

THE MESSENGER

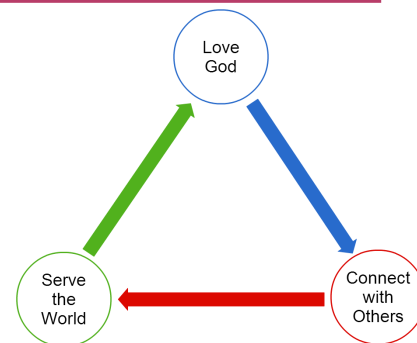
February 2024

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
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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

¹O ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the

genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

(1 Peter 3:3-9) NRSV)

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

I've joked with Susan that our Valentine's dinner will be a gourmet feast of pancakes and sausage a day early. For the entirety of our relationship, church things have gotten "in the way" of Valentine's day: whether that be an urgent pastoral visit, a meeting, the couple of times we were actually able to schedule a night out only to be seated next to parishioners at the next table, or mere coincidence of calendar in which February 14 fell on a Sunday or – as it does this year – once again on Ash Wednesday.

Although I don't want to conflate church with God, there are times when it might seem as if God is not only in the way – but an intrusion. Logically, God can only intrude into places where God does not belong. The conflux of Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday – a day to celebrate romantic love and a day to delve into contemplation of God's divine love culminating in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection – should point how central God's presence in every aspect of our lives enables us to thrive in our relationships and life.

The Shrove Tuesday tradition of eating pancakes arose out of the practice of cleaning out one's pantry before Lent so that those things that one would forgo in that season of fasting would not go to waste. It is not a last hurrah before the misery of Lent, but a celebration of God's provision in our ongoing transformation into disciples of Jesus Christ.

While contemplating the arrival of Lent and the church pancake supper, it dawned on me: pancakes actually serve as an example of how we know God is with us. In Boy Scouts, I was often the cook. Breakfast often consisted of – you guessed it – pancakes. But how to know when to turn them? While cooking, we cannot see the side of the pancake facing the griddle. According to my scoutmaster, instead of constantly scraping the pan

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and trying to lift the pancake, you wait for 101 bubbles to appear on the top side. Those bubbles reveal that which do not see directly, but which transpires, nevertheless, for our good.

As we prepare to enter this holy season of Lent, may it be a time of looking for bubbles: those sometimes tiny and often fleeting moments in which we notice that God is at work in and for our lives – working to transform us from a glob of gooiness into a wonderful gift of goodness.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Dates to Remember

- Feb 66:00 pm—Administrative Board Meeting
- Feb 11 Scout Sunday
- Feb 134:00 pm—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Feb 147:00 pm—Ash Wednesday Service
- Feb 216:00 pm—Lenten Study Begins @ CV
- Mar 10Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Mar 126:00 pm—Administrative Board Meeting
- Mar 24 10 am Palm Sunday Worship
- Mar 287:00 pm Holy Thursday Worship
- Mar 207:00 pm Good Friday Worship
- Mar 317:30 am Sunrise Service
- 8:00 am Easter Breakfast
- 10:00 am Easter Sunday



Members & Friends

- Sandra Baxter
- Glenn Carnine
- Barb Clucas
- Pat Gorsuch
- Brian Harter
- Dawn Harter
- Trudy Hunt
- Lori Lothar

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.

Praying together

District prayer focus in February 2024

- 1st Week - CAPRON - Pastor Jay Hyesang Shin
- 2nd Week - ELIZABETH:First - Pastor Donna Hoffman
- 3rd Week - GALENA - Pastor Jin-Hee Kang
- 4th Week - HANOVER - Pastor Donna Hoffman

"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

Begin Ash Wednesday with Ashes

*Pastor Harkness will conduct a brief
Ash Wednesday service
At 9:00 am on
Wednesday, February 14th.
All are welcome to attend.*



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MinistryOne™



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The Next Administrative Board will meet on February 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Scripture Readings

February 4..... 5th Sunday After the Epiphany
 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
 Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
 Gospel..... Mark 1:29-39
 Message “Stuck in the Waiting Room”

February 11..... Transfiguration Sunday/Scouts
 Psalm 50:1-6
 Scripture Lesson 2 Kings 2:1-12
 Gospel..... Mark 9:2-9
 Message “Extending the Promise”

February 14..... Ash Wednesday
 Psalm 51:1-17
 Scripture Lesson Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Gospel..... Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 Message “The Acceptable Time”

February 18..... 1st Sunday in Lent
 Psalm 25:1-10
 Scripture Lesson Genesis 9:8-17
 Gospel..... Mark 1:9-15
 Message “Covenant: A Global Guarantee”

February 25..... 2nd Sunday in Lent
 Psalm 22:25-31
 Scripture Lesson Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Gospel..... Mark 8:31-38
 Message “Covenant: Promises We Can’t Keep”



Finance Committee Report

Finance Report for December

Income \$14,500.93
 Expenses 12,046.40
 2,454.53

Thank you for putting us “in the black” this month. We received \$1,595.00 in response to the Christmas Appeal. Thank you!

Ten percent will be given to the Rock River Valley Food Pantry and the rest will be used for the ministry of the church.

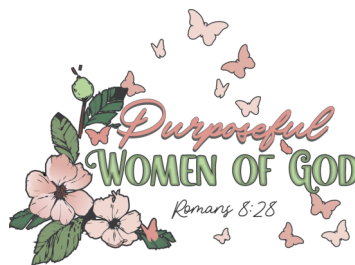
Financial Report for 2023

Total Revenue \$187,871.49
 Total Expenditures. 181,033.67
 Net Revenue 6,837.82

Thank you for your support of the church’s ministry.



Methodist Women



For our meeting in January, the weather was cold, snowy, and the roads were icy. Travel was dangerous! We did have a small group who braved the weather, so we kept our meeting informal.

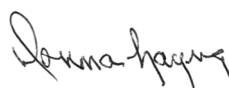
We discussed Valentine cards and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper. We will send out Valentine cards to our shut-in friends and to those that we haven’t seen for some time.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday are coming up quickly. The pancake supper is February 13th. Serving begins at 4:30, continuing through to 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend this delightful event. It is an evening of good food and good fellowship. The Scouts will be in attendance and they always add a wonderful youthful presence, plus they help with the cleanup. What a blessing they are to our church!

Of course, the next day after Shrove Tuesday is Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Pastor Mark will have a brief service at 9:00 am to dispense ashes to those who wish to receive their ashes early or can’t attend the evening service.

Thank you to these women for their willingness to serve. We are indebted to the congregation for supporting us in our various activities. May we, as a united group of disciples, continue to serve others.

Striving to serve,


 Donna Layng

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 continues to meet at 6:30 pm each Monday.

If you are interested in attending this study group, please contact Terri Burritt or Lucy Powell.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays of the Month

- 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

Anniversaries

- 14 Ryan & Janis Gordon



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, February 28th at 10:00 am for knitting, crocheting, conversation and lunch at the home of Lucy Powell.

Check the weekly bulletins or call the church office (815-332-5075) for the Lucy's exact address. Call her at 815-904-9462 or email lpowell530@yahoo.com.

2024 Administrative Board Meetings



The following are the meetings dates for the Administrative Board for this year. All meeting times are 6:00 pm unless otherwise announced.

February 6	March 12
April 9	May 14
June 11	August 13
September 10	November 12

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

- Hebrews 10:25

NIC Prayer Network

Equipping & Encouraging Growth in Discipleship

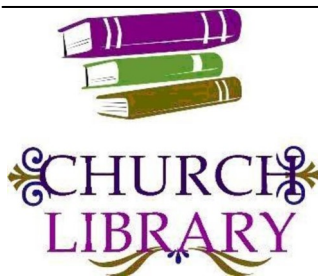
umcnic.org/prayernetwork

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. NIC Prayer Network team meets every month on the 2nd Thursday at 10:00 AM to pray for the churches, pastors and ministries of Northern Illinois. The next meeting is **Thursday, February 8, at 10:00 a.m.** All are invited to join. No preparation is necessary; just log in umcnic.org/prayernetwork Meeting ID: 813 9510 9144, Passcode: 459872. You can also call 312-626-6799.

If you'd like to pray but have other appointments at that time, email Katherine Howell and request the agenda or add to the agenda. Her email is howellkvh@gmail.com Also, pray along each week for clergy, churches, leaders, and NIC Advances by visiting the [Prayer Network website](#).

Church Library



Did you know we have a church library? It is located in the "gathering room." The gathering room is the room between the secretary's office and the pastor's office. It is the room that contains the office copier and the mail

boxes for committees and other functional offices within the church.

Judy Long, who was our resident librarian, transferred to another church but before she left, she sorted and catalogued the items in the library. It had become a sort of drop-off for unwanted books and periodicals. It is now organized and properly labeled.

There are many bibles, reference books, hymnals, a few fiction and non-fiction books and some study books available. If you have books you would like to donate, please insure that they are appropriate material for a church library. You may bring them to the church office and leave them on the table where we will sort them and put them on the appropriate shelf. If you take a book, please return it to its proper place on the shelf. Please help keep the library neat and organized.

Take some time to look over the selection and enjoy reading some of the inspirational books that are available.

Winter Gathering of CVUMC Women

We have set the date of Thursday, February 29th as a tentative date for our winter gathering of the Women of CVUMC. We have created a sign-up sheet to gauge how many people are interested in attending. We are planning an afternoon luncheon with the time yet to be determined. Our plan at this time is to go to a local restaurant if there are 16 or less people. If there are 17 or more, we will have the event in the fellowship hall of the church with soup/salad, sandwiches, and desserts.

If you are interested in attending, please complete the sign-up sheet with your name and contact information. The contact information is important in the event we need to call or email you about any changes that might occur.



If you cannot come to church to complete the sign-up sheet, or if you have any questions or need further information, you may call the Project Coordinator, Dana Ward at 815-520-6429.

Newsletter "Party" Throwback

This picture was originally posted in February 2015. The happy group was referred to as the "the party girls" and it was a time when we sent out over 300 Messengers each month.

This was during our December 2014 gathering where we actually had a "party." We all brought food and (soft) drinks and enjoyed a bit of Christmas fun with our work!

The workload has changed somewhat and we don't get to see these ladies as much as we once did, but if there should ever be a need for them to help with a task, they would still raise their hands to volunteer. They are as lovely as ever!



Global Mission Secondary School

Following the words and following the Holy Spirit (1145).

Pastor Kim arrived safely in Korea at the beginning of January. She was glad to be in her home country. She thought it was going to be cold, but the weather cleared up (Yeongha - 1 degree 😊 Korea's weather is very similar to our weather!) She was picked up by youth members of the Yeongjong Central Youth Church who prepared a delicious dinner for her. She said the Korean food was like medicine for her.

This Youth Church has agreed to sponsor scholarships for 7 GMSS students for 3 years. The GMSS students at their team meeting expressed their gratitude and invited the youth of the church to Tanzania. Welcome to Tanzania. This year, 4 GMSS students will travel to South Korea.

Pastor Kim's message: *If not for God's grace, would there be a meeting with our students and Youngjong Central Youth Church? As I reflect, I thank the Lord for His guidance. I pray that the fire of mission burns strongly on this youth church that humbly handles precious service, so that it becomes a church that raises missionaries and sends them to the world.*

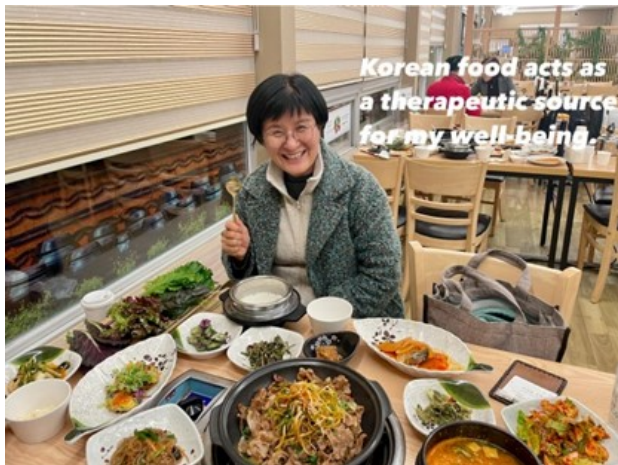
Please continue to pray for Pastor Kim as she leads GMSS into its new school year.

With God's grace we grow together!

Judy Long

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

-Aristotle



Food is Love Made Visible



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 toddlers and infants. The new furnishings make the space inviting for children as well as their parents. You are welcome to bring your infant or toddler to the nursery so that

the worship service might be more meaningful without worry or distraction.

"Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate."
— Anonymous

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	2	3 9:00 am GA
4 10:00 am Worship	5 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	6 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 6:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting	7 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir	8 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	9	10 9:00 am GA
11 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women's Group	12 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	13 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 4:30-6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	14 9:00 am Brief Ash Wednesday Service 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	15 6:30 pm Cub Scouts <i>Messenger Items Due Today</i>	16	17 9:00 am GA
18 10:00 am Worship	19 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	20 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	21 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Study	22 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	23	24 9:00 am GA
25 10:00 am Worship	26 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	27 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	28 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 pm Lenten Study	29 12:00 noon Women's Winter Luncheon 6:30 pm Cub Scouts		

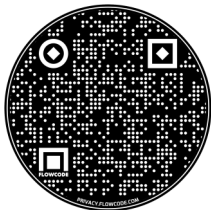
MESSENGER ITEMS ARE DUE TO THE SECRETARY ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.



HAPPY
Valentine'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



Pastor: Rev. Mark Harkness
Deacon: Rev. Danice Loveridge
Secretary: Nancy Laurent

Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm