

THE MESSENGER

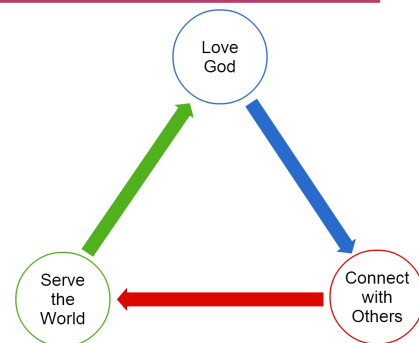
April 2026

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

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will do it.

²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us also.

(1 Thessalonians 5:23-25 NRSV)

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Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Even though we don't currently have a confirmation class, when I do teach confirmation classes I give the students weekly assignments. Those assignments always include praying the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed, and reading a passage of Scripture. Additionally, there's usually some other article to read or video to watch on-line, except for Holy Week. During Holy Week the only "additional assignment" is "Pray for your pastor."

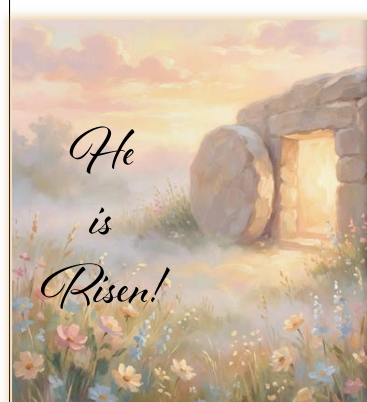
That may sound self-centered, but it serves a couple of purposes. First, I get the prayers that I need. Second, it serves to teach the students that pastors and leaders need their prayers.

In January, we announced that I will be appointed to First United Methodist Church in Dixon on July 1. Just a few weeks ago, we announced that Pastor Alex Lee will be appointed to Cherry Valley and New Milford United Methodist Churches. I encourage each of you to take advantages of opportunities to help planning and preparation for Pastor Alex's arrival and welcoming him.

I also have an assignment for you: Pray for your pastors. Pray for me as I strive to continue serving you, getting things in order for Pastor Alex, and preparing to serve in Dixon. Join me as I pray for Pastor Alex as he continues to serve the church in Harvard, getting things in order for the next pastor there, and as he prepares his arrival to serve you here. Pray for our families. Pray for the Church Council as they navigate this transition.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness



Welcome Pastor Alex Lee and Family



Alex began his ministry in 2006, serving a church in Los Angeles. From 2011 to 2018, he served as Lead Pastor in a non-denominational multicultural church in Sierra Vista, AZ. He served as Assistant Pastor at the Korean UMC of Flossmoor from 2018 to 2021. Most recently he served Alden UMC (2021-2023) and Harvard First UMC (2021-2026).

He was born in Seoul, South Korea. At the age of 10, his family immigrated to Argentina. After graduating from high school in South America, his family moved to the United States. He lived in Los Angeles and Arizona for 22 years before moving to the Chicago area.

Alex is passionate about pastoral care, preaching, and teaching. His passion for ministry is centered on 1 John 3:16. He is committed to serving the church and the community for God's glory. He has been actively leading and participating in mission trips. In 2019, he was part of mission trips to Pine Ridge Native American Reservation in SD and Guatemala.

He is trilingual (English, Korean, and Spanish). He has experienced many different cultures hands-on. He loves playing musical instruments and singing praises. He also has skills in computers (software and hardware) and multimedia skills for the rapidly changing environment.

As of 2026, he has been married for 18 years to Ji Young, and they are blessed to have two children: Sean and Jason.



"Don't think you are, know you are"

Future Dates to Remember

- April 2..... 7:00 pm Holy Thursday Service*
- April 3..... 7:00 pm Holy Friday Service*
- April 5..... 10:00 am Easter Service*
- April 7..... Pastor Mark begins vacation*
- April 14..... 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting*
- April 16..... 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group*
- April 22..... Pastor returns from vacation*



Members & Friends

Dwight Banks
Glenn Carnine
Mary Lou Clevenger
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

The Don Henry Family



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

February 2026

Total Revenue:	\$14,351.20
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$11,706.82</u>
Net Revenue:	\$ 2,644.38



Report from the March 17, 2026 meeting.

Donate with **PayPal**



Scripture Readings

April 2—Holy Thursday

Psalm 116
1 Corinthians 22:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Message: "That Which We Receive"

April 3—Holy Friday

Scripture: Psalm 22
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
John 18:1-19:42

April 5—Easter Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 118:14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10
Message: "Present Perfect Life"

April 12—2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 16:5-11
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
John 20:19-31

Message: TBA
Guest Speaker

April 19—3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Message: TBA
Guest Speaker

April 26—4th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Message: "Distracting Voices"



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.

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, April 16 at 10:00 am, hosted by Lucy Powell.

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. Our final meeting for the season will be May 18.

Women interested in this group may contact Lucy Powell at 815-904-9462 or email her at lpowell530@yahoo.com.

All women are welcome.

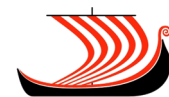


Messenger For May and June

The May and June *Messenger* will be published together in late April. If you have any event or news item you wish to share for the May and June time frame, please send your information to me no later than April 24th.

I will be on vacation beginning on May 12th, with my return to work on June 2nd.

Nancy Laurent, Secretary



VIKING RIVER CRUISES



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



He is risen!

MAUNDY THURSDAY	April 2, 2022 7:00 pm Worship Service
GOOD FRIDAY	April 3, 2022 7:00 pm Worship Service
EASTER SUNDAY	April 5, 2022 10:00 am Easter Service

PRAIRIE NORTH SPRING 2026 LAY ACADEMY Sat., April 25

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun., April 26

1 to 4:30 p.m.

Freeport: Harmony UMC 2600 W Pearl City Rd., Freeport



Cost: Lunch (Saturday only),
snacks, water and coffee
will be provided.

- \$20 before or on March 31
- \$25 before or on April 20

April Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays This Month

- 5 Mary Bowling
- 7 Nancy John
- Geneva Dienberg
- 9 Chelsea Bilderback
- 12 Dorrie Dienberg
- 13 Kayte Kloss
- 14 Dawn Hollebeak
- 19 Theoren Nystrom
- 21 David Mills
- 26 Patricia Irps
- 27 Scott Layng



- 7 Gary & Carol
Conderman
- 21 Mark & Susan Harkness
- 25 John & Sandra Schwartz
- 28 Mark & Holly Snyder



Cherry Valley Public Library News

Spring Used Book Sale Saturday, April 18 to Sunday, April 26



Shop the amazing selection of fiction, nonfiction, teen, kid's books, DVD'S and more! Stop by any time during the library's open hours to find some books for gift giving or select a few presents for yourself. Spend \$10.00 or more to be entered into a prize drawing for one of four gift cards to local businesses!

Please Note—No donations are accepted
Sunday, April 12 –Sunday, April 26

We greatly appreciate the donations we receive, but no donations will be accepted the two weeks of the book sale, including set-up time and book sale dates. This allows our volunteers to focus on our current inventory and make the book sale run smoothly. *Thank you for your understanding!*

Friday, April 17 from noon to 4 pm

Preview Sale

\$5 fee for annual Friends membership to enter

Saturday, April 25 and Sunday April 26

Fill a bag for \$3.00!

Meeting
Reminder!

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, April 14th 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.

Community Easter Candy Scramble

Mark your calendars for the annual cherry Valley Community Easter Candy Scramble on Saturday, April 4, 2026 at 2:00 pm at Baumann Park! Be sure to arrive early—the Easter Bunny makes a special appearance at 1:30 pm for photos and festive fun before the scramble begins. In case of inclement weather, the event will hop indoors and take place at Village Hall. Be there for an egg-stra special afternoon of fun!

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.



Thank You



Thank you to the people on the Worship Committee who have helped decorate the sanctuary for the season. It is more work to change out the paraments than one might imagine, so we appreciate what this committee does to enhance our worship time.

Particularly, thank you to the Committee Chair, Juanita Barnes, who is extremely diligent in changing out the decorations. She is also the one who ensures that we have greeters and liturgists each Sunday.

Thank you to all the members of the team: Ray Beets, Barb Clucas, LaVern Neff, Pat Eickman, Holly Snyder, Shirley Cardani, Patricia Irps and Mandy Kloepfer. A special thank you to Ray Beets, who does a lot of the heavy lifting and ladder climbing.

Be A Greeter!

WE NEED YOU!

Be A Liturgist!

Speak to Juanita Barnes if you are interested in either of these ministries.

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.

Current/Urgent Needs

URGENT NEEDS

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

CLINIC

- Cough Syrup (No Dextromethorphan HBr)
- Alka Seltzer Plus Cold (no Dextromethorphan HBr)
- Midol
- Pamprin
- Throat Lozenges

KITCHEN

- Bottled Water
- Drink Mixes
- Coffee
- BBQ Sauce
- Garlic Pepper
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Instant Rice
- Sugar
- Non-Stick Spray
- Aluminum Foil

“Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world.”

~Howard Zinn~

Global Mission

Dear Faithful Cherry Valley Church Family,

I am sharing a recent Facebook page from Pastor Kim. It is an excerpt from her appeal letter to the Bishop of the Northern Illinois conference. Pastor Kim believes raising funds and constructing the high school will be her last project in Tanzania. Please pray and give a donation if able for this last stage of the school.. It is a faith-centered, successful and worthy ministry. The appeal has been approved and will be presented to Pastor Kim at the Annual Conference in June.

Judy Long

The GMSS new mission is planning to build a high school, which will help young people continue their education and pursue a future they may never have thought possible. You can help empower these young people to achieve the education and callings they discern.

The building will have four classrooms, a well-organized computer laboratory, separate dormitories for boys and girls, a multipurpose hall, and guest rooms for volunteer teachers and visitors.

In addition, the campus will have two shower and toilet facilities, two storages, a basketball court, and two playgrounds with seating stands built into the natural slope of the land. These spaces will allow students and the local community to gather for sports, various events, and school programs.

The high school will share with the secondary school its science laboratories, a library, and a cafeteria.

"This high school is not just about buildings; it is about raising a next generation of Christian leaders for Tanzania and the kingdom of God," Rev. Kim says.

*The first class will have approximately 40-45 students, with the capacity to grow as enrollment increases. The school will serve **both boys and girls**. The latter group is particularly important, given that some communities discourage girls' schooling.*

"This high school will provide quality Christian education, strong academic preparation, and character and spiritual formation," Rev. Kim says. "It will give students opportunities to pursue higher education and meaningful careers, helping to lift families and communities out of poverty. We believe these students will become future leaders who serve Tanzania, the church, and the world."



“The soul grows by learning.” — St. Augustine

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



HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN TANZANIA

Please write “Advance #3022281 (High School Construction)” in the memo section of your check and send it directly to the mission finance office. Please make your check payable to Advance GCFA and mail it to:

Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068
New York, NY 10087-9068

April 2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	2 7:00 pm Holy Thursday Service	3 7:00 pm Holy Friday Service	4 9:00 am GA
5 10:00 am Worship <i>Easter Sunday</i>	6 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	7 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	8 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	9 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	10	11 9:00 am GA
12 10:00 am Worship	13 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	14 6:00 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	15 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Prayer Shawl group 2:00 pm Choir Practice	16 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	17	18 9:00 am GA
19 10:00 am Worship	20 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	21 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	22 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	23 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	24	25 9:00 am GA
26 10:00 am Worship	27 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	28 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	29 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Practice	30 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts		

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

Happy Easter!

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

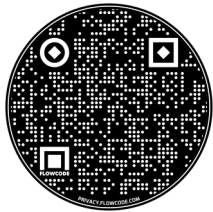
April 2
7:00 pm
Holy Thursday Service

April 3
7:00 pm
Holy Friday Service

April 5
10:00 am
Easter Sunday Service



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



*Let's
Worship
together*

Sunday @ 10:00 am—In-person Worship
Live You Tube streaming at Cherry Valley United
Methodist Church.

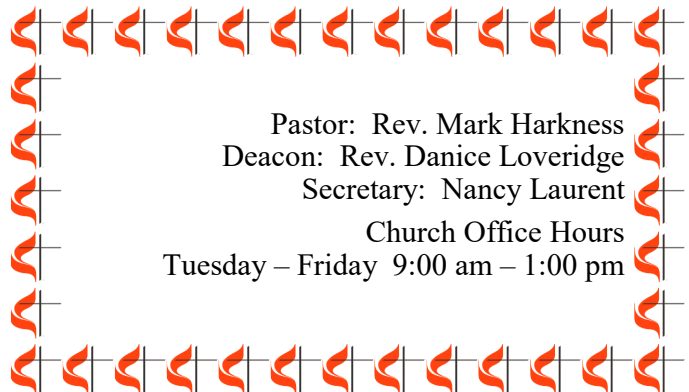
Contact us:

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