



Vol. LV
No. 26 2019
December 21, 2019

Minister
Rev. Mark Willis
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(816) 616-9746

Organist and Pianist
Emily Yeh

Secretary
Patty Harper

SERVICES:
SUNDAYS:
8:30 a.m.
10:45 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:30 a.m.
9401 Johnson Dr.

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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.

Merriam Christian Church Disciples of Christ

Dear Friends,

Another year is coming to a close. It has been a good year. Our tenth year together. As we look back over the past twelve months, there were things we did well, and things we struggled with. There were times we stood out as the presence of God's grace in this world, and times where we stumbled and fell. But overall, throughout the last year, we tried to be the church that God is calling us to be. Thank you for all you did this year. Thanks you for being here, for worshiping together, serving together, and working together to BE Church. We turn our gaze now to the new year that is upon us. What challenges will we face? What victories will be achieved? What moments will knock us down? We have yet to see. But we strive forward as one body of Christ, brothers and sisters called to faith in Jesus. We won't get it all right, we won't get it all wrong, but we will do it all together, as God's church. Bless you this past year, and bless you this coming year. Holiday information: My cell phone is 816-616-9746. Please use it if you need to reach me over the holidays.

December 24th our
Christmas Eve Service will be

at 5PM. December 29th we will have ONE Worship Service at 10AM - I will be out of town with family. Rev. Sara Wilcox-Patty will be preaching at our ONE Service this day. I will be out of the church office December 25th through January 1st. IF YOU NEED ME FOR ANY REASON, PLEASE CALL ME (IT IS NOT A BOTHER, THIS IS WHY I HAVE MY CELL PHONE - USE IT!)

God Bless You All this Christmas Season - May the joy of Christ enter into our hearts and lives once again. Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

In Christ,
Mark



MEALS ON WHEELS

Dec 24: Gary & Linda
Ruffin

Dec 31: Jim Owens
& Pat Reed

Watch for the next Newsletter the week of January 4, 2020. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*



ONE WORSHIP SUNDAYS

December 29th - 10AM



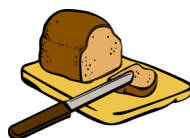
"THE BREAD OF LIFE"

Irene and I would like to share a very wonderful message with all our Christian friends and loved ones of good old Merriam Christian Church. We surely hope you like the Message....

IT'S A GIFT WRAPPED IN LOVE,
THE LOVE OF A KING.
IT'S A GIFT WRAPPED IN GRACE --
WHAT A WONDERFUL THING!
IT'S A GIFT WRAPPED IN JOY,
THE JOY OF CREATION,
A GIFT WRAPPED IN SONG,
THE SONG OF SALVATION.
IT'S THE GIFT OF A MAN
WHO DIED ON THE CROSS.
IT'S THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE
SO NOT ONE WOULD BE LOST.
IT'S A GIFT JUST FOR US,
NOT TOO BIG, NOT TOO SMALL.
IT'S THE GIFT OF CHRIST JESUS -
THE BEST GIFT OF ALL
(ANONYMOUS)

Jesus Christ is the greatest gift of all who believe in Him. "Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11).

God Loves You All, and so do we!
Amen!
Rex & Irene



LIFT CHAIR AVAILABLE

Bob Pape has a life chair (A recliner that lifts you up to standing) that belonged to his mother. He would gladly donate it to anyone who could use it. It is in good shape.

Call Bob at 913-707-9316 if you and/or someone you know is interested.



ELDERS/DEACONS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Reminder - the Elder's and Deacon's Christmas Dinner is *THIS SUNDAY*, December 22 at 5:30PM. All Elders and Deacons and their significant others are welcome to attend. Please bring a die dish or dessert.

YEAR END

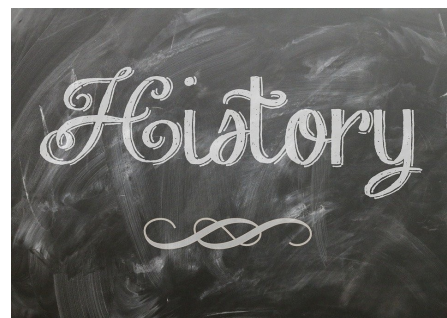
The last day we will write checks for 2019 is Monday, December 30th. Only 2020 after that. No checks will be written until the middle of January.

Thank you,
Dixie Wheaton
Treasurer

HISTORY AND POLICY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Pastor Mark is offering a class on the history of Merriam Christian Church, why we are a part of the Christian Church (DOC) and where we fit in the grand scale of Church. This class is open to anyone who would like to come. It will be Sunday mornings, at 9:30 AM (Childcare is provided) starting January 12th through February 2nd in the open Sunday School Room upstairs.

There is a sign-up sheet outside the Office, or you can let Mark know directly if you will be attending. There is no cost; just bring your interest and curiosity.



The greatest Christmas gift
ever given

wasn't placed under the tree.

He was placed
on the Tree

and His name is

Jesus

LoveThisPic.com

SEND A CARD!

This month, let's send a Christmas card to Paul Jorgenson. Paul was a long-time attendee of the Early Service, but isn't able to come regularly anymore.

Reach out this holiday season with a Christmas card, and let Paul know you are thinking of him and love him.

Paul's address is:
7401 W. 55th
Overland Park, KS 66202



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Tuesday December 24th at 5PM.

Invite family and friends. This one hour service is a delightfully sacred way to enter into this holiday. Come sing Christmas songs, hear the Christmas scripture again and rejoice in the gift of God to all. Children are welcome. See you there!



DWM NEWS

CWF/DWM TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you to all the Ladies of the Church for supporting the CWF/DWM program.

We started 2019 with \$3,753.13 and so far have ended with \$3,108.65. We budgeted and sent \$400.00 to the Disciples Women's Fund, \$400.00 to Tall Oaks, \$200.00 to Woodhaven in Columbia, Mo., and \$200.00 to the Kansas City Rescue Mission Women's Center in KCMO. We also sent \$100.00 to a church in KCK that had a fire. We supported numerous programs, and thankfully had only two funeral meals.

You all supported "Blankets" to the tune of \$475.00 and the Blessing Boxes for \$145.00.

We were unable to complete another budgeted item for \$400.00, but that money will always be available for charitable purposes.

Thanks again, and it is my pleasure to be your DWM Treasurer.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer

P.S. A great number of can tabs have been delivered to Merriam Park School, and they are very appreciative. Thanks to Glen & Dixie Wheaton, and all others who donate tabs.



Prayer List



Those Needing Prayers: Joe Myers, Opal Seals, Flo Biehl, Leroy & Mary Wisner, Cara Lee Dickerson, Rex Heavin, Adam Goff

Requests for Family and Friends:

Susie Arnold's friend, Chris Pieschl
Marge Willard's son, Jewell
Katie Schwenk's friend, Becky
Heather Waite's co-worker, Brett Mitchell

Praises:

Jarrett & Carly Boesche on their marriage.
Bev McDonald's nephew playing in concert with
Manheim Steamroller @ Kauffman

Those in Grief:

Family of Sharon Conley on her passing
Family of Peggy Crawford on her passing
Family of Sherry Howe on her passing

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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.

Calendar

Sunday - December 22

8:30 Early Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

5:30 Elder/Deacon Christmas Dinner

Monday - December 23

9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB

Tuesday - December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday - December 25 - Christmas Day

Office Closed

Sunday - December 29 - ONE SERVICE

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship

Monday - December 30

9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB

Tuesday - December 31 - New Year's Eve

Office Closed

Wednesday - January 1 - New Year's Day

Office Closed

Thursday - January 2

9:30 DWM-CH

Friday - January 3

12:00 Newsletter Deadline



*When the shopping is over
And gifts stashed away
When the food has been eaten
And children run off to play
May one thing remain in your
heart and your home
May the Christ in Christmas,
Stay all the year long.*



Merry Christmas

Thank You!

My family and I would like to say thank you for your generosity this year. I am truly blessed to be your Secretary.

Thank you,
Patty Harper and family