

THE MESSENGER

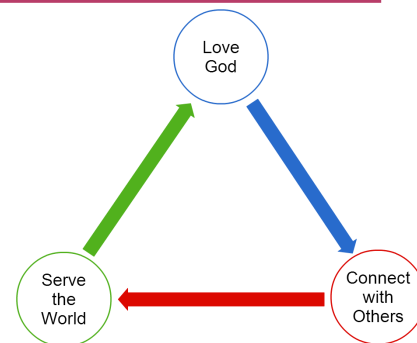
January 2024

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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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

<p>¹O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.</p> <p>²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.</p> <p>³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; ⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?</p>	<p>⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.</p> <p>⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; ⁷you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.</p> <p>⁹O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!</p>
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(Psalm 8) NRSV)

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

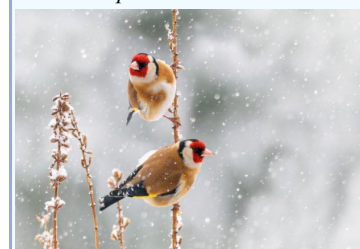
A new year is upon us. Although there's a 50/50 chance that I will be tucked in my bed asleep when the clock strikes midnight, I know that celebrations including fireworks and revelry will mark the transition from the past year into the next. It recently occurred to me: Why? What do we really celebrate on New Year's Eve? Are we celebrating that the past year is **finally past**? Or are we celebrating the possibilities that lie ahead?

I suspect it's a combination of both, but with more emphasis on future possibilities. However, the upcoming year will not be without its challenges, even from the beginning. The hubris of political campaigns will amplify. As a denomination – our long postponed General Conference will wrestle with theological and connectional matters as we discern our identity as The United Methodist Church even as we mourn the fact that around a quarter of U.S. congregations have already felt compelled to leave. As a denomination and as a nation – we know that regardless of what happens in May and November, some of us will be disappointed. What then are we to celebrate?

In the Psalm above we hear that the LORD God is Sovereign. Furthermore, that having been made in his divine image that we are but a little lower than God and crowned with *his* glory. Conflict is not new to the world – to the church – or even in personal relationships. Neither is God's love and purpose for us new. "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ... God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." (Ro. 4:6, 8)

(Continued on page 2)

*"One kind word can warm
three winter months."
Japanese Proverb*



(Continued from page 1)

Jesus didn't agree with everyone he met. He didn't make any secret about that. He also welcomed everyone into conversation. He ate with sinners and pillars of the community. When the rich young man wondering what he was missing but still wasn't ready to listen, "(Jesus) looked at him and loved him." (Mk. 10:21)

What then are we to celebrate in this new year? The same thing that we always celebrate: a reset – an opportunity to be better. Whatever your personal resolutions may be, I invite you to claim your place as a disciple of Jesus Christ intentionally rejecting the language on enmity and dismissing those with whom you disagree, but instead to look at them and love them – and speaking out (even to our friends) whenever disagreement turns to disdain. Whether or not our preferred policies or candidates or personal goals prevail – we remember that the LORD God is Sovereign. The LORD God is in charge. The LORD God has given us authority and through the blood of Jesus Christ has marked us as harbingers of hope in the world.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Dates to Remember

- January 7..... Wesleyan Covenant Service
- January 7..... Remove Christmas decorations after worship
- January 9..... 6:00 pm, All Board Meeting
- February 11.. Scout Sunday
- February 13.. 5:00 pm, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- February 14.. 7:00 pm, Ash Wednesday Service

Finance Committee Report

Finance Report for November

Income	\$ 9,678.68
Expenses.	12,390.02
Deficit	-2,711.34



Please remember our church ministry as you plan your 2024 budget. As family expenses increase, so do our church's



Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Glenn Carnine
Pat Gorsuch
Trudy Hunt

Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Wesley Harter
Mark Kincaide

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

Les Banks 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.

Praying together

District prayer focus in January 2024

- 1st Week - APPLE RIVER - Pastor Libby Rutherford
- 2nd Week - BELVIDERE:FIRST - Pastors Jim Bell & Jay Shin
- 3rd Week - BLAINE - Pastor Thomas Hay
- 4th Week - BURRITT - Pastor Steven Pearce

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" – Philippians 4:6

Keep Up to Date with our APP



MinistryOne™



Directory — Calendar — Streaming links — More...

The new One Board Administration Model adopted at the October 25th Church Conference begins on January 1, 2024. The meeting date will remain on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be January 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Scripture Readings

January 7 Wesleyan Covenant Renewal
 First Lesson Deuteronomy 31:9-13
 Second Lesson 2 Kings 23:1-3
 Third Lesson 2 Chronicles 34:29-3
 Fourth Lesson Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Fifth Lesson Psalm 50
 Sixth Lesson 1 Peter 1
 Seventh Lesson Matthew 25:15-46
 Eighth Lesson John 15:1-8

January 14 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 Gospel John 1:43-51
 Message "It's All Good! Is It?"

January 21 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany
 Psalm 62:5-12
 Scripture Lesson Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Gospel Mark 1:14-20
 Message "Ready to Share the Call?"

January 28 4th Sunday After the Epiphany
 Psalm 111
 Scripture Lesson Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Gospel Mark 1:21-28
 Message "Does It Fit?"



Methodist Women

The Women's Group met following worship on December 10th. After we discussed the business before us, we then addressed Christmas cards for our shut-in's and those we miss seeing on Sunday mornings.



The business was as follows:

- We delivered the stockings for Rock House Kids in early December.
- We finalized the Cookie Walk plans that took place on December 17th
- We discussed the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper coming up in February. This is an event that we enjoy sharing with the Scouts and their families.

December is always a very busy time. I hope that you all took time to slow down and enjoy the season and remembered the reason for the season. We hope you all had a very merry Christmas.

Our next meeting will be on January 14th after worship. All are welcome to join us!

Our best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Striving to serve

Joanna Hays

Christmas Cookie Walk



Thank you to all the bakers and buyers of cookies and other goodies for the Women's Group Annual Christmas Cookie Walk on December 17th. It was a tremendous success...as always.

Thanks to your generosity, our profit was \$324! This money will be used for the ministry and mission of our church.

The following is the budget for 2024 approved at the church conference on October 25, 2023.

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church - 2024 Budget

Apportionments	8,500.00	Parsonage	
Total Apportionments	\$8,500.00	Electricity	1,500.00
Building and Grounds		Gas	1,000.00
Electricity	5,000.00	Sewer	600.00
Gas	5,000.00	Water	1,200.00
Sewer	200.00	Disposal	250.00
Water	500.00	Phone (Internet)	1,200.00
Equip & Supplies	200.00	Maintenance	1,000.00
Prop & Liability Ins & workman	12,200.00	Total Parsonage	\$6,750.00
Prop Maint.	4,000.00	Church Office	
Total Building and Grounds	\$27,100.00	Office Equip/Maint	4,000.00
Clergy Support		Office Supplies	500.00
Health Insurance	15,000.00	Postage	400.00
Pension	8,000.00	Telephone & Internet	2,000.00
Reimb. - Pastor	3,500.00	Web Design/Maint.	400.00
Reimb. - Deacon	800.00	Church Software and Elec. Giving	3,200.00
Total Clergy Support	\$27,300.00	Total Office	\$10,500.00
Ministry Programs		Payroll	
Church School Education	\$250.00	Pastor	40,000.00
Worship Supplies	\$300.00	Secretary	13,500.00
Sub Musicians	\$250.00	Music Director	13,000.00
CCLI	\$200.00	Custodian	7,956.00
Outreach	\$325.00	Nursery	1,040.00
Missions (Pastor Kim)	1,200.00	Payroll Taxes	3,000.00
Total Ministry Programs	\$2,525.00	Pulpit Supply	600.00
		Total Payroll	\$79,096.00
Total 2023 Budget	\$164,428.00		

Greeters and Liturgist Needed



We are still seeking a few dedicated people to volunteer to greet and perform liturgist duties.



We have provided a sign-in sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please check your for your availability and consider volunteering for these very important aspects of the worship service. Your church needs you!

For more information, please speak with Juanita Barnes.

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.

Women's Bible Study

The Monday evening Women's Bible Study will resume meeting on January 8th. We are studying *Ten Women of the Bible*, by Max Lucado.

Please contact Terri Burritt or Lucy Powell if you would like to attend.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays of the Month

- 3 Jan Mills
- 5 Kathleen Sundberg
- 7 Connor Kloss
- 15 Taryn Ward
- 18 Jordyn Nystrom
Nick Brown
- 27 Lavern Neff
- 28 David Anderson
Donna Layng
- 27 Susan Harkness
- 31 Jim Coulter

Anniversaries

- 4 Chad & Cheryl Hollembeak
- 7 Keith & Terri Burritt
Chuck & Deb Voorhies



Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on January 17th at 10 a.m. for knitting/crocheting, conversation and lunch at the home of Cindy Kerr.



Check the weekly bulletins or call the church office for Cindy's exact address. All are welcome to gather with the group and enjoy the fellowship.

Changing Paraments for the Season



We will be removing the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 7th. All who are able to help are welcome to take part. We will put up other banners at this time. At a later date, we will prepare the sanctuary for the season of Lent on or about February 11.



RHK

ROCK HOUSE KIDS

We received the following message from the people of RHK:

To All at Cherry Valley UMC,

We wanted to send a sincere THANK YOU for another special year of Christmas stockings from you all! What a SPECIAL part of Christmas for our kiddos to have an overflowing stocking and knowing they are SO LOVED! All thanks to you! ❤️

With appreciation - Kanci and all at RHK

Thank you to all who donated for this special Christmas project that means so much to the at risk kids in our community.

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. LUKE 6:38 (NIV)

Audio/Visual Tech Team



Many thanks to our tech team who run the audio and the cameras for the streaming service and for the tech who provides the video slides for the Sunday worship.

The team consists of Patricia Irps, Mandy Kloepher and David Harter. Be sure to let them know how much you appreciate their time and efforts to make the order of service easier to follow.

A Christmas Helper



Mason Spears, grandson of Juanita Barnes was at the church on December 21st to help her arrange the poinsettias for the Christmas Eve worship services when he was "invited" to help put the poinsettia listing in the bulletins.

Great job, Mason! Thank you very much for all your assistance.

Door Greeters

Thank you to the following people who have volunteered to be door greeters in 2023.

- Juanita Barnes,
- Donna Layng and her family
- Ray and Yolanda Beets
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Grace Harter and LaVern Neff
- Sherry Gordon
- Mark and Sandy Greef
- Michaela Linton and Greg Rogers
- Dave & Shirley Cardani
- Judy Long



Greeting is a great way to meet and speak with everyone who attends church. A greeter is the first person a member or visitor sees upon entry into the church. For a new person entering the church, being warmly greeted sets the tone for a meaningful and spiritual worship experience.

If you are interested in this ministry, please speak with Juanita Barnes.

Events At Your Library

Family Movie Nights

5:30pm – All Ages

Come in your pajamas and enjoy fresh popcorn as we watch movies the whole family can enjoy. Registration is required for these FREE family events!



January 3
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse
 Rated: PG
 Run Time: 2hr 20m

February 7
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem
 Rated: PG
 Run Time: 1hr 39m



Global Mission Secondary School

Pastor Kim's school is currently between terms. She is using her time to visit other projects. She recently visited the Reformation Church. Below is her description of her visit, with a bit of transliteration on my part.

Today's Sunday service I attended the Reformation Church which I like to call Amazing Grace UMC. It has been a long time since I have visited this church. I've been with this church since the days of its "reformation". Visiting wasn't easy as I opened and taught at the GMSS Global Mission Middle School. But I try to visit 1-2 times a year, and every time I see the church it changes and develops. I tell the congregants that "The church is really named amazing grace."

The Holy Spirit filled my heart with great joy today as the members of the children's choir praised the birth of Jesus. The kid who did the solo part in particular (photo) is the second daughter of Pastor Alfred. She is also a future student of GMSS. I am so touched to see the baby I have been praying for since she was in her mother's womb growing up so beautifully and praising the Lord. Also so precious to see the fern hands lined up to offer. Even God was like, "Oh, these guys are pretty."



It seems like only yesterday that this church gifted desks and chairs for the kids to start kindergarten. Since then it showed that they had built two floors of classrooms to start the elementary school. If you build two more floors in the future, you can register with the Department of Education.

Lord, next time I visit, let me see that both floors of classrooms are built. It's still a Reformation Church, but Amazing Grace UMC leading the vision one by one. I pray that it will be a church that gives back to the Tanzania United Methodist Church.

Church family – Let's pray that the church receives the funding needed to build the next two floors of the school.

With God's grace we grow together!
Your missionary in Christ ~ Judy Long

*The human mind may devise many plans,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.
-Proverbs 9:21 (NRSV)*

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

Nursery Available During Worship



We have a wonderful space specifically dedicated as a nursery for pre-school toddlers and infants. We have recently added new furnishings to make the space inviting for children and for their parents as well. You are welcome to bring your infant or pre-school toddler to the nursery so that the worship service might be more meaningful without worry or distraction.

*"Anyone who does anything
to help a child in his life is a hero."
-Mister Rogers-*

Mission/Outreach Committee

The following is an excerpt from the report submitted to the Church Conference on October 25.

[At the last committee meeting] there was a discussion about how to refocus the vision of this group. Still to be determined is whether to continue to reach outside our church or turn to a more "inward" focus. At this time there will be no more Mission Moments.

[the] Committee is still planning to continue Serving lunch at the Rockford Rescue Mission on the 3rd Thursday of the month, The Children's shoebox ministry, Donating Christmas Stockings to the Rock House Kids, and Donations to the Food Pantry.

Please pray for this committee that they may determine their focus and decide how best to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Members of this committee are Rev. Danice Loveridge, Mandy Kloepfer, and Terri Burritt.



<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 Bible Study	4 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	5	6 9:00 am GA
7 10:00 am Worship	8 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 6:00 pm All Board Meeting	10 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir	11 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	12	13 9:00 am GA
14 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Women's Group	15 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Messenger Items Due Today</i>	16 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	17 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 2:00 pm Choir	18 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	19	20 9:00 am GA
21 10:00 am Worship	22 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	23 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	24 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir	25 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	26	27 9:00 am GA
28 10:00 am Worship	29 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	30 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	31 9:00 am Bible Study			

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



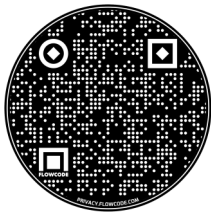


Happy New Year!

2024



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



Pastor: Rev. Mark Harkness

Deacon: Rev. Danice Loveridge

Secretary: Nancy Laurent

Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm