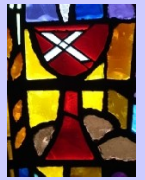


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

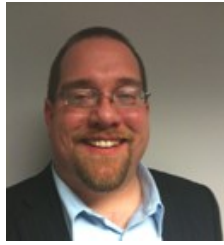
SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:00 a.m. Suspended

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

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

E-mail

merriamchristian@gmail.com
www.merriamcc.org



Dear Friends,

"we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." -

I Corinthians 8:1b

Our reading for worship this week is from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, where he extols them to remember, "love builds up". Paul is asking the people in the church to remember that whatever they do, do it all in love: love for God and love for each other. To a Christian, love is paramount; it is our first priority. It should frame every interaction, every conversation, every step that we take each day. Love should be our calling card. We sing the old hymn: "They Will Know We are Christians...by Our Love". And the reason why, is "love builds up".

There is a lot of tearing down these days in our world. The tearing down of each other. The tearing down of those who think different or believe different, who act different or look different, or who sound different or vote different. We are good at tearing down! If someone is different, we are quick to deride them for being willfully ignorant

or naively blind. We scoff at their choices and their decisions and look down at them to elevate ourselves. Right before he exhorts us about love, Paul reminds us our own self-centered knowledge only "puffs up", but it doesn't build up.

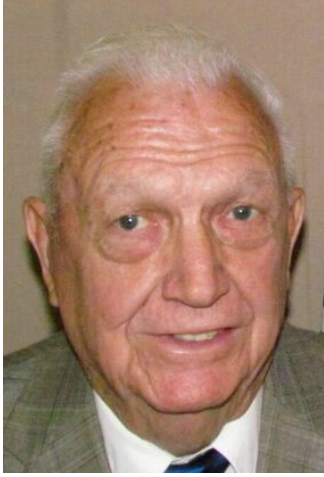
Who are you "building up" today? People are falling all over. Hurt by illness, worry, fear, loss of job, loss of social interaction, loneliness, confusion, and other such things, The world tears us down every day and leaves us scared and vulnerable, If the world could use anything from us today - it would be a people who are looking to build others up: to encourage, to be kind, to be compassionate, to be generous and gracious, to be forgiving and understanding. Simply put, to be Christ-like. You have a chance today to tear someone down and make them feel worse, or to build them up and help them feel better. Which will you choose? Which would Jesus choose?

God Bless-
Mark

LOVE UP
BUILDS UP

Leroy Wisner

April 19, 1925—January 18, 2021



Last week we lost our dear friend Leroy Wisner.

Leroy was a member of Merriam Christian Church for 70 years! He served as Deacon, collected Sunday school attendance and offerings, and year after year performed many jobs and projects to improve and maintain the church building.

He was at his desk in the office every Sunday faithfully watching over the congregation as we attended service upstairs. For us “younger folks” he was always the Go-To person when it came to questions about the church. No matter the issue or question from how to fill and drain the baptismal to church wiring and plumbing or roofing or where something was stored, Leroy was your man! Always smiling and ready to help. Pastor Mark commented than on more than one occasion Mark arrived at church to find Leroy on the roof with his leaf blower, cleaning out leaves, well into his 80's. That was Leroy!

Leroy was born in Merriam, KS April 19, 1925 to George E. Wisner and Lillian M. (Erickson) Wisner.

He attended Shawnee Mission Rural High School until his family moved to Hickman Mills, MO, where he graduated from Ruskin High School.

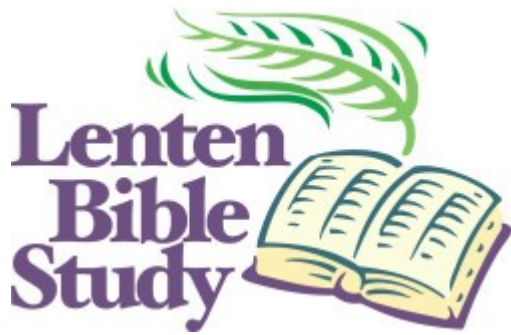
Leroy served with the United States Marine Corps during World War II as a 747 aircraft mechanic on the islands of Iwo Jima, Tinian and Guam in the south Pacific.

He was a member of the Merriam Christian Church for 70 years. A 67 year member of the Shawnee Masonic Lodge #54. He was employed and retired from Standard Oil. In April 1960, he was elected to the Merriam City Council, serving 2 years. Leroy also served on the Merriam Elementary School Board. He was extremely active in the Merriam Optimist Club. He was a volunteer for approximately 20 years at the Johnson County Christmas Bureau. He was a generous blood and plasma donor giving 29 gallons, 6 pints throughout his life.

Visitation will be 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, January 30th at the Amos Family Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Leroy will be laid to rest with military honors at Johnson County Memorial Gardens. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Merriam Christian Church,
9401 Johnson Drive, Merriam, KS 66203.

Due to the current pandemic, CDC guidelines limit services to 45 attendees, however, Leroy's services will be livestreamed, the link to view the services is

<https://venue.streamspot.com/event/MjQ5NDZMzQ==>



Pastor Mark will be leading on online study on Wednesday evenings during Lent on the book: "**Easter People**" by Abby Thornton Hailey and Judson Edwards from the next Sunday series.



This study has five lessons, and focuses on the event of Easter and how it transforms God's people. You may purchase the study book from Amazon to follow along, or simply join in the discussions each week via Zoom.

The weekly sessions will be on Wednesdays, March 3 through March 31, at 7PM over zoom. Mark will send out the link to join in if interested.



We have reopened for In-Person Worship on a limited basis starting Sundays at 10am.

ONLINE WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE for those who wish to stay home but join in worship.



Attendance is limited to **20 people** per service. In order to attend, YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER for worship by emailing Pastor Mark at markswillis@gmail.com or call him at 816-616-9746.

- 1. Masks, covering your nose and mouth, are required at all times when in the church building.**
- 2. You must maintain at least 6-feet of physical distance from those not in your immediate household/family.**
- 3. We must insist, if you do not feel well, or are exhibiting ANY symptoms, PLEASE STAY HOME and worship online.**

Pastor Mark's Message

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

Jan 17rd, "Hi! May I Help You!!"

Hi! May I Help You!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86D3M-qLyaA>

Jan 24th, "The Inconvenience of Being a Christian"

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

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



Jan 17th "Jesus in the Wilderness"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9vMayCJlNo>

Jan 24th "Parables: The Mustard Seed"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjOGXfPfxeY&pbjreload=101>



MCC VIDEO LIBRARY

For all of Mark's video sermon messages and children messages & Christina's Worship and Wonder videos please click this button



DON'T FORGET TO SHARE study sessions and Sunday Services with someone.



[A Promise is A Promise](#)

[God Calls Samuel](#)



Pastor Mark's
Prayerful Meditation
mid-week video (1/27)

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 48](#)

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.easytithes.com/merriamcc>
- Text giving: 913-444-6397

Directory Update

Changes to info are underlined

Bob Owens
12802 Johnson Dr
Room 241
Shawnee, KS 66216
913- 962-7600



If you have a chance, please send Bob a card and let him know we are thinking of him!

Calendar

Sunday - Jan 31st
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 1**
Liturgist Michelle Land

Sunday - Feb 7th
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 1**
Liturgist Jim Owens

Thursday- Feb 11th —Newsletter article submission deadline

Sunday - Feb 14th
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 2**
Liturgist Jackie Watts

Sunday - Feb 21st
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 3**
Liturgist Susan Neill

Thursday- Feb 25th
Newsletter article submission deadline

Sunday - Feb 28th
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 4**
Liturgist Jennifer Spiegel

Outreach Committee Update



Carole Prentice Co-Chair
Pam Boyd—Co-Chair
Rick Ferguson
Irene Heavin
Jan Pankey
Pat Reed
Joan Tarwater
Jackie Watts



Limited In-Person Worship is available Sunday at 10AM. Simply email Pastor Mark or call 816-616-9746 and let him know you want to come. 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 Prayers

- **Lucy Walker is doing rehab** at Shawnee Gardens for issues with her blood pressure medication.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Leroy Wisner passed away.** Please keep Mary and the family in your prayers
- **Carol Vann's mother-in-law Loretta Vann** passed away last week. The services are in Oklahoma this week. Please keep Carol and her family in your prayers.
- **Carole Prentice's brother Steve** passed away. Please keep Carole and her family in your prayers.
- **Donna Rankin's** sister JoAnn Herzberg passed away from **Covid**. Please keep Donna and her family in your prayers.
- **Connie Harshner's longtime friend and neighbor Carol Cornwell** passed away. Please keep Connie, and the Cornwell family in your prayers.
- **Emily Hooker's sister Linda Collins** has been moved to rehab to get stronger after her hospitalization for **Covid**.
- **Pastor Mark performed a funeral for Jason Taylor**, who was only 51. Please keep the Taylor family in your prayers as they grieve.
- **Pastor Mark's Aunt Sherrie and Uncle Dennis both have Covid.** Dennis was moved to a rehab facility and continues to need oxygen.
- **Bob Owens** has moved to Brookedale at Rosehill. Bob's room number is #241, phone 913-962-7600
- **Jessica Lopez**, Regional Administrative Assistant, **her father Alberto Lopez** is in KU Med recovering from surgery.
- **Amy Decoursey's grandmother, Violet Brownrigg**, passed away. Please keep Amy and her family in your prayers.
- **Jackie & Allen's step-grandson**, who is in the national guard has been called up to DC. Please keep him and the family in your prayers.

PRAISE:

- Congrats to **Dorothy Kroh** who has a new Great Grandchild - Charlie Lee. Grandfather is Brian Kroh.

We pray for all those who are sick, or are afraid they will get sick. We pray for all those without adequate health insurance who live in fear of injury or disease. We pray for all those on the front lines, healthcare professionals putting their lives at risk to serve. We pray for all the scientists working to find answers and a vaccine. May God's healing spirit be upon our world during this pandemic.

For all those whose employment is being affected, changed, and hampered by the current crisis. Let them not walk alone in this scary time, but let them feel the prayers and support of the great cloud of witnesses surrounding them as they traverse this difficult path.

For our churches. Help us to find our way forward to be the serving living embodiment of the Body of Christ in difficult and trying times.

++++

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.



*Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give you. I do
not give to you as the
world gives. Do not let
your hearts be troubled and do not be
afraid.*



John 14:27 (NIV)



Thank you for all the phone calls and cards since the death of my brother Steve Stites. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Carole Prentice and family.

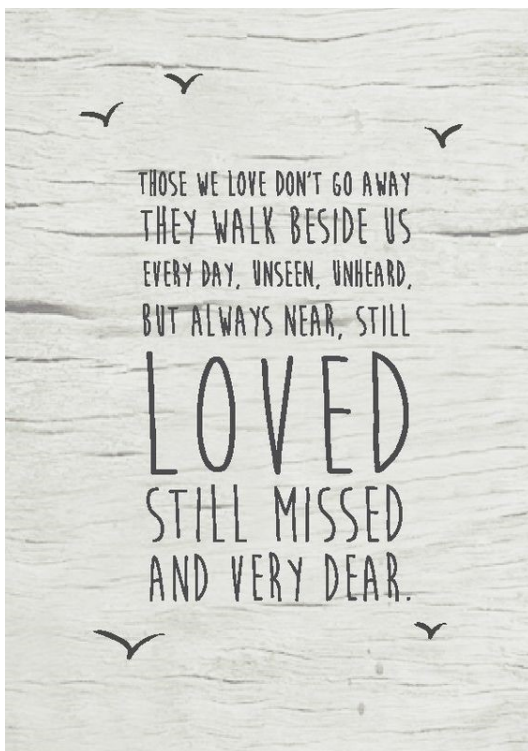
My sister JoAnn Herzberg passed away January 6th from COVID, it took her life quickly. She knew Jesus as her Lord and Savior, as I do. We will be together again one day. Until then, I will miss her terribly but will cherish the many good memories.



From my heart, I say THANK YOU to each one of my MCC Family for your prayers, kind words, texts, phone calls, and beautiful cards. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

Numbers 6:24-26 The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord turn His face toward you, and give you peace.

Love & peace,
Donna Rankin





#SleeveUpJoCo

JOHNSON COUNTY
Health & Environment

Click NOW
For More Info!

Currently being vaccinated

- Those 80 and older
- Health care workers
- Long-term care staff and residents
- Pandemic response workers

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS

This week, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment has all of its 7,584 slots filled with vaccination appointments for those 80+ and those from Phase 1 (primarily health care workers), who are either receiving their first or second doses of vaccine. After the 80+ group has been vaccinated, JCDHE will move to the next age group. Listen for announcements soon on the next age group that will be eligible for vaccinations and make sure to fill out the Phase 2 Interest Form (red button below) so you get contacted when it's time to make your appointment.

What can others do right now?

Visit this page to confirm which phase you're in: [Kansas Department of Health and Environment COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Plan](#).

Johnson County residents/workers eligible in Phase 2 who haven't taken the vaccine interest survey can [fill out this interest form](#) or call [913-715-2819](tel:913-715-2819).

[Phase 2 COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form](#)

1. Call your doctor to see if you have an opportunity to get a vaccination from them. Health care workers who haven't gotten their vaccination yet can make an appointment at jocovaccine.setmore.com.

Johnson County residents/workers eligible in Phase 2 who haven't taken the vaccine interest survey can [fill out this interest form](#) or call [913-715-2819](tel:913-715-2819).

2. Call your doctor to see if you have an opportunity to get a vaccination from them.

Sign up for the county's daily COVID-19 e-newsletter at jocogov.org/COVIDNewsletter.

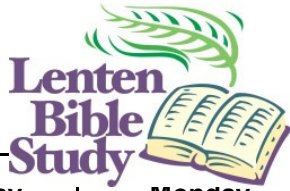
Visit <https://www.jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine> for UP-TO-DATE Information



From our friends at the Dialogue Institute.

This is an online lecture presented by the Dialogue Institute. It is February 24th at 7PM on Youtube. Please register if you are interested - registration is FREE, but it gives them an idea how many will be present online that day. It looks like a very interesting subject, especially during Lent.

Click on the image above to register

FEBRUARY 2021



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

**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE
For February 2021**

February 7th, 2021— 10:00 AM - TBD
Serving Team —Team 1 Emily Hooker
Liturgist Jim Owens

February 14th, 2021— 10:00 AM -TBD
Serving Team —Team 2 Michelle Land
Liturgist Jackie Watts

February 21st, 2021— 10:00 AM -TBD
Serving Team —Team 3 Carol Prentice
Liturgist Susan Neill

February 28th, 2021— 10:00 AM -TBD
Serving Team —Team 4 Allen Watts
Liturgist Jennifer Spiegel



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

David Schwenk	Feb 1
Janet Speise	Feb 14
Opal Wylie	Feb 15
Ann Dickerson	Feb 21
Gilbert Larson	Feb 23
Joyce Campbell	Feb 25
Heather Waite	Feb 27
Pat Reed	Feb 28



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

No Anniversaries this month