

THE MESSENGER

May 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

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you*

*but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?*

(Micah 6:8 NRSV)

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Since those early days when my dad sat us down in front of the TV to watch Saturn rocket moon launches, I've been fascinated with space flight. I watch each new Starship launch watching for and anticipating a successful landing. Because of the timing I didn't get to watch the recent Blue Origin flight that has stirred up so much controversy.

For those unfamiliar, on April 14, Blue Origin (the company owned by Amazon.com founder, Jeff Bezos) launched what was billed as the first all female space flight crew [Even though cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova, piloted a solo mission including 48 orbits 1963.]

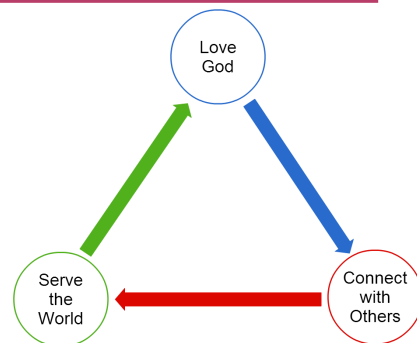
Personally, I wasn't that interested because it seemed like a vanity project for rich celebrities (including Bezo's fiancé) who were really passengers more than a crew. I'm troubled by the vitriol that has accompanied news reports about the endeavor.

Why are we surprised that a pop star took the opportunity to sing, "What a Wonderful World"? Yes, it's a bit hokey. But so what? Katy Perry has had a couple of catchy songs and she was fortunate to get invited for a trip that most of us will never be able to afford. Fault finders have to find faults. *Didn't she once say something about needed to address problems on earth and the environment?* The complaints go on. Why should someone be derided for enjoying a moment, that many of us would relish ourselves?

I don't know that it's a new phenomena (I've only been alive for 58 years), and maybe it's because of how easy it is to spread news compared to the past; but I notice that it seems as if the one unifying feature of our culture is to look for flaws in others – especially if they've ever disagreed with us on any (even insignificant) issue – or if their perspective has evolved over time.

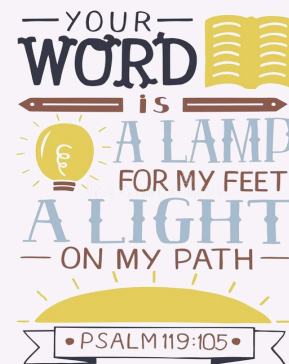
Yet, what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice (i.e. be fair), to love kindness (show mercy), and to walk humbly before the Lord our God. Cancel culture – whether it be refusing to watch a Jane Fonda movie, or vandalizing Tesla vehicles, or condemning public figures for decades past (often youthful and foolish) indiscretions – undermines our ability to grow as people and as Christians.

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Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors; but he also ate with Pharisees and prominent people with whom he disagreed. He calls us to do the same – to engage with anybody and everybody in a spirit of charity and goodwill. That doesn't mean that we have to put our values aside or to affirm evil when it presents itself. At that same time, we are called to humbly accept that disagreement does equal evil, and that if God is willing to look beyond our flaws that we should do the same with others.

As Christians, let's reach for the stars: to be a voice of mercy for those with whom we disagree (even in the midst of those who agree with us), to humbly celebrate even our rival's success, and to speak for justice as fairness for others rather than reprisal for those things that have hurt us.

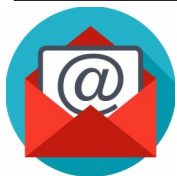
It's not easy – because there will always be voices seeking to dismiss that message and disparage us for speaking it. But I'm convinced there are souls longing to hear it – if only we will say it. God made a wonderful world. Let's draw attention to that wonder.

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.

Dates to Remember

May 3 10 am Blessing of the Bikes
May 5 Pastor Begins Vacation
May 11 Mother's Day
May 23 Pastor Returns from Vacation
May 26 Memorial Day Observed
May 31 10:30 am Patty Campbell Memorial



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.



The Administrative Council will not meet in May.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 3** at 6 pm.

Check the SharePoint app for the agenda and other documents needed for the meeting.

Donate with **PayPal**



Scripture Readings

May 4, 2025—3rd Sunday Of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 30
Acts 9:1-6
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 11, 2025—4th Sunday Of Easter (Mother's Day)

Scripture: Psalm 23
Acts 9:36-43
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30
Message: Rev. Danice Loveridge, Preacher

May 18, 2025—5th Sunday Of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 148
Acts 11:1-18
Revelation 21:106
John 13:31-35
Message: Guest Preacher

May 25, 2025—6th Sunday Of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 67
Acts 16:9-15
Revelation 21:10, 22:5
John 14:23-29



Finance Committee Report

Finance Report March 2025

Total Revenue \$13,131.60
Total Expenditures \$11,664.07
Net Revenue \$ 1,467.53

Finance Report Q1 2025 (Jan/Feb/Mar)

Total Revenue \$38,025.73
Total Expenditures \$38,842.14
Net Revenue \$ - 816.41



The next printing of the *Messenger* will be in late June for the month of July. If you have items that you need advertised prior to that time, you may send them to the secretary and it will be forwarded to the church family.

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



**Women of
the UMC**

The Methodist Women are taking a much needed break and will return to regular meetings at a date to be announced.

If there are any issues that arise that require our attention in the meantime, we will call a special meeting and all will be notified of the date and time.

Have a great spring and summer!

Striving to Serve,

Donna Layng

Fellowship Hosting Sign-up Sheet

We have designed a sign up sheet in hopes of encouraging more participation in fellowship. This is an important part of the Sunday worship experience. Simply choose a date that works for you. We are keeping it real simple with coffee to serve along with cookies or whatever treat you bring. You may bring a beverage such as milk or apple juice, orange juice or fruit punch, but it is not necessary.

Below is an example of the sign up sheet. Look for it in the fellowship room.

Fellowship Hosts

April	May	June	July	August	September	October
	May 4	June 1	July 6	August 3	September 7	October 5
	May 11 <i>Mother's Day</i>	June 8	July 13	August 10	September 14	October 12
April 20 <i>Easter</i>	May 18	June 15 <i>Father's Day</i>	July 20	August 17	September 21	October 19
April 27	May 25	June 22	July 27	August 24	September 28	October 26
		June 29 <i>5th Sunday Potluck</i>		August 31 <i>5th Sunday Potluck</i>		

A Celebration of Life



Pastor Mark Harkness will officiate a memorial service for Patty Campbell at the church on Saturday, May 31st at 10:30 a.m.

Refreshments will be provided in the fellowship hall following interment at the Cherry Valley Cemetery.

All are welcome to come and remember Patty, who was a long-time dedicated and faithful member of Cherry Valley UMC.

Blessing of the Bikes

Bring your motorcycle, bikes, trikes, recumbents, big wheels and motorized scooters to receive a blessing on Saturday, May 3rd at 10:00 a.m. The event will be in the church parking lot.



Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, May 21 at 10:00 am for knitting, crocheting, conversation and lunch at the home of Pat Eickman.

Call Pat at 815-391-0021 or email her at eickman.pat@gmail.com for directions to her home.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATE!

Birthdays

- 1 Pat Gorsuch
Trudy Hunt
- 12 Jeff Sundberg
- 16 Kyle Ward
- 29 Gwen Flood

Anniversaries

- 21 Jim & Mary Coulter
- 26 Herman & Judy Krunfus
- 31 Derek & Jenny Dwyer



The Cherry Valley Public Library is offering a special Chair Yoga event for adults on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m. in the Friends of the Library Public Meeting Room

Chair yoga is a gentle introduction to yoga, designed for seniors and adults struggling with mobility. Local yoga instruction Marie Bridges will walk participants through poses that one can use to help maintain flexibility, breathe more deeply, and sleep more soundly.

Prospective participants must contact a staff member in person to register for this event. A payment of \$3.00 registration fee must be done at that time at 755 E. State Street, Cherry Valley, IL

Registration closes on May 8 at 10:30 a.m. This event is open to individuals 18 years of age and over.



Congregational Care News

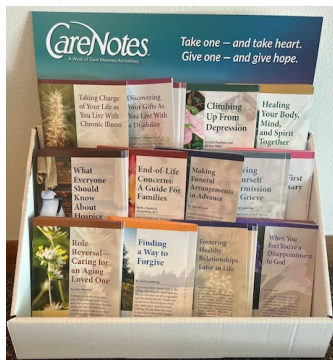
CVUMC now has complimentary CareNotes for you or someone you care about.

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

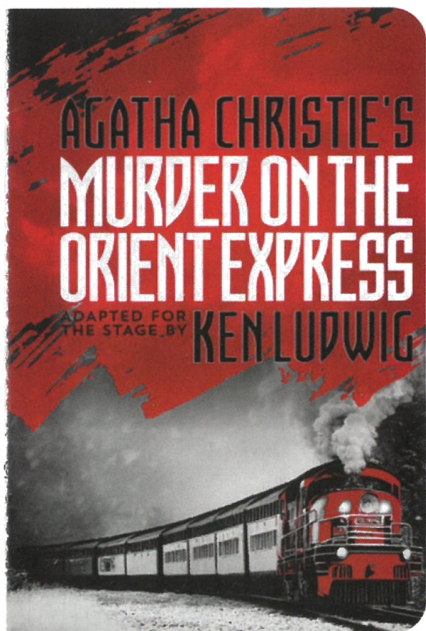
PEANUT BUTTER ENDOWMENT

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.



Acolyte Lorelai

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, NY 10087-9068
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

Church Nursery

Infant – Pre-K



Children's Message Time

CHILDREN'S
Sunday School
Every Sunday after the Children's Message



<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 Cub Scouts	2	3 9:00 am GA 10:00 am <i>Blessing of the Bikes</i>
4 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship	5 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Pastor Mark begins vacation</i>	6 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	7 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	8 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	9 <i>Scouts Fundraiser Event</i>	10 <i>8:30 am—3:30 pm Scout Training Event</i> 9:00 am GA
11 10:00 am Worship <i>Message by Rev. Danice Loveridge</i> <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	13 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	14 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	15 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	16	17 9:00 am GA
18 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship	19 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	20 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	21 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	22 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	23 <i>Pastor Mark returns from vacation</i>	24 9:00 am GA
25 10:00 am Worship 11 :00 am Fellowship	26 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Memorial Day</i>	27 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	28 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	29 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	30	31 9:00 am GA 10:30 am <i>Celebration of Life</i> <i>Patty Campbell</i>

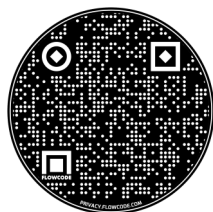
MESSENGER ITEMS ARE DUE TO THE SECRETARY ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.



Happy Mother's Day



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

