

THE MESSENGER

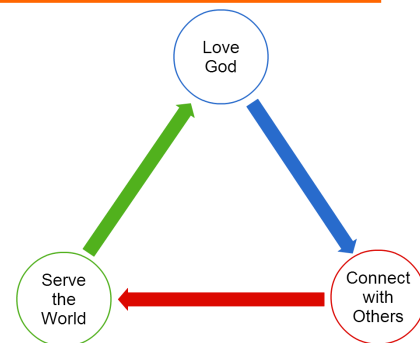
June 2023

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
Pastor's Cell: 331-465-9489
Pastor's E-mail: mark.harkness@gmail.com
Parsonage phone: 815/580-8553

Rev. Danice Loveridge, Deacon
Email: danice.loveridge@gmail.com
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

¹O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation!

²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of
praise!

³For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his
pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

⁸Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
⁹when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the
proof,

though they had seen my work.

¹⁰For forty years I loathed that generation and said,
"They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways."

¹¹Therefore in my anger I swore,
"They shall not enter my rest."

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

I don't remember when or where I heard the following story, but I've been retelling it for at least twenty years.

A grandfather took his grandson to attend worship. The boy hadn't been in church before, so he was inquisitive about everything that was happening. When the acolytes lit the candles on the altar table, the boy asked, "Why are they doing that? What does it mean?" The grandfather replied, "They're bringing in the light of Jesus and that reminds us that he is with us." As the people rose for the reading of the Gospel, the boy asked, "Why did we stand up? What does that mean?" Again, his grandfather replied, "We stand as a sign of respect for the Word of God." When the preacher stepped up to the pulpit and then removed his watch setting where he could easily see, the boy asked, "What does that mean?" "That, sonny, doesn't mean a darn thing!"

Most of us are familiar with common postures that we do as church such as bowing our heads and folding/clasping our hands for prayer or standing for the reading of the Gospel. Someone asked me if I could explain why it is I, personally, do certain actions during worship and what they mean. If one person asks, often others wonder. What follows is an explanation regarding what some have noticed.

I wear no shoes during worship to remind myself that I am in God's presence as was Moses as he stood before the flaming bush and was instructed to remove his sandals. (Ex 3:5)

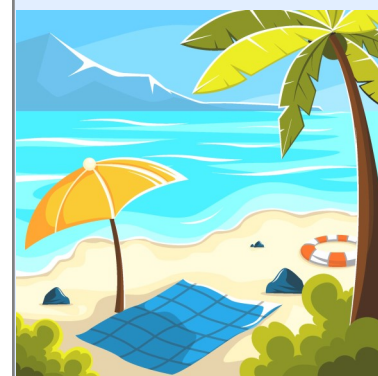
I often make the sign of the cross [three fingers from head to heart to left then right shoulder] which is a traditional prayer or blessing "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Although, I picked it up at a United Methodist seminary, this tradition goes back to at least the 2nd century, and serves as a reminder of God's presence. Using three fingers reminds me of the Trinity; tracing the cross on the body invokes Jesus' death and resurrection. In the Eastern church, Christians trace from right to left shoulder as they "mirror" the sign of the cross during the priest's blessing.

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You're my place of quiet
retreat. I wait for your
word to renew me.

Psalms 119:114



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Prior to the Gospel reading, I use my right thumb to trace a cross on my forehead, lips, and chest. I picked this up at an Episcopal seminary. Again, this is a prayer asking that the word of the Lord might be on my mind, my lips (speech), and my heart.

I bow when approaching or crossing before the communion table/cross as a sign of reverence for God's presence, and picked this up from my pastor when I was attending church in my twenties. [Although it is a similar action to when Roman Catholics genuflect, the difference is that they are bowing/kneeling as they pass a tabernacle containing the reserved sacrament.]

I bow during the Gloria and Doxology during that time when we invoke the Trinity as a sign of reverence to God.

During the Apostles' and Nicene Creed I often bow following the proclamation of the conception of Jesus until "on the third day..." in reverence to Jesus as my Lord. I make the sign of the cross when proclaiming my believe in "the resurrection of the dead" as an act of unity with the saints who have gone before.

You may also see me kiss the Bible after reading the Gospel. I picked this up from the Episcopal seminary when the Gospel Book is kissed. In Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Episcopal churches it is common for the priest/deacon/lectern to kiss various physical items as a sign of love for God.

While celebrating Holy Communion, I hold my hands down over the bread and cup, and lean forward to speak to the elements during the epiclesis (invocation of the Holy Spirit), following the rubric (instructions printed in red) from the Book of Worship and historic practice.

Likewise, I make the sign of the cross over the elements during the final prayer as a remembrance of God's presence.

At other times when I am not leading in worship, you might see me do the following:

During the celebration of Holy Communion during the anamnesis (recounting of Jesus) until Lord's Prayer, I kneel wherever I am. Although I picked this up at the Episcopal seminary, there were instructions in previous Methodist hymnals and books of worship for the people to kneel. {Fun tidbit: Methodists used to be mocked for kneeling more than Roman Catholics}

When presenting myself to receive Holy Communion, I do so with my hands crossed (i.e. sign of the cross) and palms up so that I can **receive** the body of Christ as a gift rather than taking it.

These are acts of personal piety that I engage in because when we come to worship we do so with our entire being. In Psalm 95 it says, "Let us kneel down and bow before our maker." It seems only appropriate to bow and bend my knee when I say those words. Our posture shapes how we experience the moments of life and worship. Just as some people raise their hands in prayer while looking toward heaven and others fold their hands as they bow their heads, we can have a variety of (continued from previous column)



Members & Friends

- Sandra Baxter
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Patricia Irps
- Doris Kuelz
- Theodore Lawrence
- Lorraine Robbins
- Kathy Sundberg

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter
- Mark Kincaide

Mission

- Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

- Joe Hunt 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.

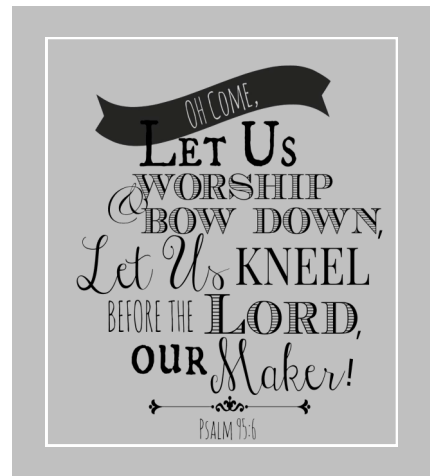
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postures and actions. These things can serve to focus our intentionality to worship. I once "tested" a congregation, by omitting the asterisk (*) from the bulletin before the hymn, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," just to see how many could sing those words while sitting. Towards the end of the first verse, one woman couldn't take it and stood up. In less than a second, the rest of the congregation joined her.

If there is a posture or ritual action that serves to focus your being on God's presence and your devotion, just do it. Don't hold back. Maybe someone will question you; or maybe they'll find permission to join you as we make a joyful noise together.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



Scripture Readings

June 4 Trinity Sunday
 Psalm 8
 Scripture Lesson Genesis 1:1-2:4a
 Gospel Gospel Matthew 28:16-20
 Message "Consecration Concentrate"

June 11 2nd Sunday After Pentecost
 Psalm TBA
 Scripture Lesson TBA
 Gospel TBA
 Message Annual Conference Report

June 18 3rd Sunday After Pentecost
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
 Scripture Lesson Romans 5:1-8
 Gospel Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)
 Message *Deacon Danice Loveridge*

June 25 4th Sunday After Pentecost
 Psalm 85
 Scripture Lesson Romans 6:1b-11
 Gospel Matthew 10:24-39
 Message "The Gravity of Grace"



Finance Committee Report

April Financial Report

Income \$17,342.98
 Expenses 17,026.70
 Balance \$746.28



One dollar...looks like it's time for the sermon on tithing again.

Pastor Mark's Office Hours:

Mondays—9:30 am - 1 pm
 Wednesdays—9:30- noon
 Working from home
 Tue & Thurs.
 Friday is day off

Pastor Mark's Cell
 331-465-9489

Parsonage
 815-580-8553



Church Council Meetings

Church Council



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

July 11
 September 12
 November 14.

Father's Day

H A P P Y

Father's Day

Father's Day is June 18. We will have a special treat for dads and will recognize and acknowledge them. Join us as we celebrate dads everywhere.

*"Hear, children, fatherly instruction;
 pay attention to gain understanding.
 I'll teach you well.
 Don't abandon my instructions."*

-Proverbs 4:1-2

Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women met on Sunday, May 21 after worship. This is the last meeting of the season. The women will take a break for the summer and will return to regular meetings on September 10 after worship. All are welcome to come and see what we're about.

Thank you to all the women of this group who help to provide funding for many of the projects around the church.

"Carry each other's burdens
and so you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2

RRV Food Pantry Thank You

Dear Pastor Harkness and Congregation,

Spring is in the air and once again, our gardeners are hard at work planning the garden, preparing the raised beds, and planting seeds. This is always an exciting time at the pantry, as we know that soon, we will be able to offer fresh from the garden produce. Fresh fruits and vegetables, combined with food items your donations provide, are essential to the health and well-being of families struggling to just get through the month. Just as water grows the grass and gardens, your donations to the pantry grow our community.



Thank you for your gift of \$388.04 to the Rock River Valley Pantry! We are honored to be a part of the team effort serving our community, as together, we can do the most good.

It was a pleasure being with you all at worship on April 16th.

With gratitude,

Kim Adams-Bakke, Executive Director

Birthdays & Anniversaries

*Birthdays
of the Month*

- 1 Pat Gorsuch
Trudy Hunt
- 12 Jeff Sundberg
- 16 Kyle Ward
- 29 Gwen Flood

Anniversaries

- 21 Jim & Mary Coulter
- 26 Herman & Judy Krunfus



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.

Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

184th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Fill the Truck

Mission Challenge Collection Drive

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center 1551 Thoreau Dr. N. Schaumburg, IL

If you are able to make a donation, please bring them to the church no later than

Sunday, June 4.

See list of needed items below

Pastor Mark, Deacon Danice Loveridge and Dave Ward will drop off your donations at the Midwest Mission truck at the Schaumburg Convention Center during the Annual Conference.



The NIC Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with Midwest Mission to organize its annual conference collection drive for Midwest Mission's Most Needed Items.

MIDWEST MISSION CURRENTLY HAS A URGENT NEEDS FOR:

- Liquid Laundry Detergent – 100 - 105 oz.
- Liquid Household Cleaner – 54 - 80 oz. (no spray bottles)
- Liquid Dish Soap - 42 - 64 oz.
- Shampoo – 12 - 19 oz.
- Hand towels or other Personal Dignity Kit items (no kitchen towels)
- Rulers (12" long with metric) or other School Kit items
- 24 Heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gal.) or other Tornado Kit items
- Receiving blankets – 28" x 28" to 32" x 32" or other Birthing Kit items

If you prefer to make a financial contribution or a bulk purchase, you can:

- Send a check written to the Northern Illinois Conference with the Advance #50000150 in the memo section
- Give to Midwest Mission online midwestmission.org/donate
- Send a check written to Midwest Mission Distribution Center, 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558
- For competitive prices on Midwest Mission's bulk supply wish-list items, check the website below for a links

Find out more at umcnic.org/2023MissionChallenge



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 Team



The Mission Team is on summer hiatus and will resume regular meetings on September 8 at 7:00 pm. Watch the weekly bulletins and the September *Messenger* for updates on the Mission Team and the projects they are planning for the next season.

Congratulations GRADUATES CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations to all the graduates of 2023. We will feature graduates of our CVUMC family in upcoming publications of the *Messenger*.

If you have a member of your family who has graduated from Trade School, High School, College or any accredited school, please submit their names to us along with a short synopsis of their accomplishments and if possible, a picture. We would love to feature them.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

Answers given by elementary school age children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?
Mostly to clean the house.

What do moms do in their spare time?
Moms don't have spare time.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?
Mom is already perfect.





**COME FETCH SOME FUN AS YOU LEARN
WE CAN GIVE ALL WORRIES TO GOD...HE CARES "FUR" US**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

For ages 3 years to 5th grade

August 11th – 13th

(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



2023 Vacation Bible School

We are kicking off this year's VBS now and we're planning a great VBS! It is titled, "Pets Unleashed, Where Jesus Cares "Fur" You." And...here's where you can help make this a fantastic experience for the kids. We need life sized and life like stuffed animals, i.e., dogs, cats, turtles, fish, birds, etc. We are also looking for fish bowls if we can get them. All items will be returned after VBS.

We also need more "people" help. The roles are not large or difficult but are essential. For those of you who are particularly clever with decorating, we need your talent for making VBS decoration and decorating the church.

Starting in mid-June, we will put our VBS donation display in the church entryway. We will have VBS labeled envelopes for money donations and there will be pet animal themed cards with donation suggestions. Your VBS money donations may be given to Deb Gross in person at church or you may put it in the offering plate. You may also send your donation to her at 2055 Crystal Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008. If sending by mail, please send so that it will arrive by mid-July.

We invite all to join us in the Cherry Valley 4th of July Parade. We need help creating the float and we need people to walk in the parade. This year, we are planning a little different strategy for advertising our program. We will have more information on this at a later date.

Mark these dates and times on your calendar, Friday, August 11th, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm and Saturday, August 12th, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. We will be providing safely prepared and served meals at the beginning of each session. Also parents, grandparents and friends are invited to join us for the Sunday Celebration Finale on August 13th at 9:45 to 11:00 am for an unleashed celebration of God's love you won't want to miss.

We will be putting inserts in the weekly bulletins and ask that you pass them along to the kids in your family and the kids in your neighborhood. If you need additional information, or want to volunteer, you may call me at 815-222-8139. Thanks for your support of the VBS program.

Call the church at 815/332-5075 to register your children for this life-changing adventure or visit cherryvalleyumc.com for registration information and forms.

Deb Gross, VBS Director



June 2023

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 9:00 am GA |
| 4 Trinity Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship | 5 6:00 Scouts BSAG | 6 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 7 9:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Cub Scouts | 8 | 9 | 10 9:00 am GA |
| 11 Pentecost –2 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship | 12 6:00 Scouts BSAG | 13 6:00 pm Finance 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 14 9:00 am Bible Study | 15 <i>Messenger Items Due Today</i> | 16 | 17 9:00 am GA |
| 18 Pentecost –3 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship | 19 6:00 Scouts BSAG | 20 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 21 9:00 am Bible Study | 22 | 23 | 24 9:00 am GA |
| 25 Pentecost –4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship | 26 6:00 Scouts BSAG | 27 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 28 9:00 am Bible Study | 29 | 30 | |

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

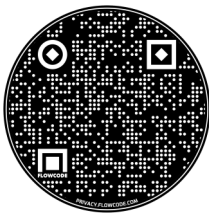




Happy Father's Day!



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



Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S. Cherry Street P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016
Phone: 815.332.5075 Website: cherryvalleyumc.com

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: _____