



THE MESSENGER

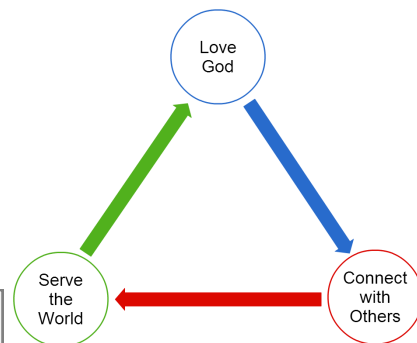
September 2026

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Alex Lee, Pastor
Pastor's Cell: 520-450-0899
Pastor's E-mail: qq4ever@gmail.com

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

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

It seems that all we talk about is grace in the United Methodist. To us, grace is not a concept or a terminology, it's an experience that enables us to move forward in every moment of our lives. It goes beyond a thought or understanding in our minds; God pours out the strength to share the love of God to anyone and everyone. We are in the ministry of reconciling the creation with God, and all of you are part of it.

In talking about grace, I wanted to let you know that there are many ways to experience grace in our lives. One way is to be part of our Sunday service. I'm glad to see you on Sundays, but there are more ways you can be part of the service. We are looking for greeters and liturgists, we want people who walk into our church to feel welcomed. You are part of the worship as you read the Scripture and lead the opening prayer. Juanita is more than willing to guide through the process. You are all welcome to participate.

Another way of experiencing grace is studying the Bible together. Just because I'm a pastor, it does not mean I know everything about the Word of God. Studying is an opportunity for all of us to learn together. The book I chose, "Restored" by Tom Berlin, is a great source in going over the importance of divine grace. As our relationship with God deepens, we desperately need Christ in order to walk on the right path. I'm offering two classes; one on Monday morning and one on Wednesday night. We are all growing together in grace.

Starting this month, I will be offering a free weekly ESL class to the Hispanic community in the Cherry Valley/Belvidere area. We are called to be good neighbors and I feel this is a way for me and our church to let them know that we are willing to help each other. If you know anyone who could benefit from the class, let me know. I'm hoping we can reach out to more people and let them know that there is a reason a church is here. We exist not only for ourselves; we are on a mission of transforming the world. You are part of it too.

Don't want to say bye to summer but fall is just waiting to happen—a time for everything. Have a great rest of summer. See you at church.

Blessings,

Pastor Alex Lee

Pastor Alex Lee

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**ALL ARE WELCOME TO A
POT LUCK LUNCHEON
AFTER WORSHIP.
ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH
FOR PASTOR ALEX & HIS FAMILY**

Dinnerware and beverages will be provided.

Bring your favorite dish to share.

***Please sign up on the sheet provided.
For more information, please speak with
Mary Coulter***



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

September 8 6 pm—Admin Council Meeting
September 9 10 am—11:30 am English Class (weekly)
September 10 6 pm—7:30 pm English Class (weekly)
September 13 10 am 1st Performance of season for choir
11 am Meet & Greet Potluck
September 14 10 am Bible Study Begins (New Milford)
September 16 7 pm Bible Study Begins (Cherry Valley)
September 20 11 am Fellowship Resumes

*Lord please
hear my
prayer*



Members & Friends

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

Military Personnel

Sean Conderman
Dan Harter
Wesley Harter

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next
Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn



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.

**Take
Note**

Administrative Council

The next meeting of the Administrative Council will be on Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 pm.

Fellowship Time Resumes!

We will resume fellowship time after worship on Sunday, September 20. We are seeking volunteers to host each Sunday. Coffee and light refreshments are all that are required. All equipment for coffee is available in the kitchen. Cups, plates, napkins and tableware is supplied in the kitchen. For more information and to secure your hosting time, speak with Mary Coulter, Program Coordinator.

Donate with **PayPal**



Scripture Readings

September 6—15th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 148:1-8
Proverbs 21:21
Acts 18:1-3

Message: "Who Are Prisilla and Aquila?"

The following readings are from the lectionary

September 13—16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Exodus 14:19-31; Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-25

September 20—17th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:2-15; Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27—18th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Exodus 17:1-7; Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 16:13-20



John 1:16-17

*For from his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace. For the law was given
through Moses; grace and truth came
through Jesus Christ.*



Finance Committee Report

July Financial Report

Total Revenue	\$10,747.00
Total Expenditures	20,389.62
Net Revenue	-9,642.62

July Extra Expenses

Yearly Maintenance and refrigerant for 6 A/Cs at church
\$1,705.00

Church sprinkler system maintenance
\$653.00

New A/C for parsonage
\$6,050.00

Emergency Fund Balance \$6,630.65
Parsonage Appeal Balance \$869.85



Pastor Alex's Office Hours:

Wednesdays—9:30—noon
Thursdays—9:30—noon
Monday & Tuesday
Work from home
Friday is day off

*Pastor Alex will still be
available for calls on days when not in the office.*



Pastor Alex's Cell
520-450-0899



Prayer Shawl Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will resume their regular Wednesday morning gatherings on September 16th at 10:00 am.

For information about this group and for the name and address of the next host of the meeting, contact Lucy Powell. Telephone or text 815-904-9462 or email Lucy at lpowell530@yahoo.com.

FRESH EXPRESSIONS TRAINING EVENT GREENHOUSE DAY

A Fresh Expressions Event for Prairie North District clergy and laity, open to all Northern Illinois Conference

Saturday, September 19

9am—3 pm

Rockford Grac UMC

3555 McFarland Road

Cost: (includes lunch)

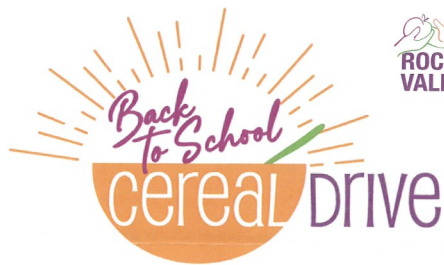
\$10 per person

\$25 per church

Register online at: <https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/pn-fresh-expressions-greenhouse-day>

The event is a day long training and learning about fresh expressions, led by Rev. Dr. Michael Beck, Director of Fresh Expressions for the United Methodist Church. It is designed to spark imagination for churches seeking to connect with people in new ways. Through interactive activities creative thinking dialogue and hands on prototyping participants will explore how to cultivate new Christian Communities alongside existing congregations.

After the training there will be an option to participate in a Fresh Expression Pathway with the conference.



Help a child start their school day off right!

Every dollar and box will make a difference to a hungry child!

How to Help:

- Drop off cereal donations:
Rock River Valley Pantry: 421 S. Rockton Ave
Rockford Community Bank: all locations
OSF Hospital: 5666 E. State St
OSF Medical Group: 698 Featherstone Rd
UW Health Riverfront YMCA: 200 Y Blvd
Puri Family YMCA: 1475 S. Perryville Rd
NE Family YMCA: 8451 Orth Rd
- Collect cereal at your own location:
Call RRVP for collection barrels, 815.965.2466
- Send a monetary donation to:
Rock River Valley Pantry
Attn: Cereal Drive
421 S. Rockton Ave
Rockford, IL 61102-2229
- Scan to donate or visit rrvp.org/donate



Thank you to our sponsors:



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Mary Coulter
- 6 Grace Harter
- 7 Melynda Mungor
Warren Gross
- 8 Zane Clevenger
- 10 Amy Flood
- 11 Bensen Nystrom
- 22 David Burritt
- 23 Jeanette Krueger
Monica Plummer
- 24 David Ziemke
Chris Flood
- 25 Mandy Kloepper
- 27 Sherry Gordon
- 29 Holly Snyder

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Gary & Sue Wilt



VBS

At this year's VBS, we were up to our elbows in farmin' fun! The kids had an incredible time at this year's farm-themed VBS, HayDay "Growing in Friendship with Jesus". The kids experienced incredible bible learning experiences, team -building games, cool bible songs and multi-sensory adventures that help faith flow into real life. The response from the kids was over-whelming, you could see it in their faces...they really had a great time! The children discovered that Jesus will always love us... **HE'S OUR FRIEND!**

The elementary kids made soup mixes for Moms and their children at MELD. We had 21 kids attend with 4 Junior Helpers. We really appreciated the support from Grace/Centennial UMC during VBS as well as assisting us in taking down the VBS decorations after church.

The team would like to thank everyone who donated to VBS this year, for a total of \$292. It really helps take the burden off and we couldn't have done it without all the contributions (including cookies, kid's meals, parade candy and water bottles, etc.). We also thank anyone who assisted in the 4th of July Parade.

A "BIG" thank you to the following people...your dedication warms the heart!

Deb Gross, VBS Director

Juanita Barnes
Nola Carnine
Mary Coulter
Laquishia Dixon
(Centennial/Grace UMC)
Callie Gordon (Jr Helper)
Mark Greef
Braden Schuld
Karen Harter
Idan Hernandez (Jr Helper)
Joseline Hernandez
(Centennial/Grace UMC)
Sally Hollembeak
Patricia Irps

Cindy Kerr
Hailee Kerr
Mandy Kloepper
Nancy Laurent
Pastor Alex Lee
Jason Lee (Jr Helper)
Ji Lee
Sean Lee (Jr Helper)
Melynda Mungor
Laverne Neff
(for decoration storage)
Lucy Powell
Braden Schuld
Sandy Schwartz

See our pictures on the next page.



Speak to
Juanita
Barnes
about either
of these
ministries.

Be A Liturgist!



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.



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.

The core values of the Rockford Rescue Mission are :

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

- *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.



Global Missionary

From Pastor Kim:

For so long, I found myself praying, "Lord, when will this day finally come?" We waited... and waited... and waited. Plans were delayed again and again. There were moments when I felt the weight of time, wondering if another class of students would graduate before this dream became a reality.

Yet God's clock is never early and never late.

This week, after the contractor's site visit, everything has begun to move forward. We are preparing to officially start construction on August 1, and what once seemed painfully slow is now unfolding with remarkable speed. Every day this week, I have been amazed to see God opening doors and putting every piece into place. It reminds me that when God's time comes, nothing can stop His work.

On July 24, our parents and students gathered for an overnight prayer meeting. Please join us in asking God to bless every worker, every donor, every supplier, and every step of this project. Above all, pray that God alone will receive the glory.



We have had the privilege of receiving Pastor Kim's frequent posts for over 13 years. Her messages are always reflective of her faith- always giving glory to our Lord and recognizing in all the challenges, the need to rely on God's timing. In the first few years, I remember some discouragement, perhaps a bit dismayed by the failure of some leaders in the Tanzania church team. That discouragement faded as she became more settled in her work. Realistically, challenges with contractors and government bureaucracy are to be expected. After all, she is a woman and Korean building a Christian school in a Muslim country. She is a woman singularly building something that openly stretches their view and norms of what the country values. However, rarely, if ever have we heard her complain in the last 8-10 years. Her constant smile, extraordinary energy and consistent faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is first and foremost in all her writings. We have been blessed and enriched by her presence in our lives. I hope you have learned as much as I have.

So please join me in prayer for this final stage of the Global Mission Secondary school and above all, pray that God alone will receive the glory!

Judy Long



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



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox



We are well into our collecting for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry.

This month we are shifting our focus on toys such as:

- Card Games
Uno Cards, Go Fish, Crazy Eights.

- Legos
Buy the big generic set and can be split.
- Match Box Cars
- Jump Ropes
- Small balls
- Small dolls
- Small stuffed animals
- Yo-Yo
- Slinky



If you need further information, please speak with Terri Burritt or email her at burritt5@hotmail.com



Visit the website at sumaratinspurse.org to learn more about Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry.

September 2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Genesis 8:22: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."		1 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	2 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	4	5 9:00 am GA
6 10:00 am Worship	7 6:00 Scouts BSAG	8 <i>6:00 pm Church Council</i> 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	9 10-11:30 am Clases de Ingles 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 6:00-7:30 pm Clases de Ingles 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	11	12 9:00 am GA
13 10:00 am Worship	14 <i>10:00 am Bible Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	15 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	16 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 10-11:30 am Clases de Ingles 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <i>7:00 pm Bible Study @ CVUMC</i>	17 6:00-7:30 pm Clases de Ingles 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	18	19 9:00 am GA
20 10:00 am Worship	21 <i>10:00 am Bible Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	22 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB  <i>First Day of Autumn</i>	23 10-11:30 am Clases de Ingles 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <i>7:00 pm Bible Study @ CVUMC</i>	24 6:00-7:30 pm Clases de Ingles 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	25	26 9:00 am GA 
27 10:00 am Worship	28 <i>10:00 am Bible Study @ New Milford</i> 6:00 Scouts BSAG 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	29 6:30 pm Scouts BSAB	30 10-11:30 am Clases de Ingles 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <i>7:00 pm Bible Study @ CVUMC</i>			

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

Clases de Inglés Gratis para Adultos

Dos clases

- Miércoles: 10 - 11:30 AM
- Jueves: 6 - 7:30 PM
- Clases sin cita previa
- Ven cuando tengas tiempo
- No necesita registrarse
- Niveles: básico - avanzado

CALENDARIO DE OTOÑO 2026
SEPTIEMBRE 9 - NOVIEMBRE 19

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 S. Cherry St, Cherry Valley, IL 61016
Alex (celular: 520-450-0899)
Email: pastor.cvumc@comcast.net

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
Upcoming Events

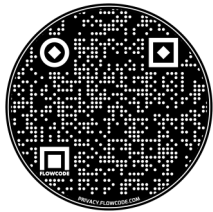
September 13
11:00 am
Meet & Greet Potluck

September 13
Choir Returns from
Hiatus

September 16
7:00 pm
"Restored" Bible Study



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



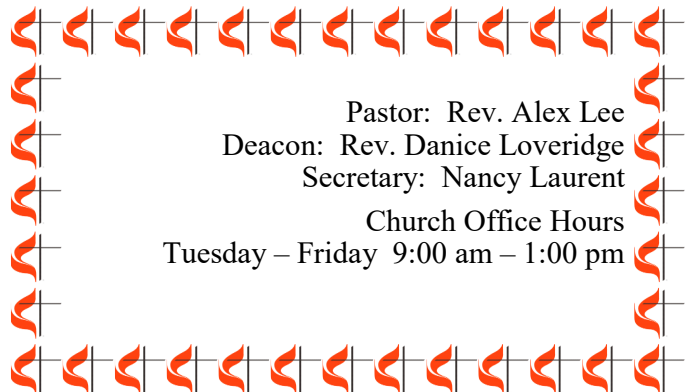
let's
Worship
together

Sunday Worship @ 10:00 am
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. Alex Lee
Deacon: Rev. Danice Loveridge
Secretary: Nancy Laurent

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