

THE MESSENGER

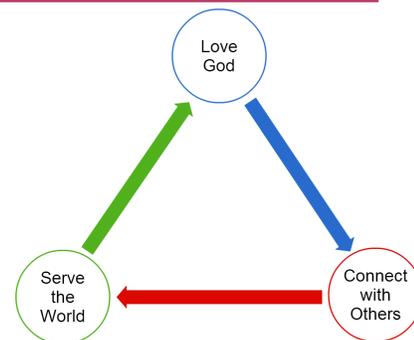
August 2025

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

²³ Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Tell of his salvation from day to day.
²⁴ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
²⁵ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
²⁶ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
²⁷ Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and joy are in his place.
²⁸ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²⁹ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him.

Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
³⁰ tremble before him, all the earth.
The world is firmly established
it shall never be moved.
³¹ Let the heavens be glad,
and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations,
"The LORD is king!"
³² Let the sea roar and all that fills it;
let the field exult and everything in it.
³³ Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
³⁴ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
(1 Chronicles 16:23-34 NRSV)

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*Consider how the wild flowers grow.
They do not labor or spin.
Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in
all his splendor was dressed like one
of these.*

Luke 12:27



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

We recently concluded Vacation Bible School. I give thanks for all the volunteers who worked to make it a success: through leading sessions, decorating, promoting, planning, and so much more. When I started to make a list of all those who had helped in some way, I stopped counting at twenty knowing that there are probably some that I missed. This is something to celebrate.

Because of their service we shared the Gospel with twenty some children. Those children got to learn that they can trust God, because God is faithful! For the second year in a row another United Methodist Church was brought children because we have Vacation Bible School.

I would love to report that we will see all twenty of those children and their families in church every week. Although it would be a great joy, it's not likely. But the purpose of Vacation Bible School isn't to recruit new families for church. The purpose is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his love. That should really guide everything that we do as a church.

Jesus told his disciples that wherever even two or three are gathered in his name that he is there. (Mt 18:20) His great commission is to go into the world to make disciples. (Mt 28:19) That's how we measure our ministry. As tempting as it is to compare ourselves with bigger churches – and even sometimes to feel the draw – we have a vital ministry here in our midst.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

When the psalmist in that passage from 1 Chronicles above says, "Sing to the LORD all the earth," and invites us to tell of his salvation, we do that. In the coming months we have opportunities to share the Gospel by inviting persons into our building for vendor fairs and to attend the blessing of the animals service on October 4. Not all of those people will choose to join our church (some will already have church homes), but like Vacation Bible School these are opportunities to plant the seeds of faith with the good news that God is faithful and trustworthy and that his love endures not just forever but in the midst of right now.

Seeds were planted and nurtured in twenty young souls. Where else might we spread those seeds? Where is God inviting you to take part?

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.

Future Dates to Remember

- Aug. 12..... 6:00 pm— Church Council Meeting**
- Aug. 31..... 10:00 am—CVUMC Worship @ New Milford**
- Sept. 8 10 am—Bible Study @ New Milford Begins**
- Sept. 9 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting**
- Sept. 11..... 6:00 pm Bible Study @ CVUMC Begins**
- Oct. 4..... 9:00 am Blessing of the Animals**
- Oct. 14..... 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting**

Lord please hear my prayer



Members & Friends

Dwight Banks
 Sandra Baxter
 Glenn Carnine
 Dave Dienberg
 Pat Gorsuch
 Trudy Hunt
 Herman Krunfus
 Judy Long
 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, August 12 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

August 3, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 107:1-9
Hosea 11:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Message: "You Had Me at 'Hello'"

August 10, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 50:1-15
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Message: "How Faith Acts
[series: Pillars of Faith]"

August 17, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 80
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Message: "The Eyes of Faith
[series: Pillars of Faith]"

August 24, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Message: "Faith in the Face of Opposition
[series: Pillars of Faith]"

August 31, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 81:1-10
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Message: "Faith Enough to Wait
[series: Pillars of Faith]"



Finance Committee Report

June 2025 General Fund

Total Revenue	\$10,370.81
Total Expenditures	\$11,223.40
Net Revenue	\$ -852.59
Emergency Fund Balance:	\$ 2,750.00



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



Safe Sanctuaries Training

The Northern Illinois Conference is deeply committed to creating and maintaining spaces where all people, especially the most vulnerable among us, are safe, respected, and nurtured in God's love. Safe Sanctuaries® is an overt expression in making congregations safe places where children, youth, and elders may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith.

Churches in the Northern Illinois Conference are expected to be "Safe Sanctuary" congregations, where all church staff and volunteers who have a role in ministries with children, youth, and vulnerable adults should receive training and undergo renewal **every three years**.

Training of staff and volunteers can happen in several ways: Training may be performed through the online, recommended resource "Safe Gatherings." Safe Gatherings is an online abuse prevention program that screens and educates staff and volunteers to help prevent abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults in group settings. This resource includes a background check as part of the training. Conference-wide training events are scheduled from time to time throughout the year by the annual conference.

Training may be performed in-person with a qualified trainer using the denominational Safe Sanctuaries curriculum, and followed up with a background check process managed by the local church. (Contact Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer for more information.)

If you have not yet completed Safe Sanctuary training, or need to renew your certification, you are invited to participate in the upcoming Zoom Safe Sanctuary Training on Saturday, August 23, or Sunday, August 24.

Safe Sanctuary Training is not just a requirement, it is a reflection of our shared values and commitment to do no harm and ensure that every person feels safe within the life of the church.

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer at fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org. Together, we can build a church that is safe for all and grounded in grace.

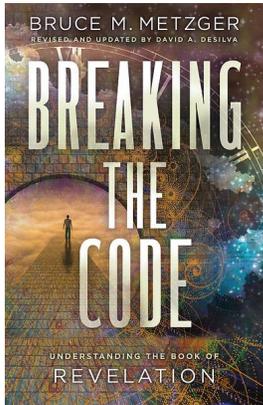


Fall Bible Study

Breaking the Code – Understanding the Book of Revelation

September 8 – October 15 (6 Weeks)

10:00 am Monday morning at New Milford UMC
6:00 p.m. Wednesday evening at Cherry Valley UMC



The Book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and often frightening.

How are readers today to discern God's message in this peculiar part of the Bible?

Breaking the Code Revised Edition provides a trustworthy guide to the rich symbolism of this important biblical book. Noted biblical scholar Bruce M. Metzger presents the fruits of solid scholarship in a non-academic style. This revised edition includes updates based on current biblical research, as well as additional teaching from author and respected New Testament scholar David deSilva.

Books are \$17 each. Please sign-up by August 17 so that books can arrive on time. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the sanctuary, or call the church office at 815-332-5075 to register and reserve your book.



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

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

- 7 Zachery Dienberg
- 9 Susan Layng
Karlene Brown
- 12 Barbara Anderson
- 18 Sally Lawton
Terri Burritt
Sean Conderman
- 20 Jennifer Dienberg
- 25 Kameron Taylor
- 26 Charlie Schnuckel
- 27 Ryan Herold
- 29 Leilani Roselyn Taylor

Anniversaries

- 14 Glenn & Nola Carnine
- 16 Dave & Barbara Anderson
- 17 Michael & Debora Seno
- 18 Nick & Katie Brown
- 22 Warren & Debbie Gross
- 23 Jim & Juanita Barnes



AWAKEN YOUR SPIRIT

A Guided Introduction to Spiritual Coaching

- ✓ Quiet the noise
- ✓ Reconnect with your spirit
- ✓ Begin walking in alignment with who you truly are



2-HOUR ONLINE JOURNEY | LIMITED TO 12 SEATS

Awaken Your Spirit – A Guided Introduction to Spiritual Coaching

Is your soul longing for more?

What if the peace you're searching for isn't out there... but within?

Step into a sacred space for reflection, healing, and clarity.

I want to invite you to something gentle but deeply powerful:

A complimentary 2-hour online group session (limited to 12 spots.)



Saturday, August 9, 2025,



9:00-11:00am



Zoom

In this sacred space, you'll:

- * Quiet the noise and reconnect with your spirit
- * Experience a live spiritual coaching demo
- * Be gently guided through journaling and reflection
- * Share in a small, supportive group of like-hearted people

If your soul is stirring... this is for you.

<https://calendly.com/danice4healthyu/awaken-your-spirit-a-guided-introduction>

With grace,

Rev. Danice Loveridge
Holistic Health Coach for Mind, Body, Spirit
danice4healthyu@gmail.com
815-509-9445

I will restore you to health and heal your wounds "declares the Lord..."

Jeremiah 30:17

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/>

Vacation Bible School 2025



VBS 2025

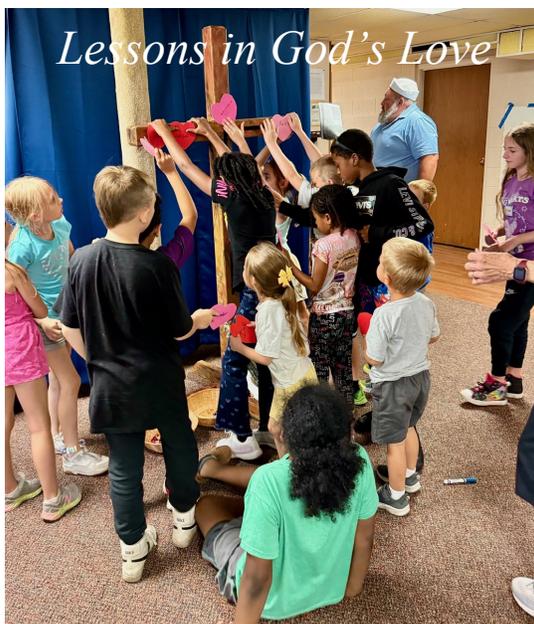
This year's VBS really dropped Anchor! The kids had loads of fun during this amazing undersea adventure at Anchored "Deepening Faith in God". They experienced incredible bible learning experiences, team-building games, cool bible songs and multi-sensory adventures that help faith flow into real life. The response from the kids was overwhelming, you could see it in their faces...they really had a great time! The children discovered that God is always good and his faithful love endures forever...we can TRUST GOD! The elementary kids made care kits for children in crisis at the Rockford Rescue Mission. We had 20 kids attend with 2 Junior Helpers and 5 of the 20 were from Centennial UMC (along with one adult who assisted the VBS team). We really appreciated their support during VBS as well as assisting us in taking down the VBS decorations after church.

The team would like to thank everyone who donated to VBS this year, for a total of \$205. It really helps take the burden off and we couldn't have done it without all the contributions (including prop donations, cookies, kid's meals, parade candy and water bottles, etc). We'd also like to thank anyone who assisted in and walked in the 4th of July Parade.

A "BIG" thank you to the following people...your dedication warms the heart and our Undersea World looked spectacular as always!!

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Juanita Barnes | Marley McCullough (Jr Helper) |
| Melynda Mungor | Danice Loveridge |
| Nola Carnie | Mike Loveridge |
| Pastor Mark Harkness | Mark Greef |
| Susan Harkness | Patricia Irps |
| Lucy Powell | Mary Coulter |
| Nancy Laurent | Mandy Kloepfer |
| Cindy Kerr | Holly Snyder |
| Warren Gross | Joseline Hernandez (Centennial UMC) |
| Karen Harter | Ray Beets |
| Sally Hollembeak | |
| Laverne Neff (for storage) | |
| Callie Gordon (Jr Helper) | |

Deb Gross, VBS Director



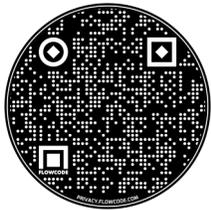
August 2025

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2 9:00 am GA
3 10:00 am Worship	4 6:00 Scouts BSAG	5 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	6 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	7 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	8 <i>Russell Wolf Memorial Private Event</i>	9 9:00 am GA
10 10:00 am Worship	11 6:00 Scouts BSAG	12 6:00 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	13 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	14 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	15	16 9:00 am GA
17 10:00 am Worship	18 6:00 Scouts BSAG	19 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	20 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	21 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	22	23 9:00 am GA
24 10:00 am Worship	25 6:00 Scouts BSAG	26 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	27 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	28 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	29	30
31 <i>10:00 am Worship @ New Milford</i>						

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



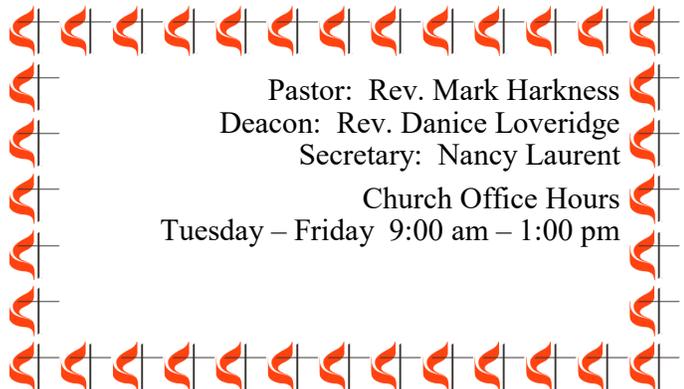
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016



Sunday @ 10:00 am—In-person Worship
Live You Tube streaming at [Cherry Valley United Methodist Church](http://CherryValleyUnitedMethodistChurch.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