

THE MESSENGER

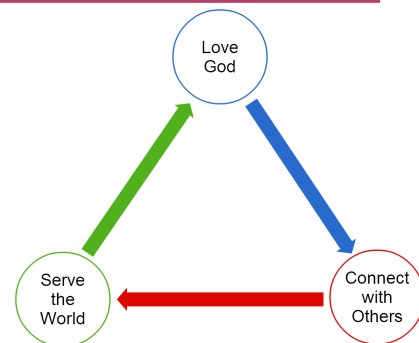
March 2024

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
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

⁸Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, saying, ¹⁹“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that ‘if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.’ ²⁰There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; ²¹and the second married her and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; ²²none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. ²³In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.”

²⁴Jesus said to them, “Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?’ ²⁷He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.”
(Mark 12:8-27) NRSV

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

Having just realized that a third of the Gospel of Mark is devoted to the events of and Jesus’ teaching during Holy Week, I looked at a map of the region surrounding Jerusalem to get a deeper understanding of what transpired. In doing so, my eye was drawn to the Dead Sea.

As you likely know, the Dead Sea is the saltiest body of water on earth: ten times that of the oceans. Due to its high salinity (30%), except for a miniscule number of bacteria, can survive. The unfortunate fish which happen to swim into it from the Jordan River die within minutes. Why is it that the Dead Sea is devoid of life while the freshwater Sea of Galilee, fed by the same Jordan River, teems with life?

The difference lies in the fact that Jordan River doesn’t just fill the Sea of Galilee but flows out of it as well, whereas, instead of continuing on into the ocean, when it gets to the Dead Sea it stops.

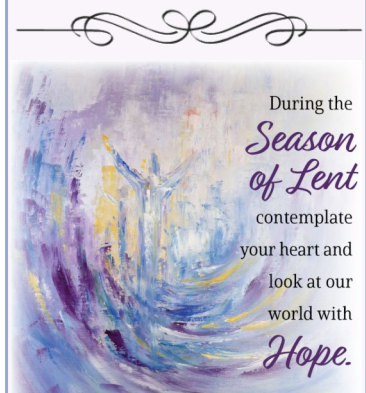
Scripture tells us that Jesus was baptized in that life giving Jordan River just a few miles upstream from the Dead Sea, and that his disciples derived their livelihood from the Sea of Galilee: places where the water flowed.

In Holy Week, we anticipate the climax of Christian hope – the promise of new life in Jesus’ resurrection. In our own baptism and profession of faith we claim that life. Yet we merely have to look at the Dead Sea to understand what happens to that life if it stops there. Not only do we lose out, but we risk becoming toxic to others. We have a constant need for renewal that we find each week when we gather on Sunday morning for a “little Easter” and during the week when we live as the agents of grace that we’ve become by refusing to be satisfied with our own hope alone.

(Continued on page 2)

In this issue

- Finance Report Page 2
- Prayers for Friends..... Page 2
- District Prayer Focus ... Page 2
- Ministry One App..... Page 2
- Scripture Readings..... Page 3
- Pastor’s Schedule..... Page 3
- Methodist Women..... Page 3
- Dates to Remember Page 3
- Greeters/Liturgists Page 4
- RRV Food Pantry..... Page 4
- Women’s Bible Study Page 4
- Birthday/Anniversary.... Page 4
- Prayer Shawl Group..... Page 4
- Admin Board Dates..... Page 4
- Scout Sunday..... Page 5
- Harter Thank You Page 6
- NIC Prayer Network..... Page 6
- Global Mission..... Page 6
- Nursery Page 6
- Kuelz Thank You Page 6
- Calendar Page 7
- Easter Flowers Order Form



(Continued from page 1)

In that last week of his life before being crucified for our sake, Jesus walked back and forth from Bethany and Jerusalem spending time with his friends and disciples, but also teaching about what his resurrection means for us. Of his Father he says, "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living." (Mk 12:27a) On that road between Jerusalem and Bethany, Jesus passed a fig tree that bore no fruit and cursed it. The next morning, as they passed again, his disciples noticed that it had withered and died. Rather than using it as the obvious example of what befalls those who fail to produce fruit, Jesus promised them that if they had faith and acted on it – even commanding a mountain to be tossed into the sea – that it would be done. (Mk 11:12-14, 20-24)

If there are places where you've dammed up your faith – if you're feeling dried up and thirsty even though you feel like you should have it together – may this month be filled with a new sense of hope in eternal life and anticipation for what God can do through you.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Glenn Carnine
Barb Clucas
Pat Gorsuch
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.

Finance Committee Report

Finance Report

Income \$8,324.05
Expenses 13,821.77
Deficit **-4,963.32**



January was hard on the budget! Due to the snow and ice, the church parking lot was plowed 2 times and salted 3 times at a cost of \$1,815.

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

Praying together

District prayer focus in March 2024

- 1st Week - HUNTER - Pastor Thomas Hay
- 2nd Week - ROCKFORD:HARLEM - Pastor Heewon Kim
- 3rd Week - PEARL CITY: FIRST- Pastor Roger Bronkema
- 4th Week - POPLAR GROVE - Pastor Tercio Junker
- 5th Week - FREEPORT:RED OAK - Pastor Matthew Smith

"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 Next Administrative Board will meet on March 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Scripture Readings

March 3 3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 19
Exodus 20:1-17
John 2:13-22

Message: "Covenant: Contracts and Covenants"

March 10 4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 107:1-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Message: "Covenant: Unbreakable"

March 17 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-7
Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 12:20-33

Message: "Covenant: Marriage Vows"

March 24 Palm Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 118:14-29
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 11:1-11

Message: "Covenant: What Happens When You Assume?"

March 28 Holy Thursday

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Exodus 12:1-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Message: "Not Passed Over"

March 29 Good Friday

Tenebrae Service

March 31 Easter Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 118:14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Message: "Grave Wonder"



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



Methodist Women



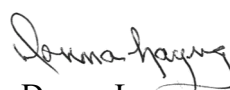
We met on February 11th after worship. Our meeting was conducted in haste because we were anxious to join the Scouts for breakfast. It was great to have the scouts participating in the worship service for the special Scout Sunday.

Business that we conducted included:

- collecting money for the food pantry
- confirmed that Valentines cards were mailed to our shut-ins and those that we miss seeing on Sundays
- adding names to our mailing list
- plans were reviewed for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper to insure that we had everything covered that was needed and encouraged all to attend Ash Wednesday service the following day
- plans for Easter card mailing.
- discussed the Women's Gathering that was planned for February 29th. Watch next month's *Messenger* for an update on how much fun we had at this event!

The next meeting will be on March 10th after worship. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

We strive to serve!


Donna Layng

Dates to Remember

- Mar 10..... Daylight Saving Time Begins
Mar 12..... 6:00 pm—Administrative Board Meeting
Mar 24..... 10 am Palm Sunday Worship
Mar 28..... 7:00 pm Holy Thursday Worship
Mar 20..... 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship
Mar 31..... 7:30 am Sunrise Service
8:00 am Easter Breakfast
10:00 am Easter Sunday

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

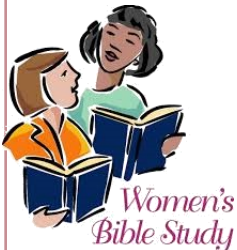
The Rock River Food Pantry also has a Peanut Butter Endowment program in which charitable contributions of property, assets or funds are placed. Endowments are created for non-profit organizations in support of a specific goal. The Peanut Butter Endowment was created to purchase food to distribute to 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.



Women's Bible Study

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays of the Month

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

Anniversaries

16 Chris & Amy Flood



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m. for knitting, crocheting, conversation and lunch at the home of Ann Harned.

Call the church office (815-332-5075) for the Ann's exact address or call her at 815-393-4676 or 815-985-2301.



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.

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

"Faithful attendance at church meetings bring blessings you can receive in no other way."

Ezra Taft Benson

Scout Sunday

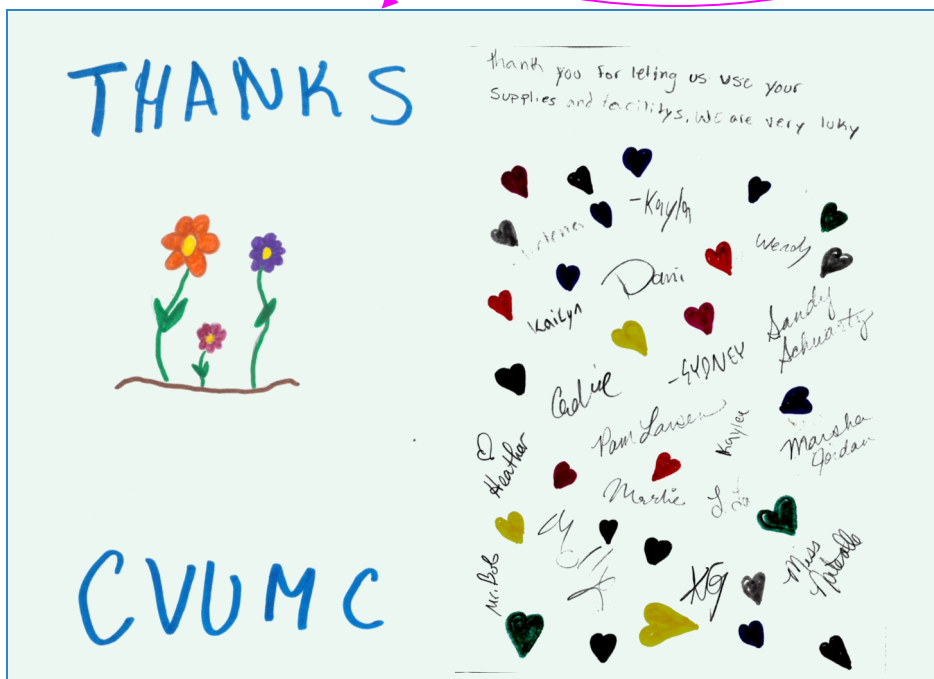


On Sunday, February 11, we were blessed to have the scouts with us for our annual celebration of Scout Sunday. It was a great turn out with the scouts, their leaders and their families all in attendance. After the worship service, the Scouts treated all to breakfast in the fellowship hall.

The following pictures are courtesy of Sandy Schwartz via Facebook. See more pics on page 9



The church received this lovely thank you card from the scouts!
The card is on display on the bulletin board in the sanctuary.



Thank You



Dear CV UMC Congregation,

There are not enough words to thank you for your continuous weeks of prayers for my daughter-in-law, Dawn.

Dawn suffered a perforated bowel on December 24th, which resulted in a terrible infection. During the ensuing two surgeries, she lost a significant portion of her intestines. She was in the hospital for close to a month. She was released and was home a week, but suffered a set back and was admitted to a different hospital.

She and Brian were at Mayo Clinic in mid February and will return there on March 5th. She is not "out of the woods" yet but is improving. Although they have endured many set backs, they have remained hopeful and have never lost their faith that she will heal and return to her normal routine.

She is alive because of constant prayers from all over the U.S. and God's continuous guidance for all of us. God is good!

With Much Love and Many Thanks,
Karen Harter

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](#).

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.

*"A Person is a Person,
No Matter how small." — Dr. Seuss*

Thank You



A very special thank you to Nola Carnine and the choir, Lucy Powell, Mary Coulter, Deb DeWitt, Dana Ward, Jan Mills, and Cindy Kerr, for coming to my home to sing to me. It was very special and I enjoyed it so much. What a treat, and it is wonderful to know I am so loved!

With Much Love,
Doris Kuelz

"Where words fail, music speaks."

—Hans Christian Anderson

March 2024

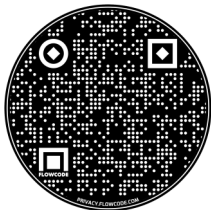
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 am GA
3 10:00 am Worship <i>Lent 3</i>	4 9:00 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	5 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	6 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Study	7 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	8	9 9:00 am GA
10 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women's Group <i>Lent 4</i> <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	11 9:00 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	12 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 6:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting	13 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Study	14 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	15 <i>Messenger Items Due Today</i>	16 9:00 am GA
17 10:00 am Worship <i>Lent 5</i> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> <i>Final Day to Order Easter Flowers.</i>	18 9:00 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	19 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	20 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 2:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Study	21 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	22	23 9:00 am GA
24 10:00 am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25 9:00 am Lenten Bible Study 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	26 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	27 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Lenten Study	28 <i>7:00 pm Holy Thursday Service</i>	29 <i>7:00 pm Good Friday Service</i>	30 9:00 am GA
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>7:30 am Sunrise Service</i> <i>8:00 am Breakfast & Fellowship</i> <i>10:00 am Worship</i>						

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





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

Order your

Easter Flowers to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 17, 2024

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____

Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

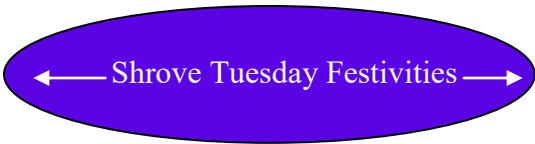
Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.00 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.00 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.00 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



More Scout Photos

