

THE MESSENGER

March 2023

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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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

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

(Matthew 9:9-13 NRSV)

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

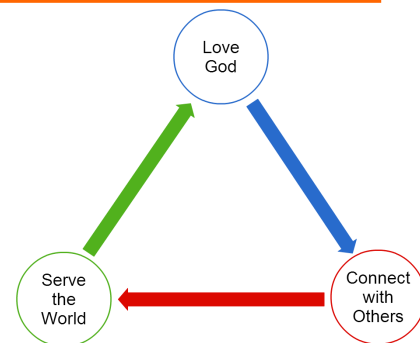
The Lenten season serves to prepare us for Easter and invites us to renew our expectation of Resurrection hope. Too often, Christians give in to a notion of Lenten devotion as a sort of mini purgatory in which we deprive ourselves of pleasure and joy as a testament to our devotion to God lest we suffer punishment. Even though, as Protestants, we rightly reject the concept of purgatory, we often live our lives and express our faith in the context of a God whom we must appease.

What comes to mind when you hear the word **salvation**? What about **sin**? How do you distinguish between **Sin** and **sins**? What does Jesus do for us in this regard? Obviously, I've asked those questions to make a point.

In the New Testament, the word we see as Sin/sins comes from the Greek word *harmatia* (ἁματία), an archery term that means to "miss the mark". It's easy to think of *sins* as things which we do wrongly. That's not incorrect. In that context, *Sin* is our tendency to do wrong. When we think of Sin and sins this way, salvation logically presents itself as rescue from the consequences (e.g. punishment) for doing wrong. What if there is something else happening as well?

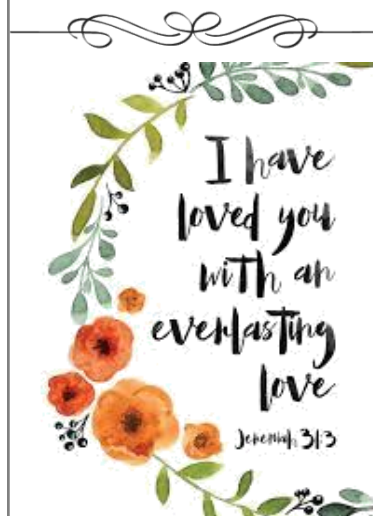
The Greek word *sozo* (σωζο) gets translated a couple of different ways in Scripture: sometimes as "save", and other times (more frequently) as "heal." Both are appropriate in the sense of deliverance from danger: a threat or disease.

What if we were to look at Sin as a disease rather than predilection? If Sin is a disease, then God's word to the Man in the Garden that he would die if he disobeyed is a cautionary warning rather than a threat. Likewise, our experience of Sin isn't because we share Adam's guilt, but because an infection was let loose that contaminates creation.



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It is telling that when Jesus was derided for his association with sinners that he used a metaphor of healing and disease. Our sins matter and we are responsible for the things that we do. However, in Jesus we find something far more important than forgiveness for our transgressions. Through his death on the cross he offers us a cure for Sin.

When our bodies are sick, we have a few choices: We can complain; we can ignore it hoping that it will go away on its own; we can attend to the symptoms while the disease persists; or we can look for a cure through good medicine and healthy living.

Rather than looking at Lent or any period of intentional devotion/re-devotion merely as a means to purge ourselves of sinful action (attending to symptoms), but instead to look at our acts of devotion (prayer, poring over God's love letter in Scripture, joining and encouraging one another in worship) as gifts that allow us to receive true healing through Jesus Christ.

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



Dates to Remember

- March 1 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study Begins
- March 11 Memorial Service (Tom DeWitt)
- March 12 Daylight Saving Time Begins
Baptisms at Worship Service
- March 14 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meets
7:00 pm Church Council Meets
- March 15 Messenger Items Due to Secretary



Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Wesley Harter
Mark Kincaide

Members & Friends

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

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 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 5.....2nd Sunday in Lent
 Psalm 121
 Scripture LessonGenesis 12:1-4
 Gospel.....Matthew 3:1-17
 Message.....“Born to Bless”

March 12..... 3rd Sunday in Lent
 Psalm 95
 Scripture LessonsExodus 17:1-7
 Gospel Lesson.....John 4:5-42
 Message.....“Living Water”

March 19.....4th Sunday in Lent
 Psalm 23
 Scripture LessonEphesians 5:8-14
 Gospel.....John 9:1-41
 Message.....“Pulling Back the Drapes”

March 26.....5th Sunday in Lent
 Psalm 130
 Scripture LessonEzekiel 37:1-14
 Gospel.....John 11:1-45
 Message.....“Grave Facts”



Church Council Meetings

The following are Church Council Meetings for the coming year. The Church Council meets at 7:00 pm.

March 14
 May 9
 July 11
 September 12
 November 14.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

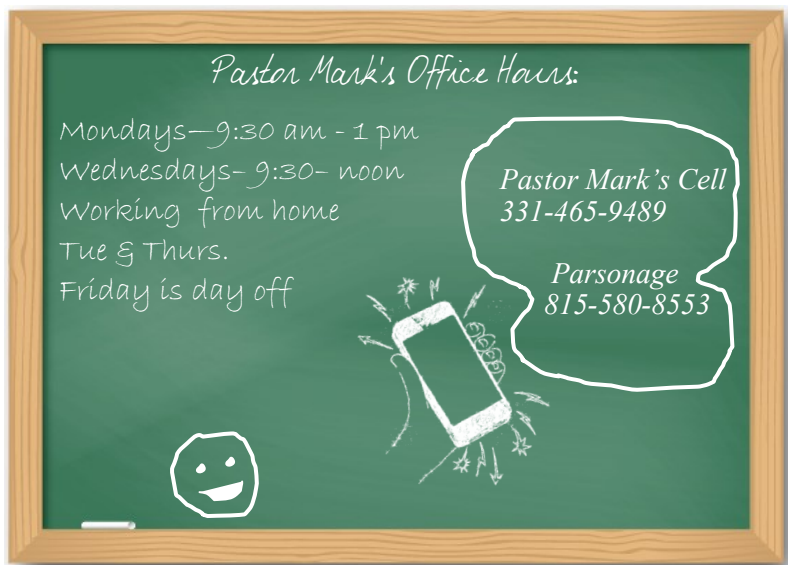


The Prayer Shawl Group meets every third Wednesday at 10 am.

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



Methodist Women

We opened our meeting on February 12 with a devotional reading followed by prayer. We accepted the treasurers report and then collected donations for the food pantry.

Since we have received a large donation of beautiful Christmas stockings toward our support of the Rock House Kids for next year, we decided that we would accept financial donations for the RHK's later in the year.

Thank you to those women who addressed Valentine Cards to our shut-ins and to those in our congregation we miss seeing on Sunday mornings. Continuing our outreach, we are planning to send Easter cards in April.

On March 11, it will be our privilege to host a luncheon after the memorial service of Tom DeWitt. Thank you to all the women who serve in this capacity.

We noticed the number of scouts that attend meetings at the church has significantly grown. Their support is always visible to us as many of their projects are to improve the appearance of the church and the grounds. Their usual Tuesday meeting coincides with the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper so they lend their help with serving and clean up for the supper. It's also nice to have them here to enjoy the supper with their families.

After all business was closed, we enjoyed conversations and socializing. We enjoy the interaction and staying in touch with one another. We then closed with prayer.

Our next meeting will be after worship on Sunday, March 12. Come join us.

Joanna Hays



Birthdays & Anniversaries—March

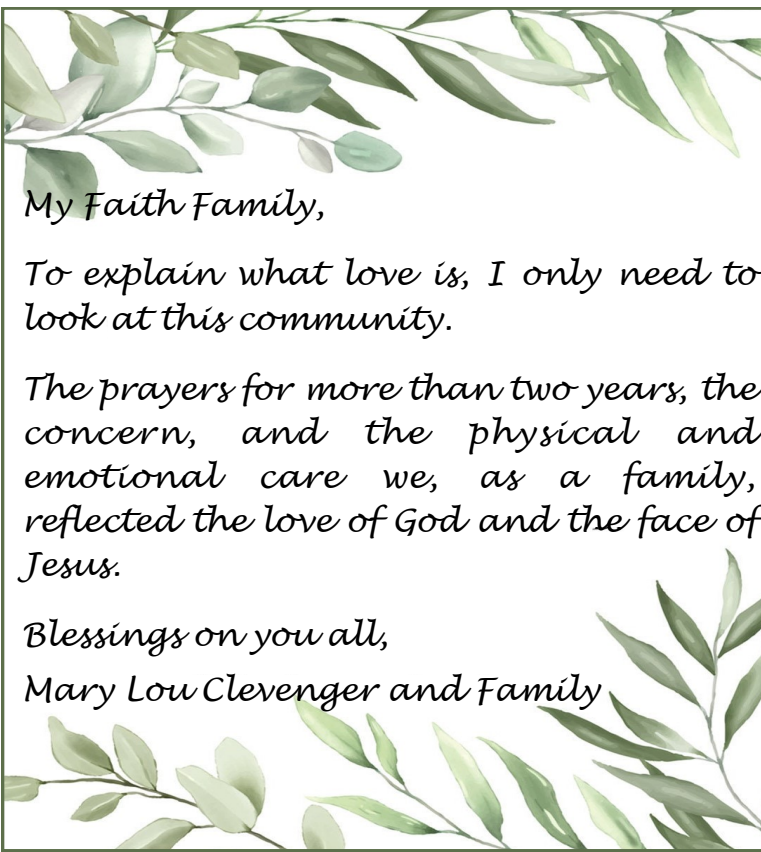


- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
- 14 Jim Newell
- 17 Joe Hunt
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng
- 30 Linda Harkness



Anniversaries

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



My Faith Family,

To explain what love is, I only need to look at this community.

The prayers for more than two years, the concern, and the physical and emotional care we, as a family, reflected the love of God and the face of Jesus.

Blessings on you all,

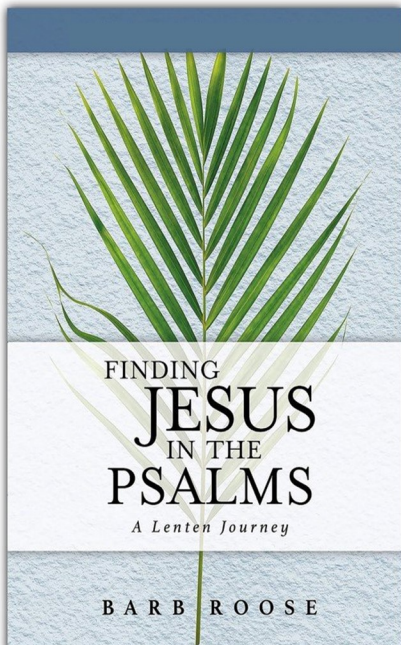
Mary Lou Clevenger and Family

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.



"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.

LENTEN AND EASTER EVENTS SCHEDULE

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY	MARCH 1—6 WEEKS 7:00 PM IN PERSON & ZOOM
HOLY COMMUNION	MARCH 12, 19, 26, 8:45 AM PRAYER CHAPEL
Palm/Passion Sunday	APRIL 2 10:00 am Worship Service Celebrate with palms
MAUNDY THURSDAY	APRIL 6 7:00 pm Worship Service
Good Friday	April 7 7:00 pm Worship Service
EASTER SUNDAY	April 9 7:30 am Sunrise Service 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 10:00 am Easter Service



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.



	Church Council	Class
Chair	Rev. Mark Harkness	
Lay Leader	Scott Layng	2023
Recording Secretary	Juanita Barnes	2024
Membership Secretary	Barbara Anderson	2022
Lay Members to AC	Sue Layng	2024
	Dave Ward	2024
SPRC Chair	Keith Burritt	2023
Finance Committee – Chair	Lucille Powell	2023
Treasurer	Scott Layng	2023
Trustees Chair	Yolanda Beets	2023
Outreach & Evangelism Chair	Judy Long	2025
Worship Committee – Chair	Juanita Barnes	2024
Memorials Committee – Chair	Grace Harter	2024
Women’s Group – President	Donna Layng	2023
Staff-Parish Relations Committee	Audit Committee	
Keith Burritt (chair)	Sally Hollebeak	2023
Kathleen Sundberg		2023
Cindy Kerr		2024
Jenny Dwyer		2025
		2025
By Office: Scott Layng (Lay Leader), Sue Layng (Lay Member to AC) Dave Ward (Lay Member to AC)	Men’s Group	
	Warren Gross, President	
	Dave Ward, Financial Secretary	
Finance Committee	Outreach & Evangelism	
Lucille Powell	Judy Long (Chair)	2025
Scott Layng (Treasurer/Lay Leader)	Veronica Layng	2023
Mary Lou Clevenger (Recorder)	Amanda Kloepfer	2023
Mary Coulter (at-large)	Mary Coulter	2023
Dave Ward (Lay Member to AC)	Terry Burritt	2025
Sue Layng (Lay Member to AC)	Worship Committee	
Keith Burritt (SPRC Chair)	Juanita Barnes (Chair)	2024
Yolanda Beets (Trustee Chair)	Barb Lucas	2022
	Holly Snyder	2022
Board of Trustees	Lavern Neff	2024
Dave Anderson	Shirley Cardani	2024
Charlie Schnuckel	Ray Beets	2025
Dave Harter	Patricia Irps (worship tech)	
Yolanda Beets	Mandy Kloepfer (streaming tech)	
Dave Ward	Committee on Memorials & Gifts	
Mike Loveridge	Grace Harter (Chair)	2024
	Jordyn Nystrom	2022
	Lavern Neff	2023
	Donna Layng	2024
Nominations Committee	Women’s Group	
Rev. Mark Harkness (Chair)	Donna Layng, President	
Scott Layng (Lay Leader)	Ann Harned, Secretary	
	Lucille Powell	
	Lay Members to Annual Conference	
	Sue Layng, Dave Ward	

Harmony for Hunger concert



Friday, March 17, 2023
6:30 - 9:00 P.M.

Featuring



Ticket Price: \$15.00
See Dave Ward
for tickets or call
815-262-2527

Hononegah High School Performing Arts Center | 307 Salem Street, Rockton, IL 61072
Proceeds to Benefit Food Pantries



www.harmonyforhunger.org

“Where there is no guidance, a people falls; but in an abundance of counselors, there is safety.”
-Proverbs 11:14

Coming in April

Peanut Butter RALLY
Benefiting the kids of our
ROCK RIVER VALLEY PANTRY

Mission Team

The CV Mission Team has been meeting on the third Thursday of each month and we have planned some exciting Mission Moments and other Mission events. Plan to be at worship to hear from these dedicated individuals who are making a difference in our community.

Mission Moments

- Our first Mission Moment of the new year was on February 19. Nancy Ramos from Carpenter's Place spoke to us about their expanded services.
- March 19. Lt. Col. Sjogren from the Salvation Army will give us an update on all the services of this long standing, rock solid community organization. He will have a special video to show us.
- April 16. The staff of the Rock River Food Pantry will speak and we will present them with funds collected at Christmas time.

Rockford Rescue Mission

We continue to serve lunches at the Mission the third Thursday of each month from 10:30-12 noon. Check the signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary. We need 3 people every month.

May Outreach Project

We plan to reach out to our homebound church members in May with flowers and other thoughtful gifts. If you would like to help, please let us know. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, March 9 at 7 pm.** in the Gathering Room. You are all welcome to join us as we go beyond our doors to help those in need.



News of Pastor Kim

Our International Missionary in Tanzania

As I write this article I find it hard to keep up with the news of this determined and energetic servant of God. She just returned from a trip to South Korea where she took some students for a mission trip. What an enriching experience for those young people for whom I am sure never stepped onto a plane before; let alone stepped onto the soil of another continent.

Shortly after coming back to Tanzania Pastor Kim welcomed a short term mission group from South Korea.

(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)

In her words...According to the Word, according to the Holy Spirit (1029) the Sky Hill Church short term team finally arrived in Tanzania. A spiritual event where a long time dream became reality. I was desperate for prayers because there were quite a few people bringing for ministry, but it was easy to get out of the airport, and in addition, the praise of "All the Worlds that the Lord God has built" flowed and touched everyone.

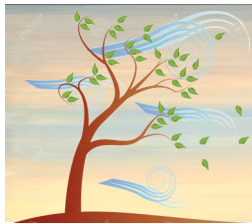
GMSS students arrived at the school with a great welcome for the respected Rev. Strategic Je and 12 people with various talents - Promise Walkers - I am touched to see how they generously give their all every hour even in the hot weather. "Lord, thank you for sending me precious people. Please protect their health and help them to handle their mission with the ability of the Holy Spirit. "

Check out Pastor Kim's Facebook page for the schedule of activities that transpired once this mission team got to the school. Amazing and fruitful interaction! What an experience! What a sharing of various talents! God's work transformed!

Please pray for Pastor Kim as she continues to serve so faithfully and devoutly to the Global Missions Secondary School.

With God's grace we grow together! Judy Long





March 2023



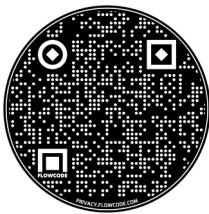
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	2 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	3	4 9:00 am GA
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	6 6:00 Scouts BSAG	7 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	8 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Mission/Outreach	10 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	11 9:00 am GA 10:00 am Tom DeWitt Memorial Service
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Methodist Women <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	13 6:00 Scouts BSAG	14 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 6:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm Church Council	15 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study <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	20 6:00 Scouts BSAG	21 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	22 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	23 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	24	25 9:00 am GA
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	27 6:00 Scouts BSAG	28 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	29 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	30 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	31	

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

hello
March



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