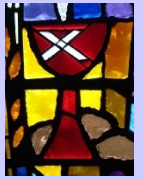


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



Minister
Rev. Mark Willis
markswillis@gmail.com Office
(816) 616-9746

Organist and Pianist
Emily Yeh

Secretary
Open

SERVICES:
SUNDAYS:

8:30 a.m. Suspended
10:00 a.m.

IN-PERSON & ONLINE
10:45 a.m. Suspended

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall
In-person & On-Line

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

(913) 432-2390 &
(913) 432-5676

E-mail

merriamchristian@gmail.com
www.merriamcc.org



Dear Friends,
This past Tuesday we got an April surprise: SNOW! Ah, yes, the joys of living in the midwest, when seasons can decide arbitrarily to reverse direction, change course, and shock us into remembering the glory and agony of all four seasons in one week. Spring had sprung!?! The weather was warmer, the flowers were blooming, the trees were budding...and then? snow? Big wet juicy flakes of snow fell for several hours Tuesday, reminding us of the cold and dreary winter we just escaped. In some ways, it is an appropriate metaphor for our faith as well. Easter has happened, the tomb is found empty, Jesus has risen! And we rejoice, we celebrate, we proclaim our lives changed and our world belonging to God's kingdom...and then? Often then we simply slide back into old routines and comforting complacency in our faith. We slide back from the new spring that has come upon us with the discovery of the stone rolled away, and we

revert to the cold winter of our faith. A faith that is dormant, that is stagnant, a faith that is quiet and unnoticed.

But that is not the faith God has called us to with the glory of Easter morning. In raising Jesus from the dead God has given us a new day, a new dawn, a new spring in our lives and we must not waste it. This is the moment to embrace the warmth and joy that spills out of that empty tomb and fills us for the day ahead. This is the moment to live the good news that Jesus has risen! He has risen indeed! This is the moment to be the changed and transformed people of God in our everyday lives.

Don't let a spiritual winter reemerge in your faith. Embrace the new spring of God's grace and go out today in joy and hope as the Church, the disciples of Jesus Christ.

God Bless,
Mark

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

There were nine attending the business/group meeting Tuesday. Mark joined us for the lesson. Sorry you missed it. Hopefully we will have more next time, Tues. May 25, at 12:30. The lesson was by Lysa Terkeurst in the Holy Land. I have watched all the DVD and the lessons are inspiring. I am sure you will enjoy them too.

We collected \$87.50, bringing our balance to \$2,626.65. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will not have a "spring fling" as in the past. The group agreed to down size our activities and work on supporting the study and most of the other things we have supported, such as Tall Oaks, Least Coin, and of course Blankets. We did really good with blankets this year and we can be proud.

Four of us made it to Raymore Christian Church for the evening DWM meeting. The program about Fox Wood Springs was interesting and informative. No meal, but I went anyway. That's all for now.

Joyce Luke, Treasurer

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

As you may have heard Allen and Jackie Watts are moving out of state in May. Jeanette Howe will be taking over publishing of the newsletter. Please email Jeanette with any articles or information you have. Jeanette's email is

jnethowe@gmail.com



Memorial Service for Flo Biehl
We will have a Memorial Service for Flo Biehl on Sunday, May 16, 2021 here at the church at 12:30PM. All are invited to come back in after worship and celebrate Flo's life with her family. After the service there will be a lunch in the parking lot, the family is renting a large tent to accommodate outdoor eating. Masks and distancing are still required during the service inside.

MARCH 2021 Finance Report

Revenues	\$ 12,777.00
Expenses	\$ 12,514.00

First Quarter:

Revenues	\$ 37,875.00
Expenses	\$ 38,517.00

THANK YOU ALL
for your continuing generosity
during this difficult time.

Your Treasurer

Pastor Mark's
Prayerful Meditation
mid-week video (4/21)

Use this short meditation to bring a moment of God's Word to your journey. Use this time to remind yourself of God's presence and love.

This week's meditation comes from [Psalm 11](#). If this meditation is a blessing to you, consider sharing the link or posting the video to your social media, inviting others to pause their day and spend five minutes in God's Word for their life. God Bless and Stay Safe
Pastor Mark



Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings

- **Write a check.**
- <http://www.easytithe.com/merriamcc>
- **Text giving:** 913-444-6397

Calendar

Sunday - April 25th

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 4**

Liturgist Jackie Watts

Sunday - May 2nd

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 1**

Liturgist Jan Pankey

Newsletter submission deadline, Thursday May 6th

Sunday - May 9th

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 2**

Liturgist Jim Owens



**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Pastor Mark will be gone May 9, 2021 as he takes some time away with his wife. Rev. Dr. Bill Rose-Heim, our Regional Minister will be here to lead service and bring the message.

We're Hiring!

Nursery Worker Needed



We are in a need of a church nursery attendant! Please contact Mike Nichols at 785-760-1796 for more information about the pay and hours!

Pastor Mark's Message

In case you missed any of Pastor Mark's messages sent by email, here are the last two weeks!

April 11th, "See the Marks"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiR7OyflHmA&t=4397s>

April 18th, "Now, I Understand"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AY5IS8R8M7A&t=1464s>

Children's Worship and Wonder
by
Christina Stokes



April 11th "Jesus is Risen?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7PgwHMDWqQ>

April 18th "Road to Emmaus"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTlKai7Ngzw>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Adult Sunday School class began the first of March and is thriving. We have members attending in person and via Zoom.

Three individuals have volunteered to teach: Anita Collins, Linda Railsback and Jim Owens. Jim taught in March, Anita Collins is teaching during April.

Currently we are studying the major prophets beginning with Moses and leading to the time of Jesus.

Our class begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and dismisses for the 10:00 a.m. worship Service.

Until we resume full church activities we will be holding just one adult class.

We welcome each of you to join us, either in person or via Zoom.



Children's Message



The Easter Basket

Proof of Identification



Join us in
worship on
[Youtube](https://www.youtube.com).



DON'T FORGET TO SHARE services & study sessions with family, friends and neighbors

In-Person and Online Worship Available

The building is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10AM. Please wear a mask (even if you have been vaccinated, not everybody has yet) the entire time you are in the building, and keep at least 6-feet of distance from anyone not in your immediate family or household, especially while entering and exiting the building. Worship is also live streamed on Sunday at 10AM if you wish to stay home and participate. Please be safe and make good decisions for you and your family.

God Bless!

Johnson County Food Ministry Thursday, April 29th

We will NOT be serving again due to COVID restrictions. We WILL be preparing "to-Go" meals as we have in the past year.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?!

We are seeking donations of cookies. Please drop off your donation to the MCC by NOON on the 29th.

If you have any questions, please contact Carole Prentice.

Summer Snackpacks are back!



This summer Merriam Christian Church will be providing food families again at Merriam Park Elementary School. We start delivering food in June. We need your assistance!

We need donations to make this ministry work. You can buy and donate the following food items:

- Cereal
- Canned fruit
- Canned veggies
- Drink Boxes
- Granola Bars
- Canned pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Snack Crackers
- Cheese and Crackers
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Tuna
- Soups



OR, you make a donation to the church, label it for "Make-a-Difference" and we will use those funds to purchase what is needed. We also need volunteers to deliver the boxes of food each weekend.

Talk to Carole Prentice if you have any questions!

Volunteer Delivery Schedule



Tuesday, April 27 Glen and Dixie
Wheaton

Tuesday, May 4 Walt & Betty Bohn
**Subs – Carole Prentice,
Jan Pankey and Rick Ferguson**



In-Person Worship is Sundays at 10AM. Online worship WILL continue for those who wish to stay home and participate. Masks are required while inside the building. Please be in prayer that all who attend are safe.

Those Needing Prayer:

- **Charlie Jin** (Gilbert and Ya Larson's grandson) split his shin bone playing sports. Please pray for a quick recovery.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Nancy Hines' son Dwayne Hines**, had open heart surgery today. It was a triple bypass. The surgery went well. Please be in prayer for Dwayne as he recovers.
- **Joyce Luke's grandson Luke Burkhalter**, graduated from the police academy and is now a deputy sheriff for Johnson County.
- **Connie Hennigh's son-in-law Garland Johnson** passed away. Please keep Connie's daughter Christy and the whole family in your prayers during this difficult time.
- **Bev McDonald's best friend, Jeanie McCrowsky** fell and hurt her face, and **Bev's cousin LouAnn** has been diagnosed with leukemia and has decided to not take treatments.
- **Donna Rankin's brother Danny** is taking chemo for his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- **Barry Davis has offered to help folks get registered over the internet for their vaccinations if anyone needs assistance. Call or email him for help on this if you want your shot but haven't been able to get it yet.**
- **Carol Vann has announced she is moving to Phoenix, Arizona** in June, to be closer to family and warmer winters. We hold her and **Heather** in our prayers as they make this big transition. May God bless them and walk with them.
- **Pray that we find a church nursery attendant! It is vitally important we find that special person who can take care of our little ones for those parents wanting to attend Sunday Service.**

PRAISE:

- **Bev McDonald has her first grandSON! Jack McDonald, 9 pounds - mother and baby doing well! Congrats!!**

- We celebrate **twenty-years of Micah Ministry** at Independence Boulevard CC. The Johnson County Food Ministry MCC participates in was spawned from Micah.
- **Joyce Campbell** shared a blessing - due to the recent stimulus check she was able to fix the transmission on her car and keep it running.
- The **ladies for Disciples Women's Ministry** were able to meet together, in person, today. This is their first in-person meeting in a year. It was a welcome blessing!
- For **Allen and Jackie Watts**. In addition to Allen's recent retirement, Allen and Jackie have sold their house and are moving to the Tennessee mountains in May. We wish them many blessings and pray this next part of their journey is filled with faith, family and friends.

We pray for all those who have received the vaccine, and for all those who want to get it but haven't yet. We especially pray for those who could get it but are hesitant or resistant. May their hearts be softened with grace and inspired by Christ to serve one another. May we come together to get vaccinated, and begin healing from this long struggle.

We pray for the city of Minneapolis, and all of our country as we continue to face our long history of racism and prejudice and work our way through together. May we see one another as children of God. May we strive to serve one another as Christ served. May we be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

For our church, as we hopefully begin to gather again, may we always respond first with grace and love and hope. May we be a light in dark times, bread and cup to hungry people. May we outdo one another in serving others as we strive to do more together as able.

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Names added to the prayer list will remain on the prayer list for one month. Let the office know if a prayer request needs to stay on the list for longer or shorter than one month.





Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

In person &



Minutes recorded by Donna Rankin
Board Secretary

Present in Person: Pastor Mark Willis, Jackie Watts, Allen Watts, Dixie Wheaton, Carole Prentice, Michelle Land, Mike Nichols, Jan Pankey, Pam Boyd, Joel Beaver, Anita Collins, Bob Pape, Emily Hooker

Present by Zoom: Joan Tarwater, David Roebuck, Barry Davis, Joyce Luke

Devotions: Mike Nichols – World in Chaos-Be Still in God

Minutes of 3/09 Board Meeting: motion to accept reports by Emily Hooker; seconded by Pam Boyd.

Committee Chair Reports:

CWF/DWM: Jackie-No report; Sarah meeting will be held April 20 at 12:30 pm

Clerk: Jackie-No report; no changes

Elders: Allen-No report

Finance: Dixie- Paycheck Protection Program Loan fully approved; Michelle Land & Katie Roach taking over office of Treasurer in next few months; Carol Vann moving out of town; income doing well; Easy Tithes working well; reviewing possible insurance company change.

H&G: Joel-Downspout on NE corner of sanctuary-water is dumping down against foundation, need to look into correcting; Church insurance policy-review existing and compare with new to determine if can get a reduced rate; Irrigation controller-no power to it; need to find source of problem; New roof project-started April 12, should be completed on 13th; Church siding project-estimated start date April 19; Air conditioner units-McCarty completed Spring Tune-up inside; will return when warmer weather and no rain to complete outside; Campbell Hall toilet-Bob repaired with all new insides as well as new shut off valve; Campbell Hall Ramp Molding-Bob glued section pulled away from drywall. Thank you Bob! Within next 30-40 days the new roof & siding projects should be completed. Can't wait to see how beautiful our church will look with the restoration projects done!

Outreach: Carol-Sunflower House of Shawnee-donation of \$1,000 given to help with restoration of building; gas cards & grocery gift cards supplied; Merriam Park School-gas cards & grocery gift cards supplied; Johnson County Food Ministry-April 29 we will cook & pack 125 take-out meals; cookies needed-sign up sheet outside office; Summer Food Program-being evaluated and will respond as needed; Make A Difference Fund-thank you cards will be sent to non-members of church; ask treasurer for notification of those donations.

Membership: Allen-Easter flower bouquets & bag of goodies delivered to homebound; Mother's Day plans-muffins to be given out.

Memorial: Emily-Monies added to Memorial Account since first of the year for Leroy Wisner and Ginny Smrtic; no expenditures so far this year; Money for summer camp fees available.

Worship: Pastor Mark- Lent/Easter-attendance in person 56, online 26; lilies ordered and delivered; Starburst put up and will remain until Pentecost. Thank you Bob, Rick & Dixie for your help! Pentecost-May 23-liturgical & cross cloths will be changed to red; participants will be asked to wear red; Live Streaming Services-Allen is working with volunteers to improve feature; ways to upgrade our system has been discussed with consultant Rob Guy; he has developed live streaming systems for Hillcrest Christian Church and Leawood Presbyterian Church; he will provide us with suggestions to more centrally run our system.

Pulpit-I will be gone on May 9-Rev. Dr. Bill Rose-Heim will fill pulpit.

Pastor Report: Pastor Mark-Attendance for worship service continues to increase, averaging 26 in-person and 20-25 online; continue to offer online services, reaching a lot of folks; suggest investigating better technology and programs; more groups asking about availability of building; I feel should continue mask/distancing policies allowing more folks to get vaccine & help protect those who have not yet; performed 5 funerals and 4 weddings this month.

Personnel: Mike-Maria, nursery attendant, not returning and looking for replacement; posted in last newsletter.

Trustees: Michelle-No report

Old Business: None

New Business:

Nursery Attendant:

Mike-Needed for two services or one. Suggest \$30 minimum per Sunday rather than hourly pay. Pastor Mark-2021 we will remain at one service; previously paid \$12.50/hr for 4 hours. Mike-made motion; seconded by Allen Watts. Discussion-hours 9:30-11:30 am and paid no less than \$30; no more than \$50, depending on candidate. Mike-made amended motion; seconded by Joel Beaver Board vote; motion passed.

Church Building Availability:

Mark-several groups asking to use church space.

KC Strings for small ensemble concert in June.

KC Parks & Recreation for camp with 25-30 kids.

Regional Disciples of Women for luncheon in July with safety precautions.

Flo Biehl Memorial Service on May 16 at noon in sanctuary & luncheon outside with large tent & catered, request for people to help serve. Sanctuary-will suggest

not using hymnals & Bibles; will make plans for cleaning after service; Rick, Mark & Chris to wipe down.

Bus Company-3 days of meetings 3 times a day with 30 people or less, would like to increase to 45.

Resignation Announcement:

Jackie-read letter of resignation from various congregationally appointed positions & responsibilities effective April 30, 2021. Recommended candidate for replacement as Board Chairperson be Carole Prentice to fulfill remainder of 2021 term.

Jackie-made motion; seconded by Joel Beaver.

Board vote; motion passed.

Allen-read letter of resignation from various congregationally appointed positions & responsibilities effective April 30, 2021. Pastor Mark will move forward with

better coordination of streaming services; five additional people know the system.

Open Forum:

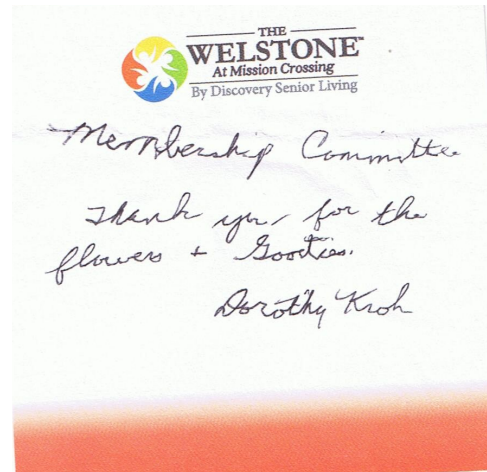
Pastor Mark-received a message from Nanette Ferguson's daughter that tomorrow is Nanette's 70th birthday and she requested that people drive by their home and honk; will send out an email.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Michelle Land made motion to adjourn; seconded by Anita Collins.

Board vote; motion passed.

Thank You Notes to the Congregation for Easter Flowers



Merriam Christian Church,

Thank you so much
for the wonderful gifts.
I will enjoy doing all
the activities in the books.
I am also enjoying the
beautiful flowers!

Blessings
to you all,
Donna Ward







Lilly of the Valley

MAY 2021



Emerald

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Room Codes:</i> C-Chapel S-Sanctuary CH-Campbell Hall DP-Disciple Place</p>	<p>B-Berea R-Roundtable L-Library P-Pioneer YR-Youth Room OB-Out of Building</p>					1
<p>2</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am CH 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9-12 Finance-LIB</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 Committee Meetings IN PERSON—CH</p> 	5	6	7	8
<p>9</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am CH 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9-12 Finance-LIB</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 Board Meeting IN PERSON—CH</p> 	12	13	14	15
<p>16</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am CH 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9-12 Finance-LIB</p>	18	19	20	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am CH 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9-12 Finance-LIB</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CWF/DWM Business Meeting @ 12:30pm Sarah 1PM</p>	26	27	28	29
<p>30</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am CH 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>31</p>					

**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE
For MAY 2021**

May, 2nd, 2021— 10:00 AM -
Serving Team —Team 1 Emily Hooker
 Liturgist Jan Pankey

May 9th, 2021— 10:00 AM
Serving Team —Team 2 Michelle Land
 Liturgist Jim Owens

May 16th, 2021— 10:00 AM
Serving Team —Team 3 Carol Prentice
 Liturgist Joyce Luke

May 23rd, 2021— 10:00 AM
Serving Team —Team 4
 Liturgist Emily Hooker

May 30th, 2021— 10:00 AM
Serving Team —Team 2 Michelle Land
 Liturgist Michelle Land



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Heather Vann	May 1
Betty Bohn	May 6
Marjorie Willard	May 11
Jim Walker	May 14
Gwen Schwenk	May 15
Bonnie Bohn	May 24
Irene Heavin	May 24
Carole Prentice	May 29
Ray Bohn	May 29



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Katie & Bruce Roach	May 13
Fred & Connie Lockard	May 18
Tim & Susie Arnold	May 22
Nick & Connie Hennigh	May 26