

THE MESSENGER

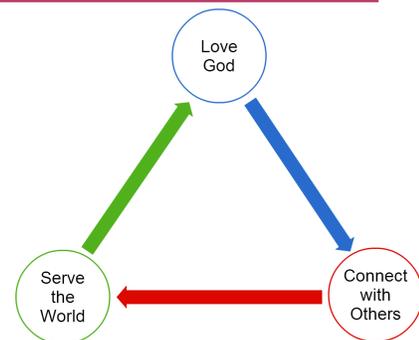
July 2025

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

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you who behave lawlessly.'
²⁴ "Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock.
²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.
²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!" (Micah 6:8 NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

In addition to prayer, my morning routine includes doing a few puzzles including two Sudoku puzzles. In Sudoku there is a grid with 9 sections consisting of nine squares per section. The goal is to place the numbers 1-9 in each section, and to have each row and column extending through the sections to include the numbers 1-9. The puzzles vary in difficulty.

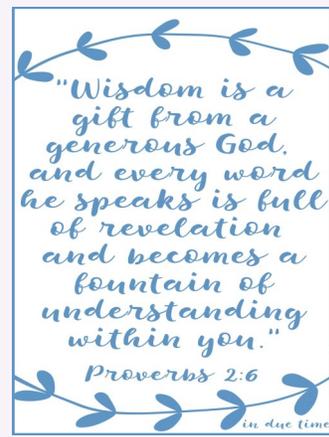
Unlike the paper versions of the puzzle, when completing them on-line (on my phone) I have the option to show or hide conflicts (i.e. errors). I generally choose that option. Rather than "penciling" in notes to simplify the puzzle, I only do so as a last resort after being stumped for several minutes. So what?

Because of the way that I've chosen to do the puzzles, I sometimes get to the end only to realize that I'd made a mistake. But when looking at a mostly complete puzzle, that's hard to unravel. Just one simple mistake – accidentally tapping the wrong square or number on my phone, or maybe not paying close enough attention and putting a duplicate number in a row – affects each subsequent decision, and leads to further confusion and disorder. In most of those situations, I have no choice but to either start over or give up all together.

It's like that in our lives too. One "insignificant" but unnoticed error gets compounded the further we continue without correction. That's why sin is so dangerous. Fortunately, Jesus death on the cross and resurrection give us the means to restart and to continue on. But there's also another component that we often miss in our longing to be self-sufficient.

Catching mistakes early keeps me from going deeper and deeper into the wrong path. One way that could happen is for me to slow down and take advantage of the opportunity to make notes and to compare them. Those notes will often expose an impending error.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

In an on-line Suduko that compounding of a mistake wouldn't happen if I allowed the game to immediately show me an error. That's why it's important to include in our lives people who will point out our errors – our sin. As Christians, we should want everyone to know the joy of holy living which at times means pointing out errors – not like the hypocrites do ignoring the log in their own eye, but as those humble enough to accept correction in our own lives.

Each of us is a sinner. In Jesus Christ, however, we are redeemed sinners with the opportunity to claim perfect completion. To claim that promise requires wisdom: wisdom to welcome correction – especially when it comes early, wisdom to lean on Jesus when all seems lost, and wisdom to encourage one another by pointing to the better way God offers.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

James 1:5 ... 5 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.



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

- July 4 12:00 Independence Day Parade
- July 6 Child Baptism
- July 8 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting
- July 18 6-8:30 pm Vacation Bible School
- July 19 12:30-3:30 pm Vacation Bible School
- July 20 9:45 am Vacation Bible School



Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
 Glenn Carnine
 Dave Dienberg
 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 Church Council will meet on Tuesday, July 8 at 6:00 pm. Agenda and other items for the meeting can be found on SharePoint. If you have trouble signing in, please speak with Pastor Mark to obtain a user ID and password. A copy of the minutes of the last meeting will be sent by the secretary to the members of the Council.



Scripture Readings

July 6, 2025—4th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 30:1-4
Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Message: "A Humbling Intervention for a Proud Commander" (Series: Intervening #3)

July 13, 2025—5th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 82
Amos 7:7-15
Luke 10:25-37

Message: "That's Not It?"

July 20, 2025—6th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:28-34
Acts 27:9-26
Matthew 27:24-31

Message: "Secure and Free"

July 27, 2025—7th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13

Message: "Don't Get Caught"



Finance Committee Report

May 2025 finance report:

Total Revenue \$12,155.00
Total Expenditures \$10,876.77
Net Revenue \$ 1,278.23



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



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 on the table in the sanctuary next to the greeter and liturgist sign-up sheets.

Fellowship Hosts

July	August	September	October	November	December
July 6	August 3	September 7	October 5	November 2	December 7
July 13	August 10	September 14	October 12	November 9	December 14
July 20	August 17	September 21	October 19	November 16	December 21
July 27	August 24	September 28	October 26	November 23	December 28
	August 31 5th Sunday Potluck			November 30 5th Sunday Potluck	

Be A Greeter!



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



Summer Sunday School Schedule

The teachers have decided to continue to have Sunday school sessions during the summer. The information below is the schedule as of this printing. Updates will be added as needed. The "Teacher of the Week" will be listed in the worship bulletin so that people attending worship with school age children will know that there is a Sunday school session and that their child may attend. We have a great curriculum that is aligned with the lectionary so the children will be learning the same scriptures as their parents are hearing in the worship service.



Sunday School June-August 2025

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATE!

Birthdays

- 2 Sydney Schwartz
- 4 Lucy Powell
- 5 Heather Kerr
- 9 Nathan Schwartz
- 11 Herman Krunfus
- 27 Derek Dwyer

Anniversaries

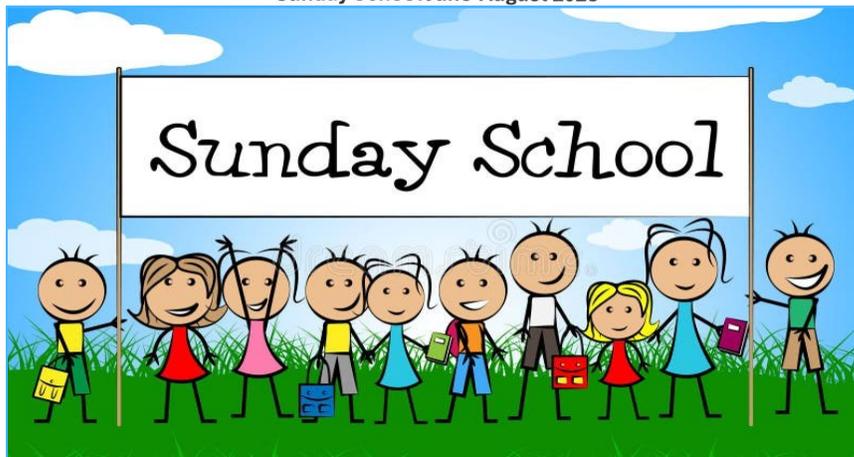
- 2 Ryan & Natalie Herold
- 24 Michael & Dawn Maffioli



*Children are a gift from the Lord;
they are a reward from him*



Psalm 127:3



DATE	LESSON	TEACHER (S)
June 8	Lesson 1 Spirit Pentecost Acts 2:1-41	Donna
June 15	Lesson 1 Spirit Philip and the Ethiopian Acts 8:26-40	Terri/Lucy
June 22	Lesson 1 Spirit Spiritual Gifts 1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Lucy/Terri
June 29	Lesson 1 Spirit Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23	Lucy
July 6	Lesson 2 Praise David Dances 2 Samuel 6:12-19	Sandy
July 13	Lesson 2 Praise Shout with Joy Psalm 100	Terri
July 20	Lesson 2 Praise Praise the Lord Psalm 150	Donna
July 27	Lesson 2 Praise Mary's Song Luke 1:46-55	Sandy?
Aug 3	Lesson 2 Praise Salt and Light Matthew 5:13-16	Sandy
Aug 10	Lesson 3 Scripture Wise Writings Proverbs 6:6-8; 10:1; 17:17	Working on
Aug 17	Lesson 3 Scripture Everything Has a Season Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	Working on
Aug 24	Lesson 3 Scripture Paul Writes to the Corinthians 1 Corinthians 12:12-31	Sandy
Aug 31	Lesson 3 Scripture Paul Writes to the Philippians Philippians 4:8-9, 13	Sandy

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

ANCHORED — DEEPENING OUR
FAITH IN GOD

Kids age 3 through 5th grade will
embark on an undersea
adventure and discover the
unwavering love of God

CHERRY VALLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
112 S. Cherry Street,
Cherry Valley, IL. 61016

WHEN: July 18th, 19th, 20th

TIME: FRI., 7/18, @ 5:30-8:30 PM

SAT., 7/19, @12:30-3:30 PM

SUN., 7/20, @9:45-11:00 AM

**DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION FORM AT
CHERRYVALLEYUMC.COM**

Send completed form to
Cherry Valley UMC
112 S. Cherry St., P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

**You may also pre-register by calling
the church office at 815-332-5075.**

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.



4th of July Parade

The 4th of July Parade is one of our best opportunities to let the community know about our VBS program. It is a whole church event and all are welcome to come out and walk the parade with the VBS Crew. We will be handing out packets of information about our program and our church. Speak with Deb Gross to see how you can join in the fun!

Vacation Bible School—2025

We are so excited about this year's VBS program! It is entitled, "Anchored Deepening Faith in God" Once again this year, we will have our program in the afternoon and evening so that it may be easier for parents to bring their kiddos. We will kick off on Friday evening, July 18 at 6:00 - 8:30 pm. We will be here a bit early so that we can get the registration process completed and begin the program on time. The Saturday, July 20 session will begin at 12:30 pm and will end at 3:00 pm. On Sunday, July 21, we will begin at 9:45 am and will complete the program at the worship service with the VBS kiddos having a part in the service.

If you know of anyone with children in the age 3 to 5th grade range, please share this information with them and invite them to bring the children to this program and be sure to tell them that is **FREE!**

Registration forms are available at the church office and may be downloaded from the web site (cherryvalleyumc.com). Also, there is a registration form on page 9 of this publication. Parents may call the church office to register their child as well. If the call is outside of business hours, they may leave a message and the secretary will call back to obtain the registration information.

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.

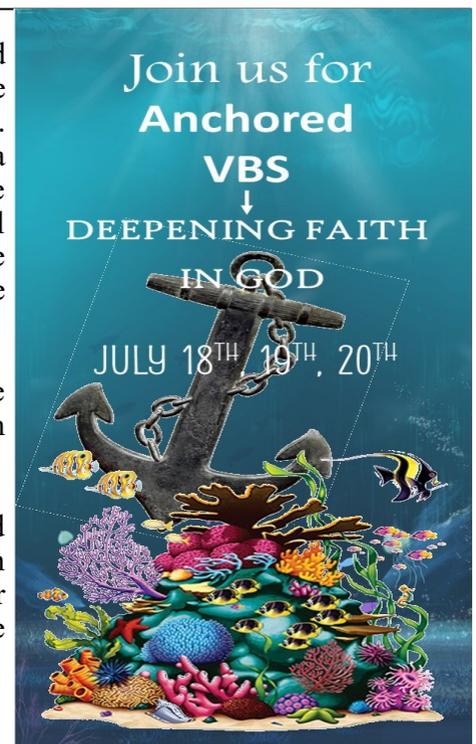
CURRENT NEEDS LIST

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/>



Pastor Kim—Open House

The open house for our former pastor (2000-05)—Young Seon Kim, brought together 16 friends on a lovely summer Saturday, June 14 in the fellowship hall of our church. It was a rich time of shared memories. Reverend Carl Cole and his wife Diana joined us and Reverend Cole, in his upbeat, flamboyant style, spontaneously played a medley of Christian hymns. Carl played praise music at Cherry Valley during the time Cherry Valley had a Saturday night service. During that time he and Pastor Kim developed a very close friendship.



Pastor Kim reflected on her time at the church and how instrumental her time was in her growth as a minister. She expressed her gratitude and love for the church family's support. Though Cherry Valley was not her first congregation, it was the first established one with a history of faithful service to the community with a long tradition.

Previously she had been a part of a Korean church plant in the Chicago suburbs.



Pastor Kim returned to South Korea to serve as a pastor at a large church near Seoul. Then she began her missionary journey in Tanzania 13 years ago. In the last 5 years she has built the Global Mission Secondary School from the ground up to provide education for students who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to continue their studies. No small accomplishment!

Current enrollment is about 340 students and she just celebrated her first graduating class. She is now embarking on the final stage; building a high school. She needs to raise a half million dollars. Her motto is, "With God, all things are possible!"

(Continued in next column)

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

(Continued from previous column)

During her time at this year's annual conference Pastor Kim met with the Bishop to request that her project be considered for next year's special appeal. Please pray that God opens that door. Continue to pray for her ministry and if God leads you to support her financially, please send a donation to the Advance account in this newsletter. It is tax deductible.

With God's grace we grow together

Your friend in Christ! Judy Long

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples." - Psalm 96:3



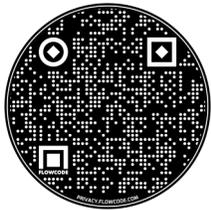


<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	2 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	3 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	4 12:00 pm <i>Independence Day Parade (VBS Crew)</i> 	5 9:00 am GA
6 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>Child Baptism</i>	7 6:00 Scouts BSAG	8 6:00 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	9 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	10 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	11	12 9:00 am GA
13 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	14 6:00 Scouts BSAG	15 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	16 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	18 6:00—8:30 pm <i>VBS</i> 	19 9:00 am GA 12:30-3:00 pm <i>VBS</i> 
20 10:00 am Worship 9:45 am <i>VBS</i> 11:00 am <i>fellowship</i> 	21 6:00 Scouts BSAG	22 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	23 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	24 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	25	26 9:00 am GA
27 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	28 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's	29 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	30 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Cub Scouts		

MESSENGER ITEMS ARE DUE 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.

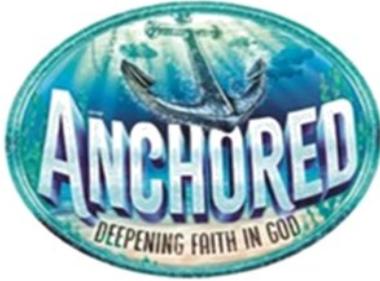
Contact us:

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



REGISTRATION FORM

(One Per Child)

Child's name: _____

*Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cellphone: (_____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

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*Children must be bathroom trained in order to attend.