

# THE MESSENGER

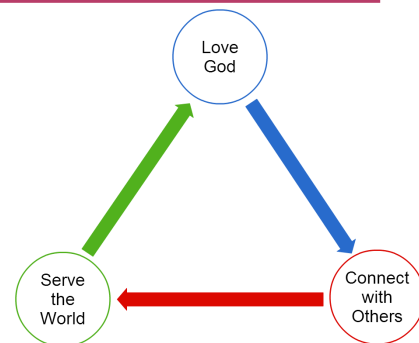
March 2025

## 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

*Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27 NRSV)*

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

When I was young, my parents invested in a set of Collier's Encyclopedias along with the annual yearbook updates. As useful as that was for school work, it was the other set of books that were more meaningful was Collier's "Junior Classics" – ten volumes of abridged literature, children's stories, fables and fairy tales. That was the set that my Dad would use to read us bedtime stories.

One of those stories was the story of *The Little Red Hen*. In the story, the little red hen asks her farmyard friends (the cat, the cow, and the horse) for help: first planting wheat, then harvesting the wheat, and then grinding the wheat. Each time the hen asks, "Who will help me...?" she gets the same reply from each of her friends: "Not I." Even when she asks for help baking bread on a cold winter day, she hears the same reply to her quest for help: "Not I..."

At each stage, the little red hen does all the work by herself. That is... until... her final request, "Who will help me eat the bread?" "Moo, I will!" "Neigh, I will!" "Meow, I will!" But the little red hen will have none of it. Instead, she reminds them that they'd each refused to help her at every stage of the work and that as she alone was responsible for the work – she alone would enjoy the bread. In the end, I understand why the red hen didn't see the need to share; but she was very uncharitable in asking who wanted a portion when she knew that she wouldn't share.

It reminds me of another very similar but also very different story: the story of stone soup. In that story a monk had visited house to house begging for alms, "Will you help me?" only to receive at each door, the same answer as the little red hen, "No!" But he did something different. He set himself up in the middle of the town square where he built a small fire and placed upon it a kettle of water. When curiosity drew people in to see and ask what he was doing, he told them he was making a special delicacy, stone soup; and then dropped a stone into the water. The people scoffed but hung around. When the monk tasted the soup, he said, "Now that's good. But it could do with a little salt. If only I had some." With that one of the townspeople ran off and returned with some salt. Again he tasted, "That's good. If only it had... a bit of pepper... a carrot... an onion... some chicken..." Each time another of the townspeople would say, "I can help," and then return with their morsel. Finally the monk announced that the soup was ready, and a great banquet was held in the town square that day.

In both stories the protagonist asks only to be told "No." The little red hen responds by becoming bitter and ornery intentionally withholding the bread. The monk on the other hand lived as if stone soup was enough, commenting only on how it could be improved with just "one" small addition, until everyone in the town had a chance to help, and then to enjoy together the feast.

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How often are we like the little red hen: hurt and rejected? Only to respond in kind? How often are we like the cat, the cow, the horse: unwilling to help with even a small task? Then surprised when we miss out on the bounty? How often are we like the townspeople turning away a needy monk? How often are we willing to make a spectacle of what we do have in a way that draws in others with an invitation to shine with the little portion they bring?

The church is made of many members: some seeds to plant, carrots and onions to harvest, some little red hens that get thrown in the pot, all either working together for the kingdom of God and the banquet that awaits – or each neglecting to share the gift that God has made them to be so that everyone misses out.

You are an essential part of the body of Christ. What you have to offer means heaven to the world. Without you, something is missing. The “soup” might be tolerable. But is it as good as it can be to nourish the town. Too often we can get stuck on the idea that all we have (or are) is useless stones. Too often we can think what is my little bit among so much need: for the world or my congregation. But God has promised that his grace is sufficient and that all things are possible when we put our trust in him.

As we prepare for the season of Lent, will you claim that opportunity to be a part of Christ’s body – the church – so that even in the silliest spectacle others might be drawn in and find their place to shine in the simplest things with we who do the same? When any part of the body suffers, we all suffer? When any of us refuses the invitation to contribute to the cause, we risk missing out on the heavenly banquet ourselves. But when any of us shine in the tiniest thing – we all shine the glory of his kingdom into the world. May this season be a season to be “seasoned” anew as we each claim the opportunity to make God’s kingdom more appealing for one another and for the world that sees it as little more than stone soup?

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



**Members & Friends**

Sandra Baxter  
Glenn Carnine  
Mary Lou Clevenger  
Pat Gorsuch  
Sandy Greef  
Trudy Hunt

**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 March 2025**

- Week of 2nd - SHANNON: BETHEL UMC- Pastor Jeremiah Lee
- Week of 9th - ROCKFORD: BROOKE ROAD UMC  
- Pastor Violet Johnicker
- Week of 16th - ELIZABETH: FIRST UMC & HANOVER UMC  
- Pastor Donna Hoffman
- Week of 23rd- ROCKFORD: BETH EDEN UMC &  
ROCKFORD: ALDERSGATE UMC - Pastor Sarah Hong
- Week of 30th- GALENA UMC - Pastor Jin-Hee Kang

*“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**



**Dates to Remember**

March	4	4:30-6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancakes
March	5	Ash Wednesday 9:00 am Imposition of Ashes 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
March	9	2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins
March	11	6:00 pm Admin Board Meeting
March	12	6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study Begins
March	17	St. Patrick’s Day

## Scripture Readings

### March 2, 2025—Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 99  
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
 Luke 9:28-36  
 Message: "Unlimited Love"  
 [series: A Light to Enlighten the Nations #8]

### March 5, 2025—Ash Wednesday

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-71  
 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### March 9, 2025—1st Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 91  
 Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
 Luke 4:1-13  
 Message: "God Moves...Into the Desert"

### March 16, 2025—2nd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 27  
 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
 Luke 13:31-35  
 Message: "God Moves...Past All Obstacles"

### March 23, 2025—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 63:1-8  
 Isaiah 55:1-9  
 Luke 13:4-9  
 Message: "God Moves...Over the Fence"

### March 30, 2025—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 32  
 Joshua 5:9-12  
 Luke 13:1-3, 11b-32  
 Message: "God Moves...Down the Road"



## Methodist Women

The Cherry Valley Methodist Women met briefly after worship on February 9th. We distributed Valentine cards to be mailed to friends and members who are homebound or in care. Again, we thank Terri Burritt for her talent in making cards. This time, she enlisted the help of the children in our congregation.



The pancake supper will be held on Shrove Tuesday, March 4th. Sandy Schwartz has volunteered to assume this responsibility, but will need help from us. Please lend a hand, but if unable to help, show your support by coming to the supper to eat.

Our meeting was short because it was Scout Sunday. We were honored to have the Scouts assist with the worship service. Following worship, they served the congregation a delightful breakfast. It was such a joy to see these young people active within our church.

Our next meeting will be March 9th following worship. All are welcome to attend.

## Finance Committee Report

### January 2025

Total Revenue	\$12,021.00
Total Expenditures	\$13,543.22
Net Revenue	\$-1,522.22

### 2024 YE Final Reporting

Total Revenue	\$149,308.13
Total Expenditures	\$161,384.63
Net Revenue	-12,076.50



Proverbs 31:25 26: "She speaks with wisdom and teaches with kindness. She opens her mouth with discretion, and on her tongue is the law of kindness."



The next Administrative Meeting of the Council will be on March 11th at 6:30 pm. Check the SharePoint app for the agenda and other documents needed for the meeting.

"If any of you lacks wisdom,  
 you should ask God,  
 who gives generously to all without finding fault;  
 and it will be given to you".  
 James 1:5

# C.V. Historical Society Event



JACOB DAVIS

The Cherry Valley Historical Society, 101 E. State Street in Cherry Valley, will hold an open house on Sunday, March 2, 2025 from 1 pm to 3 pm.

The event will feature the Life and Family of Jacob Davis, an early land owner in Cherry Valley.

Carrie Meyer, Associate Professor of Economics and author of the book, "Days on the Family Farm," and Jeff Norman, friend of Leslie Oswald will be available to discuss and answer questions about the Davis, Oswald, Meyer and Enders families.

The book is available to borrow from the Cherry Valley library and further reading about the families is available at <https://illinoisgenealogy.org/winnebago/the-davis-family-of-cherry-valley.htm>

You may call the Historical Society at 815-332-5200 for hours of operation.

## Join Us on March 1, 2025



**Spring Communion Service**  
Attend in person

**Harmony United Methodist Church**  
2600 W Pearl City Rd, Freeport IL  
Broadcast On PUMC Facebook Page

**Our Speaker is**  
**Harmony UMC Pastor Eddie Eddy**  
The Thrill of the Hunt

Pastor Eddy



Pastor Eddie Eddy Sr. received his call to ministry after a trip to West Africa in 2008. He has served in the Northern Illinois Conference since 2013 as a Licensed Local Pastor. He received his license after attending Lindsey Willson College in Columbia Kentucky. Pastor Eddy retired from the Laborers Union in 2014 and has been committed to ministry full time ministry.

Pastor Eddie has served in the Prairie North District for 10 years. He was instrumental in facilitating a church merger which formed Harmony UMC. Harmony has grown in their understanding of ministry under his leadership. The church has embraced their call to make disciples and has committed to explore alternative ways to utilize the resources entrusted to them to lead others to find their place in God's kingdom.

In his spare time, Pastor Eddie spends time with his wife of 40 years, Jeanie, as they visit their 2 sons and granddaughters. He enjoys his Harley, hunting, and time around the smoker trying new things to cook. He and Jeanie look forward to the journey God has placed them on for many years to come.

- 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.

Four guys from Beth Eden United Methodist Church got together in 1985 to share their musical talents in worship. Since that day, God has continued to bless them and their ministry. Alleluia Quartet shares their unique style of a four-part harmony to witness to the love of God in their lives.

Alleluia Quartet has been blessed to share this music in many different settings all over northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, Iowa, and even Ohio. They share a message of hope, grace, and love wherever they go.

Special Music: Alleluia Quartet



Join us at **Harmony UMC** for Worship, Renewal  
2600 W Pearl City Road, IL 61008  
8:15am gathering 9:30 am Worship/Communion

**Please contact Bob Garvens to reserve your spot!**  
(815) 238-1356, email: [bob.garvens@gmail.com](mailto:bob.garvens@gmail.com)  
There will be Breakfast served at 8:30 Cost is \$10

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

**CELEBRATE!**

## Birthdays

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt  
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak  
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt  
Jeffrey Layng

## Anniversaries

- 16 Chris & Amy Flood



*Begin Ash Wednesday with Ashes*

*Pastor Harkness will conduct a brief  
Ash Wednesday service*

*At 9:00 am on  
Wednesday, March 5th, 2025.  
All are welcome to attend.*



## Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, March 19th at 10:00 am for knitting, crocheting, conversation and lunch at the home of Jan Mills.

Check the weekly bulletins or call the church office (815-332-5075) for Jan's exact address. Call her at 815-979-0590 or email her at [lildobs1029@gmail.com](mailto:lildobs1029@gmail.com)

## Rockford Rescue Mission



Dear Friends,  
The Rockford Rescue Mission gratefully acknowledges your generous gift we received on February 7, 2025, 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

## 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/>

Events At Your Cherry Valley Public Library  
[cherryvalleylib.org](http://cherryvalleylib.org)

## Senior Moments

You're invited to join our community-driven group where we learn, play games, and have fun!  
 Registration is required for these programs.



### Notorious: The Life of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg<sup>R</sup>

Thursday, March 20 at 10:30am

Historian Jim Gibbons will discuss the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a woman who flourished in the role of Supreme Court Justice for 27 years.



### Social Security Basics<sup>R</sup>

Thursday, April 17 at 10:30am

Looking at retiring soon or needing help on understanding your benefits? Join Gabrielle Fabre of the Association of Financial Educators to discuss important points about Social Security, like deciding when to start receiving, calculating how much you'll receive, and more.



### Center for Learning in Retirement<sup>R</sup>

Thursday, May 15 at 10:30am

No age is too late to level up on your learning! Join us as a representative from Rock Valley College's CLR program discusses their class offerings, which are on diverse topics and subjects and are open to everyone 50 years of ages and older without any previous level of education required.

# Cardmaking With Robin



On January 29, a group of people met to enjoy a handmade card making session with Robin Mann. The event was well attended and the group was able to make 3 beautiful Valentine cards.

Thank you to Yolanda Beets for facilitating the event and thank you to Robin for her expertise and assistance with making the card. She made it so much fun and so easy to accomplish!



## 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



Scout Troops and leaders at the February 9 worship service

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 9th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.

**A Big Thank You to Troop 181G  
for the lovely card  
and the \$100 donation!**

# March 2025

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						<b>1</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>2</b> 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship	<b>3</b> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>4</b> <i>4:30 –6:30 pm</i> <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> <i>Pancake</i> <i>Supper</i>	<b>5</b> <i>9:00 am</i> <i>Imposition of</i> <i>Ashes</i> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study <i>7:00 pm Ash</i> <i>Wednesday</i> <i>Service</i>	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>9</b> 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Methodist Women	<b>10</b> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm Admin Board 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 am GA  <i>April Newsletter</i> <i>Items Due</i>
<b>16</b> 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship	<b>17</b> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 2:00 pm Choir Practice 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>23</b> 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship	<b>24</b> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>30</b> 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship	<b>31</b> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study					

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



PRAY



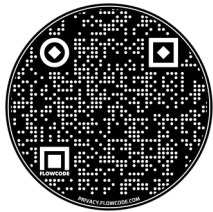
FAST



GIVE



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](mailto:churchinthevalley@comcast.net)  
Web Site: [cherryvalleyumc.com](http://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