

THE MESSENGER

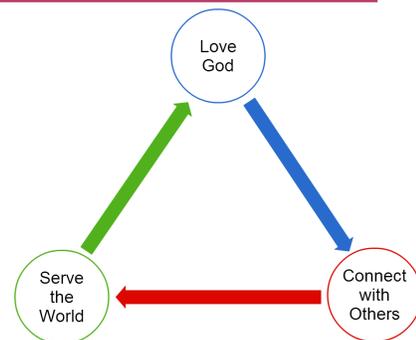
October 2025

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

For I want you to know how greatly I strive for you and for those in Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face.² I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.⁴ I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments.⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your orderly conduct and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ.⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

(Colossians 2:1-10 NIV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Although God called me into pastoral ministry and I consider myself privileged, my dream job would be mythbuster because of the intellectual challenge and getting paid to blow things up. You may remember the Discovery Channel television series, *Mythbusters*. In each episode the hosts (i.e. mythbusters) test myths seeking to either confirm or disprove their validity, by considering the underlying assumptions and asking questions about those assumptions through various experiments. Ultimately, the mythbuster's job is to ask questions that confirm or refute the proposition.

That work involves conversation: First, by listening for to what the myth says is true; and second, by putting it to the test. That's important for us to remember as Christians. We know that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) That assurance comes from our trust in God as the source of knowledge.

With the advent of electronic media – especially the internet and the profusion of social media – regardless of qualifications or integrity, anybody can disseminate ideas to swaths of people. When we "like" or "share" that information we actually bestow our integrity on those ideas. But do we check them out first?

Honest people – truthful people – humble people are okay with skepticism and welcome questions, even challenging questions, and even when it makes them uncomfortable. Though the answers to those questions could upend what they think they know, they might also serve to strengthen and confirm that knowledge.

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to listen – but also to consider the original source. Fundamentalists (conservative and progressive), Christian nationalists, and other charlatans depend on our ignorance of Scripture and apostolic doctrine by attaching Jesus' name or convoluted interpretation of Scripture to suit their agenda regardless of whether it conforms to God's all while insisting that doubting their message is an affront to God.

God can withstand our questions. God honors our insistence to test the spirits. Jesus warned his disciples that **many** will come in his name, leading many astray. (Mt. 24:5) When Peter perceived that Jesus was walking on the water toward him, he said, "If is you, command me to come to you." Then he tested and confirmed that it was not a ghost by taking a few steps on the water. (Mt. 14:28)

"The heavens declare the glory of God..."



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I had never heard of Charlie Kirk before news of his murder. Since then, I've looked at a little bit about what he believed and how he behaved. On many points, I disagree with him. On many others, I agree. I do know that I would have liked to argue with him – not to put him down or prove him wrong – but for the joy of intellectual sparring and the awareness that to do so requires understanding his perspective. Doing so helps us to identify the flaws not only in another's argument, but in our own and helps to strengthen us.

The pseudo-anonymity of the internet and its echo chambers combined with increasingly absolute partisanship is an affront to God's purpose in us. Remember Jesus didn't just hang out with prostitutes and tax collector's, he dined with the Pharisees and the scribes, too. He engaged them in conversation so that he could extend God's love to everyone. Some continued to disagree.

When his disciples suggested that they should call down fire from heaven to destroy those who rejected him, Jesus rebuked them. (Lk 9:53-55) Jesus rebuked them, because he loved them. It's time for us as ordinary Christians to rebuke those who celebrate violence and murder against those whose opinions or ideologies differ from their own. That means our families and friends and associates. Much of the time it will be most effective when done gently

Even when blowing thing to smithereens to test various propositions, the mythbusters always took precautions to keep people safe. So it is with us in our pursuit of Jesus' truth. We find it in the Law to love God and our neighbor, knowing "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Mic 6:8), even when others fail to do so themselves.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Future Dates to Remember

- Oct. 4..... 9:00 am Blessing of the Animals**
- Oct. 4..... 11:00 am—3:00 pm Bake Sale/Vendor Event**
- Oct. 10..... 9:00 am-Noon Kitchen Clean Up Day**
- Oct. 14..... 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting**
- Oct. 29..... 6:00 pm Ladies Salad Supper**
- Nov. 1..... 9:00 am Scout Clean Up Day**
- Nov. 2..... 2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Ends**
- Nov. 2..... All Saints Sunday**
- Nov. 9..... Methodist Women Meet**
- Nov. 11..... Veterans Day**
- Nov. 20..... 6:00 pm Annual Church Conference**
- Nov. 23..... 11:00 am Hanging of the Greens**
- Nov. 27..... Thanksgiving Day (Church Office Closed)**
- Nov. 28..... Thanksgiving Holiday (Church Office Closed)**

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, October 14 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

October 5

Scripture: Psalm 137
Lamentations 1:1-6
Luke 17:5-10
Message: "Worthwhile Worthlessness"

October 12

Scripture: Psalm 66:1-12
Jeremiah 29 1:4-7
Luke 17:11-19
Message: "Return to Glory"

October 19

Scripture: Psalm 19
Jeremiah 31:27-34
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8
Message: "Persistent Insistence"

October 26

Scripture: Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:16-18
Luke 18:9-14
Message: "Faultless Finish"



Monday Evening Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible study continues to meet Mondays at 6:30 pm. Women interested in this group may contact Lucy Powell at 815-904-9462 or email lpowell530@yahoo.com.

All women are welcome

Finance Committee Report

August 2025 General Fund

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Revenue | \$ 14,539.63 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>\$14,497.05</u> |
| Net Revenue | \$ 42.58 |
| Emergency Fund Balance | \$6,627.26 |

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



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 met on Sunday, September 14.

In planning for the future of the group, we discussed the many activities in which the group has been involved.

- We have organized the Fall Bake Sale
- Collected Christmas Stockings for Rock House Kids
- Organized the December Cookie Walk.
- Sent cards to our friends in care and those who are unable to attend church.

The fund-raising activities have been successful because of the generosity of all the women in the church who donate baked goods and stockings. The money we have made from these events has been used to support:

- The Christmas Shoebox Ministry
- Give Christmas gifts to church staff in appreciation for their service
- To support special projects at the church
- To buy stamps and cards for our mailings to shut-ins at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter.

At each meeting, an offering is taken which is given to the Rock River Valley Pantry. Since these activities do not require monthly meetings, we decided to schedule our meetings as needed to plan our activities.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, November 9 after worship. We will address Thanksgiving cards to shut-ins and make plans for the **Christmas Cookie Walk**, which will be on **December 14**. Mark your calendars now for this popular event.

Donna Layng and Lucy Powell





CVUMC

Kitchen Clean-up Day 2025

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND TRANSFORM OUR KITCHEN

We need every able-bodied person who can help to come and share in the work load of cleaning the kitchen.

When: Friday, October 10th / Time: 9 a.m.—Noon
See the sign-up sheet on the table in the sanctuary
Contact: Mary Coulter 815-985-2574
Lucy Powell—815-904-9462



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month



Anniversary Celebration

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 4 | Marybeth Sundberg | 6 | Ray & Yolanda Beets |
| 5 | Charles Voorhies | 10 | Theoren & Jordyn Nystrom |
| 12 | Carol Conderman | 9 | Mike & Melynda Mungor |
| 13 | Erinna Kauffman | 14 | Charles & Lora Schnuckel |
| | Ericka Kauffman | 29 | Dave & Jan Mills |
| 14 | Carol Behning | | |



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

If you have not yet completed your shoeboxes,
there is still time!

We are asking specifically for hygiene products such as
toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes, and washcloths
(no soap or toothpaste, please.)

You may include nail clippers, nail files and water bottles.

Clothing and accessories such as beanies, sunglasses and
mittens are always welcome, especially by older children.

Remember to pray for the child who will receive your gift.

If you have questions, please speak to Terri Burritt
burritt5@hotmail.com

Please remember to include a check in the amount of \$10 for shipping.



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 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.



Rockford Rescue Mission

The focus of our giving is the Rockford Rescue Mission. The Rescue Mission is a safe and caring place that offers a Christ-centered care to people struggling with challenges like homelessness, poverty, abuse and addiction.

Rescue those in immediate crisis
Recover people's dignity and sense of self-worth
Restore the lives of men, women and children

The core values of the Rockford Rescue Mission are :

- *Living for the Glory of God*
- *Respecting Human Dignity and Immortality*
- *Proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*
- *Modeling Compassionate Generosity*
- *Partnering with the Church and Community*
- *Serving with Integrity and Excellence*
- *Rejoicing in Lives Changed by God*

Each month the Mission publishes an urgent needs list which we will post in the church. If you do not wish to contribute with goods, you may donate money that may be placed in the envelopes specific to the Rockford Rescue Mission on the table in the sanctuary.



Order of Deacon

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

From the Deacon's Desk

October, 2025

Dear Church,

Fall reminds us that it is time to let some things go and rest. I am heeding this call in my life and ministry. Due to long-term issues with chronic migraine, it has become necessary to step back in all areas. This includes how I will be available to Cherry Valley UMC. You will see me assisting with worship and being involved in church ministries less than before.

There is a church sponsored **Blessing of the Animals** on October 4, 2025 at 9:00 at the church. Following this is a **Vendor Fair and Church Bake Sale**, also at the church. Bring your pets and your shopping lists for what is sure to be a big day for CVUMC.

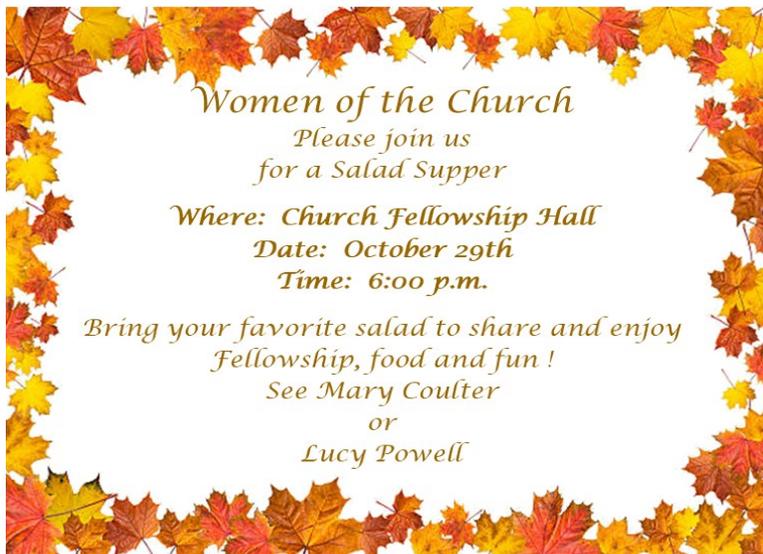
I will continue to accept limited appointments for virtual Life Coaching/Spiritual Coaching. To learn more about how this ministry can assist personal growth, see www.daniceloveridge4healthyu.com

As you know, I have been very active in the gun violence prevention arena with Rockford Area Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense, and the League Of Women Voters of Greater Rockford Gun Violence Prevention Committee. I will continue to be involved here on a limited basis and will share the events of these groups with you. If you have a passion for gun violence prevention, I can certainly assist you with plugging in to the appropriate groups. There are monthly Youth Gun Violence Prevention Initiative meetings open to the public on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 at Comprehensive Community Solutions on South Main.

I'd love to chat with you regarding any of these updates and answer any questions. Reach out by phone 815-509-9445 or email danice.loveridge@gmail.com Looking forward to continuing to work for the Kingdom together.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Danice Loveridge, Deacon





Women of the Church

Please join us
for a Salad Supper

Where: Church Fellowship Hall

Date: October 29th

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite salad to share and enjoy
Fellowship, food and fun!

See Mary Coulter

or

Lucy Powell

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](https://www.kakaotalk.com/yskim1470)

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.

Prayer Shawl Group



The prayer shawl group will meet for their monthly Wednesday meeting on October 15 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. email lpowell530@yahoo.com.

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" Galatians 6:10 (ESV)

FALL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Pumpkins, Bats, Colorful leaves, and cooler temps...OH MY!

We are having a fall bake sale and we need your donations!

Please, NO CHOCOLATE or anything that melts. Please separate everything into portions in individual bags to help us streamline the prices.

The Fall Festival is OCTOBER 4 after the Blessing of the Animals. It will be held at the same time as the vendor fair. This allows you to shop the vendors while satisfying your sweet tooth.

Donations can be dropped off Friday during church office hours or between 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 4. If you have any questions, please contact Mandy Kloepfer.





| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | 1 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 6:00 pm Fall Bible Study | 2 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts | 3 | 4 <i>9:00 am Blessing of the Animals</i> <i>9:00 am GA</i> <i>11 am -3 pm Vendor Event & Bake Sale</i> |
| 5 10:00 am Worship | 6 10:00 am Bible Study@ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | 7 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 8 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 6:00 pm Fall Bible Study | 9 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts | 10 <i>9:00 am—Noon Kitchen Clean up</i> | 11 9:00 am GA <i>Troop 181 Recruiting Event</i> |
| 12 10:00 am Worship | 13 10:00 am Bible Study@ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | 14 6:00 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 15 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 pm Fall Bible Study | 16 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts | 17 | 18 9:00 am GA |
| 19 10:00 am Worship | 20 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | 21 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 22 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice | 23 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts | 24 | 25 9:00 am GA |
| 26 10:00 am Worship | 27 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | 28 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB | 29 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>6:00 pm Ladies Salad Supper</i> | 30 | 31 | |

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



Exalt the Lord our God,
and worship at His footstool: He is holy!
Psalm 99:5

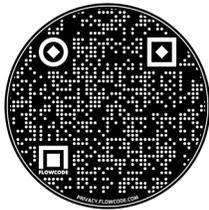
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

Oct. 4, 2025
9:00 am
Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 4, 2025
11am-3pm
Vendor Event/Bake Sale



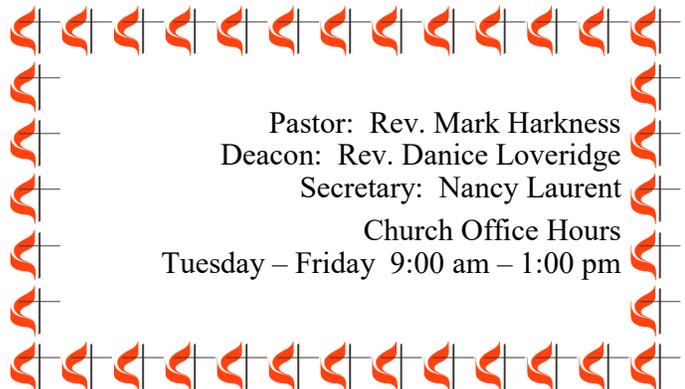
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016



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