



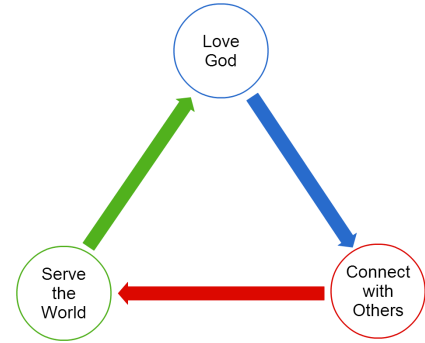
THE MESSENGER

January 2025

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

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ... ²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

(Revelation. 21:1-6, 22-27 NRSV)

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

Back in 2016, Thomson Reuters proffered *The World in 2025: 10 Predictions of Innovation*. Among their predictions were that teleportation (ala *Star Trek*) will be tested, food shortages and price fluctuations are things of the past, electric air transportation will be routine, and cancer treatments have few toxic side effects. I don't think we're going to see these predictions come true in the upcoming year. Some of the other predictions included that solar will be the largest source of energy for the planet, packaging will be biodegradable, there will be a prevalence of digital technology. That last one has certainly already come true. Meanwhile, solar energy and biodegradable packaging are expanding.

Even delayed, I hope that I will live to see the days without food shortages and price fluctuations and in which side-effect free cancer treatment abound. People are working towards those aims. Except for teleportation – it's not unreasonable to expect that the unfulfilled predictions for 2025 might manifest by 2050. Because we see progress.

New years bring with them a spirit of hope and anticipation. That spirit of hope leads to resolutions and commitment to bring those aspirations into fruition. Meanwhile, the temptation to regret last year's incomplete or failed plans can keep us from noticing progress – in particular – the progress of the kingdom of God.

Revelation ends with a particularly poignant prediction – a prediction that no temple will be present in the new Jerusalem. Instead, those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will know the immediate company of God. Oh, for that day. Maybe you have those days in which even in prayer you wonder if God is listening – or whether the church can survive especially in the context of small membership congregations. But

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

there are signs: even in this small congregation we continue to welcome new persons into our fellowship, and we can claim those moments when we've noticed that God has heard our prayer to give us confidence that God listens to us even when we find it difficult to hear God.

I cannot predict what 2025 will bring. However, I am convinced that we are one year closer to knowing the constant presence of God in our midst. Although I don't expect that 2025 will necessarily be the year in which we walk the streets of the new Jerusalem, I know that when we reflect on those holy encounters of last year and the years before, we might just be able to see it coming – no matter how distant – and find ways to live into this year.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



Dates to Remember

- January 1—New Year's Day—Church Office Closed
- January 5—10:00 am Wesleyan Covenant Renewal
- January 12—11:00 am Decoration removal
- January 14—6:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting
- January 20—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
- January 25—9:00 am Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
- January 29—6:00 pm Cardmaking with Robin

Finance Committee Report

November Finance Report

Revenue	\$10,057.73
Expenditures	15,041.39
Deficit	-4,983.66



Many thanks to our Audio Visual team, Dave Harter, Patricia Irps and Mandy Kloepfer. Be sure to let them know you appreciate the work they do.



Members & Friends

- Sandra Baxter
- Glenn Carnine
- Barb Clucas
- Pat Gorsuch
- Dawn Harter
- Trudy Hunt

Military Personnel

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

Mission

- Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

- Patty Campbell Family
- Lori Rother Family



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 January 2025

- Week of 5th - CHERRY VALLEY UMC & NEW MILFORD UMC - Pastor Mark Harkness
- Week of 12th - ROSCOE UMC - Pastor Ryan Sutton
- Week of 19th - MOUNT CARROLL, THOMSON & ARGO FAY UMCs - Pastor Lambert Habonimana
- Week of 26th - BELVIDERE: IGLESIA ESPERANZE Y VIDA - Pastor Ivan Sarabia

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" - Phillipians 4:6

Donate with **PayPal**



Scripture Readings

January 5, 2025

“Wesley’s Covenant Service”

January 12, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 29
Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Message: “Saved to Serve the Whole World”
[series: A Light to Enlighten the Nations]

January 19, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 36:5-10
Isaiah 62:1-5
John 2:1-11

Message: “The Illumination of New Wine”
[series: A Light to Enlighten the Nations]

January 26, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Message: “A Mission to Light Your Way”
[series: A Light to Enlighten the Nations]



Greeter/Liturgist Sign-Up Sheets

The Greeter/Liturgists sign up sheets for January through May are now available on the table in the sanctuary.

We need volunteers for each of these weekly duties. If you are interested in either or both of the ministries, please speak with Juanita Barnes. She will guide you through the process.

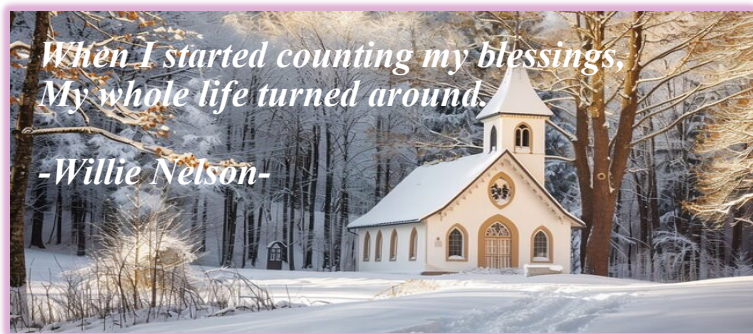
Thank You!



Cookie Walk

The Women’s Group extends a big thank you to all the cookie bakers and buyers.

We had lots of cookies and treats and a big variety for the Cookie Walk on December 15. Thanks to generous buyers, we made a profit of \$375.00! We hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas treats. We are grateful for your support.



*When I started counting my blessings,
My whole life turned around.*

-Willie Nelson-

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 enjoyed the Cookie Walk at Christmas. It is one of the best fundraisers that we host. Thank you to all who baked cookies and to all who purchased them.



As we look to the future, we plan to send Valentine’s Day cards in February to those who are in care or those we have not seen in some time.

March 4th is Shrove Tuesday and we will discuss at our next meeting whether we will host the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Join us for the next meeting on January 12 after worship to see all the wonderful things this group does for the church and community.

A Prayer For Cherry Valley UMC

The following is a prayer by Pearl Robbins. Although it is a year-end sentiment, it is an appropriate prayer for any time of the year.

*Heavenly Father,
I praise your name and thank you for the many blessings you have given Cherry Valley United Methodist Church and congregation this past year.*

I pray for your guidance in the coming year and that we will grow in ways that are pleasing to you while studying your Word and worshipping together; for us to share the joy of fellowship and faith with all whose lives we touch.

*I pray for peace in the world.
Thank you for our lives, our village,
and our country.*

*In Jesus’ name,
Amen.*



Church Leadership 2025

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church (Mark Harkness, Pastor)
Nominations Report 2024 (for 2025)

Church Leadership

Pastor	Rev. Mark Harkness	2027
Lay Leader	Scott Layng	2027
Recording Secretary	Juanita Barnes	2027
Treasurer	Scott Layng	2027
Financial Secretary	Holly Snyder	2028
Lay Member to the AC	Amanda Kloepfer	2028
Lay Member to the AC		2028
Membership Secretary	Barbara Anderson	2025
Worship Committee – Chair	Juanita Barnes	2027
Outreach & Evangelism – Chair	Rev. Danice Loveridge	2025
Memorials Committee – Chair	Grace Harter	2025

Administrative Council (serves as SPRC/Finance/Trustees)

Pastor	Rev. Mark Harkness	<i>ex officio</i>
Chair	Lucille Powell	2027(2)
Vice-Chair	Mary Coulter	2026 (2)
Lay Leader / Treasurer	Scott Layng	2027
SPRC Chair	Cindy Kerr	2025 (3)
Trustees Chair	Yolanda Beets	2025 (3)
Finance Chair	Mike Loveridge	2027
Financial Secretary	Holly Snyder	2027 (1)
Lay Member to AC	Amanda Kloepfer	2028
Lay Member to AC		2028
Recording Secretary	Juanita Barnes	2027 (2)
At-Large	Charles Schnuckel	2026 (2)
	David Harter	2026 (2)

Fundraising/Stewardship Team

Mike Loveridge (Finance Chair)
Lucille Powell
Mary Coulter

Property Team

Dave Anderson Charlie Schnuckel
Ray Beets

Nominations Committee

Rev. Mark Harkness
Scott Layng (Lay Leader)
LaVern Neff 2025
2026

Audit Committee

Sally Hollembeak
Charlie Schmuckel

Outreach & Evangelism

Rev. Danice Loveridge (Chair) 2025
Amanda Kloepfer
Terry Burritt

Worship Committee

Juanita Barnes (Chair) Ray Beets
Barb Clucas Holly Snyder
LaVern Neff Shirley Cardani
Pat Eickman

Committee on Memorials & Gifts

Grace Harter (Chair) 2024
Jordyn Burritt 2025
LaVern Neff 2025
Donna Layng 2025
Jam Mills 2025

Lay Members to Annual Conference

Amanda Kloepfer

Rock House Kids Christmas Stockings

Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas stockings to the Rock House Kids. We ended up with a few more stockings than our goal of 200, so we have saved them for next year's drive.

Special thank you to Donna Layng who spearheads this drive then delivers the stockings to RHK every year. This past Christmas, she had some help from Dana Ward and Karen Harter with the delivery so thanks to them as well.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

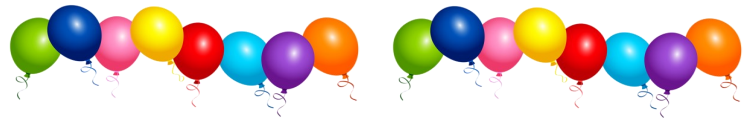


Birthdays

- 3 Jan Mills
- 5 Kathleen Sundberg
- 7 Connor Kloss
- 18 Jordyn Nystrom
Nick Brown
- 27 Lavern Neff
- 28 Dave Anderson
Donna Layng
- 27 Susan Harkness
- 31 Jim Coulter

Anniversaries

- 4 Chad & Cheryl Hollembeak
- 7 Keith & Terri Burritt
Chuck & Deb Voorhies



2025 CVUMC Budget

Apportionments	8,500.00	Parsonage	
Total Apportionments	\$8,500.00	Electricity	2,000.00
Building and Grounds		Gas	700.00
Electricity	5,500.00	Sewer	600.00
Gas	4,000.00	Water	1,200.00
Sewer	200.00	4000 Disposal	250.00
Water	500.00	Phone (Internet)	1,200.00
Equip & Supplies	500.00	Maintenance	1,000.00
Prop & Liability Ins & workman	12,200.00	Total Parsonage	\$6,950.00
Prop Maint.	5,000.00	Church Office	
Total Building and Grounds	\$27,900.00	Office Equip/Maint	3,500.00
Clergy Support		Office Supplies	500.00
Health Insurance	15,000.00	Postage	400.00
Pension	8,200.00	Telephone & Internet	2,000.00
Reimb. - Pastor	3,500.00	Web Design/Maint.	400.00
Reimb. - Deacon	1,000.00	Church Software and Elec. Giving	1,500.00
Total Clergy Support	\$27,700.00	Total Office	\$8,300.00
Ministry Programs		Payroll	
Church School Education	\$150.00	Pastor	41,000.00
Worship Supplies	\$300.00	Secretary	13,896.00
Sub Musicians	\$250.00	Music Director	13,332.00
CCLI	\$250.00	Custodian	7,956.00
Outreach	\$325.00	Nursery	1,040.00
Missions (Pastor Kim)	1,200.00	Payroll Taxes	2,500.00
Total Ministry Programs	\$2,475.00	Pulpit Supply	600.00
Total 2025 Budget	\$162,149.00	Total Payroll	\$80,324.00

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.



New Flooring at the Parsonage



New Carpeting at the Parsonage

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/>

Rockford Rescue Mission



Dear Cherry Valley UMC,

The Rockford Rescue Mission gratefully acknowledges your generous giving of 84 pounds of food to the men, women, and children we serve. We thank you for partnering with us to share hope and help in Jesus name to move people toward personal and spiritual wholeness.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney

Our Choir

Thank you to Nola Carnine, the Music Director and the choir! Although small in number, they are big in voice and big in dedication to their craft!

Front Row: L to R
Mary Coulter
Lucy Powell
Deb DeWitt

Back Row:
Melynda Mungor
Jan Mills
Holly Snyder

Foreground:
Nola Carnine



Deacon's Corner

THIS YEAR WILL BE DIFFERENT!

It's a New Year, new start, new chance. Many of us, including me, make New Year resolutions in January only to be disappointed in February that we've already lost track of them. We promise ourselves that "This year will be different" and discover that it is the same result as previous attempts. According to the ResourceUMC website (<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/best-new-years-resolutions-for-connecting-with-your-community>), this year can be different if we take the focus off of ourselves and move instead into a community focused space. Here are just a few ways to can connect the congregation and community in the New Year.

Get fit

Consider [starting a sports ministry](#) or create an exercise group for those who resolve to get fit or lose weight. Encourage and motivate each other by meeting regularly for a fitness class or to walk. "Having a friend, spouse or partner to walk with us in both our physical and spiritual journey keeps us focused and committed to our goals, all while providing Christian love and support," the Rev. John Wagner told the United Methodist News Service earlier this year. The Rev. Wagner is from First United Methodist of Ankeny, Iowa where a fitness program has also helped served as a welcoming ministry. Learn more about how churches are [weighing in on the obesity epidemic](#).

Help others

According to research, one of the most common New Year's resolutions is volunteering to help others. Service opportunities are the perfect way to connect not only with church members, but also with the rest of your community. Get free tips and resources to Rethink Church through organizing outreach events at umcom.org/rethinkchurch. Learn how to [recruit volunteers](#) and plan your biggest church event of the year.

Spiritual boost

Many congregants will resolve to pray more and make additional time to read the Bible. Consider starting a small group to encourage each other to keep this resolution. Intentional time to grow your spiritual life can also help manage stress. Earlier this year, the Rev. Talbot Davis from Good Shepherd United Methodist Church offered [commentary for reading the Bible](#) and how to utilize it as a library instead of a book.

Career improvement

Another resolution people often make is to improve their work lives through new career opportunities. Consider creating a job ministry like the one at Roswell United Methodist Church. Their job networking coordinator, Katherine Simons, offers advice for churches of all sizes to start their own program.

Jesus never told us to "go it" alone. Where one can go fast, two or more can go far. We are better together! Blessings on your New Year and being proactive this year about being in community!

Grace and Peace
Deacon Danice

Happenings Around the District

There is a Prairie North Leadership Training Event on Saturday, January 25, 2025. For more information and to register, <https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/prairie-north-leadership-training-2025>.

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)

Events at Your Library

The following programs are available for adults at the Cherry Valley Public Library. Registration is required for some of the programs and some may require a program fee. You may register in person, by calling 815-332-5161 or on line at cherryvalleylib.org

- ◆ Chair Yoga—Registration required, Program Fee

Thursday, January 9, 10:30 am

Thursday, February 13, 10:30 am

Local yoga instructor Marie Bridges will walk you through poses you can use to help maintain flexibility, breathe deeply, and sleep soundly.

- ◆ Adult Craft Night—Registration required

Tuesday, January 14, 5:30 pm, Yarn snowflakes

Tuesday, February 11, 5:30 pm, Glass etching

Celebrate the changing seasons through the art of crafting.

- ◆ Pizza, Medicare and You—Registration required

Tuesday, January 21, 5:30 pm

Thursday, February 20, 5:30 pm

Enjoy a slice as you learn about the changes coming to Medicare in 2025. Presented by Kris Wilcoxon of American Republic Insurance Services.

- ◆ Senior Moments—Registration required.

You're invited to join this group centered on building community. The goal of the group is to spend time together, talk, laugh and have fun.

⇒ *Thursday, January 16, 10:30 am*

Who Am I? Guessing Game

Put your knowledge to the test in a trivia-like game with multiple rounds of famous authors, actors, musicians, and more!

⇒ *Thursday, February 20, 10:30 am*

Agnew Law

Need to get your affairs in order but unsure where to begin? Agnew Law will guide you through the process of Estate Planning.

January 2025

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	3	4 9:00 am GA
5 10:00 am Worship <i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	6 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	7 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	8 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	9 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	10	11 9:00 am GA
12 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women	13 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	14 6:00 pm Admin Board 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	15 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	16 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	17	18 9:00 am GA
19 10:00 am Worship	20 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	21 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	22 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	23 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	24 Scouts set up for Pinewood Derby	25 <i>9:00 am Scouts Pinewood Derby</i> 9:00 am GA
26 10:00 am Worship	27 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	28 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	29 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>6:00 pm Cardmaking With Robin</i>	30 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	31	

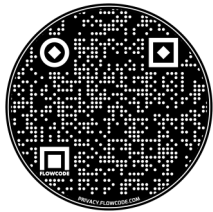
MESSENGER ITEMS ARE DUE TO THE SECRETARY ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

New Year's Blessings

The Lord bless and keep you...



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](http://CherryValleyUMC.com).

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