

# THE MESSENGER

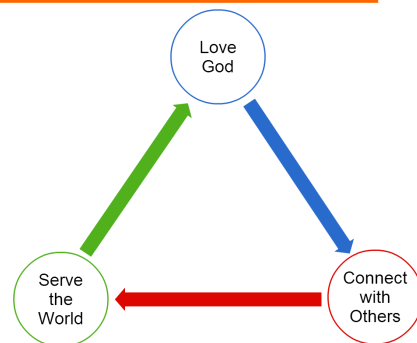
August 2023

## 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

<sup>18</sup>You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. <sup>19</sup>Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

<sup>20</sup>Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, <sup>21</sup>so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

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

Superseded only by Easter and Christmas, Vacation Bible School is my favorite time of the year. As a pastor, VBS gives me the opportunity to be sillier as I celebrate my faith. Although I cannot remember any particular Vacation Bible School program or theme from my childhood, I do remember attending Vacation Bible School – sometimes riding the church bus that collected us. I remember the games and the singing. As an adult, the songs I learned in VBS and Sunday School sustained me during some of the darkest moments of my life. I want to share that experience. Before answering the call to ordained ministry, I used vacation time to teach VBS with kids who knew me only as “Dude.” (It was the ‘90s.)

I benefited from growing up in a house in which attending church and Sunday School wasn’t one option among others but just what you did on Sunday morning. Even then that week of Vacation Bible School served a special place. Not limited to an hour on one day of the week when we were expected to behave, at Vacation Bible School we got five full days of experiencing the joy of God’s Word through songs and play, not just with the same kids but kids I only saw at VBS.

Although Vacation Bible School has changed – either transitioning from daytime to evening and even to weekends – it continues to provide a special opportunity to share the Gospel with children who can then share it with their parents and others.

Here at Cherry Valley United Methodist Church, Vacation Bible School will be August 11-13. Although I long for the days of full-day week-long Vacation Bible School, our world has changed; due to changing work patterns and scheduled activities, neither volunteers nor children are available for five days in a row. Even with that change, children whose only experience with church is a weekend Vacation Bible School are yearning for its arrival.

Although we don’t have a church bus – and child restraint regulations prevent the church carpooling of my youth when six kids could be stacked on each other in the backseat – each of us can still extend the invitation for Vacation Bible School to our neighbors, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

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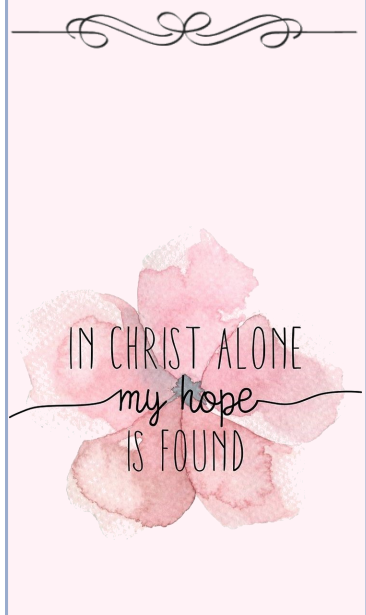
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Sell it as a night out and a Saturday free to the parents. Allow it to serve as an “excuse” for adults who either feel embarrassed by lack of church attendance or who just don’t have that experience to experience worship even that one time this year.

After Vacation Bible School, some of those children will return to their own/home churches, others will come back next year, and others may not. I do hope some will find a place to experience God’s love every Sunday in our midst. Whatever happens after August 13, lives will be transformed and the seeds of hope will be sown.

I invite you to pray for Vacation Bible School: for the children, the volunteers, and the parents. I invite you to celebrate the silliness and even the messes. We know that even if every child who attends VBS were to begin joining us every week that it won’t fill the collection plate or render lots of additional volunteers. Instead, Vacation Bible School provides that special opportunity to reach outside of our congregation and to share the Gospel expecting nothing in return but the immense satisfaction of knowing that some child will hear the story and learn a song or two that will sustain her/him in those dark moments, but also in joy.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

### Finance Committee Report

#### June 2023

Income	\$12,097.93
Expenses	<u>12,830.83</u>
Deficit	- 732.90

#### January - June 2023

Income	\$115,906.61
Expenses	<u>108,039.63</u>
Surplus	7,867.58



### Keep Up to Date with our APP



MinistryOne™



Directory — Calendar — Streaming links — More...



#### Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter  
 Glenn Carnine  
 Pat Gorsuch  
 Patricia Irps  
 Doris Kuelz  
 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



**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.

### NIC Prayer Network Monthly Zoom Meetings



The NIC Prayer Network is an entryway for joining in common prayer for the ministries of the Northern Illinois Conference. All are invited to join. No preparation is necessary, just log in. Meeting ID: 897 7835 0821 Passcode: 152529

Check the Northern Illinois Conference website for the next meeting time. [umcnic.org/prayernetwork](http://umcnic.org/prayernetwork)



## Scripture Readings

**August 6** ..... 10th Sunday After Pentecost  
 Psalm ..... 17:1-7, 15  
 Scripture Lesson ..... Genesis 32:22-31  
 Gospel ..... Matthew 14:13-21  
 Message ..... "Wrestling With God"

**August 13** ..... 11th Sunday After Pentecost  
 Psalm ..... 105:1-6  
 Scripture Lesson ..... 1 Peter 5:6-11  
 Gospel ..... Matthew 7:7-11  
 Message ..... "Life Unleashed"

**August 20** ..... 12th Sunday After Pentecost  
 Psalm ..... 133  
 Scripture Lesson ..... Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
 Gospel ..... Matthew 15: 10-20  
 Message ..... "Heart Healthy Eating"

**August 27** ..... 13th Sunday After Pentecost  
 Psalm ..... 124  
 Scripture Lesson ..... Exodus 1:8-2:10  
 Gospel ..... Matthew 16:13-20  
 Message ..... "Born to Promise"



Dear Friends in Ministry,

Thank you for your financial support. Through your gift of \$200 received on May 3, 2023, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in more than 60 countries.

**Supporting:** The Next Generation Ministries in Tanzania

Grace and Peace

Roland Fernandes, General Secretary



## Church Council Meetings

### Church Council



The following are Church Council Meetings for the remainder of 2023. The Church Council meets at 7:00 pm.

September 12  
 November 14.



## 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.



Do you have some old t-shirts that you would like to get rid of? We would love to have CLEAN old t-shirts for VBS to make dog rope bones. If already cut into two inch strips, that would be wonderful!

We also need any tissue paper that is brown, tan, gray, or black. We do not need white because we have plenty white paper.

You can drop off at the church during the week or bring your items to church when you come on Sundays.

Thanks for supporting the VBS program!





Dear Friends,

Grace and peace be with you all!

I write this letter with a sense of deep humility and excitement as I take on this new role as your District Superintendent.

I'm humbled by the trust that Bishop Schwerin has placed in me. I'm grateful to follow Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Meyer's wonderful leadership. It is truly an honor to serve alongside you in ministry.

I'm a fourth-generation Methodist on my father's side. I grew up learning about Jesus' love, first from our family worship services and then in the local churches. My ministry has been anchored in the passion for sharing God's love. I pray that God will use my experiences in pastoral ministry, theological education, and missional engagements to serve you with love and dedication.

It was great meeting some of you during the Annual Conference. I eagerly look forward to visiting all the churches in our district and getting to know you personally. Together, we will seek God's guidance in our journey of faith and ministry. Our shared commitment to mission and outreach will enable us to impact the lives of those in our community and beyond. I'm eager to build relationships with each of you, listen and learn from your experiences, and support and encourage you in your ministry.

I'm filled with gratitude for the warm welcome I have already received, and I'm eager to begin our journey together.

Yours in Christ,

### 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

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 9 Susan Layng  
Karlene Brown
- 12 Barbara Anderson
- 13 Les Banks
- 18 Sally Lawton  
Terri Burritt  
Sean Conderman
- 20 Jennifer Dienberg
- 25 Kameron Taylor

- 26 Charlie Schnuckel
- 27 Ryan Herold

### Anniversaries

- 14 Glenn & Nola Carnine
- 16 David & Barb Anderson
- 18 Nick & Katie Brown
- 22 Warren & Debbie Gross
- 23 Jim & Juanita Barnes



# Congratulations GRADUATES CLASS OF 2023



Calli Ward & Angel Garcia

Congratulations to **Angel Nolan Garcia** who graduated from Belvidere Middle School this past spring.

Angel plans to further his education by taking a class at Rock Valley College and then he will enter Belvidere High School this fall.

Proud mom is Calli Ward. Proud grandparents are David and Dana Ward.

Congratulations, Angel!  
Best wishes for the future!

The more you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you will go...

-Dr. Seuss



**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 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

**August 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<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)**



## **2023 Vacation Bible School**

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

The time for VBS is ALMOST HERE and we are getting very excited to present our program to the kids. We have some fantastic decorations that are the “cat’s meow” and believe me, there’s nothing “fishy” about what kids will learn! We have many people working “doggedly” to make this a fantastic event. It will be so much fun to be with people who are “birds of a feather.” It’ll be a “howling” good time!

Mark these dates and times on your calendar, Friday, August 11th, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm and Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 to 11:00 am for an unleashed celebration of God’s love you won’t want to miss.

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

Deb Gross, VBS Director





# Independence Day Observance



Our July 2nd worship service concluded with a salute to Independence Day, honoring our country and appreciating the freedom with which we are blessed.

Ray Beets holds the flag as the congregation sang “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Many thanks to Ray for really getting into the spirit of the occasion and for helping us to remember how very fortunate we are as a country.



*Pastor Mark Harkness and our float - July 4, 2023*

## We Our Pets



*Lochlyn & Finn*



*Patricia Irps and Bo*



*Juanita Barnes & Scoobie Doo*



## Getting Ready for the Parade



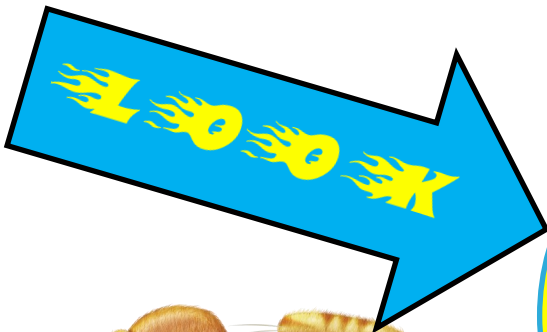


# August 2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>6</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>7</b> 6:00 Scouts BSAG	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:30 pm-8:30 pm VBS 	<b>12</b> 9:00 am GA 12:30 pm-3:30 pm VBS 
<b>13</b> 10:00 am Worship 9:45 am-11:00 am VBS 	<b>14</b> 6:00 Scouts BSAG	<b>15</b> 6:00 pm Finance 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB  <i>Messenger Items Due Today</i>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>20</b> 10:00 am Worship  1:00 pm Scout Court of Honor	<b>21</b> 6:00 Scouts BSAG	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice Begins	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>27</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>28</b> 6:00 Scouts BSAG	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>31</b>		

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





Bring the kids ages 3 years to sixth grade for a howling good time at Pets Unleashed VBS!

Friday, August 11th—5:30–8:30 pm

Saturday, August 12th—Noon–3:30 pm

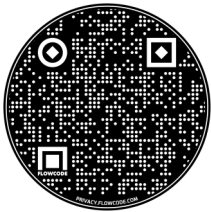
Sunday, August 13th—9:45 am–11:00 am

Registration form available:

- ⇒ within this publication
- ⇒ on our website [cherryvalleyumc.com](http://cherryvalleyumc.com)
- ⇒ at the church office during office hours
- ⇒ or pick up a form on the table in the sanctuary



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](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





Cherry Valley United Methodist Church  
112 S. Cherry Street P.O. Box 235  
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016  
Phone: 815.332.5075 Website: [cherryvalleyumc.com](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_