

THE MESSENGER

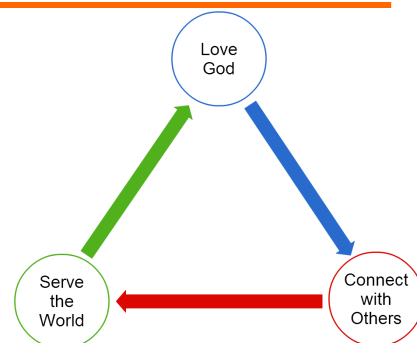
March 2022

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

⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ...

¹³Therefore prepare your minds for action;

discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. ¹⁴Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ¹⁶for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 3:8-9, 13-16 (NRSV)

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

In only a few short weeks spring will have sprung – so I hope. Astronomically — spring arrives with the vernal equinox on Sunday, March 20. Irrespective of the weather that day, that is the day when the sun will pass directly over the equator. Although we've been taught that on that day there will be equal amounts of daylight and nighttime (12 hours of each) on that day, for technical reasons, that day actually occurs on March 17 this year – or even earlier if we consider twilight to be daylight rather than nighttime. Are you wondering where I'm going with all of this?

In the words of George Harrison "Here comes the sun do, do, do // Here comes the sun // And I say it's all right // Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter // Little darling, it seems like years since it's been here." Those last two lines speak to my need to hear the first two.

As one afflicted with seasonal affective disorder (SAD), winter wears on me. Although I love the brisk winter air and snow activities, the darkness wears on my mind and my soul. If it weren't for Christmas and its lingering power, the gloom might overwhelm my hope. "Here comes the sun // And I say it's all right."

This year, we find ourselves entering Lent upon that first stroke of midnight in March. And I say it's all right, because here comes the sun. We don't often think of Lent like that. Do we? We might think of it as a season of penance and gloom as we forgo those things that bring us pleasure during our Lenten fasts, when in fact Lent serves to prepare us for Easter when the Son is fully revealed.

Looking only at the practical aspects of Easter Day: Do you buy the ingredients for your feast on Easter Day? Or a few days beforehand (i.e. during Lent)? Do you buy your Easter clothes on your way to church that morning? Or do you prepare beforehand in anticipation of that day? On a similar note: does one wait until the wedding day to start that diet in order to fit into one's wedding clothes? No. In each of these case, anticipating the joy of the moment, we prepare ourselves in advance.

Lent serves that purpose. Originally, Lent served as a sort of final exams for catechumens anticipating baptism during the Great Easter Vigil.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

So today, Lent serves as an opportunity for Christians to prepare themselves for the good news that God – revealed in Jesus Christ – died and rose again so that freed from our self-imposed bondage to sin might bask in the glorious light of who we are meant to be.

Lent offers us the opportunity to confront the clutter in our lives as we prepare to welcome the risen Christ more fully into our lives. Lent offers us the opportunity – or an excuse, if you need one – to renew our relationship with each other as the body of Christ, especially after two years of a long cold lonely social distancing in which we’ve masked not only our faces but our despair. Lent offers us the opportunity to reclaim our purpose fully aware that we are not there yet, but with confident anticipation that the Son will rise for us, just as surely as the sun will rise tomorrow morning. With that we know whatever gloom persists must succumb to the light.

I invite you to take advantage of the opportunity/excuse Lent offers to renew your faith – to inspire your anticipation – and to claim anew God’s purpose for you and his church through worship together so that in each song we sing together you might claim the promise that it’s all right because the Son has come and in rising in our midst.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Holy Communion During Lent



Holy Communion will be offered at 8:45 a.m. in the chapel each Sunday in Lent.



Military Personnel
Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide

Members & Friends

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

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn



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

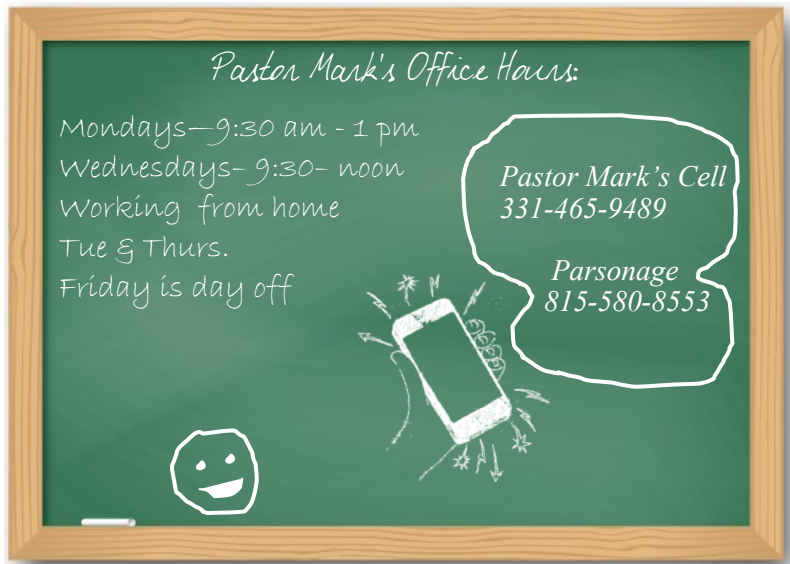
March 2.....Ash Wednesday
 Scripture LessonJoel 2:1-2, 12-17
 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 GospelMatthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 Message“Ashes, Ashes, We All Fall Down”

March 6.....1st Sunday in Lent
 Scripture LessonRomans 10:8b-13
 Psalm91
 GospelLuke 4:1-13
 Message“Belief”
 Series.....*Character and Calling # 1 of 7*

March 13.....2nd Sunday in Lent
 Psalm27
 Scripture LessonPhilippians 3:17-4:1
 GospelLuke 13:31-35
 Message“Discipline”
 Series.....*Character and Calling # 2 of 7*

March 20.....3rd Sunday in Lent
 Psalm63:1-8
 Scripture Reading1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 GospelLuke 13:1-9
 Message“Holiness”
 Series.....*Character and Calling # 3 of 7*

March 27.....4th Sunday in Lent
 PsalmPsalm 32
 Scripture Lesson2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 GospelLuke 15:1-3, 11b-32
 Message“Reconciliation”
 Series.....*Character and Calling # 4 of 7*



Cherry Valley Methodist Women

We met following worship on February 6th. Our meeting was moved forward a week so that we could prepare Valentines to be mailed out and arrive before Valentine's Day. We will resume meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month in March.

Shrove Tuesday



In addition to preparing the Valentines, we made plans to serve Shrove Tuesday's Pancake Supper on March 1st. We have recruited help to man the grill, so **pancakes, sausage and all the trimmings will be available from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm on March 1st.** We look forward to seeing you. Bring a friend or two!

We are still planning to host a yard/garage sale in the Spring. We will need your cooperation and support with your donations. The sale is in conjunction with the village-wide garage sale. **Please do not donate clothing.**



Our next meeting will be on March 13th following worship. The meetings are open to all who are interested in attending.

We strive to serve our congregation, our community, our country and the world.

Donna Layng,



Lenten Bible Study

Who : All Are Invited
 What: “Liberating Discipleship” Bible Study
 When: Wednesdays—5:30 p.m.
 Where: CV UMC
 Dates: March 9 through April 13

Discipleship



“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” JOHN 15:8

New 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.

You Tube Live Streaming



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.

UMM Annual Harmony For Hunger



The UMM Harmony For Hunger is Friday, March 18 at Hononegah High School Performing Arts Center at 307 Salem St., Rockton, IL. from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. The concert will feature the Alleluia Quartet and Triumphant. The cost is \$15 per ticket. Proceeds will benefit several food pantries in the area.

Call Dave Ward at 815-262-2527 for tickets.

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



- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 14 Jim Newell
- 17 Joe Hunt
- 19 Juanita Barnes

- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng

Anniversaries

- 16 Chris & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger



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 in April



Choir News



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

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



Praying together

District prayer focus in March 2022

Week of 6th - ROCKFORD: CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL

- Pastor Uziel Hernandez

Week of 13th - SHANNON: BETHEL- Pastor Brenda Morris

Week of 20th - ROCKFORD: BROOKE ROAD - Pastor Violet Johnicker

Week of 27th - WILLOW UMC- Pastor Cheryl Carroll



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.



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.*

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 13, Scout Sunday at Cherry Valley UMC. Thankful for these young people.



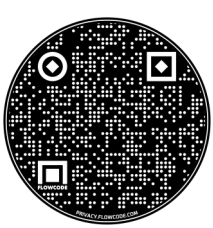
March 2022

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>4:30 pm-6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</i>	2 <i>6:00 am Ash Wednesday Prayer Service</i> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Band 2:00 pm Choir <i>7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Prayer Service</i>	3 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	4	5 9:00 am GA
6 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	7 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	8 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	9 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Band 2:00 pm Choir <i>5:30 pm Lenten Bible Study</i> 6:30 pm Trustees	10 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	11	12 9:00 am GA
13 <i>2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 8:45 am Holy Communion—Chapel 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women	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 2:00 pm Choir <i>5:30 pm Lenten Bible Study</i>	17 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18	19 9:00 am GA
20 8:45 am Holy Communion—Chapel 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 2:00 pm Choir <i>5:30 pm Lenten Bible Study</i>	24 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429	25	26 9:00 am GA
27 8:45 am Holy Communion—Chapel 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	28 6:30 pm Scouts BSAG	29 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	30 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Band 2:00 pm Choir <i>5:30 pm Lenten Bible Study</i>	31 5:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 429		

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



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