

THE MESSENGER

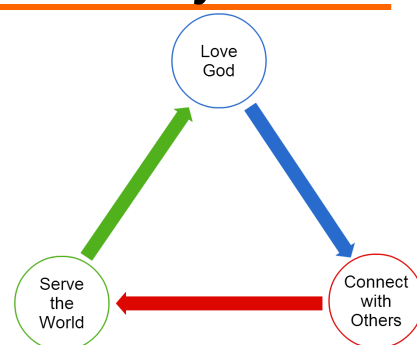
February 2022

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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Pastor's E-mail: ark.harkness@gmail.com
Parsonage phone: 815/580-8553

Rev. Danice Loveridge, Deacon
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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

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in

power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit,
1 Thessalonians 1:2-6 (NRSV)

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

I don't think that I have ever given my wife flowers for Valentine's Day. It just seems "forced." I don't like being forced to do anything.

Although I appreciate the long association between Valentine's Day and celebrating romantic love, I have a certain aversion. It seems as florist, jewelers, greeting card companies, and confectioners have conspired to convince people that if a husband/boyfriend/fiancé doesn't buy flowers, candy, jewelry and a card on this one particular day, that he doesn't really love you. In the early 1900's confectioners in Cleveland actually invented Sweetest Day to sell candy by advertising the day as a day for men to prove their love.

Maybe that's where my aversion to Valentine's flowers come into play. My refusal to participate into corporate extortion in response to Sweetest Day led to a breakup with a college girlfriend. Since then, I've dug in my heels. It is that fair to my wife?

Even though I have never given Susan flowers for Valentine's Day, I give them to her throughout the year. Why should I wait until the one week of the year when prices triple to show her that I love her? If she only received flowers on Valentine's Day or our wedding anniversary, would she accept them as a sign of my affection and devotion? Or would she perceive it merely as an act of obligation that will keep me from sleeping on the couch. That's the dilemma. Would Valentine's flowers detract from affection gifts throughout the year?

Although it is a stereotype – my experience tells me that we men are sometimes clueless: not because of biology, but by socialization. Often, we just don't get why those things matter. Maybe there is a place for Valentine's flowers. It serves as an excuse for giving flowers because we do love our wives and worry that giving flowers out of the blue might be considered suspicious. In that context, Valentine's flowers could be the needed excuse to begin doing what one wants to do (to demonstrate affection) routinely.

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Next month, begins (almost) with Ash Wednesday preceded the night before by an opportunity to gather at church for a pancake dinner. It's a good excuse to come to church. Especially, hoping that the current Covid peak has subsided, it's a good excuse to return to church for those who have been away. The subsequent weeks of Lent and Easter, are a good excuse for coming to church if we've been away for other reasons; and a good excuse for continuing in the practice of worship in which the church gathers weekly to present ourselves together as gifts of affection for our God – who in Jesus gave himself to demonstrate his deep love for each of us.

I would never think about avoiding church on Easter or another holy day just because it seems as if it's expected. I think that I might just surprise my wife with flowers on Valentine's Day, this year, so that she won't be surprised by regular tokens of affection.

Shall we anticipate the opportunity to surprise God with our presence with the intention that he might become accustomed to our devotion and love?

Your brother in Christ,


Rev. Mark Harkness



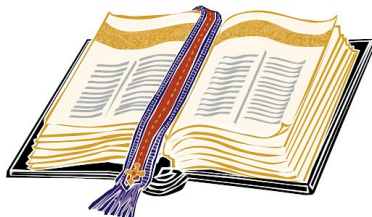
Membership Class



Pastor Mark is planning Membership classes for those wishing to join the church. If you are interested in becoming a member, please speak with Pastor Mark. We will welcome the new members during the Easter worship service.

Liturgist's Class

On Saturday, February 12 at 11:00 a.m., Pastor Mark will have a training session for those currently servings as liturgists or those who wish to become involved in this ministry. The class will detail the liturgists responsibilities and how to prepare for reading the scriptures. It will also help with the often difficult pronunciation of places and names in the biblical text.



If you find this an interesting aspect of the worship service, please speak with Pastor Mark or come to the class.



Military Personnel
Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide

Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Violet Collier
Joe Hunt
Doris Kuelz
Lela Lameyer
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Lorraine Robbins

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

The Bill Fisher Family



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.

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.

Scripture Readings

February 6 5th Sunday After Epiphany
 Scripture Lesson Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm 138
 Gospel Luke 5:1-11
 Message "Hearing is Believing"
 Series..... *The Art of Hearing* -2

February 13 Scouting Ministry Sunday
 Psalm 1
 Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 17:5-10
 Gospel Luke 6:17-26
 Message "Hearing and Healing"
 Series..... *The Art of Hearing* -3

February 20 7th Sunday after the Epiphany
 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
 Scripture Reading Genesis 45:3-11, 15
 Gospel Luke 6:27-38
 Message "Hearing One Another"
 Series..... *The Art of Hearing* -4

February 27 Transfiguration Sunday
 Psalm Psalm 99
 Scripture Lesson Exodus 34:29-35
 Scripture Lesson 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Gospel Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)
 Message "Lighten Up"



Thank You



Thank you to Jim and Janet Bryant for the new banner on the north side of the sanctuary near the chancel.



It makes a great statement!

Thank you to all who helped take down the Advent and Christmas decoration on Sunday, January 9. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.



Cherry Valley Methodist Women



The women did not meet on January 9th due to cold and icy weather. We continue to pray for our church, our group and our congregation. All are in need of prayer. Perhaps you too, could add these to your prayer list.

I'm reading a book called *Simple Abundance*, written by Sarah ban Breathnach. It is a daybook of comfort and joy, in other words, a daily devotional book. In the introduction she says, "Everyone is like a house with four rooms. Physical, Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual. A complete person must go into all four rooms each day." This year, I am striving consciously enter all four rooms daily.

This month we are changing our meetings to after worship on the **FIRST** Sunday of the month, February 6th. This would enable us to get Valentines out to those we have on our list. **Our March meeting will return to the usual second Sunday, March 13th.**

If you know of anyone in need of outreach, please see that we get their name and address. Our group functions because of your continual support... thanking you in advance.

Striving to Serve,

Donna Layng



Choir News



Special thanks to all the people who have joined us in the choir!

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.

10:00 a.m.—Praise Team

2:00 p.m. —Choir

Praise Team—6:00 pm by appointment

Choir—7:00 p.m. by appointment

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

Gathering Room Clean-up

Have you been to the “gathering room” lately? The gathering room is the room between the Pastor’s study and the secretary’s office. It is often used as a meeting area for smaller committee meetings.

We are in the midst of trying to make the area a little more welcoming to those who come to see the pastor or the secretary during the week. We have moved things a bit, cleaned and vacuumed, tidied the file cabinet and book case and tossed out duplicates of files and other papers lying about.



We have added a new “mail box.” The slots for storing paper and other materials in the box are much smaller than the previous folder system, so there is no space for the accumulation of material. To that end,

we ask that the committee chairs and others who have a designated mail slot check the boxes weekly and recycle extraneous papers and magazines.

Help us keep this area inviting and welcoming to our visitors.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 3 Riley Sundberg
- 5 Mary Wilson
- 6 Matthew Gross
Natalie Herold
- 9 Keith Burritt
- 12 Taylor Gross

- 13 Kathy Ware
- 17 Mary Lou Clevenger
- 19 Teaghan Brown
- 20 Mark Harkness
- 21 Judith Krunfus
- 23 Mark Snyder

Anniversaries

There were no anniversaries listed for the month of February



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.

Coming This Spring!





We are looking for a few people to be ushers and greeters. If you are interested in this aspect of the worship service, please see Juanita Barnes.

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 for the Nation

Look graciously, O Lord, upon this land.
 Where it is in pride, subdue it.
 Where it is in need, supply it.
 Where it is error, rectify it.
 Where it is in default, restore it.
 And where it holds to that
 which is just and compassionate,
 support it. Amen.



The beginning of the Holy Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Join us for a special Worship service At 7:00 pm

Ashes will be available at the church beginning at 6:00 a.m.



2022 Church Council Meeting Dates



Church Council Meeting

The following are Church Council and Finance meeting dates for 2022. The Finance Committee meets at 6:15 pm, all dates, and the Church Council meets at 7:00 pm, all dates.

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

March 15th
 June 28th
 September 27th

April 26th
 August 16th
 November 8th



The 2021 Giving Statements are will soon be available on the table near the elevator for pickup.

If the statements are not picked up, we will have to mail them. Please help us save postage costs by picking your up statement.

Faith ✦ Hope ✦ Love

"...And now these three remain faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
 1 Corinthians 13:13

Shrove Tuesday PANCAKE SUPPER



***Tuesday, March 1
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm**

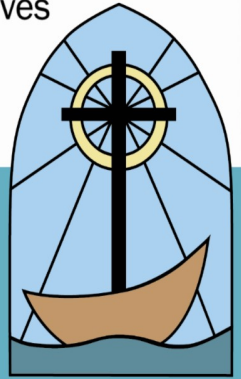
**The event is subject
to cancellation if it is deemed
unsafe to gather at that time.*

HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

Strengthening Our Spiritual Lives

LAITY CONVOCATION 2022

Saturday
February 12
9:00 am - Noon
Online via Zoom
Cost \$10



Featuring:

Kara Lassen Oliver Associate Publisher with The Upper Room

Rev. Dr. Regina Bridges Davis Spiritual Clinical Counselor & Ordained Deacon

George Groves NIC United Methodist Men President

Members of 4 local congregations of the NIC sharing new and exciting ministries
Break out session to provide discussion and discernment

Register: www.umcnic.org/calendar/laity-convocation-2022

Registration January 3 - February 11



Questions? Contact Mark Manzi
630.945.7479 mmanzi@sbcglobal.net

Scouting Ministry

Scouting Sunday is February 13. CVUMC will celebrate the Scouting Ministry at CVUMC.

Don't miss the opportunity to see these young people as they practice the values learned in the Scouts and the Methodist Church.



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

REMINDER:

We will soon begin the process of the annual church audit. All groups with checking accounts should gather your files in preparation for your audit. We will contact you to make an appointment for your audit.



If you have any questions, please contact Scott Layng or Sally Hollembeak.

February 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	2 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Band 3:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Trustees	3 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	4	5
6 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women	7 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	8 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	9 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Band 3:00 pm Choir	10 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	11	12
13 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Scouting Ministry Sunday</i>	14 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG 	15 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 10:00 pm Praise Band 3:00 pm Choir	17 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	18	19 9:00 am GA
20 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	21 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	22 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	23 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Band 3:00 pm Choir	24 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	25	26 9:00 am GA
27 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	28 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG					

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

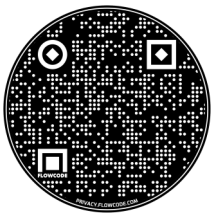
Let all that you do be in



love
i corinthians 16:14



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