

THE MESSENGER

December 2022

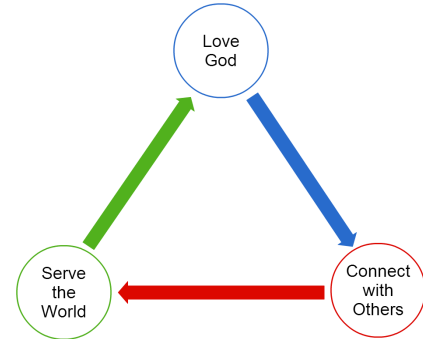
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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



⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
(Luke 1:46-55 NRSV)

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

Anyone who has been into my office at home can readily ascertain that my favorite Christmas movie is “A Christmas Story.” A smaller version of that fragile (pronounced: fra-jī-lay) major award serves as my desk lamp. Coming in a close second is “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.”

There’s one scene in “Christmas Vacation,” that I find especially poignant. There’s a moment when after Christmas dinner has been destroyed and Clark (the main character) is cleaning up in the kitchen talking to his father, when he finally shares just how disappointed he is. Throughout the movie, few things go according to plan. In the beginning, Clark dismisses his wife’s suggestion that he might be setting his hopes too high. Making his confession to his father, he says that he just wanted to have a perfect Christmas like when he was a kid. Then his dad tells him that things weren’t perfect, that they were usually a disaster.

Striving to create the perfect Christmas experience for his family, Clark thought that by doing all the right “Christmas” things and doing them as grandly as possible, that a wonderful Christmas would emerge. Instead of spending time with family, he spent countless hours frustrated by an overly extravagant light display, he destroyed his living room with an excessively large Christmas tree. The list goes on. In all of that “doing” he was missing the opportunity to actually nurture the love he had for his family.

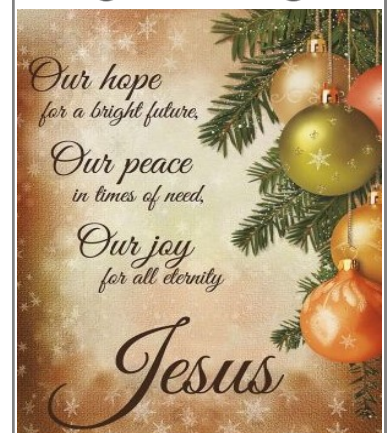
When I think of the best moments that I’ve had with those whom I love, seldom do the grand occasions come to mind. I remember handing my dad screwdrivers and wrenches huddled in the crawl space of our home. I remember my mom’s excessive concern whenever I came home injured. I remember the first time that my daughter beat me at a board game, and her joy knowing that I hadn’t let her win. So often, I hear Susan getting up in the middle of the night to make sure I’ll have coffee in the morning. My best memories of Christmas are going to Grandma and Grandpa’s house and then to Mamaw and Papaw’s house, or vice versa. Those are the moments, I treasure. I suspect those are the things that mean the most to the rest of us.

I think Clark’s trouble was that he thought that he had make things perfect to be acceptable. (His in-laws didn’t help.) Yet his overzealous striving for an idealized life got in the way of enjoying the best moments.

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Christmas reminds us that God didn't wait for us to be perfect but gives us Jesus in the midst of our ordinary life. That first Christmas was a mess. wasn't it? Joseph and Mary compelled to make a road trip while she was ready to give birth. Then, when the time came there no room in the guest room for a private birth or even for a proper crib so that that Jesus would have to be laid into the manger (a feeding trough carved into the stone floor) among the livestock.

Because our "memories" of that first Christmas have been shaped by paintings and songs rather than Scripture, we "forget" that the reason there was so little room, is that that so many family members had arrived and were crowded into a tiny house.

I invite you this season, not to abandon hopes or even grand plans for Christmas, but to look for those moments of grace and blessing in the messiness and to claim those opportunities to share yourself with others in the same way that Jesus shares himself with us.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness
Rev. Mark Harkness




*Join us on
Saturday,
December 24, at 7:00 a.m.
for a special
Christmas Eve
candlelight
worship service.
Traditional
Worship on
Christmas Day at 9:45 a.m.*



Dates to Remember

- December 4—Last Day for Rock House Kids Stockings
- December 5—Poinsettia Orders Deadline
- December 12—Scout Blood Drive 3:00 pm—7:00 pm
- December 14—Christmas Sing-Along & Potluck—5:30 pm
- December 18—Cookie Walk—After worship
- December 24—7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- December 25—10:00 am—Traditional Christmas Day Service



Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Wesley Harter
Mark Kincaide

Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Glenn Carnine
Mary Lou Clevenger
Violet Collier
Pat Gorsuch
Joe Hunt
Trudy Hunt
Doris Kuelz
Lyons Meyers
Lorraine Robbins
Kathy Sundberg

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

December 4 2nd Sunday of Advent
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Scripture Lesson Romans 15:4-13
 Gospel Matthew 3:1-12
 Message "The Word in the Words"

December 11 3rd Sunday of Advent
 Scripture Lessons Luke 1:47-55
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11
 Message "Realizing Our Expectations"

December 18 4th Sunday of Advent
 Psalm 80:1-7
 Scripture Lesson Romans 1:1-7
 Gospel Matthew 1:18-25
 Message "God For Us"

December 24 Christmas Eve
 Psalm 96
 Scripture Lesson Titus 2:11-14
 Gospel Luke 2:1-20
 Message "The Grace of God Has Appeared"

December 24 Christmas Day
 Psalm 98
 Scripture Lesson Hebrews 1:1-12
 Gospel John 1:1-14
 Message "Baby Talk"



Methodist Women

Our group met on November 13th following worship. Thanks so much to the men who served fellowship so we could enjoy coffee and treats.

We began with devotion and prayer and then collected donations to support the food pantry. We voted to make a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Lela Lameyer.

The ladies diligently addressed many Thanksgiving cards to be sent to those who are unable to attend worship in person. We want them to know they are missed.

We discussed plans for the Annual Cookie Walk that will be on December 18th. **Once more we ask for support of 4 dozen cookies from each. You may donate breads and candies as well.** We ask you to support us further by purchasing the donated items. This fundraiser allows us to continue our outreach to those in need in our congregation.

We continue to support Fellowship Time but it has become struggle at times. We are looking for volunteers to help with this task. The Methodist Men have volunteered to serve at fellowship on December 18th during the Cookie Walk, however, **we still**

need volunteers for December 11th so the women can attend the regular second Sunday meeting. If you would like to serve during fellowship time, please let me know.

Joanna Hays



*We need 200 stockings by
 December 4th
 for the
 Rock House Kids !
 The collection box is in the foyer as
 you enter the church.*

**Thanks to all who have donated stockings thus far. Our goal was 200 stockings and we have had a fantastic response. We are almost there.
 You are awesome !**

Thank You

Dear Cherry Valley UMC Congregation,



Thank you so much for allowing the Historical Society to use the fellowship hall for our Paint and Pop Fundraiser in October.

Forty women painted and assembled beautiful wood door decorations. New friends were made as well.

Your support of our organization is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
CV Historical Society

Dear Cherry Valley UMC,

Thank you for your prayers and support for Joe and myself.

We really appreciate them. Things have been a bit difficult with me hospitalized and Joe trying to understand why I am not with him. They are having lock-downs because of covid. So far, Joe is testing negative. He has had all his shots and he had covid in May. He was hospitalized for 10 days. He is very depressed and would appreciate cards and notes if anyone would like to write to him.

His address is: Joe Hunt, 865 N. Desert Bell, Building A, Room 10, Green Valley, AZ 86514.

Sincerely,
Trudy Hunt



Thank you to all who participated in the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 20. We had a great turn out and had lots of fun decorating the church for Advent and Christmas.

Juanita Barnes, Worship Chair

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Group meets every third Wednesday at 10 am.



If you like to knit or crochet prayer shawls, scarves or hats, please feel free to join us. You are also welcome to bring your own craft and join in the

fellowship.

After the meeting, we often go to lunch at one of the local restaurants. **Our next meeting will be January 18th at 10:00 am.** All are invited to join us.

Lucy Powell



Birthdays & Anniversaries—December



- 5 Nicholas Mungor
- 6 Delilah Herold
- 10 Carolyn Kloss
- 12 Pat Cowan
- 14 Bill Harned
- 16 Craig Wilt
- 19 Karen Harter
- 20 Veronica Layng
- 22 Lynn Brown
- 26 Ann Harned
- 29 Nola Carnine
- 31 Jenny Dwyer

Anniversaries

29 Ryan & Jamie Spears



Sunday, December 18, 2022

After Worship



Come and shop a huge assortment of DELICIOUS Christmas treats baked with LOVE. Our bakers make only their best for this fantastic fundraiser, a favorite for many years. Cookies will be sold before and after worship time, so get here early and have first choice!

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

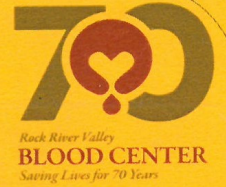
The Rock River Food Pantry also has a Peanut Butter Endowment program in which charitable contributions of property, assets or funds are placed. Endowments are created for non-profit organizations in support of a specific goal. The Peanut Butter Endowment was created to purchase food to distribute to 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.



Thank you to this group of Scouts and Scout Leaders who turned out on Saturday, October 29 to clean up the church grounds. Thanks to all who participated. The gardens look great!

Donate Blood

Help us to meet the needs of patients in OUR community!



Scouts BSA Troop 181G
At Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Blood Drive

112 S Cherry St,
Cherry Valley

Monday, December 12th

3:00 - 7:00 pm



Scan the QR Code below to
make an appointment



Or call/text: Sandy Schwartz

779.771.3567

All Blood Types are Needed!

Please bring a photo ID and have plenty to eat & drink before you donate.

Rock River Valley

BLOOD CENTER

Straight From the Heart



Why do people give blood?

Because they like to help others – and because giving feels amazing. In busy, complicated times, giving blood is an easy, meaningful way to make a difference. In fact, this simple gift can enhance the lives of up to three people. Giving blood only takes about one relaxing hour, and we – and your body – do all of the work. Remember, blood is a gift – straight from the heart. *Your heart.* Please share it today!

Rock River Valley Blood Center

Rockford Rescue Mission News

The following article is reprinted from the Rockford Rescue Mission publication, *The Rescuer*, Holiday 2022. Volume 58. Issue 4. It features our very own Juanita Barnes. Thank you, Juanita, for your care and compassion and for giving of your time, talent and expertise to this very important service to the clients of the Rockford Rescue Mission.

Restoring Smiles

Roscoe dentist Dr. Terry Joiner and retired dental hygienist Juanita Barnes say they have never had more grateful clients. The two have volunteered at our Hope Clinic since January 2019.

They come to the clinic one Friday afternoon each month. Dr. Joiner conducts dental exams for residents and guests as Juanita takes notes, and then Juanita works with Clinic Supervisor Jennifer Jacobs to schedule cleanings and other treatment plans. If a patient is in pain, he or she may be referred to another dental clinic for immediate treatment.

"Some of the people Dr. Joiner and I see have not seen a dentist or hygienist in years," Juanita says. "This can be a source of shame for neglecting themselves. When a person feels this way, it brings them down on themselves. So, by helping to restore them to better dental health that will truly help lift them up. In this small way of helping people regain their smile, it will help in their overall healing."

Dr. Joiner and Juanita replaced Dr. Lee Stopoulos and Sue Piippo, who volunteered their dental services for years and have now retired.



Greeters Needed

We are looking for people to place in rotation on the greeter schedule so that the same people are not doing this function every week. The greeter is the first person that a visitor sees upon their arrival....it can set the tone for the experience that person has at the worship service.

If you think you would like to be a greeter, but may be a bit embarrassed to say you don't know what a greeters responsibilities are, you are probably not alone.

First, smile....a smile is always a welcoming sight, especially when one is new to a place. It goes a long way to a warm welcome.

A greeter will honor the members and guests. The way to honor them is to say more than "hello." You can say "Welcome to our church" or "We're glad you're here," or "It's good to see you (and your family)"

You can help them know where to go. Visitors may not have been to the church before and may not know where the sanctuary is located.

This is just a few ways in which the greeter can be an ambassador for the church. If you are interested in becoming a greeter, you may speak with Juanita Barnes.

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

Mission/Outreach Committee

The Mission/Outreach Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm, however, we will not meet in December.

Below are just a few of the missions we have accomplished this year.

- * We continued to incorporate the "Mission Moments" into the worship service and we have had some good feedback about this project. We hope to continue to provide meaningful presentations from service organizations and to support those organizations that assist people in need.
- * We supported other UM Churches in their Christmas programs to assist families in housing projects.
- * We began providing 3 volunteers to serve lunch at the Rockford Rescue Mission on the third Thursday of each month. This is a mission we hope to continue into the future.
- * We continue to support Pastor Kim's Global Missions Secondary School through prayer and finances.

If you would like to become involved with the Missions group, you may speak with Judy Long, Mission/Outreach Chair. The next meeting of the group will be on Thursday, January 12, 2023.



PROVERBS 19:17

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done."

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	2	3 9:00 am GA
4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	5 6:00 Scouts BSAG <i>Poinsettia Orders Due</i>	6 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	7 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Praise Team 2:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Trustees	8 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	9	10 9:00 am GA
11 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Methodist Women	12 6:00 Scouts BSAG <i>3:00 pm—7:00 pm Scout Blood Drive</i>	13 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	14 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Praise Team 2:00 pm Choir <i>5:30 pm Christmas Carol Sing-Along & Potluck</i>	15 6:30 pm Cub Scouts <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16	17 9:00 am GA
18 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Methodist Women's Cookie Walk</i> 	19 6:00 Scouts BSAG	20 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	21 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Praise Team 2:00 pm Choir 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group	22	23	24 <i>7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Services</i> 
25 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26 6:00 Scouts BSAG	27 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	28 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Praise Team 2:00 pm Choir	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 

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




This is Gonna Be Fun!

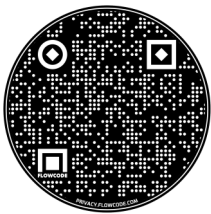
**Christmas Carol
Sing-Along**
 &



Potluck Supper
 Wednesday, December 14th at 5:30 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
 (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
 Web Site: 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



It's Poinsettia Time!

It's time to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas and honor your loved ones.

The varieties available are all red, white and marbled pink, which is a variegated pink and white. The cost is \$11.00 per plant, regardless of the variety you choose. Fill out the order form below with the type and number of plants desired, along with your check made out to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church and return it to Juanita Barnes before December 5.

Deadline: December 5, 2022

Name of Family Ordering Plant	_____
In Memory of:	_____

In Honor of:	_____

Red poinsettia #	_____ @ \$11.00 Total amount \$ _____
White poinsettia #	_____ @ \$11.00 Total amount \$ _____
Marbled poinsettia #	_____ @ \$11.00 Total amount \$ _____
The poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please take your plant (s) home after worship on December 25.	

