

THE MESSENGER



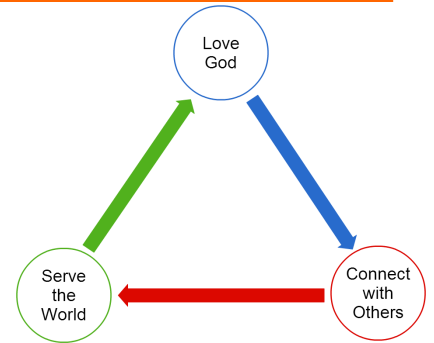
November 2021

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
Pastor's Cell: 331-465-9489
Pastor's E-mail: ark.harkness@gmail.com
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Cell phone: 815-509-9445

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

¹⁰I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. ¹¹Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; ¹²and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. ¹³In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, ¹⁴Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. ¹⁵For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

¹⁶After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, saying: ¹⁷Ah Lord GOD! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. ¹⁸You show steadfast love to the thousandth generation, but repay the guilt of parents into the laps of their children after them, O great and mighty God whose name is the LORD of hosts, ¹⁹great in counsel and mighty in deed; whose eyes are open to all the ways of mortals, rewarding all according to their ways and according to the fruit of their doings. ²⁰You showed signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all humankind, and have made yourself a name that continues to this very day.

Jeremiah 32:10-20 (NRSV)

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

Recently, Susan and I discussed our plans for Thanksgiving. Since we've been married we have gone to the Quad-Cities to be with Susan's sister and her family. The Saturday following Thanksgiving had been an opportunity for my extended family to gather for "Thanksmas" somewhere between Des Moines and Peoria. Last year, neither happened. My family held an awkward virtual Thanksmas. This year, there won't be a family Thanksgiving in the Quad-Cities; and nary a word about gathering for Thanksmas (even virtually).

Many of you know that same angst. The COVID-19 pandemic drags on; leading to frustration and fear: frustration that we've not returned to "normal" and fear that we may not.

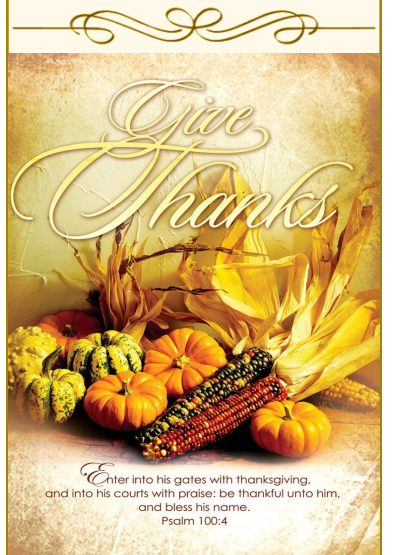
The Scripture above might seem odd for a pastor's address in the November newsletter when we expect to something about Thanksgiving. I believe, however, that this passage speaks to our current circumstance. The prophet, Jeremiah, wrote during the Babylonian exile. Nebuchadnezzar had conquered Israel and carried the leaders along with the artisans (i.e. craftsmen) and artists into exile. He had taken over the fields and demanded tribute. It seemed that Israel, as a nation, was lost. Why bother?

However, in that passage we hear about people living out their best expectation for the future, buying the deeds for fields expecting (hoping?) that "normal" would return. So in verse 15 we hear, "For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land." Although Babylonian rule limited the

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people's ability to claim and work the land to which they had title, thus says the Lord, "Hang in there. Live life as fully as you are able amidst the restrictions that you face now. A new day is coming."

That new day is important. Israel had fallen into exile a couple of times, because they turned away from the Lord. Historically, we see recurrences of disease, environmental destruction, and subjugation, because people get comfortable leading to carelessness.

When those things occur, we have a few choices: let them destroy us, rebel against them, or to live our lives as fully as possible under current restrictions, trusting that a new day will come even better than what we knew before.

I was frustrated last year when the governor's increased covid mitigation restrictions leading our bishop directed our churches to cease in-person worship from mid-November through the rest of the year. We had been diligent in worshipping under the previous mitigations, and doing so safely. Even when those among us have been infected with covid-19, our diligence in wearing masks and availing ourselves of vaccination has prevented it from being spread by our gatherings. Praise the Lord!

Thus says the Lord, "The time is coming when you will be able to gather without masks, to sing 'And are we yet alive to see each others' face,' to hug and to crowd together." Until then, as we adhere to restrictions meant to mitigate the spread of disease, let us continue to live as people of hope claiming every opportunity to worship our God, and to be with one another.

In 2020, I got to visit my grandsons through a storm door. This year, because we are vaccinated, Susan and I got to hold them and kiss them. On both occasions we traveled to visit in our camper using it for pit stops rather than risking exposure that we might pass on. Although we may eat alone on Thanksgiving, our hope is to visit them again right after Christmas. Because they are too young to be vaccinated, we will limit our activities on the road (such as dining in) and wear masks while we travel because the time is coming when we will once again claim group hugs and outings.

Don't allow frustration to overwhelm hope. Claim every opportunity (even if limited) to enjoy life and one another, thanking God for the blessings you no longer take for granted.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



Marlene Meyers
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

Harry Buck
Sandra Baxter
Patty Campbell
Violet Collier
Marion Hampton
Joe Hunt
Doris Kuelz
Lela Lameyer
Lyons 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 sec-

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

GREAT NEWS!

Cherry Valley UMC has recently been added to the approved charity list on AmazonSmile!

If you use Amazon.com for purchases, consider signing up with smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases - at no cost to you. **You may choose from many charities, with CVUMC being our favorite!**

AmazonSmile offers the same products, same low prices, and same services as the Amazon you know.

To get started, visit smile.amazon.com on your web browser and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice. Select your charity and start shopping.

To join AmazonSmile from the mobile app, open the app and find "Settings" in the main menu. Tap on "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on Amazon Smile on your phone.

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.

November 7.....24th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 42
 Scripture LessonRuth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
 Gospel.....Mark 12:38-44
 Message“Enough to Thrive”

November 14.....25th Sunday After Pentecost
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 113
 Scripture Lesson1 Samuel 1:4-20
 Gospel.....Mark 13:1-8
 Message“Our Future With God”

November 21.....Christ the King
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 132:1-12
 Scripture Lesson2 Samuel 23:1-7;
 Scripture LessonRevelation 1:4b-8
 Gospel.....John 18:33-37
 MessageRev. Danice Loveridge

November 28.....1st Sunday of Advent
 Call to Worship.....Psalm 25:1-10
 Scripture LessonJeremiah 33:14-16
 Scripture Lesson1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Gospel.....Luke 21:25-36
 Message“Boundless Love”
Series: Boundless - # 1 of 6



Methodist Women

The women met on Sunday, October 10th following worship. Our group remains small...small but mighty. We were blessed to have Pastor Mark join us.

Our goal remains to serve this congregation and this community to the best of our ability. We want to be the holds that brings this congregation together.

We discussed upcoming events within the church; the baptisms, Stewardship Sunday, and the Annual Conference on December 5th.

We are also celebrating the return of children, not only in Sunday school, but within the church service. Our thanks to Zachery Brown for serving as the acolyte each Sunday.

We continue to support the Outreach/Mission Team in their support of teachers and school staff personally and financially.

Our next meeting is November 14th following worship. I personally extend an invitation to any and all women who attend our services.



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.

Make plans to attend this important meeting.



Striving to Serve, Donna Layng

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays of the Month

- 1 Hannah Flood
- 3 Collin Coulter
Brian Coulter
- 4 Joseph Dienberg
- 7 Treven Murphy
- 11 Debora Seno
- 12 Janet L. Bryant
- 14 Tim Conderman
- 15 Zachary Brown
- 20 Cathy Reynolds

21 Cally Ward
23 Deborah Gross
Pat Newell
29 Janis Gordon



6 Bill & Ann Harned
10 Jim & Janet Bryant



Mission

To Help Men
Grow In Christ,
So Others May
Know Christ.

The United Methodist Men is a core group of men who, along with the pastor, invites spiritual growth to all men of the church and the community.

Dave Ward is seeking men of the church to join this core group of men's ministry at CVUMC. His plan is to have a meeting at a future date to discuss his vision and to exchange ideas with other men to determine the future of the group and how the UMM can be of service to the church and the community. Watch the weekly bulletins and the Messenger for information about the meeting and other UMM information.

If you are interested in this ministry, you may speak with Dave Ward at 815-332-4846 or email him at dave.c.ward@comcast.net



There's still time to
join the choir.

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

No Experience Necessary
Beginners Welcome
Cool people join the choir!
ARE YOU COOL ENOUGH?



The Praise Team and Choir meet
on Wednesdays.

6:00—Praise Team

7:30—Choir

You can still join us!

*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

We're Ordering Poinsettias!



We will once again be ordering poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Watch the bulletins and check your email for varieties and pricing. Forms for ordering will be available soon!

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.

Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl group meets 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.

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

Global Mission Secondary School Update

Built always on faith, all is moving forward for the Global Mission Secondary School. 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



We are excited about our current outreach to support the teachers and staff at Swan Hillman and Cherry Valley schools.

During our last 'Mission moment Sunday' Carolyn Kloss compassionately shared the struggles of the staff as they try to teach in the challenging Covid environment. She simply said each day is frustratingly different; each day is simply hard!

So how can we as a church reach out to the school staff? Initially, we are asking the church family to contribute items/funds to buy snacks and other items specifically to nurture the staff. Those items are posted at church and have been listed on an insert in the weekly bulletins. We will deliver the items in November.

Carolyn also said there are numerous volunteer activities such as serving breakfast, monitoring the lunch room and the playgrounds, meeting and developing a nurturing relationship with a student, helping with craft/copying projects. It is the mission team's hope to maintain a relationship with the schools and to respond to their needs as they develop throughout the year.

In addition to funding and volunteer activities, the committee is working on a way to gather prayer requests and commit to praying for the school staff. More information will be shared as we work out the details for that prayer support system. Bottom line: This is a church family mission project. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our neighboring schools.

Other projects being discussed include working with the Gideon's to distribute Bibles to the local police and fire departments and to learn more about the One Body Collaborative (formerly Love Inc.)

If you want to join the mission team or have questions about any of the above activities, please contact our chair person, Terri Burritt.

With God's grace we grow together! Judy Long

The following are suggestions for donations. It's not too late to bring your donations.

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



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

Terri Burritt, Chair





Troops 181G and 181B Service Project will be to do a fall clean up of the church grounds on Sunday, November 7, following worship.

Church members are encouraged to help in the clean up. The scouts will concentrate on the outside, but there will be inside clean up as well for those who prefer not to do yard work.

If you are helping with yard work, please bring your own gloves and garden tools. If you are helping with inside clean up, please bring dust cloths, and websters (dusters for those webs in high corners). Other cleaning supplies are at the church.

There will be Scout leaders on hand to direct the work for the scouts. The church Point of Contact is Juanita Barnes.

On-Line Giving Now Available

Did you know that you can give your offering gifts on-line? That means that even if you are unable to attend worship on any given Sunday, you can still offer your gifts.

Scan the QR code below on your mobile device and it will bring up Cherry Valley United Methodist Church. To set up an account, touch the “sign in” then touch the “create one” in the “Don’t have a giving account?” area. Follow the prompts to create your account.



Invite someone to church during the Advent & Christmas Season. It could become a habit!

Psalm 107:1

November 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 All Saints Day	2 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	3 5:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Trustees 7:30 pm Choir	4	5	6 9:00 am GA
7 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Baptism—Cole David Dwyer</i> <i>Scout Service Project</i> <i>Church Clean-up</i>	8 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	9 6:15 pm Finance Committee 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 7:00 Church Council	10 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13 9:00 am GA
14 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women <i>Veterans Day Observed</i>	15 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>Pastor Mark on vacation</i>	17 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	18	19	20 9:00 am GA
21 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> 	22 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	23 <i>Pastor Mark returns from vacation</i>	24 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 	26 	27 9:00 am GA
28 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	29 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	30 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

MINISTRY BRAND TEAMS ARE GIVING BACK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

For those considering signing up for on line giving, the Ministry Brand Teams are offering a special gift for this upcoming season of generosity. It is called a Gift Match Program for **all donors that add new recurring gifts** from **November 1 – December 31, 2021.**

The Donor Match Program encourages digital giving, which reduces costs and time spent handling other forms of payment!

THE DETAILS

For every **first** gift from a new **recurring** donor that is added between November 1 and December 31, 2021, Ministry Brand Teams will match that first gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 per organization. (In other words, if 20 donors start a new recurring gift of \$50 or more, the church will receive \$1000!)

IMPORTANT NOTES:

To be eligible, **your first donation must be made AFTER October 31 but no later than December 31.** - For a gift to be matched, the first recurring donation must be made by December 31, 2021 and more than one installment must be set-up (hence the term "recurring gift")

Existing recurring gifts already set-up (prior to October 31) are excluded from this matching gift program.

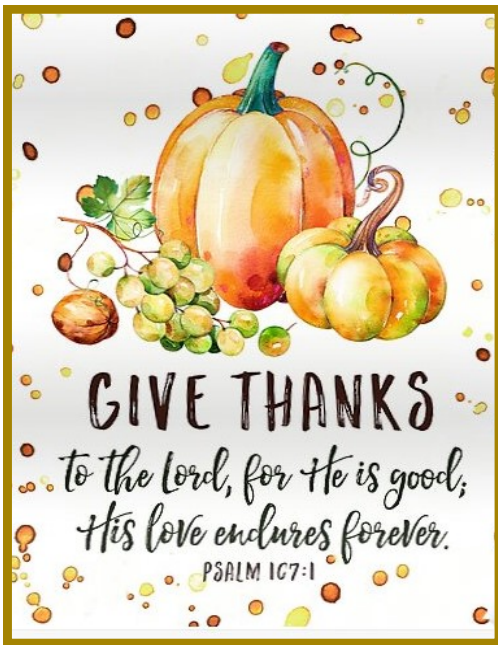
Get Started | Donor Match Details

<https://getstarted.church/givingresources/donor-match-details>

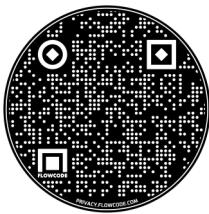
To set up a recurring gift via app or link on church website.

<https://www.elexiogiving.com/app/giving/cher3255500>





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
 Web Site: 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