



THE MESSENGER

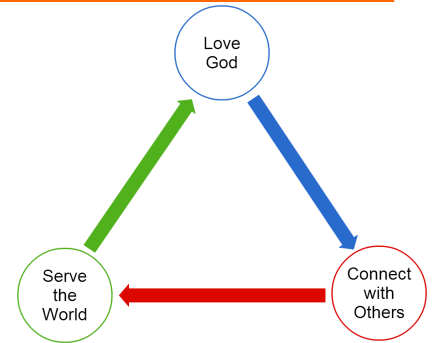
December 2021

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-7(NRSV)

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

“Close the door! Were you born in a barn?” My mom knew that I wasn’t born in a barn. After all, she was there. What was a kid to do? The best response would be to simply shut the door. Right? Why miss the opportunity for a witty retort? “If it was good enough for Jesus, then it’s good enough for me?” Looking back, sassing one’s mother wasn’t good enough for Jesus, and it wasn’t good enough for me. Moreover, what if my retort wasn’t right at all?

Although my mother will have arrived to spend Thanksgiving with Susan and I, she won’t have to worry about spending the night in a barn. She’ll be staying with us. When Susan and I travel to Pennsylvania to visit her (and to travel down to Baltimore so that she can see her great-grandsons), we’ll stay at my sister’s home. That’s what people do when they are away from home visiting family. Isn’t it?

We all know that when Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem they were desperately trying to find a room in a local hotel because Jesus’ birth was imminent. Right? We all know that Jesus was born in a stable because there were no rooms to be had. Right? How do we know that? The Bible? Really?

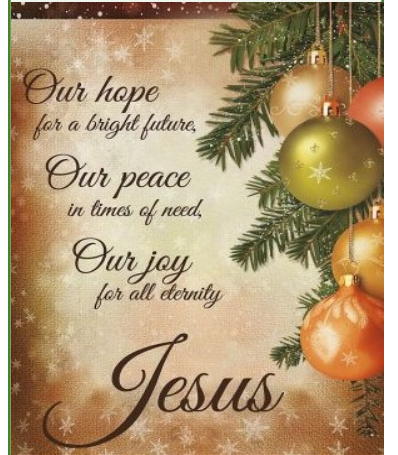
Why did they travel to Bethlehem for the census? Even though Joseph didn’t live in Bethlehem, it was still the family hometown (see v. 4 above), just as Peoria is for my family. Why would they go to a hotel? Was it desperation to find a place right away? Let’s look again: “While they were there, the time came...” (see v. 6 above) They hadn’t just arrived in town. Had they been hanging out on the streets waiting for Mary’s water to break before looking for a room in a hotel? That doesn’t make sense either. Does it? Finally, nowhere in the passage is a stable or barn mentioned. A manger: yes.

If we’re honest, most of what we “know” about the nativity comes from children’s Christmas pageants rather than the Bible. A lot of that proceeds from a mistranslation in the Authorized Translation (i.e. KJV) of the word *kataluma* (καταλυματι). In the KJV (and subsequent translations) the word “inn” appears twice in Luke: here in verse 2:7 and again in 10:34 in the story of the good Samaritan. The Greek word is different, however.

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In the good Samaritan story which clearly references an inn as we know it, the word used is *pandocheion* (πανσιον). We might think that the terms are synonymous, except that *kataluma* appears once more in Luke 22:12 as the “upper room” where Jesus would gather with his disciples to hold the last supper. Other translations such as the New Jerusalem Bible translate *kataluma* as “living-space” or “guest room.”

The typical home in Palestine was a one room house with a lowered “foyer” in which animals stayed for the night. However, a second “guest room” was not uncommon. When we look again at the passage above we discover that when Luke tells us that there is no room in the “inn”, what he’s really telling us is that place was so crowded with his family that the only place to set the child was in the hole carved into the stone floor for animal feed.

It makes sense. Doesn’t it? If God really did intend to dwell among as one of us, he’d choose to do it amidst a gathering of loving family.

I missed gathering for Christmas Eve worship (It was awfully cold in the parking lot last year), celebrations with friends, and gathering with family last year. I suspect you feel the same way.

This year, large family gatherings are still questionable. But the good news is that we are able to more safely visit those whom we love. Take time this season to celebrate the opportunities you do have to be with family. Don’t allow disappointment for what could be, detract from squeezing every moment of joy you can in small gatherings, or even in FaceTime/Skype/ZOOM calls. There may be no room for gathering as we’d like, but just as Mary found a place for Jesus, we too can find our place to make love present for one another.

Your brother in Christ,


Rev. Mark Harkness

Recurring Donation Match

Multiply your gift to the church!

Make a recurring gift to the church via the app or the link on the home page of the Cherry Valley UMC web site and our service provider will give a one time match of the first \$50 of your recurring gift.

***Make your recurring gift donation by December 31,
2021
for this one time offer!***

Follow the link below to make your recurring donation.
<https://www.elxiogiving.com/app/giving/cher3255500>



Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next
Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

Family of Harry Buck
Family of Jim Whitlock

Members & Friends

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



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.

amazon smile

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.

December 5..... 2nd Week of Advent
 Call to Worship..... Luke 1:68-79
 1st Scripture Lesson..... Malachi 3:1-4
 2nd Scripture Lesson Philippians 1:3-11
 Gospel..... Luke 3:1-6
 Message "Boundless Joy"
 Series: *Boundless* - # 2 of 6

December 12..... 3rd Week of Advent
 Call to Worship.....
 1st Scripture Lesson..... Zephaniah 3:14-20
 2nd Scripture Lesson Philippians 4:4-7
 Gospel..... Luke 3:7-18
 Message "Boundless Peace"
 Series: *Boundless* - # 3 of 6

December 19..... 4th Week of Advent
 Call to Worship..... Magnificat
 Scripture Lesson Micah 5:2-5a
 Scripture Lesson Hebrews 10:5-10
 Gospel..... Luke 1:39-45
 Message "Boundless Hope"
 Series: *Boundless* - # 4 of 6

December 24..... Christmas Eve
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 98
 Scripture Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7
 Scripture Lesson Titus 2:11-14
 Gospel..... Luke 2:1-20
 Message "Boundless Spirit"
 Series: *Boundless* - # 5 of 6

December 26..... 1st Week of Christmas
 Call to Worship..... Psalm 148
 Scripture Lesson 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Scripture Lesson..... Colossians 3:12-17
 Gospel..... Luke 2:41-52
 Message "Boundless Life"
 Series: *Boundless* - # 6 of 6



Methodist Women

The Methodist Women met following worship on Sunday, November 14, with 10 people in attendance. Our group remains small but we are involved in many of the activities of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

These are the projects we proudly accomplished this month:

- We supplied Christmas stockings for Rock House Kids again this year.
- We supplied funds to help with the mailing of the Christmas Child Shoe Boxes.
- Members of our group organized and served luncheons following 2 funerals. This is an ongoing activity throughout the year and our group stands ready when the need arises.



All these activities are possible because of the help and support we receive from you, the congregation. We thank you for your willingness to step in and help us when we need help.

The Cookie Walk, one of our most popular events, **will not** be held this year due to Covid restrictions but we do plan a garage sale in the spring. We will hold it in conjunction with the Village garage sale days. We will need your help with this project. When you are doing your spring cleaning, save the items for us! More information will follow. Watch the bulletins, the monthly *Messenger* and email blasts.

Remember: PLEASE, NO CLOTHING FOR THE GARAGE SALE. We don't do clothing.

Our next meeting will be on December 12 following worship. All women are welcome. Come join us!

Striving to serve our church and our community

Donna Layng

Church Conference 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.

Annual Meeting

Choir News

There is still room in the choir loft for many more people! We have a small group now but are looking to expand. You may join the choir, but don't think of it as a lifetime commitment. If you wish, you may sing with the choir for one Sunday, two Sundays, or for the rest of the season. We are flexible!

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



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

- 5 Nicholas Mungor
- 6 Delilah Herold
- 10 Carolyn Kloss
- 12 Pat Cowan
- 13 Lynn Berg
- 14 Bill Harned
Pearl Robbins
- 16 Craig Wilt
- 17 Lela Lameyer
- 18 Keith Krueger
- 19 Karen Harter
- 23 Colleen O'Kane
- 26 Ann Harned

Anniversary Celebration

- 3 Lyons & Marlene Meyers
- 29 Ryan & Jamie Spears

Happy
Anniversary,



Door Greeters

Thank you to the following people who have volunteered to be door greeters:

Patty Campbell who greeted on November 21.

Ray & Yolanda Beets who will greet on December 5.

Donna Layng who will greet on December 19.

LaVern Neff who graciously greets almost every Sunday!

Greeting is a great way to meet and speak with everyone who attends church.

A greeter is the first person a member or visitor sees upon entry into the church.

Greeting is a very important part of the worship experience that the person attending has. Being greeted warmly sets the tone for a meaningful and spiritual worship experience.

If you are interested in this ministry, please speak with Juanita Barnes.



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

Apportionments Status Update

As United Methodists, we are fortunate to participate in ministries and missions throughout the world and our local community through shared contributions through apportionments.

Last year, we committed to grow towards our full portion of that ministry by giving \$8000 towards apportioned shared ministry. As of the end of November, 2021, we have given \$5975 to that goal. Please consider a special gift to support our mission in the world.



Mission and Outreach



On Sunday, November 21, Miss Dee, of The Rock House Kids spoke to the congregation about the mission of the Rock House Kids.

We received the following note from her:

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about RHK with you. Your love and support for the children at RHK is deeply appreciated. You help make Christmas extra special for the children.

Blessings,

Dee



Baptism Celebrations!

On October 31 and November 7, we celebrated the Holy Baptism of two infants! On October 31, Ryan David Bilderback and on November, Zachary Joseph Dienberg. What a blessing to be able to be a part of such a holy and beautiful event.



Joseph Dienberg and Zachary

Scout Clean Up Day

Thank you to the Scouts for the great job of cleaning the church grounds on November 7. Many hands contributed to the work. Thanks to the Scout leaders who oversaw the project and thank you to Juanita Barnes for her coordination with Scout leaders.

Rock River Valley Blood Drive



The Rock River Valley Blood Center will have their bus here to take donations on Thursday, December 16 beginning at 1 pm until 6 pm.

Donating blood is simple, and one unit can save up to three lives. After registering, a donor care specialist will take your vitals (temperature, blood pressure, pulse and hemoglobin), you'll complete an eligibility questionnaire, and then sit back and relax while you give. The donation itself only lasts about 10 minutes. Refreshments await after you're done donating.

If you're a first-time donor, please bring a photo ID. Individuals can donate a single unit (whole blood donation, the most common type) every 56 days.


Contact the RRVBC at <https://www.rrvbc.org/>




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!*



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Trustees 7:30 pm Choir	2 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	3	4 9:00 am GA
5 9:00 am Sunday School 8:15 am SPRC Meeting 10:00 am Worship/ Church Conference	6 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	7 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	8 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	9 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	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 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	15 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16 2:00 pm-6:00 pm Blood Drive 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	17	18 9:00 am GA
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	20 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	21 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	22 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	23 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	24 <i>Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	27 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	28 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	29 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	30 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	

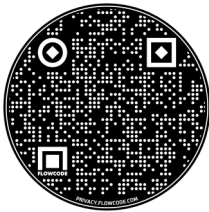
Messenger items are due to the secretary on the 15th of each month.



*All are welcome to Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship Service,
December 24 at 7:00 p.m.*



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



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

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>

