

# THE MESSENGER

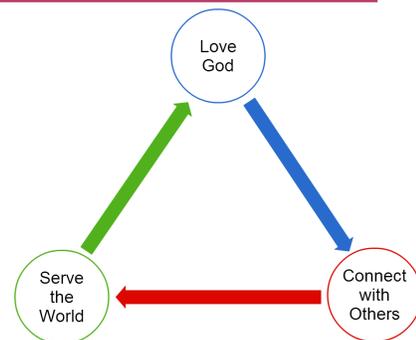
September 2025

## 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

*Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ...*

*<sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" <sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrew 13:1-3, 6-9 NRSV)*

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

A painting of Underdog hangs on the wall behind my desk in the parsonage study. The painting was a gift from a parishioner at my first church appointment. A high school art teacher, she'd heard me talk about how I'd been unable to find an Underdog necktie or other themed items, and commissioned one of her students to make the painting. I treasure her thoughtfulness, but also the painting itself.

So why would a pastor choose to so prominently display a portrait of a fictional cartoon character in his work space rather than say an image of Jesus or the apostles? (I do have images of the four Gospel authors hanging in the church office.) What is the appeal?

For those unfamiliar, Underdog was a cartoon series in the mid-1960s. His alter-ego mild-mannered, unassuming Shoe-Shine Boy transformed into Underdog after taking a super energy pill whenever he heard the need for help. Unlike Superman or other superheroes, Underdog continue to make mistakes: flying into billboards and crash landing, etc. But in the end, always managed to save the day.

As Christians, we have been transformed and melded into the body of Christ Jesus. Through him we are not only called to hear the cry of the needy, the infirm, and the oppressed, but have the capacity to bring healing and true liberty into the midst of a broken world.

The good news remains, that just as Underdog still manages to save the day despite all of his shortcomings and mistakes; God works wonders around us even when we flail and "fail." As Underdog demonstrates that even imperfect heroes are still heroes (even when mistaken for bird, plane, or even frog), when we strive to live as Christ calls us while acknowledging our own imperfection, we not only extend hope to the imperfect people around us and demonstrate that God loves all people while calling them into something better.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

My Underdog painting is actually painted to the back of the glass. It wouldn't look exactly the same if the background paper/matting were different, but it would be the same Underdog. How each of us lives out our commitment to Jesus will not always look the same, but that doesn't keep Jesus from shining through just as powerfully in any of 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.

## Future Dates to Remember

- Sept. 7 ..... *Choir Returns for Fall/Winter season*
- Sept. 8 ..... *10 am—Bible Study @ New Milford Begins*
- Sept. 9 ..... *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- Sept. 10 ..... *6:00 pm Bible Study @ CVUMC Begins*
- Oct. 4 ..... *9:00 am Blessing of the Animals*
- Oct. 4 ..... *11:00 am—3:00 pm Vendor Event*
- 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  
 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, September 9 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

### September 7

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

Message: "RE: consile Relationships"  
Series: RE:boot #1

### September 14

Scripture: Psalm 14  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

Message: "RE: imagine Regret"  
Series: RE:boot 2

### September 21

Scripture: Psalm 4  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

Message: "RE:frame"  
Series: RE:boot #3

### September 28

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

Message: "RE:think Happiness"  
Series: RE:boot #4



## Monday Evening Women's Bible Study



The Monday Evening Women's Bible study will resume meetings on Monday, September 1 at 6:30 pm. Women interested in this group may contact Lucy Powell at 815-904-9462 or email [lpowell530@yahoo.com](mailto:lpowell530@yahoo.com).

*All women are welcome*

## Finance Committee Report

### July 2025 General Fund

Total Revenue	\$ 9,692.47
Total Expenditures	\$11,752.66
Net Revenue	\$ -2,060.19



*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
2 Corinthians 9:7*

### 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's group will meet after worship on Sunday, September 14 to discuss the future of this group. If you are interested in having a voice about the group, please come to the meeting and join the discussion. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

## Prayer Shawl Group



The prayer shawl group will resume their monthly Wednesday meetings on September 17 at 10:00 am for knitting, crocheting, conversation and lunch at the home of one of the members.

Check the weekly bulletins or call the church office (815-332-5075) for the information on the host this month. For information about this group, contact Lucy Powell at 815-904-9462 or email [lpowell530@yahoo.com](mailto:lpowell530@yahoo.com).



**BE  
HERE  
TOMORROW:**

**09.08.2025**

**A SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
INITIATIVE**

**7:00-8:30 PM  
RPL NORDLOF  
CENTER  
118 N MAIN ST,  
ROCKFORD, IL 61101**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PANEL  
DISCUSSION, RESOURCE TABLES,  
SPOKEN WORD, ARTWORK FROM  
LOCAL ARTISTS AND LIVE MUSIC.

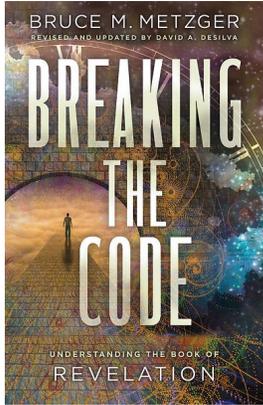
LET'S START THE CONVERSATION ABOUT SUICIDE PREVENTION. BROUGHT TO YOU BY NAMI NORTHERN ILLINOIS, ROCKFORD AREA MOMS DEMAND ACTION, THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND THE CITY OF ROCKFORD VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL.

## 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.

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The sign up sheet is on the table in the sanctuary.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays This Month

- 25 Mandy Kloepfer
- 27 Sherry Gordon
- 29 Holly Snyder

- 2 Mary Coulter
- 6 Grace Harter
- 7 Melynda Mungor
- Warren Gross
- 8 Zane Clevenger
- 10 Amy Flood
- 22 David Burritt
- 23 Jeanette Krueger
- Monica Plummer
- 24 David Ziemke
- Chris Flood



- 3 Gary & Sue Wilt
- 12 Dan & Julie Halley



Operation Christmas Child  
Shoebox Ministry

The year is quickly flying by and it's time to get serious about our shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Ministry. Many of the shops are now having pre-Christmas sales on toys and small items to fill your boxes. Watch the weekly bulletins and the *Messenger* for more information.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE  
NIC UNITED METHODIST MEN'S



### Spiritual Congress

September 12 – 14, 2025  
Conference Point - On Beautiful Lake Geneva  
300 Conference Point Road  
Williams Bay, Wisconsin

Register Now at: [www.nicumm.org](http://www.nicumm.org)

## Blessing of the Animals

All creatures great and small, the Lord our God made them all.



**When:** October 4, 2025, 9:00 AM

**Where:** Cherry Valley United Methodist Church  
112 Cherry Street, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

**Who:** For more information, contact Deacon Danice:  
Phone. The 815-509-9445, Email  
danice.loveridge@gmail.com



## 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.



### Order of Deacon

Leading and Equipping the Church in Servant Ministry  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### From the Deacon's Desk

September, 2025

Dear Church,

I have exciting updates regarding my ministry. I returned to school to take courses to become a Certified Life Coach and Spiritual Coach. Life Coaches walk people through situations in their life by empowering them to find their own answers and implement changes. A Spiritual Coach empowers individuals to reflect upon their life from a spiritual perspective and develop personal centering practices that help them grow. I will be offering all aspects of this coaching beginning this month. You can learn more about what I do and schedule a complimentary session here: [daniceloveridge4healthyu.com](http://daniceloveridge4healthyu.com)

Additionally, I continue to volunteer as the group leader for the Rockford Area Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense and the League Of Women Voters of Greater Rockford Gun Violence Prevention Committee. Collectively, we help legislate for safer gun laws, educate families and entities on safe gun storage, and advocate for gun violence victims and their families. You can learn more about what we do here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/z3sXnbJkXLse7ZR/?mibextid=K35Xfp>.

These groups are working together on a Youth Gun Violence Prevention Initiative. There are monthly meetings open to the public on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 at Comprehensive Community Solutions on South Main. We are always looking for individuals who have an interest in gun violence prevention and want to be part of the solution.

Additionally, these groups are offering a Suicide Prevention Panel (Be Here Tomorrow), on September 8, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Nordlof Center on N. Main. There is no fee for this event and it is open to anyone wanting to know more about suicide prevention.

I'd love to chat with you regarding any of these updates and answer any questions. Looking forward to continuing to work for the Kingdom together.

## 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.



## Global Mission Secondary School

Many of you follow Pastor Kim on Facebook. For those who don't or for those who missed it, please read the following testimony. It shows so clearly the impact this school is having on the lives of young people in Tanzania. These young people will become contributing adults with meaningful values in their country. Impactful!!!

### A Testimony That Moved Me to Tears of Joy and Gratitude.

Last Saturday morning after the parents-led overnight prayer, I took a group of our students to the future site of Global Mission High School for the very first time. Together, we stood on that land and prayed with all our hearts, lifting up the vision of this A-Level school to our faithful God.

I shared honestly—we don't yet know where the needed \$460,000 will come from. But we boldly declared our faith: God is already going before us, and God will provide.

And then, something truly beautiful happened. Before the Sunday offering prayer, our Form III students quietly came forward—one by one—gathering at the altar. What did they do? They had secretly collected 105,000 TZS among themselves as the very first offering for the GMHS building project. They said, "Let us be the first to give."

The amount was not large in the world's eyes, but their heart and faith overwhelmed me. As we all knelt together and offered their gift to God, I was reminded of the boy with five loaves and two fish—small in size, yet mighty in the hands of God.

I believe this is just the beginning of many miracles on this journey. Even now, tears fill my eyes as I write. "Lord, we trust You. Go before us and fulfill Your vision. May every student and every donor—past, present, and future—experience the joy and blessing of David's words: "My cup overflows." Amen.



Court Street UMC's chapter of United Women in Faith (UWFaith) is holding a luncheon at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. All women and men are invited to come for a program featuring guest

speaker Nick Gliha, *Community Engagement Specialist* for Church World Service (CWS). CWS is a globally active faith-based charity that provides emergency relief to those affected by poverty and disaster. They are the organization behind the charity donation drives known as CROP Hunger Walk and Blanket Sunday. RSVP by 12 p.m. of Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> to Donna Dow at (815) 963-3020. \$10 per person.

## 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



"Ask, and it will be given to you;  
seek, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened to you."

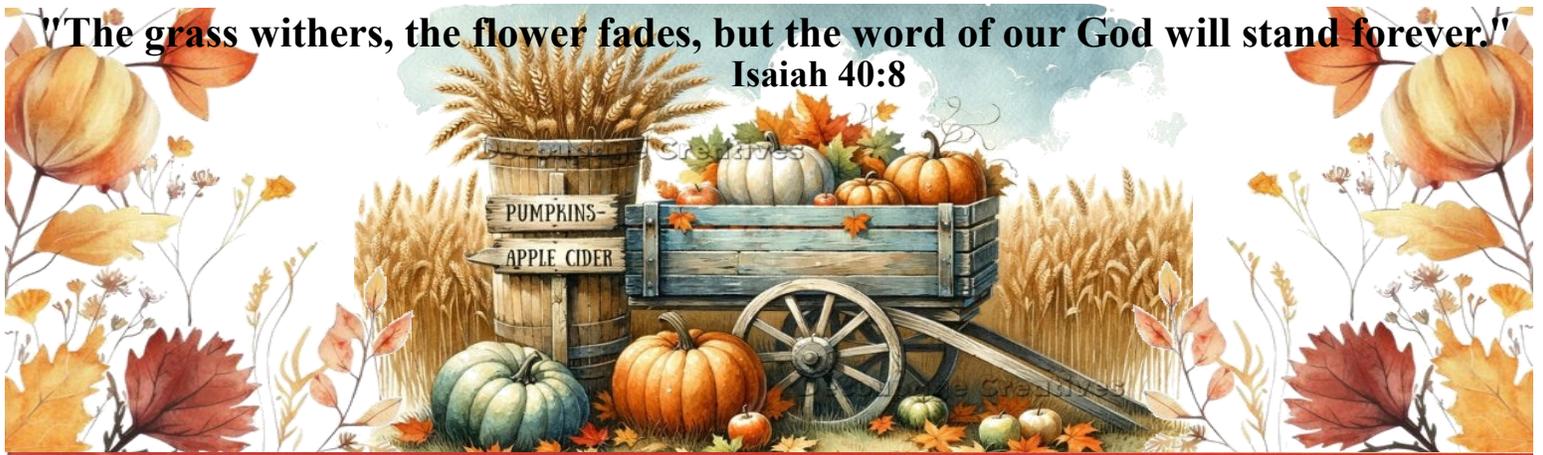
Matthew 7:7

# September 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> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>7</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Bible Study@ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Fall Bible Study	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>14</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Methodist Women	<b>15</b> 10:00 am Bible Study@ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 pm Fall Bible Study	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>21</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Bible Study@ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	<b>24</b> 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Fall Bible Study	<b>25</b> 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am GA
<b>28</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>29</b> 10:00 am Bible Study@ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

**"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever!"**  
**Isaiah 40:8**



**Village of Cherry Valley  
Upcoming Events**

**Fall Garage Sales**  
Sep. 19 & 20  
8:00am - 4:00pm rain or shine  
**Fall Fishing at Baumann Lake**  
Sep. 20 10:00am - 12:00pm

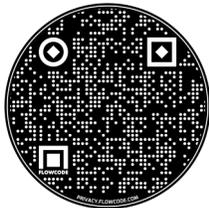
**Halloween Decorating  
Contest**  
Oct. 1 - Oct. 31

**Halloween Parade &  
Trunk or Treat**  
Oct. 25 at 4:00pm

**Questions?**  
Call Village Hall at 815.332.3441



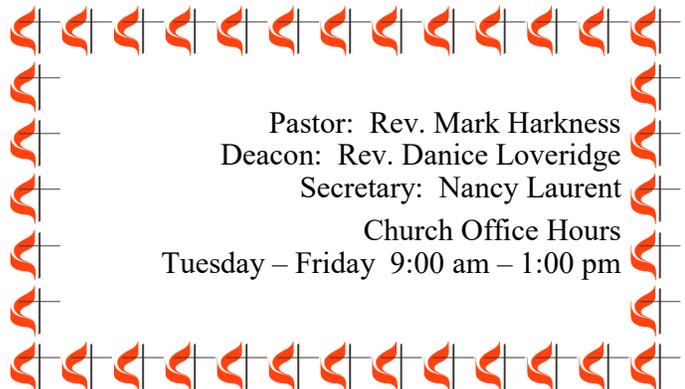
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church  
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235  
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016



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



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Deacon: Rev. Danice Loveridge  
Secretary: Nancy Laurent

Church Office Hours  
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm