

# THE MESSENGER

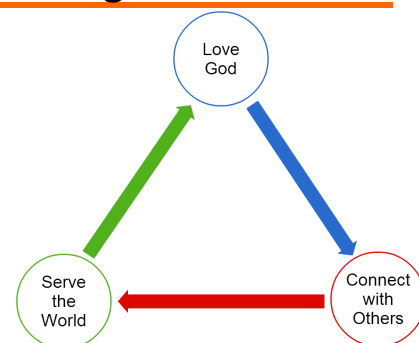
August 2022

## 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

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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

They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for people are slaves to whatever masters them. (2 Peter 2:19 NRSV)

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:16 NRSV)

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:13-1)

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

Our home welcomed a new denizen this month. Bigger around than she is tall, Hazel is a sight to behold. Diligently beginning at 9:00 a.m. sharp every morning (except Sunday), Hazel gets to work. Hazel is our new robot vacuum cleaner. When the app to control her asked for a name, I was tickled. What should I call it? Rosie (the "Jetsons")? Robot ("Lost in Space") Benson? Mr. Belvedere? Jeeves? Hazel it is.

I've thought about names for home assistants/home robots. One name that I'd never choose: Hal. Hal was the computer/automaton that controlled "Discovery One", the spaceship in *2001: A Space Odyssey*. That did not go well.

By choosing to yield the responsibility for daily vacuuming (a necessity with two dogs) to Hazel, Susan and I have more time to devote to the things that depend upon us. Hazel and other "smart" devices are there to free us for our purposes. However, there have been problems; not because Hazel is such a busybody, but because her first day made too much work.

On her first day, I found myself having to respond to Hazel's nagging alerts: "Bin is full," "sensors dirty," etc. Who's in charge here, anyway? (Thinking back to the sit-com, maybe "Hazel" is the right name.) Fortunately, Hazel hasn't needed much attention since that first day (except after her first day off).

What if Hazel did need more attention? Then what? What if I had to stop what I was doing two or three times a day to "help" the vacuum cleaner? Time that I (or Susan) could have vacuumed? Wouldn't that make me Hazel's servant?

In many ways, we are servants to our stuff. We may work longer hours and spend less time with our families so that we can afford stuff and maintaining stuff that will bring comfort to our lives, and provide for those whom we love. Without meaning to do so, we can go down that path of investing so much in things, that we actually miss out on the comfort (relationships) of life that those things were supposed to provide. To make up for it, we begin a vicious cycle doing more of the same. Most of the time, it's not readily obvious that that is happening.

That's often how sin creeps into our lives. We engage in something good or useful. Then we start to view that good activity or useful thing as the goal rather than a means to being who God made us to be – holy beings made in the divine image – made to love.

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May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace..

Romans 15:13



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Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin." (Jn. 8:34) We don't usually think about it that way; but it's true. Sin enslaves us: either by the time and effort we spend trying to justify ourselves, or by the energy we spend hiding. More than that it keeps us from allowing God to love us. Likewise, everyone who's things have become the aspiration (even as a proxy for relationships and time with those whom we love) has become a slave to things. They own us, in the same way that when we sin, sin owns us

Who "owns" you? What was supposed to serve me which now hounds me? These are not easy questions, but one which we need to ask ourselves. Jesus paid for us on the cross, not because God owed the devil anything, but because the shame of our burden has stolen our capacity to expect that we can know what it is like to be like God.

I've wanted a robot vacuum cleaner for years. I waited until the price came down; and I waited until it could empty itself. What would be the point in a robot that makes me work every day? I measured the benefits: Less dog hair and dirt puts Mark in a more pleasant mood for Susan. Less time vacuuming (Mark or Susan) is more time to hold hands on a walk or relax in the hammock. I also considered the cost: Would I yield my sense of self by letting the robot do this job? (NO!) Would the purchase create angst leading me to consider giving less than my tithe and offerings to the church and the other charities that I support (Things that serve me as a child of God.)? No. Hazel serves me. I serve the Lord.

Yet I know that I have to keep vigilant. Hazel's presence has made me ponder whether there is a place in the house (outside really) for Groundskeeper Willie (i.e. a robot lawn mower). What's the cost? Not only is a robot mower as expensive as a new riding lawnmower, but I value time mowing when I can "not hear" anyone else. Is that worth it? Not right now, I'd give up too much to something that is supposed to serve me. Right now, a "Groundskeeper Willie" might as well be named "Hal". I'd rather trust Jesus with opening Heaven's gate, than Hal with the bay doors.

With so many things weighing on us (inflation, the ongoing pandemic, political/social vitriol), let us be mindful of those things that might distract us from God's purpose in our lives, even while we take advantage of opportunities to free our time and energy for one another.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



### Dates to Remember

- August 5, 6 & 7, Hay Day Vacation Bible School.
- August 8—15, Pastor on Vacation
- August 21—Mission Moment, Global Secondary School



**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

Brian Lawton 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.

*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](https://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

**August 7** ..... 9th Sunday After Pentecost  
 Psalm ..... 119:33-40  
 Scripture Lesson ..... Romans 5L5011  
 Gospel ..... Luke 19:1-10  
 Message ..... "Having a Hay Day"

**August 14** ..... 10th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Psalm ..... 80  
 Scripture Lesson ..... Isaiah 5:1-7  
 Gospel ..... Luke 12:49-56  
 Message .....  
 Scott Layng ..... Lay Speaker

**August 21** ..... 11th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Psalm ..... 71:1-6  
 Scripture Lesson ..... Hebrews 12:18-29  
 Gospel ..... Luke 13:10-17

**August 28** ..... 12th Sunday After Pentecost  
 Psalm ..... 81:1, 10-16  
 Scripture Lesson ..... Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16  
 Gospel ..... Luke 14:1, 7-14  
 Message ..... "The Best Place"



Thank You

*We Have Great Neighbors!*



Thank you to Sue, our church neighbor, and Juanita Barnes who weeded the flower beds around the church. It is a great improvement, since the beds had been neglected for quite some time. They did this during some of the hottest days we've had so we especially appreciate their hard work. It looks great, ladies!

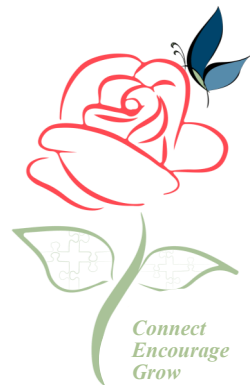
An additional 'thank you' to our other neighbors, the Allton family, who allowed us to put our yard waste with theirs and provided buckets for our use during the clean-up.



## Cherry Valley Methodist Women

The Cherry Valley UMC Women will resume their usual second Sunday meetings on September 12th.

Things to keep in mind are the donations of cookies that we will need from you for the Cookie Walk we will be having in December. The exact date will be discussed at our meeting. Watch for information to be published in the *Messenger* and in the weekly bulletins. We appreciate your support for this much anticipated fund raiser.



We welcome all to come to our meetings.

*Cherry Valley Historical Society*  
 101 E State Street, P.O. Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

The Cherry Valley Historical Society will hold a fundraiser on Saturday, October 1st in the Church Fellowship Hall. As of this date, we have no information as to the type of fundraiser it will be so watch for news of this event in future publications.

For information about the history of Cherry Valley, visit the Historical Society, housed in the original Village Hall and featuring information on the Village, first settled in 1835 and incorporated in 1857.

Other information about CV Historical Society is listed below.

**Meetings:** Meetings are held at the Historical Society on the first Sunday of each month at 3 p.m.

**Tours:** For a private tour, email [cvhs.1899@gmail.com](mailto:cvhs.1899@gmail.com).

**Telephone:** (815) 332-5200

## Secretary's Notes



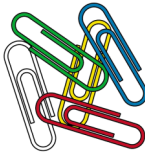
The wall calendar in the gathering room is there for you to schedule events or meetings you are planning. If you have anything to schedule, please enter the time and other information on the calendar so that others can see upcoming events and meetings. We need to be sure

that if you schedule something at the church, there is no conflict with another group who is scheduled at the same time.

Also, check out the "new" mail boxes in the gathering room. This is where we put any mail and other information pertinent to a particular committee. In an effort to keep the area clean and make it more inviting to visitors who drop in, Committee Chairs should go through their mail boxes frequently.

### Looking Ahead:

The secretary will be on vacation beginning Tuesday, September 27, returning to the office on or about Tuesday, October 11. If you have anything that needs her attention, please see her before or after those dates.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays of the Month

- 9 Susan Layng  
Karlene Brown
- 12 Barbara Anderson
- 18 Sally Lawton  
Terri Burritt  
Sean Conderman
- 20 Jennifer Dienberg
- 25 Kameron Taylor
- 26 Charlie Schnuckel
- 27 Larry Clevenger  
Ryan Herold

### Anniversaries

- 14 Larry & Mary Lou  
Clevenger  
Glenn & Nola Carnine
- 16 David & Barbara  
Anderson
- 17 Michael & Debora Seno
- 18 Nick & Katie Brown
- 22 Warren & Debbie Gross
- 23 Jim & Juanita Barnes



**HAYDAY!**  
Growing in Friendship with Jesus

Join us for acres of fun exploring  
the unending love and friendship of Jesus

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

For ages 3 years to 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
**August 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>**

(Fri. 5:30-8:30, Sat. 12:30-3:30, Sun. Service 9:45-11)  
**Cherry Valley United Methodist Church**  
at 112 S. Cherry St., Cherry Valley, IL

For registration or more info - please call  
815/332-5075 or visit [cherryvalleyumc.com](http://cherryvalleyumc.com)

## Choir News



The choir is on summer hiatus but that doesn't mean we do not have wonderful music for our worship services. Thank you to Patricia Irps for sharing her talent with us during the summer months. Not only does she provide special music during worship but she is also an integral member of the Media Team, which is not without it's challenges! Thanks, Patricia.

## 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.

## 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.

August 16<sup>th</sup>

September 27<sup>th</sup>

November 8<sup>th</sup>

## From the Worship Committee



## Greeters

Thank you to those who have responded to our plea for greeters for the upcoming months. We appreciate your service. We invite anyone to sign up for this important aspect of the worship. One of

the good things about being a greeter is that you get to see everyone who comes in the door.

We have provided a sign up sheet for those interested in being a greeter. Write your name on the particular Sunday in which you would like to greet, or speak with Juanita Barnes and let her know. You may call the church office as well (815-332-5075) and speak with the secretary or leave a message as to your desired greeting date.

We also have a liturgist schedule on the bulletin board. Thank you to those who have volunteered so far! We have liturgists scheduled for this month, but won't you consider signing up for the coming months? If you are interested, and have not been a liturgist in the past, please speak with Pastor Mark or email the secretary for Liturgist instructions.



**Liturgist Ministry**

# Coming in September

*On Sunday, September 18, after worship,*

*we are planning a First Responders Recognition and Brunch.*

*Watch the weekly bulletins*

*and the September issue of the Messenger for more information on this event.*

## Mission Team Update

This is just a quick note to give you all an update on our plans for outreach. We continue to serve lunches at the Rockford Rescue Mission the third Thursday of each month. Please consider joining us in serving this organization. It is a worthy organization giving hope to those who have the least and is making a difference in our community.

Our next meeting will be **August 11 at 7 pm.** in the **Gathering Room** at church. We will discuss our outreach to first responders in the month of September. If you would like to join us in planning this event, please contact Judy Long (815-299-8637). If you are connected to someone in our community who serves as a police officer, EMT or fire fighter, you may want to be personally involved in nurturing this valuable and integral part of our community.

With God's Grace We Grow Together!  
Judy Long



Washington, D.C.



Pastor Kim with Professor Carla

## 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 Missions Secondary School Update

*(Pastor Kim's time in the States)*

Pastor Kim had a busy month of June in the United States. (I dare any of you to attempt this schedule!)

- ⇒ **Northern Illinois Conference** – She spoke to the conference attendees about the Global Missions Secondary School and showed an aerial video of the school construction.
- ⇒ **June 12** – Pastor Kim spoke at the Wheeling First Korean United Methodist Church. Carl and Diana Cole, Karen Harter and I attended the service. Carl and Diana provided music, which brought tears to many of us through their spirit-inspired music.
- ⇒ **June 13** – Pastor Kim spent two weeks in Washington D.C. She had a two week intensive study for the Doctor of Ministry program. “Lord, your timing to allow me to study is perfect, your work in me through teachings is amazing and your love makes me teary. Thank you for a timely gift after 10-year work in Tanzania.”
- ⇒ **June 28** – Pastor Kim spent the last week of June visiting churches throughout the United States. How she did that is in itself an amazing coordination of flights. As she said on FB, I had ‘divine connections in Atlanta, Alaska and Houston. Indeed God knows where I am and where I need to be. I enjoyed every encounter and listened to many stories that were touched by the Love and Power of God. How blessed I am. Praise the Lord!”
- ⇒ **July 5** – Pastor Kim returned to Tanzania

Our **Mission Moment** for the month of August will focus on Pastor Kim's work in Tanzania. As a church we intentionally support Pastor Kim and her ministry through prayer and finances.

With God's Grace We Grow Together!  
Judy Long – Interim Chair of the Missions Committee



*Prayer Chapel just completed in center of campus.*

# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Team 6:30 pm Trustees	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Vacation Bible School</i> 5:30 –8:30 pm 	<b>6</b> 9:00 am GA <i>Vacation Bible School</i> 12:00 –3:30 pm
<b>7</b> 10:00 am Worship <i>Vacation Bible School</i> 8:45 am –11:00 am 	<b>8</b> Pastor begins vacation 	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Team	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>14</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>15</b> <i>Messenger items due today</i>  Pastor Returns from vacation	<b>16</b> 6:15 pm Finance Committee 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Team	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>21</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>24</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Team	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>28</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>31</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 pm Praise Team			

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

# YES, There's still time to enroll!

## Ages 3 years to 5th Grade

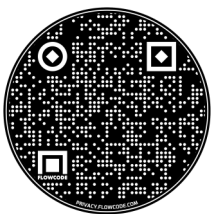
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church  
112 S. Cherry Street, Cherry Valley, IL  
For registration form visit [cherryvalleyumc.com](http://cherryvalleyumc.com)  
or call 815-332-5075.

Friday, August 5—5:30-8:30 pm  
Saturday, August 6—12:30-3:30 pm  
Sunday, August 7—9:45—11 am

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



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  
(September—June)  
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](mailto:churchinthevalley@comcast.net)  
Web Site: [cherryvalleyumc.com](http://cherryvalleyumc.com)  
Facebook: [Cherry Valley United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/CherryValleyUnitedMethodistChurch)



Pastor: Rev. Mark Harkness  
Deacon: Rev. Danice Loveridge  
Secretary: Nancy Laurent  
Church Office Hours  
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm





# Registration Form

(One Per Child)

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

**Crew number or name (for church use only):** \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_



In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_