

THE MESSENGER

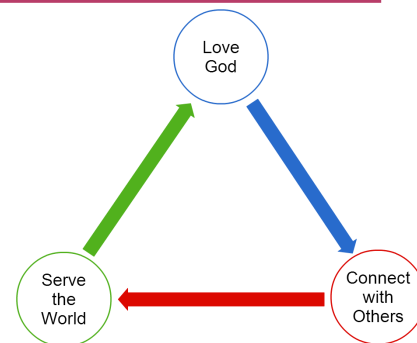
April 2025

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

(A)nd the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22 NRSV)

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

As I was pondering what to write for this letter, I remembered a legend that I heard when I was twelve years old: the legend of how the robin got its red breast. According to the legend, the robin had actually once been a dove passing through Jerusalem when it saw Jesus hanging on the cross with that crown of thorns pressed down on his head. Seeing Jesus' anguish, the bird flew down and plucked one of the thorns from his forehead, dripping blood upon his own breast.

Just over two weeks ago, I heard a robin while my wife and I were on a walk. It wasn't until this past Sunday, however, when I saw, not just one, but several fluttering around the snow in the church parking lot. There was something incongruous about that image. Seeing the first robin means spring is here. Snow doesn't.

The robins' appearance assures me that spring is coming. Even when I had only heard the robin's song before seeing one, I knew that robins were in my midst. That song – and eventually that sighting – gives me hope that winter will soon be gone for the year.

We don't often associate robins with the church or Easter; unless you're familiar with the legend of its red breast. The church lives as a robin for the world. The mere presence of the church and our congregation in the community serves as a reminder – even for those who don't believe it – that God loves us and that the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. Maybe it will be the sound of the church bell on Sunday morning, or just noticing the edifice while driving by; but we do bring hope. I've seen it in lonely men and women who've popped in here and there on a Sunday morning, those who've wandered in asking if they might speak with the pastor or have some time to sit in the sanctuary and pray. The church – this church – matters.

Because we are accustomed to what the church does – just as we get accustomed to robins by the time summer rolls around – we sometimes forget the wonder it serves and the hope it instills.

Easter is the time when we get to be most bold about that hope – hope found in Jesus' resurrection a reminder that nothing – not even death can separate us from the love of

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God. It's also a time when we are reminded to pay attention to God's devotion. We may not sing "Rockin' Robin" on Easter morning, but we will sing. I hope that you'll join us.

Your brother in Christ,



Rev. Mark Harkness



Prairie North Conference



Keep up to date with all the Prairie North Conference Events in the weekly email. Visit the website [Prairie North - Northern Illinois Annual Conference](#). There is also a listing of district contacts at the conference along with achieved newsletters.

Sign up for the weekly e-news by clicking on the latest newsletter and clicking on the "Join Our Email List" in the banner at the top of the page.

VENDOR EVENT!
SATURDAY, APRIL 26
1-4 PM

For more information, speak with Yolanda Beets
 Phone: 815-742-2138
 Email: ybeets@comcast.net

Dates to Remember

- April 8..... 6:00 pm Admin Board Meeting*
- April 12 ... Noon – 4 pm Celebration of Life—Russ Wolf*
- April 13..... Palm Sunday*
- April 17..... 7:00 pm Holy Thursday Worship*
- April 18..... 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship*
- April 20..... 10:00 am Easter Worship Service*
Infant Baptism



Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
 Glenn Carnine
 Pat Gorsuch
 Trudy Hunt
 Herman Krunfus
 Tim Murphy
 Dana Ward

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.



Gracious God,
 We praise you for this day. We thank you for the gifts of life and love, friends and family, church and community.

Thank you especially for the gift of your son Jesus, whose love endures forever. Help us to be the bearers of your gospel - sharing the light of love in the midst of the darkness. In Jesus' name we pray.



Amen.



Scripture Readings

April 6, 2025—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:16-21
John 12:1-8
Message: "God Moves Us...To Empty Ourselves"

April 13, 2025—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isiah 50:4-9a
Luke 23:1-49
"God Moves...To the Cross"

April 17, 2025—Holy Thursday

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Exodus 12:1-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18, 2025—Good Friday

Scripture: Psalm 22
Isiah 52:3-53:12
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19-19:42

April 20, 2025—Easter Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 118:14-24
Acts 10:34-43
Luke 24:1-12
Message: "God Moves...Out of the Tomb"

April 27, 2025—2nd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31
Message: "The Mystery of Faith"



Finance Committee Report

February 2025

Total Revenue	\$12,873.13
Total Expenditures	\$13,334.55
Net Revenue	\$ -461.42



Meeting
Reminder!

The next meeting of the Administrative Council will be on April 8th at 6:00 pm. Check the SharePoint app for the agenda and other documents needed for the meeting.

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 continue to meet on the second Sunday of each month. We are a small, dedicated group of women serving this congregation.

At our last meeting, discussion revolved around the beginning of Sunday School. The need for two people to serve each week means we need YOU to serve when invited. The Sunday School program is a very important aspect of worship for the children in the congregation. Sunday School is where they learn in a fun, safe environment about God. It helps them build a spiritual foundation through studying the bible giving them a sense of belonging.

One of the projects we hope to tackle in the near future is cleaning of the kitchen. *We will need help!* We will announce the date so you can put it on your calendars.

We received a generous gift from Sandy Schwartz and the Scouts! All the proceeds from the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper were donated to our Women's Group. Sandy and the Scouts graciously hosted the Pancake Supper this year, with help from Jim and Mary Coulter who worked the grill, Holly Snyder and Mandy Kloefer who served, and Sherry Gordon and I helped with the cleanup. Thank you to Sue Layng for the decorations.

Thank you to this congregation who continues to support our efforts.

Our next meeting is April 13th after worship. Won't you join us?

Striving to Serve,

Donna Layng



Sunday School

We have started Sunday School once again! Thank you to Ray & Yolanda Beets and Holly Snyder who have gotten a new banner to advertise the worship hours and Sunday School during the service.



The banner is on display on the large sign board near the parking lot. It is too small for the board, so I am ordering a much larger one to fit. Then, we can move this one to the back side of the board so it can be seen by the parking lot side.

Please let me know if you want any changes besides the sizing for the new sign. I am open to all suggestions. Ray suggested we change the ***** to hearts which I think is a good change.

While we were putting the banner up Ray noticed the nearby UMC sign and post was on the ground. I see glass on the sidewalk so it appears someone may have hit the post. I will check with the police to see if there a report or any information. The post is old and not in good shape so it will need replacing. If anyone knows exactly where the post was we can place the post in the same spot. Otherwise we will need to do a Julie locate before digging.

Yolanda Beets

A Celebration of Life Open House



A Celebration of Life Open House will be held for Russ Wolf, the son of Rev. Dick Wang. All are welcome to join Rev. Wang and his family in celebration at the Prairie Street Brewhouse, 200 Prairie Street, Rockford from noon to 4 pm on Saturday, April 12, 2025.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

- 5 Mike Seno
- 6 Sandra Baxter
Mary Bowling
- 7 Nancy John
- 12 Dorrie Dienberg
- 13 Kayte Kloss
- 14 Dawn Hollembeak
- 19 Theoren Nystrom
- 21 David Mills
- 26 Patricia Irps
- 27 Scott Layng

Anniversaries

- 7 Gary & Carol
Conderman
- 21 Mark & Susan Harkness
- 25 John & Sandra Schwartz
- 28 Mark & Holly Snyder



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, April 16th at 10:00 am for knitting, crocheting, conversation and lunch at the home of Ann Harned.

Check the weekly bulletins or call the church office (815-332-5075) for Ann's exact address. Call her at 815-985-2301.

Blessing of the Bikes

Bring your motorcycle, bikes, trikes, recumbents, big wheels and motorized scooters to receive a blessing on Saturday, May 3rd. The event will be in the church parking lot.



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

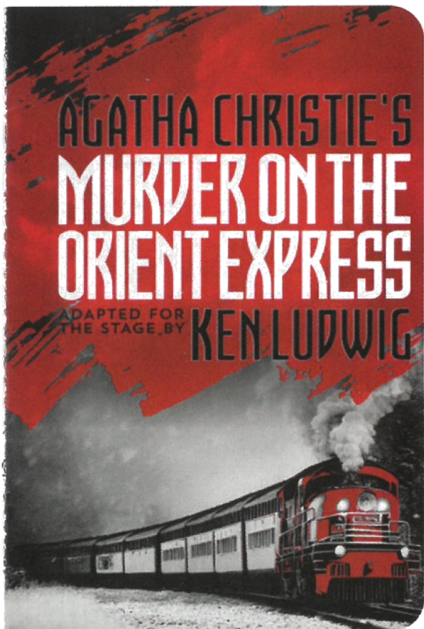
PEANUT BUTTER ENDOWMENT

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/>



The following is an adult trip offered by the Cherry valley Public Library. The trip will be on Sunday May 18th. You must register in person at the library for this program. Looks like a fun trip. How can you go wrong with a great Agatha Christie mystery?



Bus Trip to The Fireside Theatre

Sunday, May 18 from 9:30am to 5:00pm **R\$**

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed eight times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again. Join us for this theatrical thriller from the Queen of Crime with both intellectual and comedic twists and turns, masterfully adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig.

The \$115 fee includes stress-free motor coach transportation, a delicious brunch, the show, all gratuities, and a bus snack on the way home. Participants must be 21 years or older to register. Payment (cash, check, credit card, or debit card) and a signed bus trip waiver will reserve your seat.

Registration opens on Monday, March 3. Registration must be done in person only.

Global Mission School Update

My dear friends of Cherry Valley UMC;

I have good news—The **Global Mission Secondary School (GMSS) celebrated its first graduation on December 7, 2024!** It was an incredibly joyful and meaningful day for our students and community.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to begin construction of a high school in 2026. We need your help by prayer and encouragement.

By God's grace, the **Tanzanian UMC Conference has officially allocated 4.5 acres of land** adjacent to our current middle school for this project. This location will allow us to **share existing facilities** such as the library, cafeteria, and three laboratories, significantly reducing overall costs. We estimate the total construction cost to be **\$400,000**. By God's grace, generous individuals and churches in Korea have already contributed nearly \$200,000 toward this vision. Now, it is time to look forward to the participation of individual donors and churches in the United States.

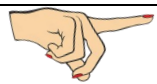
I am also excited to share with you that I am visiting the Northern Illinois Annual Conference June **9-11**. I will be arriving June 2 and staying till June 20. During that time I will visit the Rockford area **June 14, 15 and several days thereafter**. I hope to see many of you during that time.

Thank you for your sustaining prayers and financial support!

Young Seon (Christina) Kim – your missionary in Tanzania



Women's Dinner



PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDARS

All women of the church are invited to come to a dinner being held in the fellowship hall of the church on Wednesday, April 30 at 6:00 pm. Bring a salad to share. Dessert and beverages will be provided. This is a very fun event that has been well attended in the past. For more information, you may speak with Mary Couter.



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



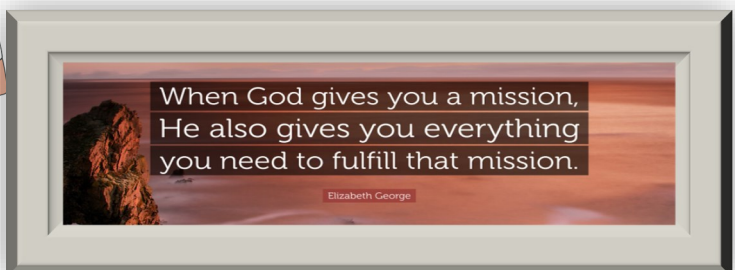
Pastor Kim at her desk. For the last two years Pastor Kim has taught the Bible and Korean language for a total of 9.3 hours each week.

Personal Letter From Pastor Kim

Dear Mission Partner,

I pray that this season of Lent allows you to reflect deeply on your life with Christ, gaining renewal and strength through His companionship. May this time be an opportunity to experience His grace and love more profoundly, and may the passion for His mission be reignited in your heart.

Thank you for always praying for me. I am also praying for you, and I hope that we can continue to rejoice in being used together for God's glory.
Young Seon (Christina) Kim





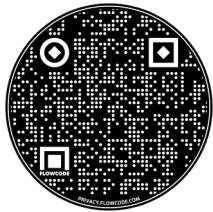
April 2025

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	2 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	3 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	4	5 9:00 am GA
6 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	7 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	8 6:00 pm Admin Board 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	9 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	10 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	11	12 9:00 am GA
13 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Methodist Women <i>Palm Sunday</i>	14 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	15 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>May Newsletter Items Due</i>	16 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Cub Scouts <i>7:00 pm Holy Thursday Worship Service</i>	18 <i>7:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service</i>	19 9:00 am GA
20 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship <i>Easter Sunday</i>	21 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	22 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	23 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	24 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	25	26 9:00 am GA <i>1-4 pm Vendor Event</i>
27 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	28 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	29 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	30 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>6:00 pm Women's Dinner</i>			

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



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