



THE MESSENGER

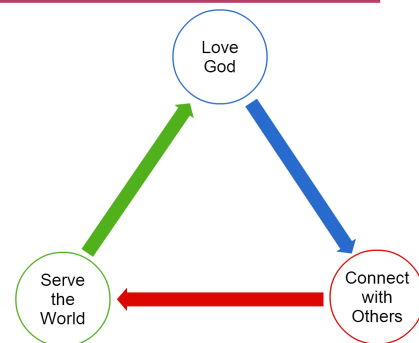
December 2024

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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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

⁴⁶And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked with favor
on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;
⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."
(Luke 1:46-55 NRSV)

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

December is upon us. Christmas is coming! This is good news... Isn't it? The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and gave her the good news - "Christmas is coming and you get a leading role." In turn she respond - "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

I'm glad she did. But in some ways, I'm a bit more like Joseph - not entirely thrilled with the disruption. Please understand, I love Christmas. As a layperson I would attend all three Christmas Eve services at my home church. I love Advent and the expectation of Christmas. I long for it. Except for the disruption.

As much as I long for Christmas and believe that it should be extravagant - preparations can be disruptive. Soon, Susan will be instructing me to drag out storage tubs of Christmas decorations - tubs that will sit in the living room and dining room for a week or more as she deliberately positions each decorations in its exact place. My role is limited to following directions and resisting the urge to grumble whenever I trip on a box of decorations.

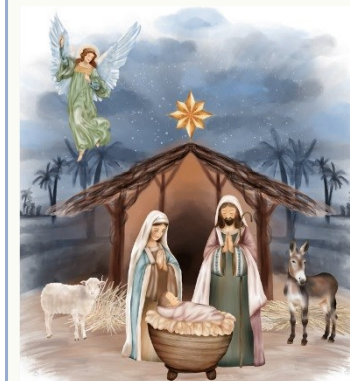
Before we were married, I was content to wrap a cord of white lights and throw some silver balls on the Christmas tree and be done with it. But... when she's finished! Wow! A new splendor.

Mary rejoiced that God had looked upon her with favor - even though she experienced a pretty significant disruption. Rather than a few days or weeks of disruption - she had nine months to anticipate and fret, followed by three decades of waiting only to witness another disruption.

Often, our desire to have things neat and tidy and safe can keep us from experiencing the joy that God has awaiting for us in Jesus Christ. Routine disruptions like: Getting up on Sunday morning disrupts a too rare opportunity to sleep in. Wondering whether I will have to rush to get home in time for kickoff or miss the beginning of my grandson's soccer game.

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For unto us a child is born
-Isaiah 9:6

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Then once a year – the big disruption to our festivities – Christmas Eve worship. What about my guests? My hosts? After all of the slogging around stores and collecting snow covered deliveries from the front stoop – after the work of preparing or travelling for time with family – after all those disruptions to our routine – why would we forgo the opportunity to experience the fullness of Christmas as a witness to God’s insistent love? Whether it’s here or another church with your family, I hope you’ll claim the blessing that outshines the disruption.

The Mighty One did great things for Mary, and does so for us: holy is his name. May we join with all the generations in calling her blessed as God blesses us as well.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



Emmaus Gathering

On November 9, CVUMC hosted an Emmaus Gathering worship service followed by a pot luck in the fellowship hall. We have over 49 worshipers attend. What a great, spiritual time it was!



Photos curtesy of Susan Harkness.
View more photos on Facebook at Cherry Valley United Methodist Church Group



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.



District prayer focus in December 2024

Week of 1st- FREEPORT: FAITH UMC - Pastor Joel McClellan

Week of 8th- FREEPORT: RED OAK UMC & CEDARVILLE UMC
- Pastor Matthew Smith

Week of 15th - WARREN UMC - Pastor Matthew Smith

Week of 22nd - GERMAN VALLEY UMC - Pastor Eddie Eddy

Week of 29th- APPLE RIVER UMC & SCALES MOUND UMC
- Pastor Libby Rutherford

"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

Donate with **PayPal**



Scripture Readings

December 1, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 25

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Luke 21:25-36

Message: "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

December 8, 2024

The Canticle of Zachariah

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 3:1-6

Message: "Deck the Halls"

December 15, 2024

Scripture: Isaiah 12:2-6

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Luke 3:7-18

Message: "Makin' a List"

December 22, 2024

Scripture: Canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Message: "Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"

December 24, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 98

Isaiah 9:2-7

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

Message: "A Great Light"

December 29, 2024

Scripture: Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Message: "Preoccupied"



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



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 on November 3rd, the first Sunday of the month instead of the usual 2nd Sunday due to the scheduled Annual Church Conference on the 10th. There was no formal meeting, just a time of working together. A time in which we were able to help with the packing of the Christmas Shoe boxes.

Our next meeting will return to the usual schedule of the second Sunday, December 8th. We will finalize our plans for the Cookie Walk, which is on December 15th.

The Cookie Walk is one of our biggest fundraising efforts. As always, it is a two-prong effort...we ask you for your donations of cookies, candies and breads and then we ask you to purchase the items that have been donated. It's a great way to sample goodies that others have made! A great way of sharing. The proceeds will allow us to help the congregation and benefits with missions and church projects.

MERRY

CHRISTMAS



We need your cookies!

The Methodist Women are

asking for your donation

of 3 dozen cookie for the Cookie Walk sale...

You may donate

candies and breads as well.

Bring your donations to the church

on December 14th or early morning the 15th

Thank You!

Christmas Child Shoe Box Update

I am happy to announce that as a church, we filled 53 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes that will be a part of getting the gospel of Jesus into the hands of children in another part of the world.

Not only will they receive the packed boxes filled with school supplies, hygiene items and toys donated by our members, but they will receive materials to “train” them to live a life for Jesus.

Whether you donated items or money for shipping the boxes, **THANK YOU** for participating in this mission project. This is just one way we work to live out our mission statement “to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

I believe our “experiment” in gathering items throughout the year allowed us to reach the goal I had set of 50 boxes. I will keep the basket to gather your donations in the narthex and hope that as you are shopping throughout the year and see items on sale that you will purchase them and bring them to church. It’s a year long process in the Burritt house :) , we hope you join us!

Thankful for all we accomplished,

Terri Burritt

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATE!

Birthdays

- 6 Delilah Herold
- 10 Carolyn Kloss
- 12 Pat Cowan
- 14 Bill Harned
- 16 Craig Wilt
- 19 Karen Harter
- 20 Veronica Layng
- 22 Lynn Brown
- 23 Colleen O’Kane

- 26 Ann Harned
- 29 Nola Carnine
- 30 Pat Eickman
- 31 Jenny Dwyer

Anniversaries

- 29 Ryan & Jamie Spears



Church Landscaping

If you have been to church in the past couple of weeks, you will notice a marked improvement in the lawn! The Memorial Committee provided the funds for the much needed refreshing of the plantings and restructuring of the gardens.

Thanks to the Memorial Committee for the allocation of the funds. Thanks to Juanita Barnes for spearheading the project and a special thanks to Alan Lowe, the landscape architect.



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.



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/>



Scout Clean-Up Day at CVUMC

This Group! We owe a big debt of GRATITUDE to this group of young people and their dedicated leaders! On Saturday, November 2, they came to the church and cleaned up the lawn of the faded summer foliage and other debris in the gardens. It was a big job and there was lots of yard waste discarded. Some of them also helped with the clean up of the church inside as well. Thank you to all of these young people for getting up early on a Saturday morning. WE APPRECIATE YOU!

If you are looking for some great Christmas greenery, consider supporting Troop 181 and visit their Christmas Tree lot at the corner of Harrison & Perryville Rd. The lot is open **Monday—Friday 4:30-8:30 pm** and on **Saturday & Sunday 9:00 am-8:30 pm**. Wreaths will be available December 23.



Global Mission School

Pastor Kim just celebrated her birthday in October.. With that she is also celebrating the first graduating class of GMSS. What a journey! Now she has one more major goal before she retires.

Her words...

Trustees of the Tanzania Annual Conference have approved my request to allocate church land for the high school (GMSS A-Level). I am deeply moved and filled with gratitude for this incredible blessing.

For a long time, many people encouraged me to pursue this expansion, but God remained silent. I longed to hear His voice and waited for His perfect timing. Then, in July 2024, while studying the history of missions, God revealed His will.

Our goal is to provide a strong Biblical foundation and quality academic education that will enable our students to continue their studies at prestigious institutions such as Africa University and other renowned universities upon completing their A-Level studies.

Though much work remains before we can begin fundraising, I invite my Facebook friends to join me in prayer and be part of this amazing journey to impact the next generation in Tanzania. God is at work. I embrace the new vision with confidence, trusting that God will fulfill it in extraordinary ways.



Join me in prayer to embrace and support Pastor Kim's last major goal – to build a high school (A level). With God's grace we grow together!

Judy Long Your missionary in Christ!

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



MIDWEST MISSION
disaster relief • education • health • micro business

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at CVUMC,

Everyone at Midwest Mission would like to send a heartfelt thank you for making your generous donation of towels, washcloths, and toothpaste on October 25, 2024.

Your donation extends our outreach and makes a tremendous impact on so many lives.

Thank you so much for blessing others through the ministry of Midwest Mission!

Yours in Christ,
The Midwest Mission Staff

Thank You

Thank you to Greg Allton for washing the windows in the atrium. Greg also lets us use his recycling when we need to recycle paper or lawn waste. We are so fortunate to have such a good neighbor!



Candlelight Christmas

December 24

7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.





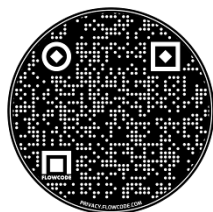
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 10:00 am Worship <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	2 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	5 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6	7 9:00 am GA
8 10:00 am Worship <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 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 11:15 am Cookie Walk <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	16 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	19 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	20 	21 9:00 am GA
22 10:00 am Worship <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	23 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24 <i>7pm & 11 pm Christmas Eve Worship</i> 	25 <i>Christmas Day Church Office Closed</i> 	26	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship <i>1st Sunday After Christmas Day</i>	30 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>				

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

Have a Blessed
Christmas!



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