

THE MESSENGER

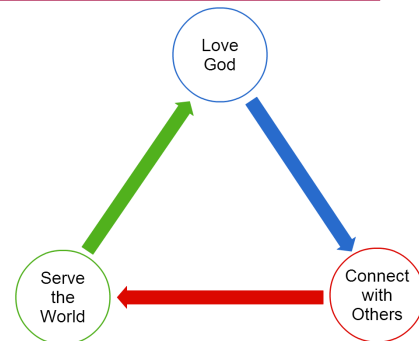
November 2024

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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Pastor's E-mail: mark.harkness@gmail.com
Parsonage phone: 815/580-8553

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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

¹¹Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior." ¹³Gideon answered him, "But sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our ancestors recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?'

But now the Lord has cast us off, and given us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you." ¹⁵He responded, "But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." ¹⁶The Lord said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianites, every one of them."

(Judges 6:11-16 NRSV)

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

Each year the Gideon's have a pastor appreciation lunch, during which we hear a personal testimony of a life transformed along with a description of the work that the Gideon's do. Many of us have received a New Testament and Psalms from the Gideons at some time. It used to be common place to find a Bible placed by the Gideon's in every hotel/motel room.

Over the years, I received several of those little Gideon testaments. Although, I can't tell you where most of them ended up. I have one in my backpacking gear that before electronic versions allowed me to take a Bible with me into the wilderness.

As I listened to the testimony – knowing that we (the clergy) would be invited to share the names of potential Gideons – it occurred to me that the Gideons aren't very efficient. They're selective in who can be a Gideon. They do that to follow the example of Gideon in the book of Judges in which the angel of the LORD instructed Gideon to wean down his already small contingent to an even smaller group, so that it would be evident that it was not Gideon and his army who would win the battle, but the LORD himself.

This limited group of men and their wives then indiscriminately hand out Bibles. They leave them sitting around – knowing that so many of those Bibles will be tossed in nearest waste bin or discarded later on. What a waste! I'm reminded of the Parable of the Sower (Mt 13:3-9; Mk 4:3-9; Lk 8:4-12) in which the sower throws his seed indiscriminately upon the poor ground as upon the good soil. The sower is inefficient. Why "waste" seeds where they will struggle to grow? Except that heaven rejoices for that one stalk that rises up between the thorns and that one stalk that takes good root in the rocky soil. So often the testimonies I hear at those luncheons are from men and women caught up in thorns and rocky ground.

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Our bishop has been encouraging we clergy to experiment and to dare to do things differently. That means looking to the rocky ground and the thorns and being more inefficient – dare I say sloppier – in how we share the promise of life which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by being indiscriminate as to where we cast seeds – even when it seems like lousy ground. To that end, I’ve asked someone to start having a Bible study in a tavern – using a simple one page study [A goal I’ve had for 20+ years]. The men’s study that meets in the Café has already served as a witness for those who need prayer.

Do you have a sense of a ministry that “will never work” that keeps itching your prayers? Please, allow me to help you flesh it out. Let’s try something new together. We never know which seeds will take root: which will be choked out or gobbled up.

If you’re like me – you feel like you are too clumsy or unqualified to give life to the Gospel. And you are! But God is not—and promises that regardless of our ineptitude that if we are faithful in letting the seeds fall wherever we go, that he will do the rest.

Your brother in Christ, ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Annual Church Conference

The Annual Church Conference for CVUMC has been set for Sunday, November 10. The SPRC committee will meet at 12:30 pm with the Conference to begin at 1:00 pm. All persons responsible for reports must have their documents in to the district

<https://www.umcnic.org/churchconference>

Please complete and submit all required forms online at least one week prior to your Church Conference.

Finance Committee Report

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Total Revenue | \$18,309.84 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>12,657.67</u> |
| Net Revenue | 5,652.17 |



We received a check from the insurance company for flood damage to the parsonage during the storms in July. The necessary repairs are in the process of being made. We also received a donation for this repair. Thank you!

Thank you to all who support the ministry of the church through your giving. Paying our bills enables us to provide a space for worship, Boy Scouts, Gambler’s Anonymous and all the other programs of the church.



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.



Praying together

District prayer focus in November 2024

Week of 3rd- FREEPORT: FIRST UMC – Pastor Natarsha Gardner

Week of 10th - DAVIS: CALVARY UMC- Pastor Rachel Grover

Week of 17th - BELVIDERE: FIRST UMC – Pastors Jim Bell & Jay Shin

Week of 24th - FREEPORT: HARMONY UMC – Pastor Eddie Eddy

“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 at 6:00 pm.

Scripture Readings

November 3, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44
Message: "New"

November 10, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 42
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Mark 12:38-44
Message: "Bitter Sweet Joy"

November 17, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 113
1 Samuel 1:4-20
Mark 13:1-8
Message: "Persistent Devotion"

November 24, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 132:1-12
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37
Message: "Reading Backwards"



We need 200 stockings for the
Rock House Kids !

The collection box is in the foyer as
you enter the church.

the power of
a simple gift

We will be shipping our boxes on November??. Money donations are still needed for shipping. Contact Terri Burritt for information. Email: burritt5@hotmail.com

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

The Methodist Women met after worship on October 13th. We discussed the recent bake sale. It was a fun event, and we did well on sales, however, we think that we might have done better if we had our booth on State Street where most of the action was taking place. Perhaps if there is a future Cherry Valley Festival Days, we will look into having our booth be in a more visible spot. **A big thank you to all who donated goods and those who helped in the sale!**

Thanksgiving is coming and we plan to send cards to those who are home bound, those in care facilities, or those whom we have not seen in some time.

We are collecting 200 Christmas stockings for the Rock House Kids during November. We have 94 already, so only 106 to go! You can usually purchase stockings at Dollar Tree or any of the dollar stores at a low cost so that it doesn't wreck your already stressed holiday budget! There will be a box for your donations in the foyer of the church.

Our Annual Cookie walk is scheduled for **December 15th**. We will need donations of cookies, candies, and breads by December 14th. We will have more information about the drop off times as the date approaches. Watch for informational emails and for information in the weekly bulletins.

Our meeting in November will be the first Sunday, November 3rd, after worship. This is a change from our usual second Sunday meetings because the Annual Church Conference is on the second Sunday, November 10th, therefore we rescheduled our meeting.

The projects listed above are just a few of the areas where the Cherry Valley Methodist Women serve. If you would like to know more about what the Methodist Women do, come to the next meeting and check us out! **All women of the church are welcome.**



Advent Bible Study

Underdogs and Outsiders



A Bible Study on the Untold Stories of Advent
TOM FUERST

Underdogs and Outsiders: A Bible Study on the Untold Stories of Advent

This study is exploring the five “unlikely” women mentioned in Jesus’ lineage.

New Milford UMC:
Mondays 10:00 a.m.
(12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23)

Cherry Valley UMC:
Wed 6:00 p.m.
(12/4, 12/11, 12/18)

Books \$13.50 each. In order to receive the books in time for the study, we will

need to know by November 10th if you wish to purchase a book.

The curriculum is the same at both venues, except the study on Wednesday evenings will cover two sessions on the first and the last sessions.

A sign up sheet is available at the CVUMC campus.

Emmaus Gathering

All are invited to
The Northern Illinois Emmaus Community
Emmaus Gathering
Saturday, November 9, 2024
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S. Cherry Street, Cherry Valley, Illinois
Worship Service at 4:00 p.m.
Potluck supper following worship

All are welcome. You do not have to have been on a walk to enjoy this spirit filled worship and fellowship.



Hanging of the Greens



We will be decorating the church for Advent and Christmas on Sunday, November 24th following worship.

All are invited to stay after worship and help with this fun event. We appreciate all help!

See Juanita Barnes to volunteer or for more information.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATE!

Birthdays

- 1 Yolanda Beets
Hannah Lawrence
- 4 Joseph Dienberg
- 11 Gary Conderman
Debora Seno
- 14 Tim Conderman
Angela DeWitt

- 15 Zachary Brown
- 21 Cally Ward
- 23 Deborah Gross
- 25 Pat Newell
- 26 James John

Anniversaries

- 6 Bill & Ann Harned



Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl group will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 20, at the home of Ann Harned. For directions to Ann’s home or for information, please contact her at 815-393-4676.

In September we donated several Prayer Shawls to the Grief Group at Peterson Meadows. We need to replenish our supply, so please join us! We will teach you how to knit or crochet and provide yarn and patterns.

On October 10, Juanita Barnes delivered 24 pounds of food and other items to the Rockford Rescue Mission.

We post a monthly needs list on the bulletin board for the urgent needs for that month. The needs change each month, so please see the listing for the most needed items.



THANK YOU!

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.



Sunday, November 3rd is All Saints Sunday and we will have our traditional bell cross worship service to honor those who have passed away this year.

If you want to place a bell on the cross to honor your loved one, remember to bring your bell for the November 3rd worship service.

When choosing your bell, please remember that there will be many bells on the cross so your bell should be of an appropriate size. Try to keep the bell no larger than 2" to 3".



In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th.

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/>



CHERRY VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

METHODIST WOMEN PRESENT

2024 Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, AFTER WORSHIP



GOODIES WILL BE SOLD AFTER WORSHIP. COME EARLY...

GET TREATS FOR YOUR SPECIAL SOMEONE...OR FOR YOURSELF!

THIS IS ONE OF OUR BEST FUNDRAISERS.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

TO COME AND TAKE ADVANTAGE

OF THESE DELICIOUS TREATS.

HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS COOKIES & CANDIES SOLD BY THE POUND.

BREADS ARE INDIVIDUALLY PRICED.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE CHERRY VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSIONS AND CHURCH PROJECTS



Global Mission

Dear Mission Partner,

Grace and Peace to you.

May you experience victory in the Lord daily, walking in His Word and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that I may never cease to pray each day, live according to the Word and the Spirit, and serve joyfully while in good health.
2. Please pray for the second and fourth-year students preparing for their national exams in November. I often feel concerned for them, so I support their hard work and faith in prayer, asking that it may bear fruit and lead to good results.
3. Pray for providing the \$6,000 still needed to complete the construction of the preschool and church at the mission center.
4. Please lift up all individuals and churches partnering in the Tanzania mission, asking for abundant blessings as they continue to serve.

In Christ, Missionary Christina Kim

Printed below is an excerpt from Pastor Kim's latest newsletter. It is about the first graduating class of the Global Mission Secondary School. You may read her entire newsletter posted on the bulletin board in the church sanctuary or the secretary will email a copy to those who request it.

December 7, 2024, GMSS First Graduation Ceremony

On December 7, 2024, Global Mission Secondary School (GMSS) will celebrate its very first graduation ceremony. I used to wonder when such a day would come, and now it is almost here—Hallelujah! As I watch the 35 fourth-year students diligently preparing for their national exams, my heart is filled with emotion. The thought of parting with them is already bittersweet, and I know I will miss them dearly. Although the past four years have flown by, they have been filled with countless memories—happy moments, significant milestones, and so many reasons for gratitude.

Over the past five years, I have run this race in accordance with God's Word, guided by the Holy Spirit, and experienced His grace and miracles. Throughout this journey, I have continually felt the power of your prayers. This ministry has never been a solo effort—it is a team mission. I am deeply thankful for my fellow teachers, staff, and students who have worked alongside me in faith. Together, we've built this ministry and I am so grateful for everyone who has been part of this incredible journey.

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

A Special Thanks to Our Scholarship Partners

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous partners who have faithfully provided scholarships for our students over the past four years, whether partial or full (for five students). Most parents struggled to pay even half of the school fees each semester, and without these scholarships, many of our students would not have had the opportunity to study at GMSS. Your support has allowed them to pursue their dreams, and we are working together to fulfill the vision that God has given us—"Transform Lives; Raise Global Leaders." I sincerely pray that God will richly bless the hearts and hands that have supported these students' futures through your unwavering generosity and prayers.

May all who read this missionary letter experience victory in the Lord every day, walking in His Word and guided by the Holy Spirit.

In Christ, Missionary Christina Kim



How to Give: The Advance is an official program of the United Methodist Church. 100% of all Advance giving goes to the chosen mission project or ministry. You can choose to support my salary (#3021957) or the Next Generation Ministries/Global Mission Secondary School Project (#3022281). **Please send a check to 'Advance GCFA' at P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068, with the Advance number on the memo line. Thanks a million!!!**

November 2024



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 9:00 am GA 9:00 am Scout Clean-up Day |
| 3 10:00 am Worship 2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Ends All Saints Sunday 11:00 am Shoe Box Packing Party | 4 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | 5 6:00 Admin Board 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 6 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice | 7 6:30 pm Cub Scouts | 8 | 9 9:00 am GA 4:00 pm Emmaus Gathering |
| 10 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Methodist Women 12:30 pm SPRC 1:00 pm Church Conference | 11 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study  | 12 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 13 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice | 14 6:30 pm Cub Scouts | 15  | 16 9:00 am GA |
| 17 10:00 am Worship | 18 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | 19 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 20 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 2:00 pm Choir Practice | 21 6:30 pm Cub Scouts | 22 | 23 9:00 am GA |
| 24 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Hanging of the Greens  | 25 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | 26 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 27 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice | 28 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Church Office Closed  | 29 Church Office Closed  | 30 9:00 am GA |

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

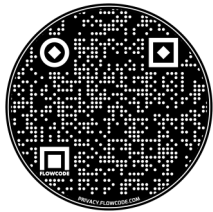
Happy Thanksgiving

*When we realize we are not entitled to anything,
we become grateful for everything.*

- John Cena -



Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016



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

Nov. 2004



National Veterans and Military Families Month, observed in November, is a dedicated period to recognize and express gratitude towards both service members and their families for the sacrifices they make while protecting American freedoms, highlighting the vital role military families play in supporting our nation's troops.

Key points about National Veterans and Military Families Month:

Focus on families:

This month specifically acknowledges the significant contributions and challenges faced by military families, including spouses, children, and extended family members, who often endure separations and adjustments due to deployments and relocations.

Time for appreciation:

November serves as a time to thank veterans and military families for their commitment and resilience, often through special events, community initiatives, and messages of support.

Importance of recognition:

By recognizing the sacrifices made by military families, the nation aims to raise awareness about the unique challenges they face and ensure they have access to necessary support systems.



Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you've done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for our successes, which satisfy and delight us — but also for the disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ — for the truth of his Word and the example of his life.

We thank you for his dying, through which he overcame death — and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your Kingdom.

Father, may we — at all times and in all places — give thanks to you in all things. **Amen.**

A Skit Guys Thanksgiving Story https://youtu.be/tfEzC8eG1_Y?si=VGMwEUjGQWYcoezR

Happenings Around the District

Belvidere First UMC is hosting a Unity In Community event on election day.

On a day where some may feel division help us to unify the community in Christ.

Spread the word with our **#WhiteRibbonChallenge** by using the form on our website to request your ribbon or picking one up at church.

Spread God's love by delivering one to a neighbor or friend.

Join us on election day, November 5th, from 9am to 3pm for prayer vigils and 12pm for an organized prayer service.



It's Poinsettia Time!

It's time to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas and honor your loved ones.

The varieties available are all red, white and marbled pink, which is a variegated pink and white. The cost is \$12.00 per plant, regardless of the variety you choose. Fill out the order form below with the type and number of plants desired, along with your check made out to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church and return it to Juanita Barnes before December 5.

Deadline: December 4, 2024

Name of Family Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Red poinsettia # _____ @ \$12.00 Total amount \$ _____

White poinsettia # _____ @ \$12.00 Total amount \$ _____

Marbled poinsettia # _____ @ \$12.00 Total amount \$ _____

The poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve.
Please take your plant (s) home after the candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve.

Join Us on November 9, 2024



Fall Communion Service
Attend in person
First United Methodist Church
610 Bonus Avenue, Belvidere IL

Our Speaker is

Belvidere First UMC Pastor Jim Bell
Building on the Rock Which is Jesus Christ



Jim Bell is a fourth generation Methodist pastor who grew up with no intention of following that path. After 20 years working in the business world, the Lord called him to ministry. Jim's call centers around equipping the saints for the work of ministry to build up the body of Christ as written in Ephesians 4:12. He offered himself for turnaround work striving to revive congregations in decline. In his first appointment, he was assigned to develop a men's ministry; it proved to be a remarkable experience.

Jim has been married to Cynthia for 39 years; they have a son, Curtis, and a daughter, Loren. Jim has been challenged with an incurable cancer but it is not active now so he is learning a new appreciation of life and the truth and power of our faith.

Special Music: Dan Holmes



- Our Offering will go to the Society of St. Andrews Meals for Millions. Help make a difference in feeding the country. Bring your checks and banks from your men's groups for this offering.

Join us at **First UMC** for Worship, Renewal
610 Bonus Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008