



Merriam Christian Church Disciples of Christ

CHURCH CANCELLED

Due to the stay-at-home order from Johnson County, we have extended our cancellation of all services and Sunday school through Sunday, May 3, 2020. (See additional details on page 2)

Vol. LV
No. 9 2020
April 25, 2020

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

Organist and Pianist
Emily Yeh

Secretary
Open

SERVICES:

SUNDAYS:

8:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

9:30 a.m.

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

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

E-mail

merriamchristian@gmail.com
www.merriamcc.org

Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone. We reserve the right to reject submissions deemed incompatible with the mission of this church.



Dear Friends,
I read an article this week by an author who had found himself overwhelmed. The whole situation

we find ourselves in, everything changed, routines upended, nothing like it was; he had a moment where he just couldn't process it all. He spent that day in numb silence, missing deadlines, and simply stunned. As I read the article, I related to what he was saying. These past six weeks have been truly difficult. While some days I jump out of bed, get showered, get dressed and attack the list of things I have to do, other days I can't seem to get motivated, stay in my pajamas, eat food that is no good for me, and stare at my phone every 10 minutes. I keep hoping in these moments, that a news article will pop up that this whole nightmare is someone's bad idea of an extended April Fools joke. But that doesn't happen.

It took me a while to recognize what this feeling was we are experiencing. But his article helped me to remember. This is grief. We are experiencing grief. Those feelings of drifting, being lost, being angry

or sad or drained, those are grief. We are grieving. Grieving what we have lost. Grieving what is gone. Grieving everything that has changed.

I don't know what tomorrow looks like. I don't know when or how we will emerge from this crisis. I don't know what the solution is going to be. And that loss of control, that loss of direction is what I grieve. I do know this will not be over quickly. I do know life will be different when we emerge. I do know there will be a new normal. And, I do know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, whatever we face next, where ever this takes us, whatever that new normal ends up being; I know Jesus is walking with us.

Take time to grieve what has been lost. But also take time to remind yourself, to reassure yourself that Jesus does not abandon those that seek him. Jesus is with us, right now walking through this journey. Jesus is with us, through every day. That does not mean this will be over tomorrow. But it does mean that whatever we face tomorrow, whether we are dressed for the day or still in our pajamas, Jesus is right there too, walking with us, holding our hand, giving us strength. And that gets me to the next day.

God Bless and Stay Safe,
Mark

Our organist/pianist **Emily Yeh** recorded some special music to share:

“Were You There” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIfZFK-KyPw>

Palm Sunday "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2rv05fbtA8&feature=youtu.be>



March 30th—“When I Survey the Wondrous
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhRIG1fn4M8>

April 13th— “Morning Has Broken”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v56Df2T4odo&feature=youtu.be>

April 21st— “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-bbv71QGZQ&feature=youtu.be>

Church Building Closed Through May 3, 2020

In accordance with the stay-at-home order extension put out by Johnson County, the church building will remain closed through May 3, 2020. We will re-evaluate our options then based on current stay-at-home guidelines and safety concerns.

We have begun discussing what changes will need to be put in place when we are finally able to open back up. Things will be different and we are trying to figure out the best path forward for the safety of all of our members, visitors, and community. As we get closer to that decision, we will communicate with all members new procedures and practices we will need to implement.

Please be in daily prayer for the church, the Elders, the Board, and the staff as we continue to seek out ways to be the church in these difficult times.



Please share MCC videos with family and friends, and ask them to share with their friends!

April 14, 2020 BOARD MEETING

Jackie called meeting to order

Allen shared **devotion**

Elders - shepherds contacting their flocks

House and Grounds - working on sign - getting bids and hope to get moving on it asap

Need to replace 20-21 box hedges in back memorial garden - were burned

Got called at church by security camera company - asked them to send us info - also, Don Kincaid owns a security camera company as well - will check with them

Outreach - Burphy at JCFM is fixing to go meals in her own kitchen - offered to help, she said she is OK right now

Have fed two families who called church for help

Membership - Newsletter went out last week - trying new format, still getting feedback - will send both formats for now

APRIL BOARD MEETING cont.

PRC - no report - Jan down at lake - pelicans in her cove each morning!

Worship - got sanctuary decorated for Easter broadcast - will switch when unnecessary for Pentecost

Finance— Additional paperwork submitted to Commerce Bank for next round of PPP.

Memorial - still working on banner for stairwell, seen some designs and they look good, still discussing Would have some memorial funds that could be used for outside sign replacement

Have deposited \$1000 into memorial this month

Jackie - before we start back up, we should look into having church disinfected - find out if some company could do that

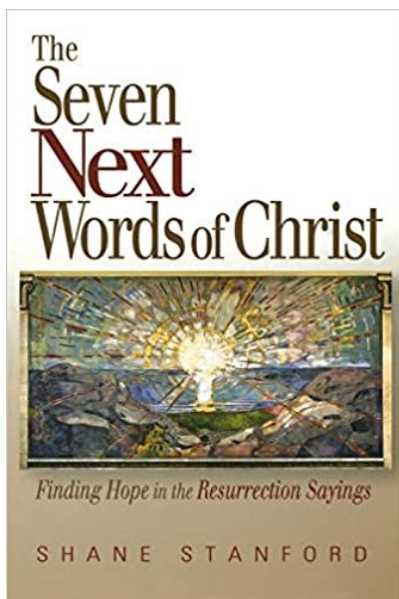
Mark - will be flying to Florida to drive mother back this Saturday

Mark closed with prayer
Meeting adjourned

Weekly Study Group with Pastor Mark

Mark has started a new study group series titled

"Next" seven words of Christ, a look at the first seven things Jesus said after the resurrection. We will be using Shane Stanford's book, "The Seven Next Words of Christ: Finding Hope in the Resurrection Sayings".



Week One— "Who are you looking for"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrQ0fdEC2kM>

Week Two—" Don't Be Afraid "

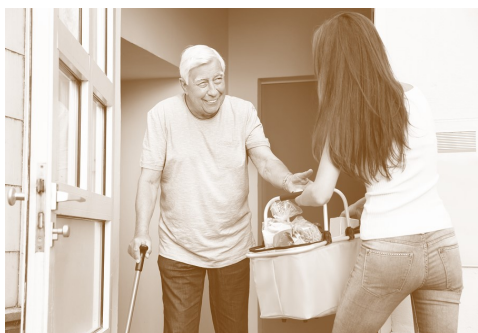
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AID_9oluekI

Don't forget and share these study sessions with someone - forward this email, share our Facebook message on your Facebook page, like our YouTube page.



NEED AN ERRAND RUN to the Grocery Store, Pharmacy, Post Office, Hardware Store

**We have volunteers ready to give a HELPING HAND
Call Mark—816-616-9746
Allen—913-634-8437**



DWM NEWS

ATTENTION SHOPPERS

As you know, we all are to stay home, so you are "off the hook" for shopping for our current service. I am sure we can catch up later. Your safety is more important and the Church is closed so you can't drop off your bargains.

I have not sent the Blessing Boxes money in yet, so you can give me the money at a later date if you still have yours.

Miss you all and stay safe.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service



Message Library

In case you missed any of Pastor Mark's messages sent by email, here they are!

March 15th—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y19hsCTajrg>

March 18th—<https://youtu.be/0PAUB3lOmWs>

March 22nd— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYUxNIOZLys>

March 25th— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0mIDbG1X8A&t=11s>

March 30th -<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6de8K5zFFE>

April 5th— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAlZDdWrj90>

April 12th — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2QChpLNAml>

April 19th— https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_op-3tEU7FY

Children's Message from Pastor Mark
March 22nd—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VILMtKuGU>

March 29th—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQVRcAYzch4>

April 5th—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsfCZZqsDHk>

April 12th—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBjOJER-d-8>

April 19th— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tO5nxx-gnc>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0GQtZIFXMg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GWvfZWtTyE&t=112s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_k0atVH0NuQ&t=2s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9ya5KCKUEg>



June Regional DWM Dinner
Thursday, June 25
Registration 6:00 PM \$6.00
Olathe First Christian Church
200 E. Loula St.
Olathe, Kansas 66061
Speaker Rev. Dr. Roger Beason
*****Please stay tuned on future important notifications or updates*****

Watch for the next Newsletter the week of 8, 2020. Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.



Almighty God,

For all who have contracted coronavirus,

We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,

We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,

We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing

difficult decisions

between food on the table or public safety,

We pray for policies that

recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate

health insurance,

We pray that no family will face financial

burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to

immigration status,

We pray for recognition of the

God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,

We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers,

We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a
sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord.

Amen.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels service has been
reduced to Monday delivery only.

We will let everyone know when
regular service has been restarted

OUR GANG

Next Meeting:

To be
determined



Calendar

Sunday - April 26th - Services Cancelled

8:30 Early Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

Sunday - May 3rd Services Cancelled

8:30 Early Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

Friday - May 8th

12:00 Newsletter Deadline

ONE WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2020

May 25 – Memorial Day Weekend

July 5 – Independence day weekend

September 6 – Labor day Weekend

October 18 or 25 for Congregational Meeting

November 29 – Thanksgiving Weekend/

Hanging of the Greens

December 27 – Christmas weekend

Directory Update

Changes to info are
underlined

Connie Harshner
136 Greystone Ave
Kansas City, KS 66103

Bruce & Katie Roach
6116 Rogers
Shawnee, KS 66203



If you have a Facebook
page, please like the one
for Merriam Christian
Church. We are trying to
keep you updated and
share words of faith, in-
spiration and encouragement. Invite
your friends and family to join
us. God bless!! Connie Hennigh

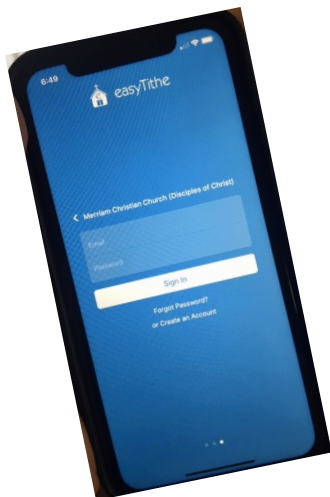


Your options of how you may give your tithes and offerings during the “Stay-at-Home” Order.

Merriam Christian Church now provides a number of ways to give.

Write a check. Since we are not able to place CHECKS in the offering plate during worship at this time you can still mail it the church or DROP-BY the church and place it in the mail box.

Have funds **automatically withdrawn** from your bank check or savings account or one-time special donations can be made. Go to: <http://www.easytithe.com/merriamcc> to set up your account. Or go to the church website and click on the new giving buttons: With the “auto giving” option you will be able to designate the amount and the timing of your giving – a specific date each month, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, twice a month, quarterly and annually. You can also designate a credit or debit card versus a checking or savings account.



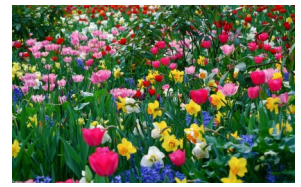
Text giving: 913-444-6397 through your smart phones

Merriam Christian Church's (SMS) Text Giving Account has been set up. Our account Number is: 913-444-6397. Members of the congregation or visitors can simply text an amount to that number to get started. The first time you give by this method there is a quick form to fill out on line. Any subsequent giving actions will not require the form to be filled out again.

Download the easyTithe app on your smart phone and make a donation, using your debit or credit card, by selecting **Merriam Christian Church** from the drop down list.



MAY 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Room Codes:</i> <i>C-Chapel</i> <i>S-Sanctuary</i> <i>CH-Campbell</i> <i>Hall</i> <i>DP-Disciple</i> <i>Place</i>	<i>B-Berea</i> <i>R-Roundtable</i> <i>L-Library</i> <i>P-Pioneer</i> <i>YR-Youth Room</i> <i>OB-Out of Building</i>				1	2
3 SERVICES CANCELLED 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	4 9-12 Finance-LIB	5	6	7 9:30 DWM— Cancelled	8	9
10— Mother's Day SERVICES CANCELLED 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	11 9-12 Finance-LIB	12	13	14	15	16
17 - SERVICES TBD 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	18 9-12 Finance-LIB 6:30 Sarah	19 12:30 Esther TBD	20	21 1:00-3:00 Our Gang TBD	22	23
24 SERVICES TBD 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	25 9-12 Finance-LIB	26	27	28	29	30
31 SERVICES TBD 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship						

SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2020

May 3, 2020
SERVICES CANCELLED

May 10, 2020 - Mother's Day
SERVICES CANCELLED

May 17, 2020
TO BE DETERMINED

May 24, 2020
TO BE DETERMINED

May 31, 2020
TO BE DETERMINED



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

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



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Joel & Patti Beaver	May 6
Bruce & Katie Roach	May 13
Connie & Fred Lockard	May 18
Tim & Susie Arnold	May 22
Nick & Connie Hennigh	May 26