

THE MESSENGER

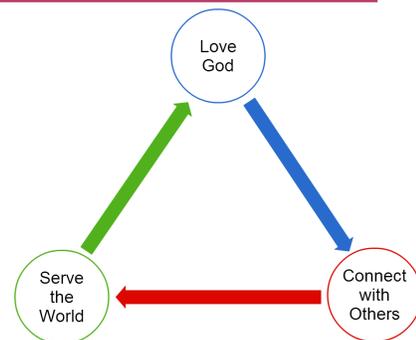
February 2026

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

<p>¹ <i>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.</i></p> <p>² <i>Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.</i></p> <p>³ <i>Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.</i></p>	<p>⁴ <i>Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.</i></p> <p>⁵ <i>For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.</i></p>
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(Psalm 100 NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

While doing my worship planning recently, I noted that Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th. I've known that for months and pondered that Easter will be on the earlier side of "usual" this year. What hadn't occurred to me was that with Ash Wednesday falling on February 18th, my birthday will fall on a Friday in Lent. A fast day! No twenty ounce steak. No sweet birthday cake dripping in icing. What should I do? Should I allow my Lenten practice to interfere with my normal celebration?

Do you ever find yourself with that same sort of quandary? Why is it a quandary? I've had enough birthdays in my life (and hope to have several more) that foregoing a feast and dessert (or even delaying them for a day or so) shouldn't matter. Especially when Lenten practice serves to concentrate my expectation of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and his glorious resurrection on Easter. The more I think about it, our reluctance to be inconvenienced magnifies Jesus' gift of grace from the cross.

I'm reminded of a mother who came into my office several years before I arrived in Cherry Valley. She shared that her son (a rather rambunctious five-year-old) whom she didn't think paid much attention during church had quoted something I'd said in a sermon a few weeks ago: "Remember, we don't *have* to go to church. We *get* to go to church." I confess that I still take some pride in that moment. But it helps me to remember the same.

I don't have to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent. I get to re-align my spirit in anticipation of Christ's promise of life. I don't have to miss out on a birthday feast or cake, I get to remember that every blessing in my life comes from God Almighty.

(Continued on page 2)



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Lent – and the pancake supper that precedes it – is a wonderful excuse to renew our faith – our relationship with God – and our ministry with one another. I invite you to take the opportunity to use that *excuse* as an invitation to accept that we don't *have* to go to church, but we *get* to meet him when we come together.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

Joint Meeting

There will be a joint meeting of the SPRC with District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Hwa –Young Chong on February 4 at 6:00 pm at New Milford UMC to discuss the transition of Pastor Mark to Dixon First UMC. Please keep all of them in your prayers.



Meeting Reminder!

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:00 pm. A copy of the minutes of the last meeting will be sent by the secretary to the members of the Council.



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

- February 8. Scout Sunday (Scouts will host breakfast)
- February 17..... 5:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- February 18..... 9:00 am Disposition of Ashes
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- February 25..... 5:00—8:00 pm CPR Training
- February 27..... 12 Noon Senior Potluck @ New Milford

Lord please hear my prayer



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Sally Hollembeak
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Tim Murphy
- Charlie Schnuckel
- 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.



District prayer focus in February 2026

Week of 1st - ROCKFORD: CHRIST UMC

- Pastors Caleb Hong, TK Lee & Jane Bradford

Week of 8th - SHIRLAND UMC - Pastor Rolland Hayag

Week of 15th - ROCKFORD: CENTENNIAL UMC

- Pastor Audrey Rochet

Week of 22nd - SHANNON: BETHEL UMC- Pastor Jeremiah Lee

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” - Philippians 4:6



Scripture Readings

February 1—4th Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 15
Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Message: TBA

February 8—Scouting Ministry Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 112:1-9
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Exodus 24:12-18
Matthew 5:13-20

Message: TBA

February 15 - Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 2
Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-5

Message: TBA

February 22—1st Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 32
Genesis 2:15-17; Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 1:1-11

Message: TBA



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



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, February 18th at the home of Pat Eickman. If you need directions to Pat's home, email her at eickman.pat@gmail.com
For information about this group, contact Lucy Powell at 815-904-9462 or email Lucy at lpowell530@yahoo.com.

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study



The Monday Evening Women's Bible study meet on 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

Basement Plaster Project

The removal of the plaster in the fellowship hall has been completed. As many of you know, there was quite a mess and clean-up involved. The company who did the work did a good job of cleaning up and even offered to come back to do more clean up when it was discovered that some debris had been left. When told that the clean up had been already done, they discounted the cost due to their oversight.

Thank you to Ray and Yolanda Beets for all the work they put in to secure the estimates and engaging the company to do the work. Many other people were involved in the project, so we thank all who worked so diligently in getting this project done!

Begin Ash Wednesday with Ashes

*Pastor Harkness will conduct a brief
Ash Wednesday service*

At 9:00 am on

Wednesday, February 18th.

All are welcome to attend.



Finance Committee Report

December 2025

Total Revenue: \$16,366.80
Total Expenditures: \$11,909.49
Net Revenue: \$4,457.61

2025

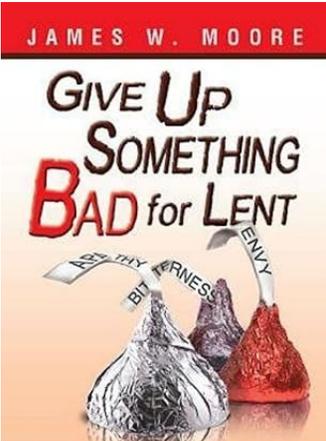
Total Revenue: \$155,846.72
Total Expenditures: \$150,752.75



Give Up Something Bad For Lent

Pastor Mark will facilitate a Lenten study beginning February 23 through April 8. Mondays at 10 am at New Milford and Wednesdays at 7 pm at CVUMC. Books are available at Amazon for \$8.99.

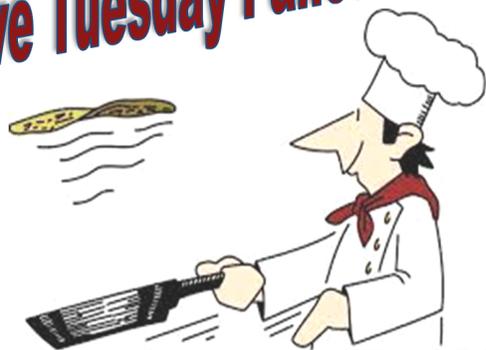
[Give Up Something Bad for Lent: A Lenten Study for Adults](#)



JAMES W. MOORE
During Lent each year, Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often it is something like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday they can once again enjoy what they have given up. James Moore challenges readers to take it further—to give up something spiritually that they would be better off not doing. He invites all to seek God's help to focus on

eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking, how much better life would be.

Scout Troops 181 will host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



**Tuesday, February 17, 2026
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Enjoy pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee, milk, juice... AND FELLOWSHIP
Bring a friend or two.

Donations welcome—
all proceeds benefit CVUMC.



If you can help, please contact
Sandy Schwartz
@779-771-3567

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S. Cherry St., Cherry Valley IL
815-332-5075
www.cherryvalleyumc.com

February Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 3 Riley Sundberg
- 5 Mary Wilson
- 6 Matthew Gross
- Natalie Herold
- 9 Keith Burritt
- 12 Taylor Gross
- 13 Kathy Ware
- 17 Mary Lou Clevenger
- 19 Teaghan Brown
- 20 Mark Harkness
- 21 Judith Krunfus
- 23 Mark Snyder



There were no anniversary celebrations listed for this month.



Scouting Sunday

Sunday, February 8 is Scouting Sunday. Troops 181 will take part in all aspects of the worship service. After worship, all are welcome to come for breakfast in the fellowship hall, which will be hosted by the troop and their leaders.



We appreciate all that the scouts do for us. They truly embody their core values such as kindness, duty and helping others.

SCOUT EGG ROLL DAY COMING SOON!



MARCH 6 & 7

Watch for more details!

Congregational Care News

Check out the CVUMC complimentary CareNotes available 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.



CPR Training/Renewal



Juanita Barnes will be hosting a CPR class in the fellowship hall on February 25 from 5-8 pm. The class will be conducted by a professional instructor. It is open to Dental Hygienist who need to recertify and to church members and scouts who are interested in learning this valuable life-saving skill.

Registration is required. More information and details of how to register will be forthcoming in the weekly bulletins, via email and on the CVUMC website at [Cherry Valley UMC – A Church in the Valley](http://www.cherryvalleyumc.org).



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 available on the table in the sanctuary.

FEBRUARY NEEDS

URGENT NEEDS

- Pens . Dryer Sheets . Detergent . 55-Gallon Trash Bags . Wash Cloths
- Toilet Paper . Paper Towels . Foam Bowls . Plastic Forks & Spoons
- Vinyl Food Service Gloves (All Sizes)

KITCHEN

- Bottled Water . Drink Mixes . Coffee . Vegetable Oil . Non-Stick Spray
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables . Instant Rice . Scalloped Potatoes
- Au gratin Potatoes

CLINIC

- Vicks VapoRub • Cough Syrup (No Dextromethorphan HBr)
- Alka Seltzer Plus Cold (no Dextromethorphan HBr)
- Men's & Women's Multivitamins • Throat Lozenges



rockford rescue mission
 RESCUE • RECOVER • RESTORE

Items on this list may be dropped off weekdays 8am-4pm
 715 W. State Street www.rockfordrescuemission.org 815-965-5332

Global Mission High School Project

Dear Cherry Valley friends,
We are currently praying and preparing for the construction of GMSS Global Mission High School.

The vision God has given to GMSS is not to stop, but to continue moving forward.

With this calling, we are taking step by step toward building a school that specializes in mathematics, science, and computer studies.

Many public schools in Tanzania lack even basic materials for science experiments, forcing students to learn only in theory.

There are also many schools without computer labs at all, leaving them far behind in 21st-century education. Yet we firmly believe that from Africa, too, individuals must rise who will contribute to the global community—and even more importantly, who will fear and serve God, our Creator.

We prepare for this ministry with the hope of raising young Christian leaders whose academic excellence grows higher, whose faith grows deeper, and whose humility remains low.

We ask for your prayers and look forward to the power of small contributions coming together. Tax-deduction documents for donations will be issued through the mission office.

Construction must begin in February 2026 so that graduates of the 3rd GMSS graduating class can continue their studies at the high school level. Following the already well-known Global Mission Middle School in Tanzania, we now seek to build a high school that will serve as a bridge—connecting students' dreams to higher education and university opportunities.

We humbly ask for your prayers and support for this important mission.

Please write Advance #3022281
(High School Construction / Ministry Support) in the memo line
Payable to: Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068
New York, NY 10087-9068

Thank you sincerely for standing with us through your prayers and generous support.



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

And, to the Cherry Valley UMC family, thank you especially for your consistent support of my ministry. It has been a journey of faith.

Pastor Young Seon Kim (Christina)



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

— Nelson Mandela —

February 2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 10:00 am Worship	2 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 6:00 pm Joint Meeting with SPRC/ DS @ New Milford	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6	7 9:00 am GA
8 10:00 am Worship Scout Sunday 11:00 am—Scouts will host breakfast for all.	9 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 6:00 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship	16 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 Scout Troops host 4:30—6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	18 9:00 am Imposition of Ashes 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl group @ Pat Eickman's 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	20	21 9:00 am GA
22 10:00 am Worship	23 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 5:00—8:00 pm CPR Class 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA

Messenger items are due on the 15th of each month.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

— John 13:34 —

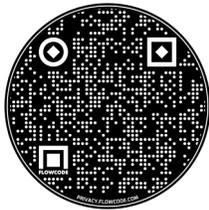
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

February 17
4:30—6:30 pm
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 18
7:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Service



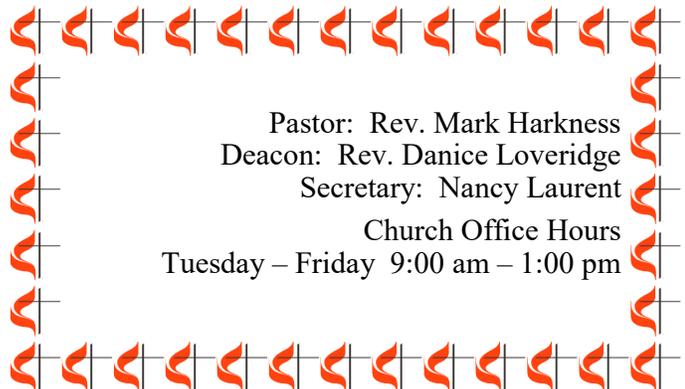
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016



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