

THE MESSENGER

January 2022

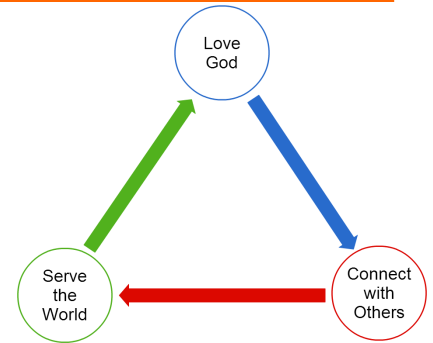
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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

Rev. Danice Loveridge, Deacon
Email: danice.loveridge@gmail.com

Pastor's E-mail: ark.harkness@gmail.com Cell phone: ³If I give away all my possessions,
Parsonage phone: 815/580-8553 and if I hand over my body so that I may

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

³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:3-13 (NRSV)

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

Several years ago, my academic advisor (and favorite professor) in college suggested that I do crossword puzzles to prepare for the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) in order to improve my score on the vocabulary section of the test. For several years, I bought newspapers merely for the crossword puzzle and comics. Although I no longer buy newspapers, my morning coffee time includes doing puzzles on my phone. Before Sudoku, I do the Jumble.

In those days when I did those puzzles printed in the newspaper, I struggled with the Jumble. I could figure out the jumbled clue words, but could seldom figure out the final answer to the picture. It wasn't until a few years ago, after switching to doing the puzzle electronically that I figured it out. Until being stymied time and time again, I finally hit the "solve puzzle" button. After a few times, I noticed that the source of my frustration came from expecting the puzzle solution to be spelled "correctly." When I realized that the Jumble solution is always a play on words – either a pun or homophonic substitution – I was finally able to see through the clues more clearly to find the answers that had eluded me for so long.

In the passage above, Saint Paul notes that for now we know and see only in part because we see in a mirror dimly. Just children must first learn simple literal truth so that nuance can be taught later, I was stymied by my "childish" approach to the Jumble and frustrated in my success.

Once again, I will enter the new year intending to lose weight having found much of the weight I lost in 2020. In the past, I would resolve to quit smoking only to take it up again before January was half over. How often do we enter the new year repeating intending to accomplish the same failed resolution from last year? Might that be due in part to our limited perspective of ourselves.

Even though I'd failed year after year in my attempts to quit smoking, it was only when I gave up cigarettes for Lent that I was successful. Although my decision to abstain was entered into as a temporary spiritual devotion, a permanent change emerged. Where will power and conscious decision had failed, looking through the mirror more clearly I was able to claim healing that God intended and to more fully appreciate all of the consequences of smoking in my life. Not only was it detrimental to my physical body, it stole money that I could share (with church and other charities) and fed my anxiety around having enough to meet my needs.

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This is only one example that I've encountered in my life.

Rather than being flustered by the continuing pandemic and other tenacious challenges peculiar to each of us and looking for solutions in the power of our own will, I invite you to claim the power of love that Paul mentions above (but not as a sappy sentimentality). Use love as the question to see through "obvious" expectations. How does loving myself change what I see? Loving my neighbor? Loving God? But most of all, in the jumble of life and others' expectations, pausing to look through by asking "Where might I see God's love for me in this mess?" will help us to faithfully claim the hope he has established for us, in the coming new year and all those that follow.

Your brother in Christ,


Rev. Mark Harkness



Thank You



Dear Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

THANK YOU so much for the wonderful basket of treats and gift cards for staff and students. We sincerely thank you for thinking about us and showing us appreciation. Thank you for thinking of us!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Timm
Principal, Cherry Valley Elementary School



Dear Friends of Rock House Kids,

We can't thank you enough for your donation of handmade and purchased stockings for our kids. What a labor of love!

RHK is so blessed by the support of our community. We could not do all that we do without you!

Sincerely,
The RHK staff



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
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.



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.

Scripture Readings

January 2 Wesley Covenant Service
 Deuteronomy 31:9-13 2 Kings 23:1-3
 2 Chronicles 34:29-33 Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 50 1 Peter 1
 Matthew 25:15-46 John 15:1-8

January 9 Baptism of the Lord
 Psalm 29
 Scripture Lesson Isaiah 43:1-7
 Scripture Lesson Acts 8:14-17
 Gospel Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
 Psalm 36:5-10
 Scripture Lesson Isaiah 62:1-5
 Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 Gospel John 2:1-11

January 23 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
 Psalm Psalm 19
 Scripture Lesson Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 30
 Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
 Gospel Luke 4:14-21

January 30 4th Sunday after the Epiphany
 Psalm Psalm 71:1-6
 Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 1:4-10
 Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
 Gospel Luke 4:21-30



UMCOR is helping the victims of the recent devastating tornados that ripped through the town of Mayfield, KY and surrounding areas.

It is going to be a long term recovery and it will take quite a while for the town to rebound from this tragedy. Until then, please continue prayers and if you are able to help support the survivors through donations, you may go to the site at:

<https://umcmission.org/december-2021/blessed-to-be-alive-in-mayfield-kentucky/> **Advance #901670.**



Methodist Women



The Methodist Women gathered following worship on December 12th. We were able to share the news that 150 stockings have been delivered to the Rock House Kids. I already have a few for next year, but would appreciate it if you could take advantage of the sales after Christmas to pick up a few more. It is always a blessing to start with

some stockings already on hand,

Terri Burritt brought us home made Christmas cards which the group addressed to many of our shut-ins. I am always so amazed at the willingness of this group to reach out to others. We were also able to assemble a few gift bags of cookies and candy. My thanks goes out to those of you who contributed cookies and candy. So many of you don't attend our meetings but are always there to help. Our congregation supports us in our many projects and we feel truly blessed.

We plan to continue to reach out with cards in the months to come. Please don't forget the garage sale in the spring. We will coordinate our sale with the Village-wide sale. The village has not yet set a date, but said it will be in May, so you can plan accordingly.

Thanks to everyone for your support of our group. Our next meeting will be after worship on January 9th. All women are invited to attend. Come and see what we're about.

Donna Layng



Mayfield First UMC, Mayfield, KY



Choir News

Special thanks to Karlene Brown, Nathan Schwartz, Sydney Schwartz, Eleanor Hanson, and the Praise Team for all their help with special music!

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

Door Greeters



Thank you to the following people who have volunteered to be door greeters: Juanita Barnes, Donna Layng, Ray and Yolanda Beets, Patricia Campbell and LaVern Neff.

LaVern graciously volunteers to greet whenever there are no other volunteers. 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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 David White
- 5 Kathleen Sundberg
- 7 Connor Kloss
- 15 Taryn Ward
- 18 Jordyn Nystrom
Nick Brown

- 27 Lavern Neff
- 28 Dave Anderson
Donna Layng
- 27 Susan Harkness
- 31 Jim Coulter

Anniversaries

- 7 Keith & Terri Burritt



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.

Rock River Valley Food Pantry Thank You

Dear Pastor Harkness and Congregation,

Thank you for your gift of **70 pounds of food** to the Rock River Valley Food Pantry! We are grateful for those that share our commitment to helping the ever-growing needs of those going hungry in our community.

Once our volunteers sort your donation, it is put on the shelves in our *Choice Market*. Today, we are offering our clients menu choices rather than pre-packed food boxes. Our dedicated and masked volunteers then shop for the foods they choose. This concept not only provides a safe environment, but makes sure that your food donations are going to only those that will not waste them.

Thank you for supporting the Rock River Valley Pantry!

Sincerely,

Kim Adams-Bakke
Executive Director

Church Conference

The Cherry Valley UMC Church Conference was on December 5, 2021. Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, the District Superintendent, delivered the message, "Jesus Makes a Way." The focus was on how we can continue to weather the storm of change with Jesus showing us the way and in doing so, create a new paradigm for our worship.

The Lay Nominations Report, which designates the church leadership for the coming year, was presented and accepted. A copy of that report is below.

A copy of all the reports presented at the conference may be obtained from the church office.

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church (Mark Harkness, Pastor)
Nominations Report 2022

	<u>Church Council</u>	Class
Chair	Rev. Mark Harkness	
Lay Leader	Scott Layng	2023
Recording Secretary	Juanita Barnes	2024
Membership Secretary	Barbara Anderson	2022
Lay Members to AC	Sue Layng	2024
	Dave Ward	2024
SPRC Chair	Keith Burritt	2023
Finance Committee – Chair	Lucille Powell	2023
Treasurer	Sue Layng	2023
Trustees Chair	(elected by trustees)	2022
Outreach & Evangelism Chair	Terri Burritt	2022
Worship Committee – Chair	Juanita Barnes	2024
Memorials Committee – Chair	Grace Harter	2024
UMW – President	(elected by women)	2022
Staff-Parish Relations Committee		
Keith Burritt (chair)	2023	
Carolyn Kloss	2022	
Kathleen Sundberg	2023	
Cindy Kerr	2024	
By Office: Scott Layng (Lay Leader), Sue Layng (Lay Member to AC) Dave Ward (Lay Member to AC)		
Finance Committee		
Lucille Powell	2023	
Sue Layng (Treasurer)	2023	
Mary Lou Clevenger (Recorder)	2021	
Jerry Redden (at-large)	2022	
Mary Coulter (at-large)	2023	
Board of Trustees		
Mary Wilson	2022	
Dave Anderson	2023	
Charlie Schnuckel	2023	
Dave Ward	2024	
Mike Loveridge	2024	
Nominations Committee		
Rev. Mark Harkness (Chair)		
Scott Layng (Lay Leader)		
Sandy Schwartz	2022	
Audit Committee		
Sally Hollebeak	2023	
Scott Layng	2023	
United Methodist Men		
Warren Gross, President		
Dave Ward, Financial Secretary		
Outreach & Evangelism		
Terri Burritt (Chair)	2022	
Veronica Layng	2023	
Amanda Kloepfer	2023	
Mary Coulter	2023	
Worship Committee		
Juanita Barnes (Chair)	2024	
Barb Clucas	2022	
Holly Snyder	2022	
Lavern Neff	2024	
Shirley Cardani	2024	
Cindy Kerr	2024	
Committee on Memorials & Gifts		
Grace Harter (Chair)	2021	
Donna Layng	2021	
Jordyn Burritt	2022	
Lavern Neff	2023	
Donna Layng	2024	
United Methodist Women		
Donna Layng, President		
Ann Harned, Secretary		
Lucille Powell		
Lay Members to Annual Conference		
Sue Layng, Dave Ward		

Mission and Outreach



Dear Church family,

May the new year unfold in ways that open your hearts to mission. Once you step out of your home, you are entering a wide open mission field. Your mission/outreach committee continues to

seek ways to bring us together serving in meaningful ways in our community.

As of this writing, we are planning to have Executive Director, Mary Cacioppi of *One Body Collaboratives* (formerly *Love, Inc.*) speak at our 'Mission Moment' on January 16th.

I love the simplicity and strength of their mission 'to unite the

Rebuilding Lives, Transforming Our Community
One Body Collaboratives

Christian Churches in Rockford to collaboratively work together.' At the top of their web site is the following scripture: **Jeremiah 29:7**: *Seek peace and prosperity of the city which I've called you, for if it prospers you too will prosper.* Does that strike a chord for you? I know many of us have a deep connection, affinity and love for the Rockford community. If you are interested in following up on her message check out their website:

<https://www.onebodycollaboratives.org/>

In December we received a note from Donnette Nailor, co-founder of *The Grove project* in Rockford. Donnette is a member of Grace United Methodist Church where several of us have helped make sandwiches every Friday for Miss Carly's mission. Because of that connection Donnette asked us to support their Grove Christmas Bags project. We did both with action and funding. Below is a portion of her 'thank you' note.

First of all, I want to thank you for your help assembling and delivering the Christmas bags. The kids were excited to receive them and the Moms were full of smiles and offered many words of thanks. It would not have been possible without each of you who gave the gift of time and yourselves. A special thanks to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church who also gave funding to support the project.

Merry Christmas to each of you and wishing you a safe and healthy 2022!
Donnette

We encourage those who are able to join our mission/outreach committee. We need your ideas and your energy to keep us moving forward. Contact Terri Burritt for more information.

With God's grace we grow together!
Judy Long, Recorder

Global Mission Middle School Progress

Congratulations to **Global Mission Middle School** for the completion of its first academic year! Here are a few of Pastor Kim's words as she sorts through her many thoughts on how she felt about this first year.



According to the word, according to the Holy Spirit, GMSS finished the amazing first academic year strong with a year-end festival. I give all the glory to God who was there for us in every step of challenges and developments. All the students went home

after a month's vacation.

The classrooms are empty and the sound of the children's well-being is gone but I can't believe they're still over. "I cannot live without grace" "The Lord who makes the way" "The Lord is at work" "Isaiah 41:10 words" - These praises and words are overwhelming me from the morning of early December.

My Lord, my God, who confessed almost every day that "This is not God without it" from the beginning to the end of 2021 . The Almighty Father who has never let me down in challenges and problems. My strong captain who always won the spirit of wisdom and discernment in the spiritual battle with false faces and untruthful people. In every situation. "Why am I in Tanzania?" "My resting place that gave me strength to endure and hold on even when my body and mind are tired. Until this moment, sometimes my plans were broken and sometimes I got very angry, but I confess that I was able to come without giving up, not because of "my passion" but because of "God's faithfulness and powerful guidance".

Rev. Azaki (right) is a great supporter and District Superintendent of Dar es salaam District, United Methodist Church of Tanzania. He came to join our year-end festival and shared the words of encouragement and prayers.



Gloria (left) was chosen as the best student of the 2021 academic year. Her dream is to become a president of Tanzania. She is young but very determined and disciplined to focus on her studies. Also, she is active in all activities with good attitudes, dealing with her problems with fasting and prayers. I saw her tears and smiles during the semester.

(Continued in next column)

She is a hardworking and amazing student who is a great asset to GMSS. "Gloria, hongera sana."

Please continue to keep Pastor Kim, her staff and students in your prayers as they now prepare for the second academic year.

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

You Tube Live Streaming

You Tube me to church for in-person worship or feel 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.

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.



January 2022

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 
2 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	4 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	5 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Trustees 7:30 pm Choir	6 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	7	8 9:00 am GA
9 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women	10 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	11 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	12 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	13 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	14	15 9:00 am GA <i>Messenger items due today</i>
16 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG <i>The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance</i>	18 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	19 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	20 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	21	22
23 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Mission Moment—One Body Collaborative</i>	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	25 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	26 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	27 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	28	29
30 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG					

MESSENGER ITEMS ARE DUE TO THE SECRETARY ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

*A time to reflect
A time to look back
A time to remember
And never forget*

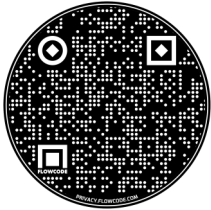
*A time to look forward
To make plans ahead
A time for hope and dreams
Because the future is brighter
than it seems.*

Happy New Year!

2022
Happy New Year



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

