

THE MESSENGER

February 2023

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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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

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned, ... ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

(Romans 12:1-3, 11-12 NRSV)

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

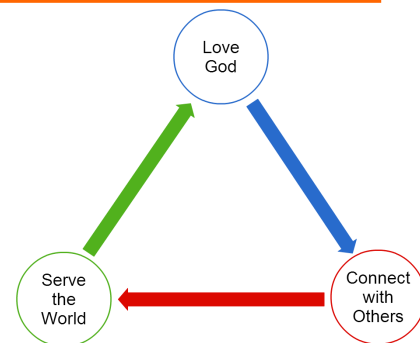
You're welcome. On my birthday this month, banks, post offices, and schools will close to give you a day off. Car dealerships and home improvement stores will hold sales. You're welcome.

By coincidence, this year, my birthday falls on Presidents Day. Sometimes the calendar works out nicely like that. Other times it can be rather inconvenient. Whereas the national holiday this year gives Susan all day to prepare for whatever extravagance she has in store for me, other times the calendar gets in the way. About every third year, my birthday falls during Lent, which often means that my personal Lenten practice, limits how I might otherwise celebrate.

Five years ago, Ash Wednesday fell on February 14. Susan still reminds me about how often church life deprives her of Valentine's Day. So, next year when Ash Wednesday falls on February 14 again, I'll have some making up to do. Likewise, our wedding anniversary has coincided with Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday. In my vocation, those religious observances take precedent. If I weren't ordained, would they? I think they would.

These calendar coincidences, remind me that who I am is not just about me. I am a part of something far greater than myself – each of us is. Sometimes that means we get a special blessing, and at other times it means that we might have to put aside a bit of our own preference for an opportunity to do something for a greater purpose. That is actually a privilege.

A professor once told my class that completing our doctoral theses would make us the preeminent expert of that particular study.



In this issue

Lenten Communion	Page 2
Ash Wednesday	Page 2
Prayers for Friends	Page 2
AmazonSmile	Page 2
Scripture Readings	Page 3
Dates to Remember	Page 3
Pastor's Schedule	Page 3
Methodist Women	Page 3
Lenten Study	Page 4
Pancake Supper	Page 4
Birthday/Anniversary	Page 4
Hunger Concert	Page 4
RRV Food Pantry	Page 5
Scouting Sunday	Page 5
Prayer Shawl Group	Page 5
Thank You	Page 5
Church Office	Page 5
Mission Team	Page 6
Global Missions	Page 6
Calendar	Page 7



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

He reminded us of Jesus' admonition not to call a man doctor or teacher or father; not because those titles should be avoided but so that the man's character shone through rather than any expectation of honor. *Humility* has the same root as *humus* (earth, ground). To be humble is to be grounded: to know who you are. That means that we should celebrate and claim those things in which we excel, not for our own sake but because those characteristics allow us to bless others as we notice the character of God imprinted on our very being by his words and scars which Jesus bore for our sake.

Too often, we approach Lent as a season of misery and deprivation, a reminder about how broken we are – instead of claiming the opportunity to set aside our own ideas about self to realize that the run-up to the cross is a reminder of how much God treasures you and wants to see you flourish. Rather than merely giving up something you enjoy for Lent as a sacrifice, set something aside for the season to explore what it is about you that God values so dearly. I promise you will be humbled; grounded in the knowledge that God has and will put you to wondrous work in his name.

Your brother in Christ,



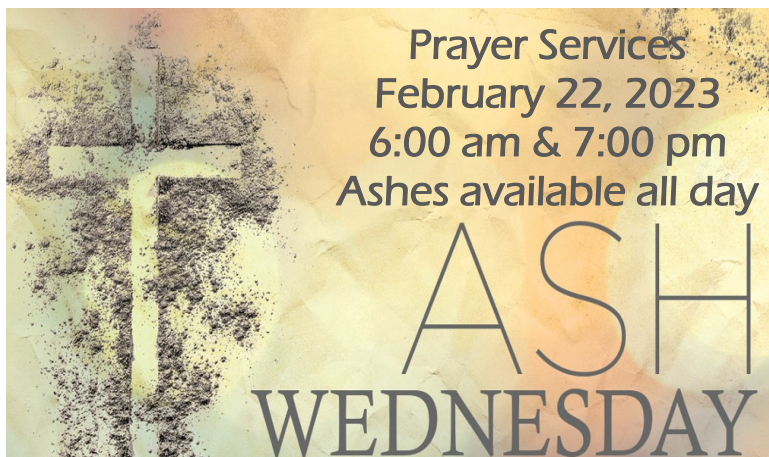
Rev. Mark Harkness



Holy Communion During Lent



Holy Communion will be offered at 8:45 a.m. in the chapel each Sunday in Lent., with the exception of First Sundays & Easter Sunday



Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Wesley Harter
Mark Kincaide

Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Glenn Carnine
Violet Collier
Pat Gorsuch
Patricia Irps
Doris Kuelz
Lorraine Robbins
Kathy Sundberg
Jim Voorhies

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

Larry Clevenger Family
Jennifer Murphy 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.



amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.
GREAT NEWS!

Cherry Valley UMC 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

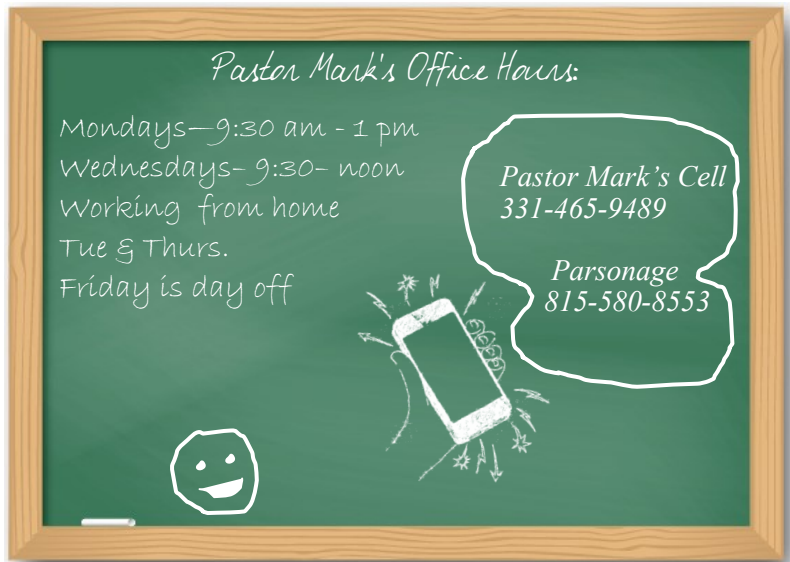
February 5 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
 Psalm 112
 Scripture Lesson Isaiah 58:1-9a
 Gospel Matthew 5:13-20
 Message "When Lightning Strikes"

February 12 Scout Sunday
 Psalm 119:1-8
 Scripture Lessons Deuteronomy 30:15-29
 Scripture Lessons 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:21-37
 Message "Choosing Life and Prosperity"

February 19 Transfiguration Sunday
 Psalm 99
 Scripture Lesson 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Gospel Matthew 17:1-9
 Message "Holy Spectacles"

February 22 Ash Wednesday
 Psalm 51:1-7
 Scripture Lesson Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
 Scripture Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 Message "Now Is The Acceptable Time"

February 26 1st Sunday in Lent
 Psalm 32
 Scripture Lesson Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
 Gospel Matthew 4:1-11
 Message "The Apple of God's Eye"



Methodist Women

The women met on January 14 following worship. We covered all the usual items and then concentrated on Valentine's Day and the upcoming Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. We agreed that we will continue to send cards to those of our congregation that are "shut-ins" and those that we miss seeing in worship.

We addressed our Valentine's cards at the 5th Sunday Potluck on January 29 since completing that task at our February 12 meeting would be too close to Valentine's Day in order for our recipients to get their cards by Valentines Day.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on Tuesday, February 21, 4:30-6:30 pm. We appreciate the support of the congregation and especially those that man the grill. We enjoy serving all, but my real joy in this event is sharing with the Scouts and their families. The fellowship hall is alive with youth. I am pleased that our church is used for so many groups and events beyond our Sunday worship.

Our next meeting is February 12 following worship. I am personally extending an invitation to anyone who wishes to attend.

We strive to serve.

Joanna Hays



kindness
 is like snow...it beautifies everything it covers.

Give God your **weakness**
 and He'll give you His **strength**

Dates to Remember

- February 12... Scouting Ministry Sunday ★
- February 15... Messenger Items Due
- February 21... 4:30—6:30 pm Pancake Supper
- February 22... 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- February 28... Secretary Begins Vacation



LENTEN JOURNEY

Join Pastor Mark in person or via ZOOM

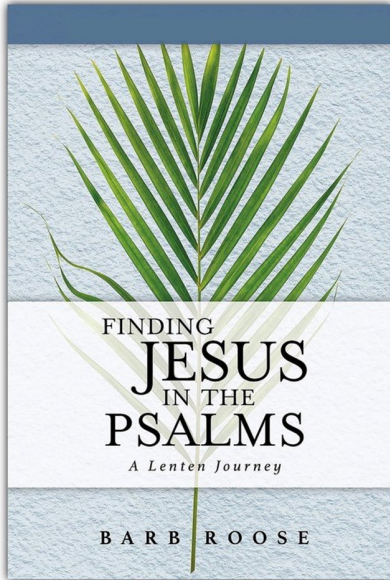
for a six week Lenten Study entitled

"Finding Jesus in the Psalms," by Barbara Roose.

The study will be on Wednesday evenings at **7:00 p.m.**

beginning **Wednesday, March 1, 2023.**

The cost of the book is \$14. If you are interested in this study, you must let Pastor Mark know no later than **February 15** in order for the books to arrive in time to begin the study.



"The Psalms provide a perfect framework for experiencing Lent through the verses that were Jesus's own scriptures, offering both him and us strength and wisdom in a painful and redemptive season.

The Book of Psalms hums with the heartbeat of our humanity with divinely inspired words that find purchase in the tenderest places in our hearts when our human words or wisdom fails us."

Barb Roose.

Birthdays & Anniversaries—February



- 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
- 26 Monica Gaten



Anniversaries

There were no anniversaries listed for the month of February



Harmony for Hunger concert



Triumphant

Friday, March 17, 2023
6:30—9:00 p.m.



Alleluia Quartet

Featuring



Nonnegah High School
Performing Arts Center

307 Salem Street,
Rockton, IL 61072

Proceeds to Benefit Food Pantries

TICKET PRICE: \$15.00
For tickets see Dave Ward
or call 815-282-2527



Wesley Willows



13th Anniversary



Meridian
PRINT • MANAGE • FULFILL



Helm

www.harmonyforhunger.org

Don't Miss!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Tuesday, February 21
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy pancakes,
sausage, coffee, tea,
juice...

AND FELLOWSHIP

Bring a friend or two.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



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

Come and bring your handwork project or come and we will provide yarn and help you learn to knit or crochet.

We often meet at one of our group's home or we sometimes go to a local restaurant and share a light lunch.

Come join us!

Lucy Powell



Thank You!



It is always so much fun at the beginning of the Advent season to decorate the sanctuary in a festive atmosphere, but taking down those decorations is a tedious task, so we thank all of you who stayed after worship on January 8th to take down and store the Advent and Christmas decorations. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Church Office Accessibility

If you have ever come to the church office on a weekday, you know how careful you must be to navigate the 3 steps leading to the office. We have taken measures to make the stairs as safe as possible by putting treads on the steps and by installing a handrail. Pastor Mark even removed the mechanism that latches the door so that it is a simple push to open, so be careful especially to those who may be mobility impaired in some way.



In the future, if you wish to come to the church office but do not want to chance the stairs, you may call the church office (815-332-5075) and the secretary will open the front door for you. If you don't have your cell phone, call from home before you arrive and the secretary will look out for you. Or you can come to the atrium entryway and ring the doorbell. Then you can go to the front entrance to come to the office. Yes, there are stairs to enter the sanctuary, but they are carpeted, have a handrail and are very wide, making it much easier to navigate. If those stairs are too much, we do have an elevator.

If you must enter through the atrium entryway, please be careful on the stairs, going either up or down.



Sunday February 12, is Scouting Sunday. The scouts will participate in many aspects of the worship service. Plan to attend the worship service to celebrate the ministry of the youth and the adult leaders of the troops. They have conducted many projects here that benefit the church and the community and we are proud to have them associated with Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

— John F. Kennedy

Mission Team

Our first meeting of the year was very productive and energizing. It is so encouraging to see the growth of outreach activities within our church.

Our first Mission Moment will be February 19. Carpenter's Place has expanded their outreach considerably. Come hear how they are making a difference. Lt. Col. Sjogren from the Salvation Army will speak at our March 19 Mission Moment. He will have a special video to show us.

We will then be blessed to have a speaker from the Rock River Food Pantry on April 16. We will present Rock River Pantry with funds collected in December. In May we plan to reach out to our homebound members with a 'May Basket' surprise.

One of our goals is to develop outreach connections that are sustainable by developing meaningful relationships. That certainly has happened with Rockford Rescue Missions. Our lunch service began in April 2022 and we have not missed a month since then. In addition to that monthly commitment several members have helped with special dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Mary and Jim Coulter give one day per month to pick up donations for the Rockford Rescue Mission collected at restaurants throughout the Rockford region. Juanita Barnes works a regularly scheduled block of time to provide dental hygiene care to residents.

We encourage anyone who has the time and the heart to serve our less fortunate to join us. We now walk into the Mission not as strangers – but as known, caring neighbors. Remember we are blessed beyond measure when we share God's love.

We, of course, would welcome new members. If you are unable to meet in person, you can join us through our 'Zoom' link on the church website. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, February 9, 7 pm. in the Gathering room.**

With God's grace we grow together!
Judy Long judylong1949@gmail.com 815-299-8637



News From Global Missions

According to the Word, according to the Holy Spirit (1021) Finally, I am leaving for the 2023 Study Trip to Korea with my two female students. GMSS, what I've been dreaming of teaching Korean since the beginning is coming true. God is awesome. The process of preparing was not easy but we overcame it by the grace of God.

(Continued in next column)

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

(Continued from previous column)

The word "Wow" comes out of my mouth. It will not only be an unforgettable journey in the lives of two students, but I am sure it will be a great blessing and touching time for me too. Dream will come true. Praise Way Maker. What a miracle to have visa to Korea two days before our departure! Thank you Lord.

Young Seon (Christina) Kim

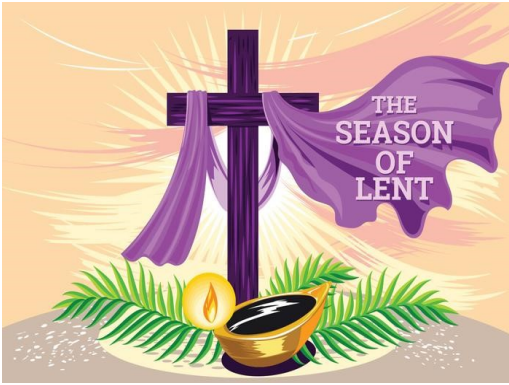


*Arrival at
Darsalon
International
Airport.*

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Praise Team 2:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Trustees	2 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	3	4 9:00 am GA
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	6 6:00 Scouts BSAG	7 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	8 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Praise Team 2:00 pm Choir	9 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Mission/ Outreach	10 <i>Feb 10—Feb 12</i> <i>6pm - 10 am</i> <i>Scout (girls)</i> <i>lock-in event</i>	11 9:00 am GA
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Methodist Women <i>Scouting Sunday</i> 	13 6:00 Scouts BSAG	14 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 	15 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Praise Team 2:00 pm Choir 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group <i>Messenger items due today</i>	16 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	17	18 9:00 am GA
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Mission Moment</i>	20 6:00 Scouts BSAG	21 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>5:00 pm Shrove</i> <i>Tuesday Pancake</i> <i>Supper</i> 	22 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Praise Team 2:00 pm Choir <i>7:00 pm Ash</i> <i>Wednesday Service</i> 	23 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	24 <i>Scouts Blue and</i> <i>Gold Banquet</i>	25 9:00 am GA <i>Scouts Blue and</i> <i>Gold Banquet</i>
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Scouts Blue and Gold</i> <i>Banquet</i> <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	27 6:00 Scouts BSAG	28 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>Secretary Vacation</i> <i>Begins</i> 				

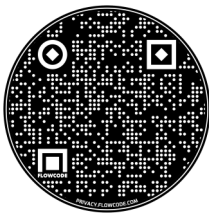
MESSENGER ITEMS ARE DUE TO THE SECRETARY ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.



Lent begins Ash Wednesday,
February 22, 2023



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
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