

THE MESSENGER

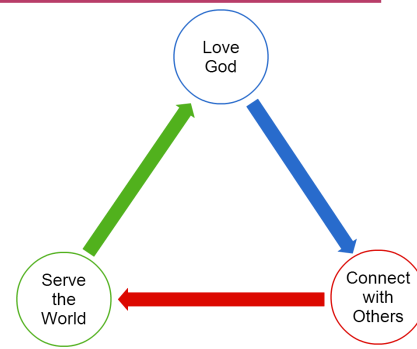
April 2024

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

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I

became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:8-13 NRSV)

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

Have you heard? There's an eclipse coming. It seems like that should be a routine event. We have a new moon every 29 ½ days when the moon's orbit places it between the sun and Earth. Because of that, shouldn't we have at least twelve eclipses. But, we don't. I recently counted the number of total eclipses over the United States going back to 1918. In that time, there have been fifteen total eclipses. Five of them seen only in Alaska or Hawaii. The 2017 eclipse was the only one (so far) to pass through Illinois. After the upcoming eclipse on April 8, there will not be another total eclipse in the United States until 2045. For Illinois, it will be September 14, 2099!

Annular eclipse (when the moon's orbit passes in line with the sun but at a distance when it doesn't block out the sun) happen about as often, but they're more difficult to notice.

Why is your pastor taking so much time to talk about eclipses? Because another one is coming soon, and I'm chasing it. I've made reservations and paid a deposit for a campsite about midway in the path of totality, so that depending on weather forecasts I can get up early and go to where clouds are less likely. Ten years ago, I would have thought doing so was a bit silly or extreme. But after driving witnessing the August 21, 2017 total eclipse in person, I want to see it again.

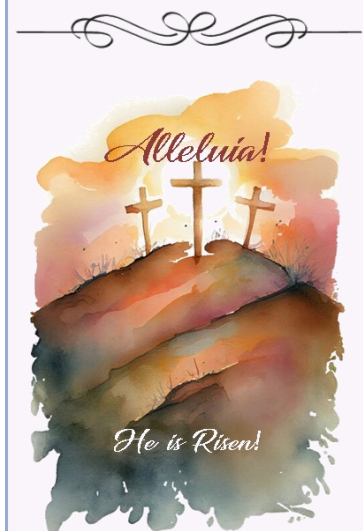
Until seeing it in person, I thought that I knew what to expect. I'd seen the photos and videos. I'd read the descriptions. To paraphrase St. Paul, that is but: To see in a mirror, dimly. To know only in part. I still get goosebumps when I try to describe what I witnessed that day seven years ago.

When others roll their eyes at my excitement, I feel a sort of pity for what they've missed, rather than embarrassment for my boldness. I hear that same excitement when others share their description of what we insiders know is indescribable outside of the experience.

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Our faith is like that. Isn't it? It's difficult – if not impossible - to adequately describe to those who've never seen it for themselves. In the hymn *Pass It On*, the final verse begins, "I wish for you my friend / this happiness that I've found" and goes on to say, "I'll shout it from the mountain top / I want my world to know." How do we pass it on? Will it make any difference to shout it, if our description seem so inadequate?

The best part of "Show and Tell" in grammar school wasn't the *telling*; it was the *showing*. The telling serving to bring understanding to what was shown.

Even though a passing cloud might obscure an eclipse, that doesn't mean it didn't happen. Unlike eclipses and other celestial events, God's love endures so that, even the darkest cloud can cast but a shadow for that moment it lingers, only to be overwhelmed by light.

Paul says again, "For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light." (Eph. 5:8) Light has to be seen. Will others see faith in you? Will you stay alert for each moment of God's love to shine on you, and to shine through you, and to allow your joy to shine through?

I don't know if I'll be around twenty-one years from now for the next eclipse. So, I'm going to pursue my opportunity to see this one, just like I'm going to strive to notice and to bask in the light of God's love even on the cloudiest day so that other might find encouragement to look for themselves and know that same joy.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



Military Personnel

Gage Christensen
Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Wesley Harter
Mark Kincaide

Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Glenn Carnine
Patty Campbell
Barb Clucas
Pat Gorsuch
Dawn Harter
Trudy Hunt
Lori Lothar

Mission

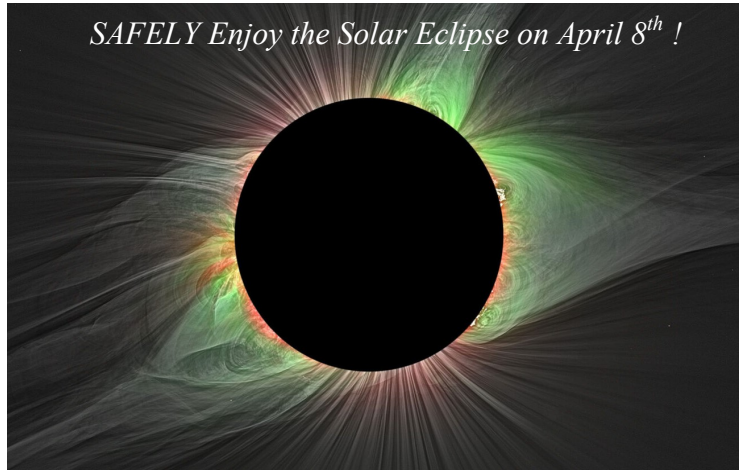
Pastor Kim & the Next
Generation Ministry

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.

SAFELY Enjoy the Solar Eclipse on April 8th !



Finance Committee Report

Finance Report

Income	\$12,893.08
Expenses	14,466.35
Deficit	-1,574.27

Income included \$2500 from Salamone's for use of the parking lot.

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



Keep Up to Date with our APP



MinistryOne™



Directory — Calendar — Streaming links — More...

The Next Administrative Board will meet on April 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Scripture Readings

April 7, 2024

Rev. Danice Loveridge will deliver the sermon.

April 14, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Message: "Know or No?"

April 21, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 23

Acts 4:5-12

John 10:11-18

Message: "In Jesus' Name"

April 28, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Message: "Blossoming Pruned"



Methodist Women



The women met following worship on March 10th. We conducted our usual business then we discussed the pancake supper that was held on Shrove Tuesday. Although we did not serve as many people as we had in the past, we still enjoyed the supper and fellowship with those who did attend.

We preparing Easter cards for distribution where all the women participated in addressing them. We mailed them on Monday following the Palm Sunday worship service to insure they were received by Easter.

We discussed the Women's Gathering at Olive Garden last month. Everyone spoke of enjoying the time together. Plans are underway for an evening gathering in June and we will extend the invitation to the women of New Milford.

We are planning to participate in the Cherry Valley Village Garage Sale on *May 17th and May 18th*. We will begin accepting donations on May 13th in a designated area with set up to be on May 15th. Start saving your garage sale items now.



We do not accept electronics, clothing, or shoes. We will have more information in next month's *Messenger*.

Our next meeting will be on April 14th following worship. All are welcome.

Donna Hayes

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.

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

Dates to Remember

April 2	Secretary on vacation
April 9	6:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting
April 16	Secretary returns from vacation
April 24	10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting
May 13	Drop off day for garage sale items
May 14	6:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting
May 15	Garage Sale set up day
May 17	Garage Sale
May 18	Garage Sale

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.

Thank You

Dear Faith Family,

On Mother's Day 2020, my family started on a difficult journey. My youngest son survived COVID, a dead and rotting gall bladder and colon cancer. My second son had a softball size growth in his pelvic area which led to a diagnosis of multiple myeloma (bone cancer). He has undergone chemo, stem cell transplant, all with the promise of remission. In the meantime, his wife was diagnosed with colon cancer. She has undergone surgery and chemotherapy. On April 1st (Not an April Fool's Joke), she will have her ostomy reversed.

For the last part of this story, our husband, father, grandfather and great-grand father passed away from long term COVID.

I feel that one or more of my family has been on the prayer request all these many weeks. I can tell you... God answers prayers. Sometimes maybe not in the way we would like, but He answers.

If not for your holding the Clevenger Clan close and constant, the healing would not have happened. I KNOW THAT! To my faith family, know that you are precious and loved.

Blessings always,
Mary Lou Clevenger



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays of the Month

- 2 Kayte Kloss
- 5 Mike Seno
- 6 Sandra Baxter
Mary Bowling
- 7 Nancy John
- 12 Dorrie Dienberg
- 13 Kayte Kloss
- 14 Dawn Hollebeak
- 16 Scott Krueger
- 19 Theoren Nystrom
- 21 David Mills
- 26 Patricia Irps
- 27 Scott Layng
- 29 David Ward

Anniversaries

- 7 Gary & Carol Conderman
- 21 Mark & Susan Harkness
- 25 John & Sandra Schwartz
- 28 Mark & Holly Snyder



NIC Prayer Network

Equipping & Encouraging Growth in Discipleship

umcnic.org/prayernetwork

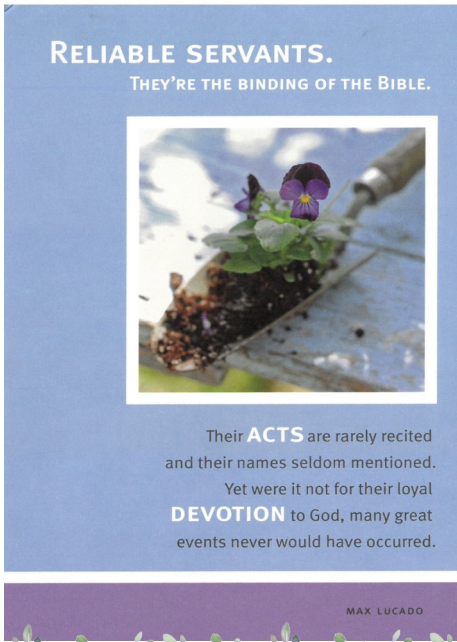
NIC Prayer Network Monthly Zoom Meetings

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. 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](#).

Prayer changes things.

Thank You card received from Dawn & Brian Harter



Dear Church Family Members,

I am so thankful for all of your time, care, and prayers for Brian and me before, during and after my surgeries. I know in my heart that God moved on my behalf at specific times because of your intercessory prayers. God's word says in James 5:16, "The effective fervent prayers of a righteous person availeth much." (KJV)

You have made me feel so cared for and uplifted during this journey I am on. I have remained joyful and faith-filled throughout this time. I know this is because you are walking with me along with the Holy Spirit living inside me. I am giving God the glory for what He has done and will do in me.

With deepest sincerity,

Dawn and Brian Harter



Ladies' Luncheon

The women of the church met at Olive Garden on Leap Day, February 29 for a luncheon and fellowship. We had 21 present and were blessed to have Lochlyn Nystrom entertain us with his toddler antics! It was a great afternoon.

The next event is planned for an evening in June and will probably be held at the church. There is a contact sheet on the table in the sanctuary on which there are names and phone numbers. When you get a chance, please review the listing and make any updates to the information by your name or if you're not listed, but want to be contacted for this event, please add your name and contact information.

Dana Ward is the project coordinator for the event. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact her at 815-332-4846 (home) or 815-520-6429 (mobile).

An article about Pastor Kim's ministry is located on the GBGM website. Below is an edited version for our newsletter. To see the entire article with some amazing photos, please click on the following link. <https://umcmmission.org/story/with-god-all-things-are-possible/>

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA – God has a way of working through challenges even when we are tempted to give up. The Global Mission Secondary School (GMSS) had been years in the planning. In 2020, God miraculously made a way to complete phase one, which included four classrooms, three laboratories, an administration block, a well, kitchen, public toilets, dorms, fence and playground. Our teaching team gathered, and God sent 41 students who came from lower income families or single parent households. I greatly appreciate all the donors who made it possible to enroll 41 students with scholarships that covered 50% of the school fees.

In 2022 and 2023, we completed phases two and three, which included a library, cafeteria, small dispensary, prayer tower, additional dormitories and an office building. The Cornerstone Church on campus was completed with support from First Korean United Methodist Church in Wheeling, Illinois.

The Rev. Sun Hyung Jo and two church members from First Korean UMC came to Tanzania to officiate at the Cornerstone Church dedication in September 2023, with the GMSS community, the Dar es Salaam district superintendent, church leaders and members of United Methodist churches in Tanzania.

Today, the GMSS community has grown to 148 students, nine full-time and two part-time teachers, two administrative staff, three security personnel and three cooks. It is located on the western outskirts of Dar es Salaam city. Through our parents, who volunteered to be GMSS ambassadors, the school has become widely known in Tanzania. When we were recruiting new students for the 2024 academic year, 182 candidates took the entrance exams, even though we had capacity for only 40 students. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, who has been helping us *build a Christian school where lives are transformed, and global leaders are raised* (the school vision).

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each donor, scholarship-giver and mission partner who is committed to supporting and praying for the next generations and my work as a missionary. God's work cannot be done alone; together, we can accomplish more for Christ and the Kingdom. May your life be a blessing to others in need and promote peace and justice in all that you do.

The Rev. Young Seon "Christina" Kim is a United Methodist missionary with Global Ministries who works as the director of Next Generation Ministries of the United Methodist church in Tanzania, based in Dar es Salaam. Next Generation recruits and equips young leadership for ministry and mission.

Many of you at church have followed Pastor Kim's journey in Tanzania. The above is a summary of her accomplishments in founding, building and now directing the Global Missions Secondary School. The full article also includes information about the Nifuute Center and two baptisms. (see GBGM website)

It is an understatement to say that her accomplishments in Tanzania are extraordinary. With God's help she has built an upper level Christian school that is now well known and respected in Tanzania. Please continue to pray for her health and energy; for God's presence in a mostly Muslim country; for the Global Mission Secondary School and for her students.

*With God's grace we grow together!
Your missionary Judy Long*

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](https://www.kakaotalk.com/yskim1470)

March 7, 2024

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016-7701



Dear Pastor Harkness and Congregation:

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush."

In March, our thoughts turn to spring and the garden. The first tiny sprouts of spinach are peeking out from the soil and our volunteer gardeners are busy planning and planting seedlings in the small green house so they can be transferred to the raised beds. This is a time of rebirth and hope.

Healthy bodies and minds require good, nutritious meals at every stage. Your donations allow us to offer fresh produce, along with shelf stable fruits and vegetables, so that our clients can provide nutritious meals to their families.

Thank you for your gift of \$293.00 to the Rock River Valley Pantry!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tabatha Endres-Cruz".

Tabatha Endres-Cruz
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. If you or someone you know loves to garden, our plant-a-row for the pantry program is the perfect way to share your bounty with those in need.

Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. for knitting, crocheting, conversation and lunch at the home of Judy Krunfus.

Call the church office (815-332-5075) for Judy's exact address or call her at 779-771-9574.

For information about this group, contact Lucy Powell at 815-332-4689 or email her at lpowell530@yahoo.com

Casting all your care upon him;
For he careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7

April 2024

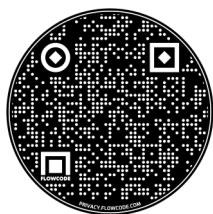
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	2 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>Secretary on vacation</i> →	3 9:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir	4 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	5	6 9:00 am GA
7 10:00 am Worship	8 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	9 6:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>Secretary on vacation</i> →	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 Method- ist Women's Group <i>2:30 pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor</i>	15 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study  <i>NewsLetter DEADLINE</i>	16 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>Secretary returns</i>	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 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 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				

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@ 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

