

THE MESSENGER

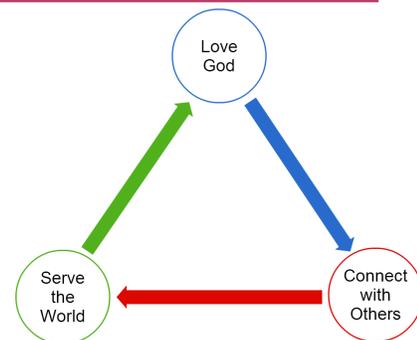
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

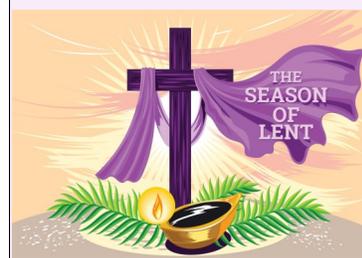
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

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Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God's power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb's Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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.

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Future Dates to Remember

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
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- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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.

Finance Committee Report

January 2026

Total Revenue:	\$11,458.00
Total Expenditures:	\$16,388.23
Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



Scripture Readings

March 1—2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 121
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

March 8—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 95
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Message: TBA

March 15—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

Message: TBA



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, March 18th at the home of Jan Mills. If you need directions to Jan's home, email her at lil-dobs1029@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

Thank You, **Scouts** 

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 8th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



Thank you to Scout Troops 181G and 181B and their leaders for all the hard work they did for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The hall was very festive with Mardi Gras themed colors, icons and streamers.

They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section*. The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you, Juanita & Friends at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items
Date Received: 1/22/2026
Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO SEA BASE JULY OF 2026



EGG ROLLS
(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- * Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- * A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Greeter!

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study Egg Roll Order Deadline	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day	7 9:00 am GA Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm
8 2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:00 am Worship	9 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 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 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship	16 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB St. Patrick's Day 	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl group @ Jan Mill's Home 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	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 Easter Flower Order Deadline	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship Palm Sunday	30 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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



"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

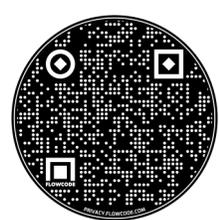
Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church Upcoming Events	March 7 Scout Egg Roll Day	March 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 25 Palm Sunday
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Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016

Phyllis Alexander
1530 La Cresta Dr.
Freeport, IL 61032



Come and Worship

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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

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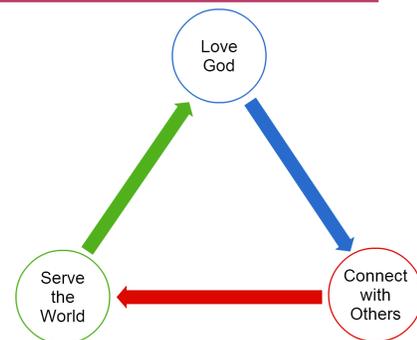
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Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

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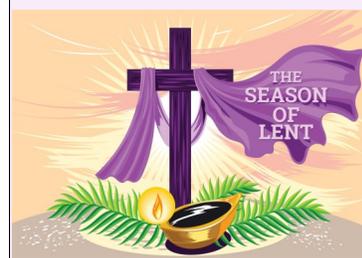
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(Continued on page 2)

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When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb’s Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



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- Dana Ward

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- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

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Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
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Message: TBA

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Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

Message: TBA



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HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



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As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

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The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

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But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
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- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

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Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

*Thank you, Juanita & Friends
at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry*

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items

Date Received: 1/22/2026

Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO SEA BASE JULY OF 2026



EGG ROLLS
(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- * Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- * A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Egg Roll Order Deadline</i>	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 <i>Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day</i>	7 9:00 am GA <i>Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm</i>
8 <i>2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 10:00 am Worship	9 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 <i>6:00 pm Church Council</i> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
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22 10:00 am Worship	23 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Easter Flower Order Deadline</i>	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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



"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

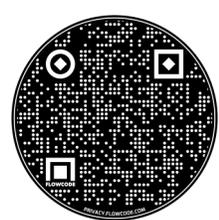
Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church Upcoming Events	March 7 Scout Egg Roll Day	March 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 25 Palm Sunday
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Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016

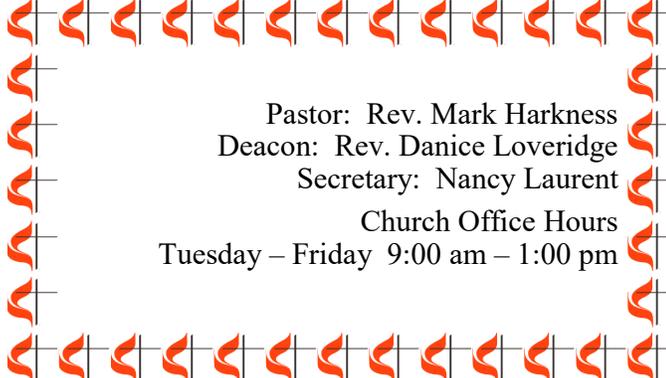
Barbara Anderson
107 N. Van Buren Street
Cherry Valley, IL 61016





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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

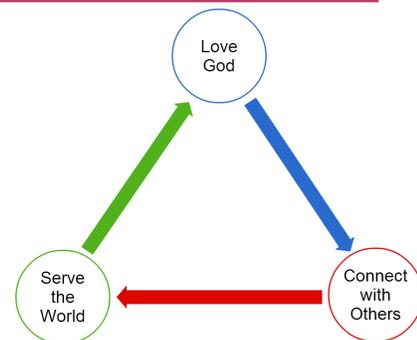
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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 Prayer Article..... Page 4
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 Congregational News.... Page 5
 RRM Thanks..... Page 5
 Rockford Rescue Page 5
 Scout Egg Roll Flyer Page 5
 Global Mission..... Page 6
 Calendar..... Page 7
 Easter Flower Form..... Page 9

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

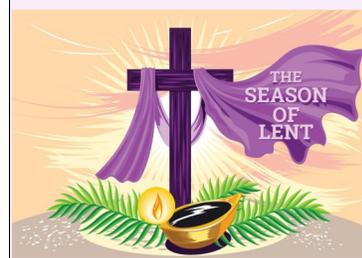
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God’s power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb’s Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
- March 7 *2-4 pm Scout Egg Roll Pickup*
- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
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1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

Message: TBA



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All women are welcome

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They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



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HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section*. The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

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(continued from previous column)

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Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

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Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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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.

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In the fellowship hall, you can find CareNotes about teen and family issues.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items

Date Received: 1/22/2026

Received By: Mission

No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332

email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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 :

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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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO SEA BASE JULY OF 2026

EGG ROLLS
(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- * Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
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Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
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We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

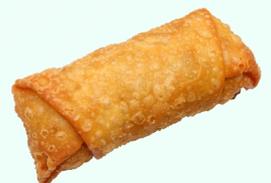
Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study Egg Roll Order Deadline	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day	7 9:00 am GA Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm
8 2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:00 am Worship	9 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 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 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship	16 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB St. Patrick's Day 	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl group @ Jan Mill's Home 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	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 Easter Flower Order Deadline	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship Palm Sunday	30 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

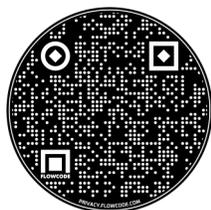
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

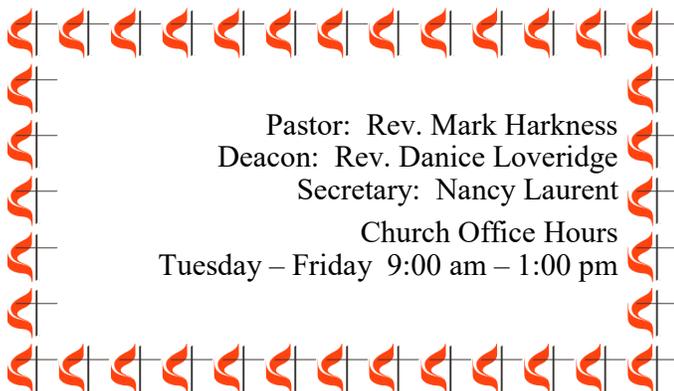
Carol Behning
8616 Vicki Road
Rockford, IL 61108



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

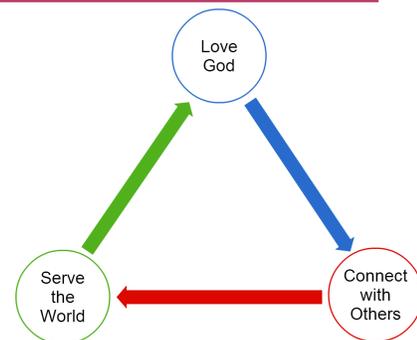
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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 Rockford Rescue Page 5
 Scout Egg Roll Flyer Page 5
 Global Mission..... Page 6
 Calendar..... Page 7
 Easter Flower Form..... Page 9

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

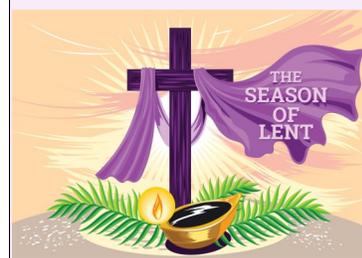
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God’s power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb’s Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
- March 7 *2-4 pm Scout Egg Roll Pickup*
- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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.

Finance Committee Report

January 2026

Total Revenue:	\$11,458.00
Total Expenditures:	\$16,388.23
Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



Scripture Readings

March 1—2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 121
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

March 8—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 95
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Message: TBA

March 15—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

Message: TBA



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, March 18th at the home of Jan Mills. If you need directions to Jan's home, email her at lil-dobs1029@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

Thank You, **Scouts** 

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 8th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



Thank you to Scout Troops 181G and 181B and their leaders for all the hard work they did for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The hall was very festive with Mardi Gras themed colors, icons and streamers.

They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section*. The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

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Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items

Date Received: 1/22/2026

Received By: Mission

No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332

email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.org



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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 :

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- *Modeling Compassionate Generosity*
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- *Rejoicing in Lives Changed by God*

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TROOP 181G

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(Pork or Chicken)

CRAB RANGOON

ROSETTES

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Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

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With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

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If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

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Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Egg Roll Order Deadline</i>	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 <i>Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day</i>	7 9:00 am GA <i>Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm</i>
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"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

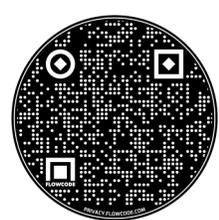
Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church Upcoming Events	March 7 Scout Egg Roll Day	March 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 25 Palm Sunday
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Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016

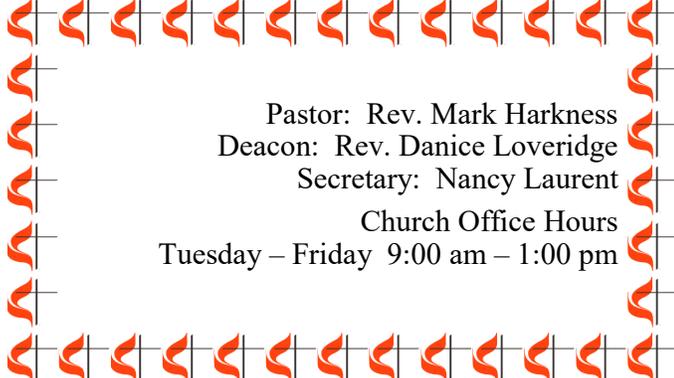
Catherine Bernard
7937 N. Vandenburg Ln.
Monroe Center, IL 61052





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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

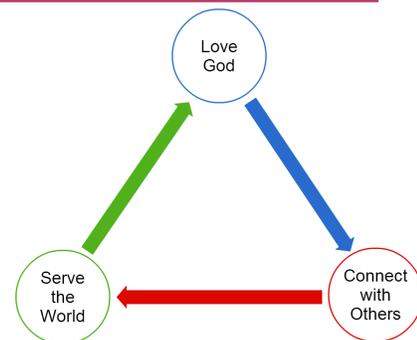
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

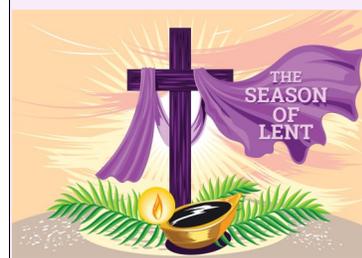
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God's power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb's Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
- March 7 *2-4 pm Scout Egg Roll Pickup*
- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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.

Finance Committee Report

January 2026

Total Revenue:	\$11,458.00
Total Expenditures:	\$16,388.23
Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



Scripture Readings

March 1—2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 121
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

March 8—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 95
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Message: TBA

March 15—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

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, March 18th at the home of Jan Mills. If you need directions to Jan's home, email her at lil-dobs1029@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

Thank You, **Scouts** 

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 8th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



Thank you to Scout Troops 181G and 181B and their leaders for all the hard work they did for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The hall was very festive with Mardi Gras themed colors, icons and streamers.

They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. And there’s no time to ask for donations.*

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section.* The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you, Juanita & Friends at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items
Date Received: 1/22/2026
Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO SEA BASE JULY OF 2026

EGG ROLLS

(Pork or Chicken)

CRAB RANGOON

ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- ✦ Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- ✦ Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- ✦ A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
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P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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:

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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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

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This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

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March 2026



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

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

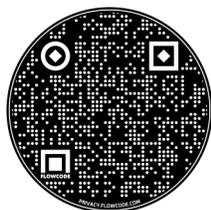
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

Mary Bowling
309 Grove Street
P.O. Box 345
Cherry Valley, IL 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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____

Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

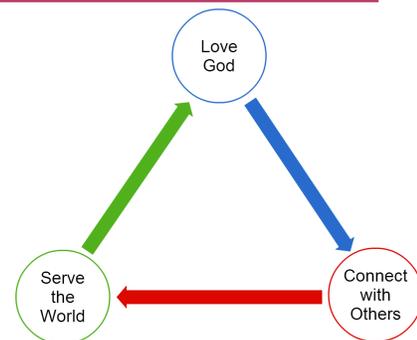
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

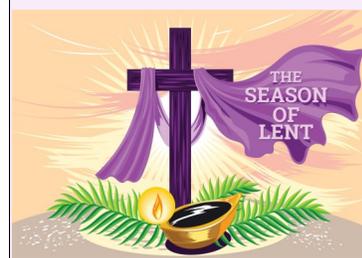
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God’s power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb’s Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
- March 7 *2-4 pm Scout Egg Roll Pickup*
- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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.

Finance Committee Report

January 2026

Total Revenue:	\$11,458.00
Total Expenditures:	\$16,388.23
Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



Scripture Readings

March 1—2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 121
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

March 8—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 95
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Message: TBA

March 15—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

Message: TBA



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, March 18th at the home of Jan Mills. If you need directions to Jan's home, email her at lil-dobs1029@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

Thank You, **Scouts** 

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 8th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



Thank you to Scout Troops 181G and 181B and their leaders for all the hard work they did for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The hall was very festive with Mardi Gras themed colors, icons and streamers.

They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section*. The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items

Date Received: 1/22/2026

Received By: Mission

No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332

email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO
SEA BASE JULY OF 2026

EGG ROLLS
(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- * Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- * A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

**PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT
AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP**

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Egg Roll Order Deadline</i>	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 <i>Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day</i>	7 9:00 am GA <i>Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm</i>
8 <i>2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 10:00 am Worship	9 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 <i>6:00 pm Church Council</i> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship	16 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl group @ Jan Mill's Home 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	19 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	20	21 9:00 am GA
22 10:00 am Worship	23 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Easter Flower Order Deadline</i>	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

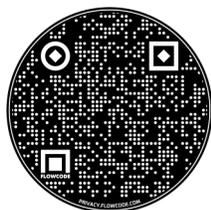
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

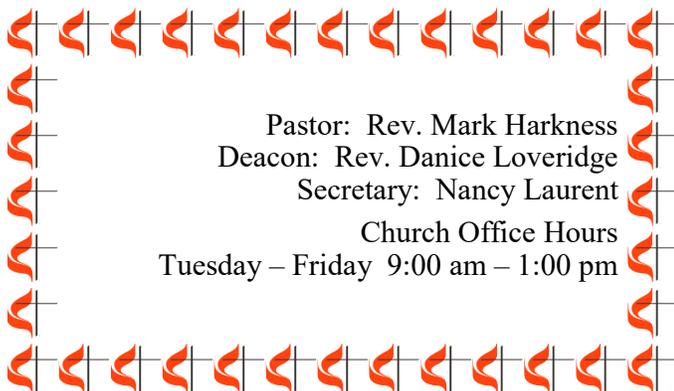
Linda Calhoun
3356 Gunflint Trail
Rockford, IL 61109



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

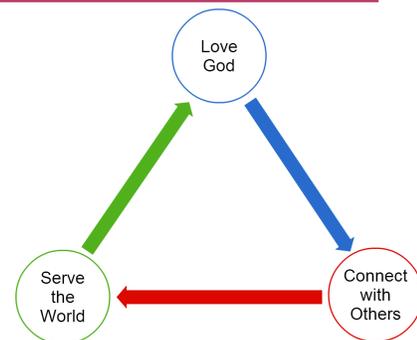
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

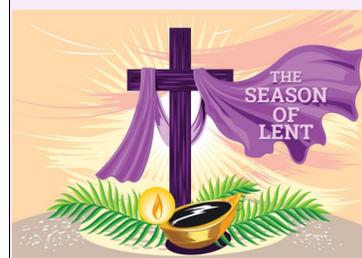
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Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

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Message: TBA



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HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section*. The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you, Juanita & Friends at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items
Date Received: 1/22/2026
Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO SEA BASE JULY OF 2026



EGG ROLLS
(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- * Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- * A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Egg Roll Order Deadline</i>	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 <i>Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day</i>	7 9:00 am GA <i>Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm</i>
8 <i>2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 10:00 am Worship	9 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 <i>6:00 pm Church Council</i> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
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Messenger items are due on the 15th of each month.

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

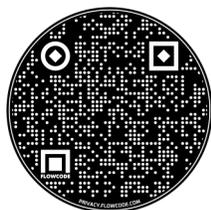
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Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

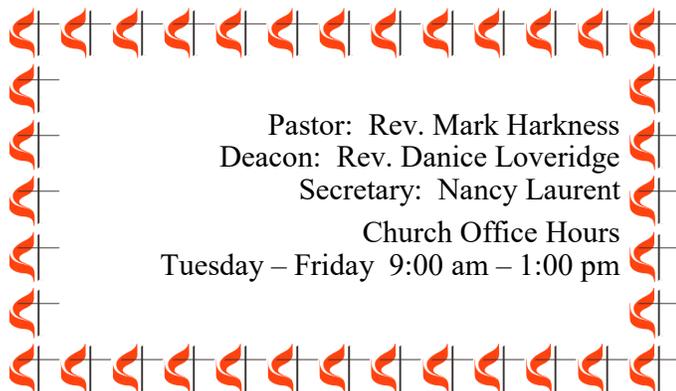
James Claeysen
110 S. Lawrence Street
Cherry Valley, IL 61016



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

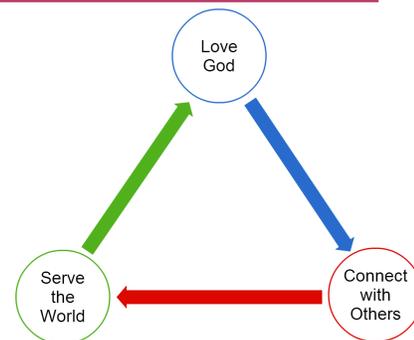
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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 RRM Thanks..... Page 5
 Rockford Rescue Page 5
 Scout Egg Roll Flyer Page 5
 Global Mission..... Page 6
 Calendar..... Page 7
 Easter Flower Form..... Page 9

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

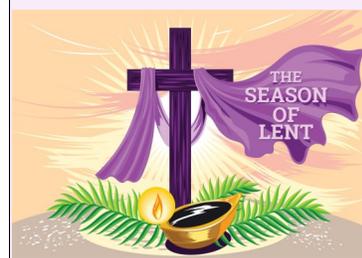
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

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When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb’s Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



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Message: TBA

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John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
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(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



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- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



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Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

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The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you, Juanita & Friends at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items
Date Received: 1/22/2026
Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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
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The core values of the Rockford Rescue Mission are :

- *Living for the Glory of God*
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- *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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO SEA BASE JULY OF 2026



EGG ROLLS
(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- * Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- * A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study Egg Roll Order Deadline	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day	7 9:00 am GA Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm
8 2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:00 am Worship	9 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 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 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship	16 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB St. Patrick's Day 	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl group @ Jan Mill's Home 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	19 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	20	21 9:00 am GA
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29 10:00 am Worship Palm Sunday	30 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

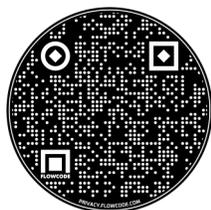
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

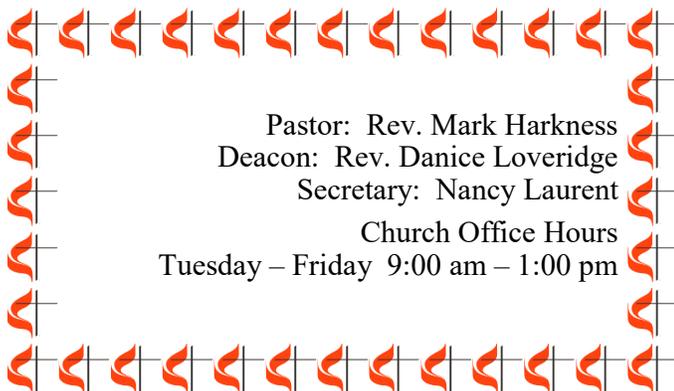
Barbara Clucas
3165 Old Chapel Road
Rockford, IL 61109



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz



THE MESSENGER

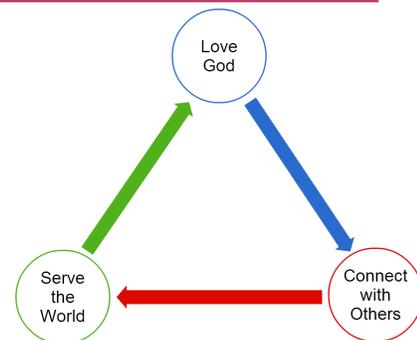
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

In this issue

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 Prayer Shawl..... Page 3
 Women's Bible Study..... Page 3
 Thank You Scouts Page 3
 Prayer Article..... Page 4
 Birthday/Anniversary Page 4
 Egg Roll Day..... Page 4
 Congregational News.... Page 5
 RRM Thanks..... Page 5
 Rockford Rescue Page 5
 Scout Egg Roll Flyer Page 5
 Global Mission..... Page 6
 Calendar..... Page 7
 Easter Flower Form..... Page 9

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

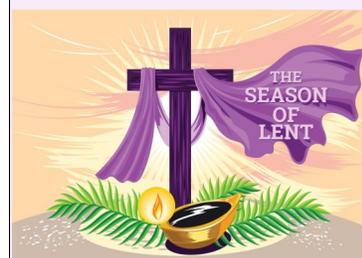
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God’s power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb’s Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
- March 7 *2-4 pm Scout Egg Roll Pickup*
- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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.

Finance Committee Report

January 2026

Total Revenue:	\$11,458.00
Total Expenditures:	\$16,388.23
Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



Scripture Readings

March 1—2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 121
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

March 8—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 95
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Message: TBA

March 15—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

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, March 18th at the home of Jan Mills. If you need directions to Jan's home, email her at lil-dobs1029@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

Thank You, **Scouts** 

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 8th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



Thank you to Scout Troops 181G and 181B and their leaders for all the hard work they did for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The hall was very festive with Mardi Gras themed colors, icons and streamers.

They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section*. The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

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(continued from previous column)

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Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you, Juanita & Friends at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items

Date Received: 1/22/2026

Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.org



Rockford Rescue Mission

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

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- *Rejoicing in Lives Changed by God*

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TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO
SEA BASE JULY OF 2026

EGG ROLLS

(Pork or Chicken)

CRAB RANGOON

ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- ✦ Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- ✦ Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- ✦ A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

**PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT
AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP**

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

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We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
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Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
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Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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:

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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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

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March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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29 10:00 am Worship Palm Sunday	30 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

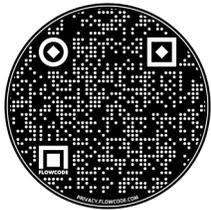
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

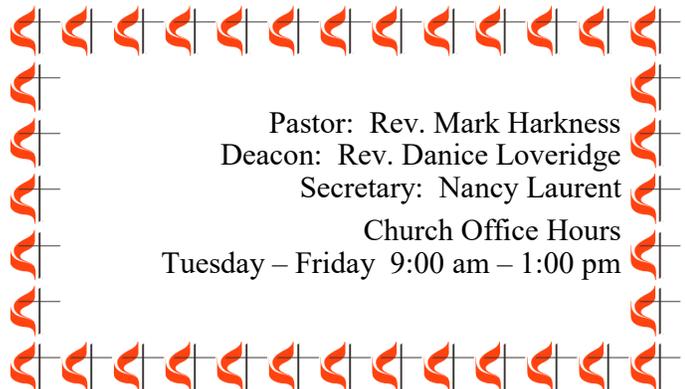
John Fisher
4136 Stonegate Dr.
Rockton, IL 61072



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz



THE MESSENGER

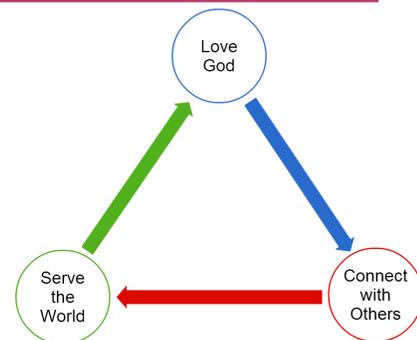
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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- Prayers for Friends Page 2
- Finance Report..... Page 2
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- Pastor's Schedule..... Page 3
- Prayer Shawl..... Page 3
- Women's Bible Study..... Page 3
- Thank You Scouts Page 3
- Prayer Article..... Page 4
- Birthday/Anniversary Page 4
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- RRM Thanks..... Page 5
- Rockford Rescue Page 5
- Scout Egg Roll Flyer Page 5
- Global Mission..... Page 6
- Calendar..... Page 7
- Easter Flower Form..... Page 9

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

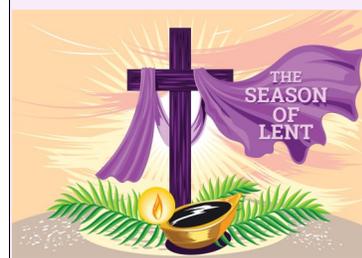
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God's power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb's Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
- March 7 *2-4 pm Scout Egg Roll Pickup*
- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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.

Finance Committee Report

January 2026

Total Revenue:	\$11,458.00
Total Expenditures:	\$16,388.23
Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



Scripture Readings

March 1—2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 121
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

March 8—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 95
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Message: TBA

March 15—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

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, March 18th at the home of Jan Mills. If you need directions to Jan's home, email her at lil-dobs1029@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

Thank You, **Scouts** 

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 8th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



Thank you to Scout Troops 181G and 181B and their leaders for all the hard work they did for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The hall was very festive with Mardi Gras themed colors, icons and streamers.

They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. And there’s no time to ask for donations.*

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section.* The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you, Juanita & Friends at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items
Date Received: 1/22/2026
Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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*

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Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
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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



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Nelson Mandela

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"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

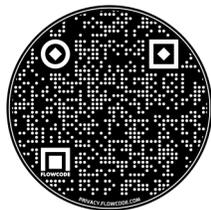
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

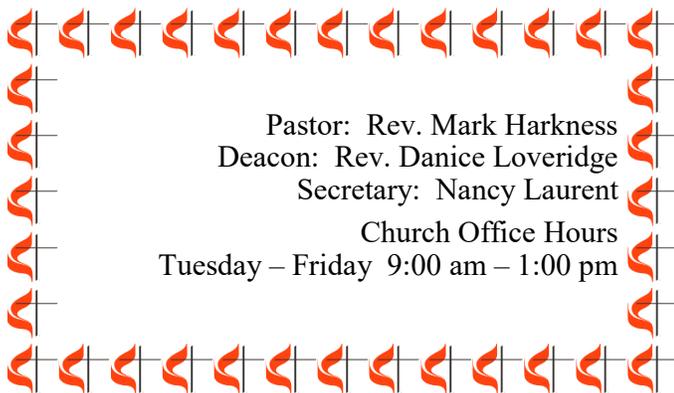
Pat Gorsuch
811 W. 2nd Street Room 207
Generations at Neighbors
Byron, IL 61010



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

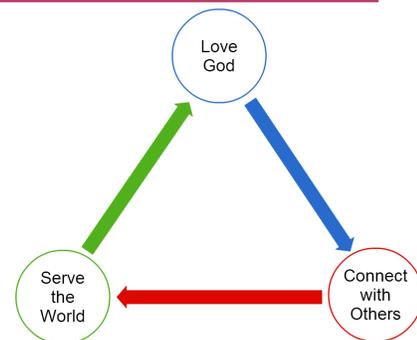
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

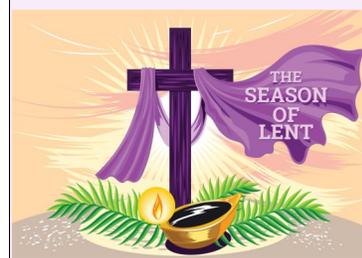
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God's power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb's Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
- March 7 *2-4 pm Scout Egg Roll Pickup*
- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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.

Finance Committee Report

January 2026

Total Revenue:	\$11,458.00
Total Expenditures:	\$16,388.23
Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



Scripture Readings

March 1—2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 121
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

March 8—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 95
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Message: TBA

March 15—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

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, March 18th at the home of Jan Mills. If you need directions to Jan's home, email her at lil-dobs1029@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

Thank You, **Scouts** 

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 8th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



Thank you to Scout Troops 181G and 181B and their leaders for all the hard work they did for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The hall was very festive with Mardi Gras themed colors, icons and streamers.

They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations.*

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section.* The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you, Juanita & Friends at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items

Date Received: 1/22/2026

Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO SEA BASE JULY OF 2026

EGG ROLLS
(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- * Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- * A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study Egg Roll Order Deadline	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day	7 9:00 am GA Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm
8 2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:00 am Worship	9 10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford 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 7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
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Messenger items are due on the 15th of each month.

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

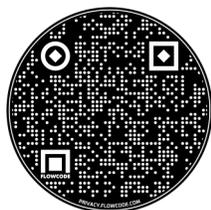
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

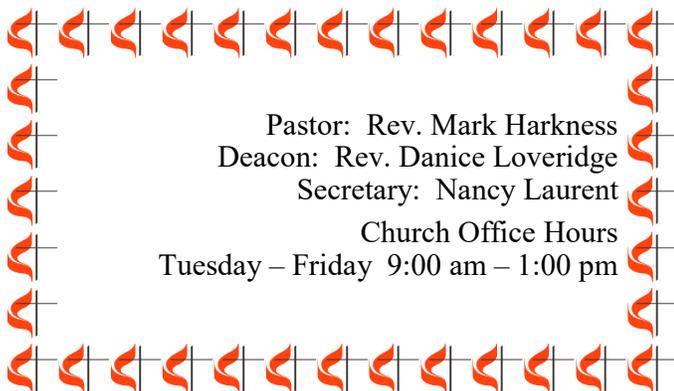
Trudy Hunt
1264 N. Via Alamos
Green Valley, AZ 85614



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

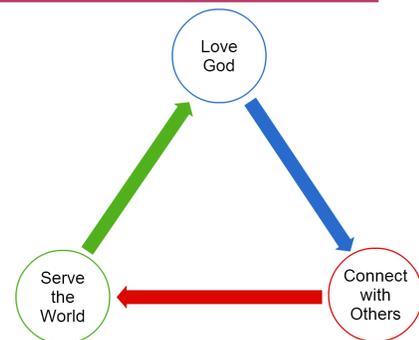
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

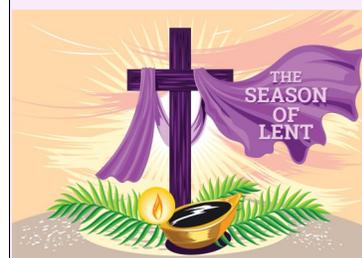
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God’s power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb’s Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

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- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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.

Finance Committee Report

January 2026

Total Revenue:	\$11,458.00
Total Expenditures:	\$16,388.23
Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



Scripture Readings

March 1—2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 121
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

March 8—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 95
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Message: TBA

March 15—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

Message: TBA



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, March 18th at the home of Jan Mills. If you need directions to Jan's home, email her at lil-dobs1029@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.

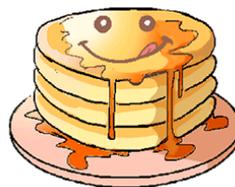
All women are welcome

Thank You, **Scouts** 

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 8th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



Thank you to Scout Troops 181G and 181B and their leaders for all the hard work they did for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The hall was very festive with Mardi Gras themed colors, icons and streamers.

They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section*. The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items

Date Received: 1/22/2026

Received By: Mission

No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332

email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO
SEA BASE JULY OF 2026

EGG ROLLS

(Pork or Chicken)

CRAB RANGOON

ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- * Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- * A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

**PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT
AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP**

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Egg Roll Order Deadline</i>	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 <i>Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day</i>	7 9:00 am GA <i>Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm</i>
8 <i>2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 10:00 am Worship	9 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 <i>6:00 pm Church Council</i> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship	16 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl group @ Jan Mill's Home 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	19 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	20	21 9:00 am GA
22 10:00 am Worship	23 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Easter Flower Order Deadline</i>	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

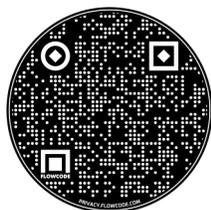
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

Jeanette Krueger
400 Woodridge Dr.
Columbia, MO 65201



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____

Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

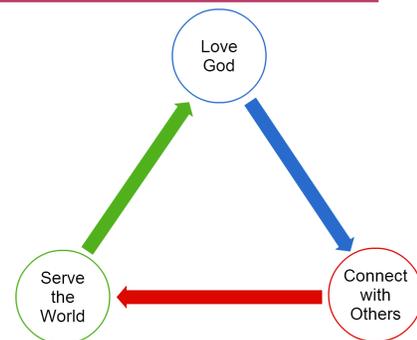
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

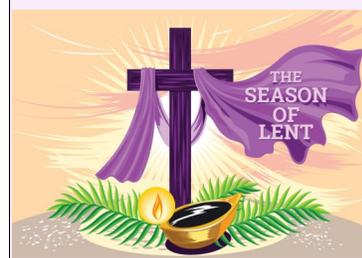
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Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God’s power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb’s Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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.

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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.

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- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



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John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

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Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

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Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
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Message: TBA

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Matthew 27:11-54

Message: TBA



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They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



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As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

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Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

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The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. And there’s no time to ask for donations.*

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But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

*Thank you, Juanita & Friends
at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry*

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items
Date Received: 1/22/2026
Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO SEA BASE JULY OF 2026



EGG ROLLS
(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
- * Crab Rangoon- \$14 a Dozen
- * A bag of Rosettes- \$5 a bag

PLACE ORDERS WITH A SCOUT AND PAY ON THE DAY OF PICKUP

Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Egg Roll Order Deadline</i>	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 <i>Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day</i>	7 9:00 am GA <i>Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm</i>
8 <i>2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 10:00 am Worship	9 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 <i>6:00 pm Church Council</i> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
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22 10:00 am Worship	23 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Easter Flower Order Deadline</i>	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

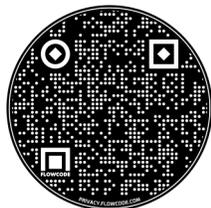
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

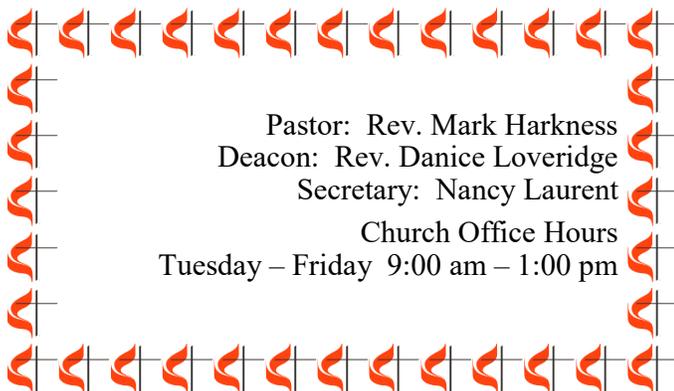
Kathleen Sundberg
202 N. Showplace Dr
Unit 101
Rockford, IL 61107



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

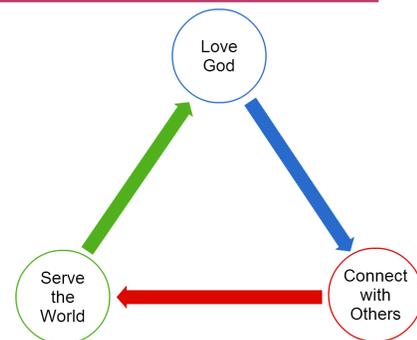
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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Women's Bible Study.....Page 3
Thank You ScoutsPage 3
Prayer Article.....Page 4
Birthday/AnniversaryPage 4
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RRM Thanks.....Page 5
Rockford RescuePage 5
Scout Egg Roll Flyer.....Page 5
Global Mission.....Page 6
Calendar.....Page 7
Easter Flower Form.....Page 9

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

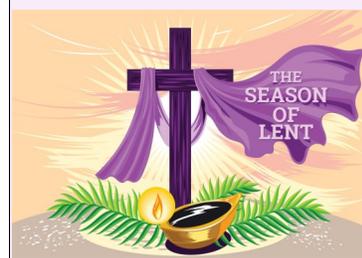
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God's power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb's Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
- March 7 *2-4 pm Scout Egg Roll Pickup*
- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

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Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
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Message: TBA

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Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

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Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

Message: TBA



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They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



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HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



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As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section*. The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

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(continued from previous column)

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Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

Reprinted from the March 2026 Edition of Guideposts Magazine.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the author of *Yama the Llama* lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband, Russell. She is the sister of Karen Harter.

Karla, a registered nurse, is passionate about children. She believes that showing children that they are the beloved creation of God is as essential to their growth as good nutrition.

She and Russel raised three sons who are now the fathers of their 5 grandchildren. They have also supported eight children through ChildFund. *Yama the Llama* is dedicated to her grandchildren and the children of ChildFund.

She uses her nursing, farming and ministry skills as a volunteer with her church and internationally with UMCOR Volunteers in Mission.

Proceeds from her book sales support the health, education and welfare of children, mothers and families in 3rd world nations.

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.



The following letter is from the Rockford Rescue Mission. Although it is addressed to Juanita Barnes, the “thank you” is for all of the people of Cherry Valley United Methodist Church for the donations that Juanita recently took to the center.



January 23, 2026

Juanita Barnes
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S Cherry St
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Juanita,

“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”— Luke 3:11

Your generous recent donation reminds me of Jesus’ words in Luke, where He calls his followers to share what they have with those in need. Every item or service you give helps provide care and resources for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.

Your selfless giving is a testimony of faith in action. Your involvement is transforming lives, whether through service, prayerful intercession, or your continued generosity.

Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

*Thank you, Juanita & Friends
at Cherry Valley Methodist!
Sherry*

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items
Date Received: 1/22/2026
Received By: Mission
No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332
email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.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*
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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.

TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

ALL PROCEEDS ARE HELPING OUR SCOUTS GO TO SEA BASE JULY OF 2026



EGG ROLLS
(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY 3/2

- * Egg Rolls- \$20 a Dozen
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Pick up day is 3/7 between 2-4pm
Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
(112 s Cherry Street, Cherry Valley)
We take Cash, Check, Venmo or Paypal

Contact Sandy with Questions at 779-771-3567

Global Mission

Here is a recent message from Pastor Kim! The joy and the excitement jumps off the page.

Our God is amazing and faithful in leading GMSS!

On Sunday, February 8, we celebrated a special Thanksgiving service with our parents, UMC missionaries and church members, graduates, and the YWAM praise team.

We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

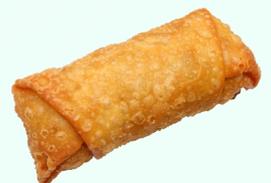
Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Egg Roll Order Deadline</i>	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 <i>Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day</i>	7 9:00 am GA <i>Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm</i>
8 <i>2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 10:00 am Worship	9 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 <i>6:00 pm Church Council</i> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship	16 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl group @ Jan Mill's Home 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	19 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	20	21 9:00 am GA
22 10:00 am Worship	23 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Easter Flower Order Deadline</i>	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

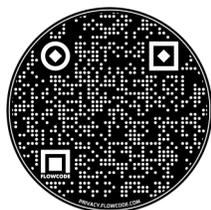


Cherry Valley United Methodist Church Upcoming Events	March 7 Scout Egg Roll Day	March 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 25 Palm Sunday
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Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016

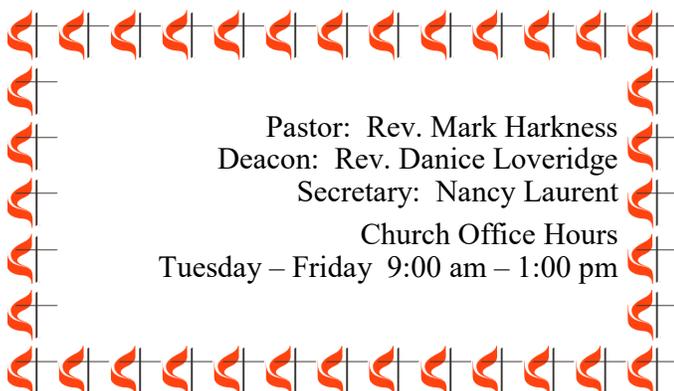
Chuck Voorhies
2905 Sierra Drive
Rockford, IL 61109



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

THE MESSENGER

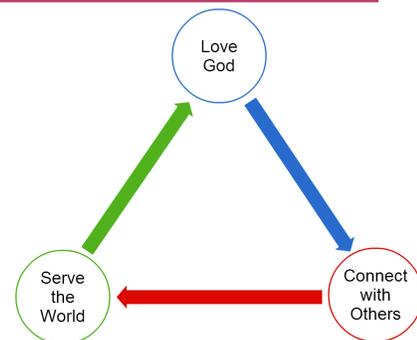
March 2026

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

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
(Revelation 5:1-12NRSV)

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Women's Bible Study.....Page 3
Thank You ScoutsPage 3
Prayer Article.....Page 4
Birthday/AnniversaryPage 4
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Rockford RescuePage 5
Scout Egg Roll Flyer.....Page 5
Global Mission.....Page 6
Calendar.....Page 7
Easter Flower Form.....Page 9

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

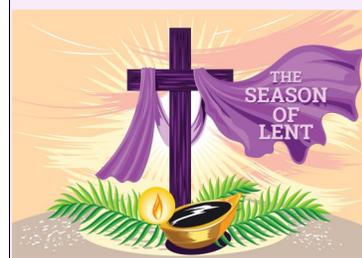
We've all heard the old adage about March: In like a lion; out like a lamb. Although it refers to weather and the harshness of winter yielding to the gentle warmth of spring, it can also speak to our faith during this season of Lent.

Throughout Jesus' ministry and into his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – people expected the looked toward the coming Messiah to fulfill his role as the Lion of Judah: one who would come with strength and power. Little did they know that the Lion would reveal his power through sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

We humans have a tendency to see strength in accumulation power and influence rather than in elevating others. However, Jesus' revealed his power exactly by giving up himself to elevate us. The good news is that although his death restores us as children of God, it transforms into his resurrection and life.

He taught this very thing to his disciples when he said, "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mt. 16:25) We are at our best – individually and as a church - when we strive to lift up others rather than clinging to our own desires.

The Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence and service serve to redirect our energy away from prioritizing our own desires so that we can discover the fullness of God's intention for us.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our annual conference has called for 2026 to be a year of hope. But the best way to find hope is to give hope. As the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God, Jesus does that by revealing God’s power to give us life. That happens not because he suffered on the cross, but because he took our suffering upon himself and brought us eternal life in his resurrection.

When we proclaim that the Church is the body of Christ, it calls us to look outward and to consider how we – as individuals and as a congregation – can bring hope to others by boosting them up, so that our success reveals itself in the accomplishments of those whom we encourage.

I pray that as we march through Lent towards the Lamb’s Easter triumph – that you might engage this season as an opportunity for godly self-actualization rather than self-denial.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 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

- March 2 *Egg Roll Order Deadline*
- March 7 *2-4 pm Scout Egg Roll Pickup*
- March 8 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 10 *6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- March 23 *Easter Flower Order Deadline*
- March 25 *10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting*



Members & Friends

- Dwight Banks
- Glenn Carnine
- Pat Gorsuch
- Trudy Hunt
- Herman Krunfus
- Charlie Schnuckel
- Dana Ward

Military Personnel

- Gage Christensen
- Sean Conderman
- Dan Harter
- Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn & Family of Tim Murphy



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.

Finance Committee Report

January 2026

Total Revenue:	\$11,458.00
Total Expenditures:	\$16,388.23
Net Revenue:	-\$4,930.23



Scripture Readings

March 1—2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Psalm 121
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Message: TBA

March 8—3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 95
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Message: TBA

March 15—4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Message: TBA

March 22—5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Message: TBA

March 29—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

Message: TBA



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, March 18th at the home of Jan Mills. If you need directions to Jan's home, email her at lil-dobs1029@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

Thank You, **Scouts** 

Thank you to the Scouts, their leaders and families for participating in the worship service and for the lovely breakfast afterwards on February 8th.

It is such a joy to see the Scouts each February during Scouting Sunday and we are blessed to have them use the church as their meeting place.

They are a credit to the organization, and to this church and community.



Thank you to Scout Troops 181G and 181B and their leaders for all the hard work they did for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The hall was very festive with Mardi Gras themed colors, icons and streamers.

They served chocolate chip and regular pancakes with sausage and applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. In addition, they raised \$179 that they donated to the church! **Thank you for carrying on this tradition at Cherry Valley United Methodist.**



HE KNEW BEFORE WE DID



Keeping little bottoms dry and healthy” - that’s the motto of our diaper bank here in the Ozarks.

As director, I’m responsible for getting diapers to our partners, who distribute them to people in need in our community. With each delivery from the regional diaper bank—about 6,000 diapers that we package into sets of 25 and 50—I lead our team in

prayer over them.

Usually, I ask God’s blessings for the families getting the diapers. Children in foster care or shelters, folks at food banks and clothes closets—we supply some 11 partners in all. But one afternoon, I had to add something else to our prayer, something urgent. “God, please help us find enough size-four diapers to fill the need!” I asked. I’d somehow left size-four diapers off my order. We barely had enough to last a few days.

We got our diapers at a reduced rate. Unable to pay more than 20 cents each, we couldn’t just go to any store. I hated to think my mistake would leave families in the lurch.

The problem was still weighing on my mind when I stopped at the supermarket after work. The last time we ran low on diapers, it had taken 10 day of hard searching to find any at a price we could afford. *We don’t have that long before we run out*, I thought, pushing my cart through the aisles. *And there’s no time to ask for donations*.

I was about to check out when I felt a nudge: *Go to the baby section*. The idea didn’t make sense. I knew the price of diapers just about everywhere in our area, and the ones at this supermarket were way our of our range.

But my grocery cart seemed to have a will of it’s own. Suddenly I was in the diaper aisle, with a bulk-size box blocking my way. A box containing 196 size-four diapers. When I bent to shove it back on the shelf, a bright sales sticker caught my eye. The reduced price came to—I calculated it in my head twice to be sure—14 cents a diaper! The jumbo box was well within our budget, as were the other two right behind it.

(continued in next column)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 2 James Barnes
- 6 Sue Wilt
Chad Totten
- 19 Juanita Barnes
- 22 Linda Calhoun
- 26 Jill Hollembeak
Katie Brown
- 27 Deborah DeWitt
Jeffrey Layng



- 16 Christopher & Amy Flood
- 25 Don & Kathy Kruger
- 30 Alan & Patricia Eickman



(continued from previous column)

According to the sticker, those diapers had been marked down a day earlier. God had seen our need before we did, and He answered our prayers before we’d even asked.

Karla Lowe-Phelps, Lebanon, Missouri

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Please know that every gift matters, every effort makes an impact, and every prayer is cherished. Together, we are shining God’s light into the darkness and making a difference in countless lives.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this mission of hope and renewal. May God richly bless you for the sacrifices you make in His name.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. If you feel led, there are even more ways to get involved! Consider volunteering with us or joining us in prayer for the people we serve daily.

Official Donation Receipt

Item(s) Donated: Food, Kitchen Supplies, & Personal Care Items

Date Received: 1/22/2026

Received By: Mission

No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.



715 west state street ■ po box 1958 ■ rockford, IL 61110 ■ 815.965.5332

email: info@rockfordrescuemission.org ■ website: www.rockfordrescuemission.org



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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 :

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- *Modeling Compassionate Generosity*
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- *Rejoicing in Lives Changed by God*

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TROOP 181G

★★ FUNDRAISER ★★

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(Pork or Chicken)
CRAB RANGOON
ROSETTES

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We gave thanks to God for His favor upon our 2025 Form II and IV students and their national exams. The service was filled with joy—songs, dance, testimonies, preaching—and even an offering of 1,574,000 TSH! (\$609.00 U.S.)

Afterwards, some parents visited our high school site to pray together for the God-given vision of GMSS. I felt so encouraged and grateful, realizing that I am not alone in this mission. Together with these parents, we are trusting God step by step—to build the school, raise funds, and turn this vision into reality for the next generation of leaders for Christ and His Kingdom.

Please join us in prayer as we continue preparing every detail for this high school project—from strong teachers to students with a solid O-level foundation. We believe God is guiding every step, and we can't wait to see His plan unfold!

(If parents and Tanzanian friends of the school can raise \$609, what could we raise? – Certainly much more than that!!!)

With God's Grace We Grow Together!
Your friend in Christ!
Judy Long

Please take a moment to stop by the display in the entrance of the church. It is detailing many of the goals and accomplishment of Pastor Kim and the Global Mission.
If you are inclined to donate to the mission, please write in the memo line of your check:
Advance # 3022281 (High School Construction/Ministry Support)
Make your check payable to Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068



Speak to Juanita Barnes about either of these ministries.

Be A Greeter!

Be A Liturgist!



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



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Scout Troop 181G is having a fundraiser to raise money to go to Sea Base July of 2026. They will be selling egg rolls, crab Rangoon, and rosettes.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss out! Orders are due by March 2 and will be ready for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 2-4 pm.

You may use the order form available at the church or if you can't make it to church you may order by calling the church at 815-332-5075 or call Sandy Schwartz at 779-771-3567. See the flyer on page 5 of this publication for details.

Payment is due upon pick-up. You may pay with cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Egg Roll Order Deadline</i>	3 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	5 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 <i>Scouts Egg Roll Prep Day</i>	7 9:00 am GA <i>Scouts Egg Roll pick-up day 2-4 pm</i>
8 <i>2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 10:00 am Worship	9 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 <i>6:00 pm Church Council</i> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	12 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14 9:00 am GA
15 10:00 am Worship	16 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl group @ Jan Mill's Home 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	19 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	20	21 9:00 am GA
22 10:00 am Worship	23 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <i>Easter Flower Order Deadline</i>	24 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	25 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:15 am Memorial Committee Meeting 2:00 pm Choir Practice <i>7:00 pm Lenten Study@ CVUMC</i>	26 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28 9:00 am GA
29 10:00 am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 <i>10:00 am Lenten Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB				

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

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

March 7
Scout Egg Roll Day

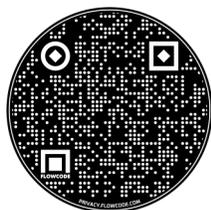
March 8
Daylight Saving Time
Begins

March 25
Palm Sunday



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

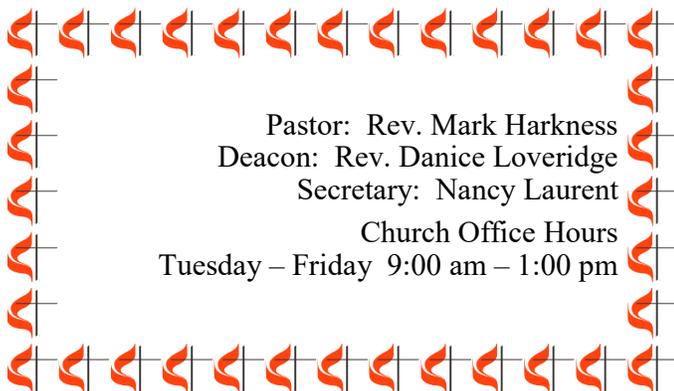
Charlie Schnuckel
703 E. Wood Ln,
Belvidere, IL 61008



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

Order your

Easter Flowers

to help decorate the
sanctuary for Easter.



Honor your loved ones this Easter with Easter lilies or Spring bulbs that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning! After the Easter worship service, take your flowers home to enjoy indoors or plant them in your garden when the weather permits.

Please complete the form below and return it with your check or money to Juanita Barnes, or you may place your order in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Cherry Valley United Methodist Church.

Deadline for ordering is March 23

Please Print Clearly

Family Name _____
Ordering Plant _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Cost of Plants:

Number of Tulips _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Daffodils _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Number of Lilies _____ @ \$12.60 Each

Total Amount Attached \$ _____



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
February 17, 2026.**

Photos courtesy of Sandy Schwartz

