



THE MESSENGER

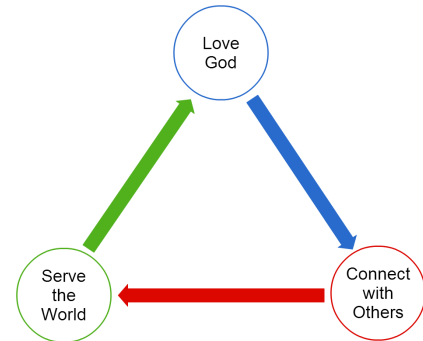
September 2024

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
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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

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:31-39) NRSV)

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

In her hymn, *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*, Civilla Martin writes: "Why should I feel discouraged? / Why should the shadows come? / Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home, / When Jesus is my portion? / My constant friend is he." This is a challenging time for the church. We face the challenge of a changing culture around us, in which the notion of religion is often devalued. We face challenges within and between denominations that occupy too much of our conversation and energy rather than proclaiming salvation in Jesus Christ. Likewise, the covid shut-downs and social distancing that limited our time together, became a habit for some.

As a congregation, we are faced with the challenge of how to do ministry with the resources that we have, but also to consider what might be. Every church I've served has had a "summer dip" in giving. We tend to give when we're present. That summer dip has been compounded this year by unexpected expenses from the flooding in the parsonage basement and an earlier furnace repair that depleted reserve funds. So, "what then are we to say about these things?" Will they stop us from ministry?

Look! Vacation Bible School ministered to nineteen children! The church is filled with scouts three nights a week! Those afflicted by addiction to gambling have a place to gather for healing! The Bible is studied with lay leadership! The Gospel is preached and our hope given voice in worship!

"If God is for us, who can be against us? ... For I am convinced that ... (nothing) in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Recently, three of us attended a learning session on utilizing church resources to grow our financial health, others will be gathering soon for a professional consultation as we discern how best to serve our community, and still others will be planning for a stewardship program for our congregation this year.

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In the meantime, for the sake of cash flow, we've had to utilize designated funds to meet routine expenses. That is a weighty burden for our church leaders. I ask you to pray for the church leaders for discernment but also for assurance in their work.

But I also ask that you encourage their leadership. One way will be to receive their stewardship efforts as opportunity. Another is to consider how God is inviting you to put forth yourself as a resource for the work of the church as we strive together to be a voice of hope, compassion, and life in this community; for that you'll find a "survey" of service opportunities. (Page 9 of this publication.) I ask that you would take the time to reflect on those things – even the things that seem "inconsequential" but which help us to be a place for mission and ministry – and print it and put in the offering plate or e-mail me or the church office so that we can get you set up to shine.

The chorus of that hymn above ends, "I sing because I'm happy / I sing because I'm free /for his eye is on the sparrow / and I know he watches me." Be happy. Be free. Trust that in all things we offer to the Lord, God will transform into blessing.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



Members & Friends

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

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter


Mission

- Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn



PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have prayer concerns that you wish to express, you may call or email the church office with your requests and the secretary will forward your requests to the church family. For those in attendance at the Sunday worship services, we have a sharing of joys and concerns that is shared with the church family. If you request prayers but do not want the details of the prayers expressed openly, you may designate that you do not wish to share that part of your request.



2024 Administrative Board Meetings

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

September 10 November 12

Finance Committee Report

January - June Financial Report

Revenue	\$75,969.66
Expenditures	<u>79,758.42</u>
Net Revenue	3,799.76

July Financial Report

Revenue	\$ 8,270.68
Expenditures	<u>13,745.58</u>
Net Revenue	5,474.90



Church finances, as you can tell, are not in a good position. Through the end of July, expenses have been \$9,274.66 more than income. Thankfully, we have not had expenses that are not in the budget. We will have a Financial Campaign/Pledge Drive this fall. Please pray about how you can support the church financially as well as through your presence and your service.

Rockford Rescue Mission Donations

We will be collecting food that will be given to the Rockford Rescue Mission. The Mission's needs change so they will post a listing of needs for the month. Non-perishable goods are always welcome, such as peanut butter and pasta but there are other suggestions that you may use when deciding on your donation. They have stressed their need for coffee, canned goods of fruit & vegetables, drink mixes, and cereal. You may leave your donations in the basket located in the foyer. **Please check the monthly needs list posted above the collection basket in the foyer.** Thank you for your support of this important mission.

Keep Up to Date with our APP



Directory — Calendar — Streaming links — More...

The Next Administrative Board will meet on September 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Scripture Readings

September 1, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 72
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Message: "Ring Around the Collar"

September 8, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 124
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
James 2:1-10
Mark 7:24-37
Message: "Crumbs"

September 15, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 19
Proverbs 1:20-33
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38
Message: Scott Layng
(Pastor is on Emmaus Walk)

September 22, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 1
Proverbs 31:10-31
Mark 9:30-37
Message: "Does God Have a Plan for Your Life?"

September 29, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 124
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
Mark 9:38-50
Message: "Playing Favorites"



District prayer focus in September 2024

Week of 1st - HARVARD UMC - Pastor Alex Lee
Week of 8th - CAPRON UMC - Pastor Robert Wandell
Week of 15th - POPLAR GROVE UMC - Pastor Tercio Junker
Week of 23rd - SAVANNA: FIRST UMC
- Pastor Fernando Candumbo de Castro
Week of 29th - SHIRLAND UMC & PECATONICA UMC
- Pastor Rolland Hayag

"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

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

—James 5:16



Methodist Women

Summer is almost over! It is time for a new beginning. Our first meeting of the season is September 8th following worship.

We will be starting the season with our participation in the Cherry Valley Street Festival. We will have craft vendors on site in the lower lever of the church and we will also have tables of baked good on the street. We will need donations of baked goods as well as volunteers to sell the items. Those who participated last year had an enjoyable time interacting with the people. Please prayerfully consider how you can help. Activities such as these make us more visible to the village and to those who may be looking for a home church.

We strive to serve our church, our community and our country

Donna Layng



The Prayer Shawl group will resume meetings on Wednesday, September 18 at 10 am. We will meet at the church so we can organize the yarn and then we will go out for lunch.

If you have little or no experience in knitting or crocheting, but are interested in becoming part of this group, we have experienced crafters who can help. Come join us!

**PRAIRIE NORTH
FALL 2024
LAY ACADEMY**
Sat., Oct. 12th
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 13th
1 to 4:30 p.m.



Cost \$25
Box lunch (Saturday only), snacks,
water and coffee will be provided.

Rockford: Grace UMC 3555 McFarland Rd, Rockford

Class Options: (one course per academy)

- 1 Sacraments: Means of Grace:** This advanced course with a leader's guide by Rev. Beth Galbreath gives a deeper experience of the sacraments and many ideas for deepening congregations' sacramental practice of Baptism and Holy Communion.
Book: *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion - Participant's Book* by Gayle Cariton Felton
 - 2 Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (United Methodist Heritage):** This course will explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization that The United Methodist Church brings to the church universal, how we got where we are today, and how our distinctive emphases are still needed in the 21st-century church
Book: *Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way* by Kenneth L. Carter
 - 3 Leading Public Prayer:** Praying in public can be daunting, but prayer is something one learns. This course on praying in public will help the participant grow in confidence and skill in public prayer and enrich their personal prayer life.
Book: *Shaping the Prayers of the People: The Art of Intercession* by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher
 - 4 Discover Your Spiritual Gifts:** This course helps participants understand spiritual gifts and how the church can use them to fulfill its mission and ministry. Participants will also learn what it means to be a spiritual leader and will be equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts.
Book: *Each One a Minister* by William J. Carter
- All books may be purchased at your favorite bookseller.
All class times must be attended to receive course credit.

QUESTIONS?
Kim Emery - kkim0104@aol.com

Register Online: Registration Deadline: Mon. Oct. 7

umcnic.org/calendar/prairie-north-lay-academy-fall-2024



Birthdays & Anniversaries

*Birthdays
of the Month*

- 2 Mary Coulter
- 6 Grace Harter
- 7 Melynda Mungor
Warren Gross
- 8 Zane Clevenger
- 10 Amy Flood
- 22 David Burritt
- 23 Jeanette Krueger
Monica Plummer
- 24 David Ziemke
Chris Flood
- 25 Mandy Kloepfer
- 27 Sherry Gordon
- 28 Patty Campbell
- 29 Holly Snyder

Happy First Birthday to
Leilani Taylor
on August 29.

Her name was inadvertently left
off of last month's
birthday listing.



Anniversaries

29 Gary & Sue Wilt



**IT'S CHRISTMAS
YEAR ROUND!**



Shoebox Gift Suggestions

For our Christmas Shoe Box ministry, we are trying something different. Instead of collecting items all at once, we suggest you grab a few items each time you shop. Seasonal shopping will have sales on items that you can purchase for your shoe box collection.

For example:

SEPTEMBER: Personal Care: wash cloths, bar soap, toothbrush, wide tooth combs.

OCTOBER: Accessories such as socks, hair bows, jewelry, small water bottles.

NOVEMBER: Donations for shipping (\$10.00 per box)

DECEMBER: Prayer for those who receive the boxes we packed with love.

PROJECT COORDINATOR:
Terri Burritt—email burritt5@hotmail.com

"Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me..." Mark 9:36



Calling all
Bakers
We need your help!
Thank You!

We need your donations of breads, cookies, pies, cupcakes, candy, popcorn or other goodies that we can sell for the Cherry Valley Street Festival. Goods should be wrapped appropriately to sell. Drop off your donations on Friday, September 20 or very early on Saturday, September 21. The event begins at 11:00 a.m.



Congregational Care News

CVUMC now has complimentary CareNotes for you or someone you care about.

These easy to read pamphlets cover a broad range of topics impacting congregants and their families.

Take one for you and one for someone else. Let us know if you need CareNotes on a specific topic not covered.

In the church narthex, you can find CareNotes about aging adults, physical, spiritual and emotional issues.

In the fellowship hall, you can find CareNotes about teen and family issues.



CHERRY VALLEY UMC



Blessing of
the Animals

COME JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SERVICE
ALL ABOUT THE ANIMALS!

Would you like to have your pets blessed in a
special outdoor service?

When: Saturday, October 5, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Where: Baumann Park Pavilion

Bring your furry, feathered, scaly, slithering or crawling pet to
be prayed over and anointed at this community event.

For more information: Rev. Danice Loveridge
daniceloveridge@gmail.com
815-509-9445

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 and view the brochure outlining the program and you can donate on line.

<http://www.rrvp.org/peanut-butter-endowment/>

Vendor & Craft Fair

September 21, 2024 - 11 am-3 pm

At Cherry Valley UMC

112 S. Cherry Street, Cherry Valley, Illinois

Come join us during the Village Fall Fest

Contact Ybeets@comcast.net

815-742-2138

This is an accessible event located in the lower level of the church.

8' x 8' booths are \$25/non refundable Vendor Fee each booth. (One 8' table included per booth/chairs are available).

Direct sales limited to no more than one business per event.

No food items for sale during this event. (Direct sales items OK)

Reserve your space by September 7, 2024. Booths are available on a first come/first come basis.

Registration forms are available from the church office during business hours.

Tanzania Mission Trip Opportunity

Pastor Kim is attending a study program in Thailand. So, I am taking the opportunity to tell you about an opportunity to visit Pastor Kim and her school in Tanzania.

Many of you have faithfully followed her journey; prayed for her and even supported her financially. What she has accomplished in 8 years is truly impressive – a God driven ministry! Now there is an opportunity to visit her; do a short term mission project and possibly go on a safari. It would be a trip of a life time! You would be blessed and so would she! Here is the information currently available.

Prairie North Mission Trip to Tanzania
Dates: June 23 – July 7, 2025

Cost: \$2000 plus airfare (airfare will be about \$2000)

Location: Global Mission Secondary School

(Rev. Young-Seon Kim's site) in Tanzania

Activities: One week at the school leading a week long summer school (VBS style). Several days of travel (potentially including a safari trip).

Ages: Those entering high school in 2025 and up (for youth, a parent must register together).

Group size: 25 people

Registration deadline: October 31

The official registration site will be open soon. Please send your interest or questions to Kris Aves at aveskris0@gmail.com I have already sent my letter of intent.

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

Midwest Mission Thank You Note



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at
UMC-Cherry Valley,

Thank you for your generous gifts! May God bless you as together we work to show His love as the hands, feet and heart of Christ,

In His Service,
Midwest Mission Family



One Day Mission Trip Opportunity

Variety of jobs to do for all ages and capabilities

Where: UMCOR Midwest Distribution Center in Chatam, IL

When: Friday, October 25

leaving church at 5:00am, returning at 8:00pm

Who: Spots for 11 people

Cost: \$12 per person, plus lunch

Contact: Deacon Danice to sign up by Aug 30

danice.loveridge@gmail.com

815-509-9445

Can't join us, please consider donating to UMCOR MDC

<https://www.midwestmission.org/donate>



WALK TO
EMMAUS

The Walk to Emmaus develops Christian disciples and leaders by inspiring, challenging, and equipping active adult church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. It also benefits less-active members who are seeking to renew a relationship with God, grow spiritually, or discover firmer foundations for their lives.

Please remember in prayer those who are participating in the Fall Emmaus Walk in September. The men's walk is September 5th-8th and the women's Walk is September 12th-15th

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2  LABOR DAY	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 	5 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6	7 9:00 am GA
8 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Methodist Women	9 6:00 Scouts BSAG	10 6:00 Admin Board 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB 	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	12 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship  Newsletter DEADLINE	16 6:00 Scouts BSAG	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 2:00 pm Choir Practice	19 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	20	21 9:00 am GA 11am-3 pm Vendor Event 
22 10:00 am Worship	23 6:00 Scouts BSAG	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	26 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship	30 6:00 Scouts BSAG					

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

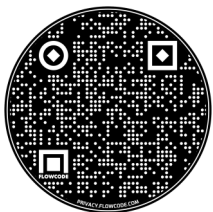


The grass withers, the flowers fade; but the WORD of our GOD will stand FOREVER.

-Isaiah 40:8



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

How Can You Serve?

[click here for on-line sign-up](#)

Worship

Greeter

Liturgist / Reader

Media Tech

Usher

Open Church Building

Special Music

Greet worshipers/record attendance

Lead Call to Worship and read Scripture

Run presentation screen

Stream worship service

Bring collection plate forward , direct Holy Communion

Unlock doors on Sunday morning

Play an instrument or sing

Sunday School

Teacher

Assistant

Take a turn once/twice a month

Congregational Care

Visit / Call homebound

Eucharistic Ministry

e.g. Deliver Upper Room devotionals

Take consecrated communion elements to those at home/work.

Building and Grounds

Small painting projects

Weeding

Meet with Trades

e.g. office entrance (interior)

e.g. window frames (exterior)

Take a turn once a month in the summer

e.g. elevator inspector, plumber, etc.

Mission

Serve lunch at Rockford Rescue Mission

Deliver food drive collections to RRM or Food Pantry

Finance

Counter

Fundraising

Help count and record offerings

Bring ideas, assist with vendor show set-up/take down.

Name _____ Date _____

Preferred Area of Service _____