee will have the final meeting of 2021 on November 9th. Finance Committee meets at 6:15 pm and the Church Council meets at 7:00 pm.

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

*May the Lord bless and keep you.*

*May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.*

*May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.*



## Methodist Women

We did it! We met as a group on Sunday, September 12th. There were eight of us in the circle. Judy Krunfus relinquished her role as secretary. Judy has served us well over the years. Lucy Powell will now serve in that capacity. Ann Harned will remain as treasurer. I offered the job of leadership to the group with no response so I will continue.



We spent quite a bit of time discussing how we can best serve this congregation, our church, and our community. We will continue to support the Mission Team in their outreach. We will continue to support Rock House Kids with donations of Christmas stockings. (I already have some for this year.)

In looking forward, we would like to sponsor the Cookie Walk in December, and we would like to have a church wide garage sale in the spring. Of course these events are all dependent on where we are in this pandemic.

I would like to extend an invitation to any and all the women who attend CVUMC to join us next month as we gather once again to share our thoughts and our prayers. ***Our next meeting is October 10th following worship.***

Striving to Serve, Donna Layng

## Thank You

Dear Pastor Harkness and Congregation,

Thank you for your recent donation of 78 pounds of food!

Your gift has been sorted and will be combined with other food items to ensue every distribution given to families in need meets the nutrition and caloric guidelines for their family size. Each and every box contains foods appropriate for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

We appreciated your efforts and support of our mission to fight hunger, improve lives and strengthen our community!

Sincerely,  
 Kim Adams-Bakke,  
 Executive Director





## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays of the Month

- 4 Marybeth Sundberg
- 5 Charles Voorhies
- 8 Leigh Sterrenberg
- 12 Carol Conderman
- 13 Jim Whitlock  
Jim Voorhies  
Erinna Kauffman  
Ericka Kauffman
- 14 Carol Behning
- 30 Heather Wilt

### Anniversary Celebration

- 9 Mike & Melynda Mungor
- 12 Jim & Pat Newell
- 13 David & Dana Ward
- 14 Charles & Lora  
Schnuckel
- 29 Dave & Jan Mills



## Prayer and Fasting Day



Join on Zoom anytime during the day from 6 am - 5 pm to pray for the Annual Conference Shepherding Team's three Task Forces (Anti-Racism, Discipleship, Vital Congregations) and the 2021 Ordination and Commissioning Class, who will be ordained and commissioned that evening at 6 pm. Prayer leaders will be hourly, including devotions and time for silent prayer. **The Zoom link will be**

**posted closer to the date.** For details go to <https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/day-of-prayer-and-fasting>

## Fall Bible Study

Pastor Mark will facilitate a 5 week bible study entitled "Singing the Lord's Songs" engaging the songs in Scripture on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm beginning on Wednesday, October 6.



The schedule is as follows:

- October 6 - Songs to Celebrate Life (Songs 2:1-17 and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)
- October 13 - Songs of Hope and Promise (1 Samuel 1:1-10 a and Luke 1:46 b-55; 1:68-69)
- October 20 - Songs of Victory and Triumph (Exodus 15:1-18, 20-21 and Judges 5:1-31 l)
- October 27 - Songs of Pain and Anger (2 Samuel 1:17-27 and Psalm 137)
- November 3 - Songs of Glory and Adoration (Philippians 2:5-11 and Revelation 4:8-11; 5:9-14)

A remote option (e.g. ZOOM or other) will also be available.

**WANTED**  
{ PREFERABLY ALIVE! }  
**A FEW GOOD PEOPLE**

TO JOIN  
THE CHERRY VALLEY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHOIR  
**REWARD: PRICELESS!**  
CONTACT NOLA @ 815-229-7938  
EMAIL: NCARNINE@GMAIL.com

Choir is coming! You can still join us!

Do not wait until some deed of greatness you will do.  
Do not wait to shed your light afar.  
To many duties ever near you now be true.  
Brighten the corner where you are.

Brighten the corner where you are.  
Brighten the corner where you are.  
Someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar.  
Brighten the corner where you are.

from *Brighten the Corner Where You Are* by Ina D. Ogden, 1913

*Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds & praise your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:17 NIV

See you in the Choir loft soon!

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.

## 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](mailto: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!*

## Mission and Outreach



The Mission and Outreach Committee continue to work on establishing relationships within our community.

This quarter we have chosen our local elementary schools and Carolyn Kloss presented a "Mission Moment" focusing on how we can assist in supporting the staff and students of Cherry Valley and Hillman Elementary Schools.

We will be collecting snacks and small gift cards to place in large baskets and delivered to each school. Look for collection boxes in the narthex. Suggestions for donations include:

- granola bars
- candy bars
- Nuts snack packs
- movie tickets
- Starbucks cards
- Barnes and Noble card



The gift cards will be distributed by the principals as they wish. If you do not wish to shop for items, we will accept monetary contributions. Our team members will go to Costco to purchase items for donation.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or any of the team members: **Roni Layng, Mandy Kloepfer, Mary Coulter, Judy Long, Dave Ward, and Janet & Jim Bryant.**

Thank you for your support of the Mission & Outreach to our community.

Terri Burritt, Chair

## Update on Miss Carly's Ministry



We often know not what our actions may lead to; yet we have faith that what we say and do brings rewards. Pastor Pam, Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, came to the Friday sandwich making session to encourage us all. She said she had attended a program with Miss Carly the night before. Miss Carly said that our 26,000 + peanut butter & jelly sandwiches have brought 300 people into a drug addiction program. *Feed them and they will come; feed them and see what fruit takes hold.*

[Mark 4:20](#)

But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

*With God's grace we grow together! Judy Long*

## 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.



# A Word From the Webbs

A Newsletter from  
Craig and Judy

August 2021

## Miracle at a Funeral

*“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Philipians 1:21*

*This is a story from Greg, a translation consultant with whom Craig has worked in a Bible translation project not too far from where we live. Greg wrote:*

“A few years ago, Tawan returned home after becoming a Christian to live in his family’s village and translate the Bible into their language. He and his father Tasai were harvesting Tasai’s rice crop, and rain was approaching the fields threatening to ruin their crop. Tasai said to Tawan, ‘If your God is so great, ask Him to stop the rain!’ Tawan told me he didn’t have the faith, but prayed anyway and asked God to somehow stop it from raining on their crops. In no time a wind came and blew the rain away from their fields. This exact scenario happened three years in a row. After the third time, Tasai decided his son’s God was real, and he wanted to know Him. Tasai gave his life to Jesus.

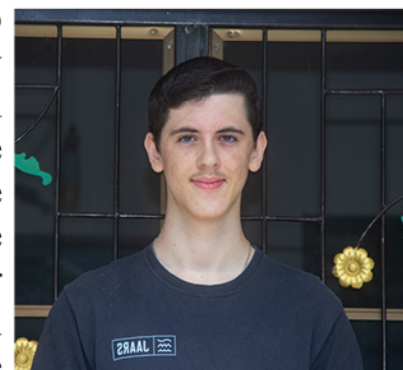


*Tasai*

“Last September, after battling an illness for a few years, Tasai died at the hospital but was resuscitated. He told us all about being taken up to heaven by someone dressed in white and meeting Jesus. Jesus told him that he couldn’t go in yet, but had to wait for a few more days. Tasai had a huge smile on his face as he told many people about his experience and how much he was looking forward to going to heaven. This is so different from how most people here view death. They are terrified of what comes next. Tasai peacefully passed away a week later.

“During the 3-day funeral wake, hundreds of people came to visit and pay their respects. Many of those who came had never been to a Christian funeral. It was a great opportunity to have a short service each night with worship, and someone sharing about the hope we have in Jesus.

“It is normal for every house in a village to give a donation to help cover funeral expenses. However, Tawan’s family had been told by the elders in their village that anyone who became a Christian would be excluded from that community plan. On the last night during the service, the governor of the district publicly gave Tawan an envelope of money equal to the amount of the typical village donation. He said the reason he did this was that they didn’t have any alcohol or gambling at this funeral. (Every other funeral we have attended in Thailand has included alcohol and gambling, but not Tasai’s because they are Christians!)”



*1st Day of Richard’s  
Senior Year of  
High School!*

*We are so thankful that you help us make an impact  
in the lives of people such as Tasai!*

# October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 6 am—5 pm Prayer & Fasting Day	<b>2</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women	<b>11</b> No Scout Meeting <i>Columbus Day</i>	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Messenger items due today</i>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>17</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 5:30 pm Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>31</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Trick or Treat for the Pantry</i> Baptism Ryan David Bilderback						

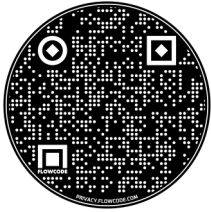
Messenger items are due to the secretary on the 15th of each month.

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING  
YOUR NON-PARISHABLE  
FOOD ON OCTOBER 31ST.**



**HUNGER IS VERY SCARY!**

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



*Let us*  
**WORSHIP**  
*Together*

Sunday@ 9:00 am—Sunday School all ages  
Sunday@ 10:00 am—In-person Worship  
Live You Tube streaming at Cherry Valley  
United Methodist Church.

Contact us:

Office phone: 815/332-5075  
E-mail: [churchinthevalley@comcast.net](mailto:churchinthevalley@comcast.net)  
Web Site: [cherryvalleyumc.com](http://cherryvalleyumc.com)  
Facebook: Cherry Valley United Methodist Church



Pastor: Rev. Mark Harkness  
Deacon: Rev. Danice Loveridge  
Secretary: Nancy Laurent

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