



Vol. LV
No. 12 2020
June 6, 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.

Merriam Christian Church *Disciples of Christ*



Dear Friends,
With trepidation and anticipation, the leadership for Merriam Christian Church is excited to announce we will re-open for in-person worship on June 21, 2020. There will be ONE worship service at 10AM. We WILL continue to stream the worship service for all who wish to participate from home. There will be no Sunday school or fellowship cookie hour at first. We will need to maintain physical distance of six feet from anyone not in your household at all times. We are hoping we can recommend but not require masks, and we are hoping we can sing during service. We are waiting until June 16th to make these final adjustments to gather as much data/information as possible. It will be different then what we used to have. In time we hope we can slowly adjust and reintroduce familiar pieces back into worship. But for now, we will not pass anything. In lieu of a bulletin, we will utilize a projector and screen. We will sit six feet apart (You can of course sit with your family unit). For the offering we will have a basket on the communion table to drop your tithe/offering in upon entering or leaving worship. Communion will be placed

on the table, and you will be able to individually partake as we end worship. This is where we will start. With time and information, we will adjust as we can moving forward. We hope to begin small groups, like Sunday School, DWM, and Our Gang in July, following the same precautions. If all goes well we will look to opening back up for our outside groups, with precautions, in August. I know this is a slow process, but we are trying to respect everyone's concerns and input. Please be graceful and patient as we walk this path together. If you are not feeling well, have a fever, or a cough, we must insist you stay home and seek medical care. If you are in a high risk category, including being over 65, having underlying health issues like diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, etc. or If you would rather stay home to feel safer right now, the worship service WILL be online. Please be in prayer as we take this first step back together again physically. Please be in prayer for our leadership as we navigate these unknown waters. Please be in prayer for all who come to gather that they be safe, and for all who continue to worship from home, that they be watched over. And please be in prayer for me, as your pastor, that God lead and guide us through this time. I am looking forward to seeing you again in person!
God Bless,
Mark

Elders & Deacons Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2020



Minutes recorded by Mark Willis

Present: Bob Pape, Anita Collins, Alice Goff, Dave Roebuck, Jim Owens, Carol Vann, Joel Beaver, Emily Hooker, Dixie Wheaton, Pat Reed, Mark Willis, Pam Boyd, Allen Watts, Jackie Watts

Jackie opened with devotion taken from Facebook posting of a conversation on racism. Jackie then offered a prayer to begin the meeting.

Discussion of re-opening proposal—Some of the comments were:

- ♦ Good plan, give it a go, it will be different,
- ♦ Will be a minor inconvenience, but plan seems to summarize discussion of leadership
- ♦ Talked to flock, some will be back, some won't, everyone understands
- ♦ Feel masks are necessary for safety of others, not for yourself
- ♦ Some will not come back due to their health concerns or concerns of loved ones
- ♦ Very cautious, but feeling a little better. Good to start back
- ♦ Want to get back to church asap, just want to get back to church - need communion/miss communion

Leadership agrees with proposal, will re-start worship on June 21st.

Status of Church Sign

Bob - Measured for new sign, 50 feet clearance, sign can't move very far, just a little closer to Johnson Drive. Trying to get final proposal for sign, will share with leadership for decision

Air Conditioning will be cleaned and checked June 18, just in time for re-opening. Will check with McCarty Heating about suggestions for air flow during worship

Blood Drive

Pat has one scheduled for July 13 - can we still do it? They are being very stringent with precautions and procedures. Will decide next two weeks

Mark closed with prayer



Pastor Mark's Message

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

INCLUDES Children's Message!

May 24, 2020 "Memorial Day Remembrances"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxGTA5pgWvs>

May 31, 2020 "What Does This Mean?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2Zyx4JeCW4>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes

May 24, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNmhsYXhUj0>

May 31, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5-soVtM4Zc>



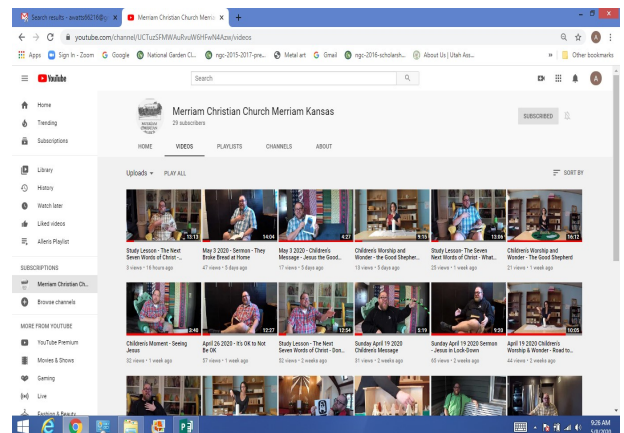
Watch for the next Newsletter the week of June 20 2020. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*



MCC VIDEO LIBRARY

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

please click <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTuzSFMWAuRvuW6HFwN4Azw/videos>



DON'T FORGET TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY



**June Regional DWM Dinner
Thursday, June 25
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**



Those Needing Prayers

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Joyce Luke's sister**, who had a tumor removed from her head recently, fell and broke her arm. When she went back to hospital they discovered cancer had spread. She has been given 3-6 months. Please keep Joyce and her family in your prayers. Joyce went to Wichita to be with her sister.
- **Connie Hennigh' son-in-law Garland Johnson** has been admitted to Ascension Via Christi hospital in Wichita and scheduled for another surgery this Saturday.
- **Alice and Paul Goff's new great-grandson William Thomas Goff**, is in KUMed in ICU. Please keep him and his family in your prayers, that he get to come home soon.
- **Jackie & Allen Watts' daughter-in-law Jennifer** who suffers from pancreatitis is back in the hospital as of Friday 6/5 for a third time in three weeks.
- **Tim & Susie Arnold's godson Cris** has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Needs surgery but considered nonessential due to COVID-19
- **Marge Willard's son, Jewell**
- **Nancy Hines** fell at her house and broke her right wrist.
- **Barry Davis** continues to recover at home from a bout with Covid-19.
- For **all those who are returning to work, WE GIVE THANKS** and PRAY for their protection and for all those still working from home.
- Medical Professionals, doctors, nurses, nurses aides, ambulance drivers, hospital janitors, fire fighters and police officers on the front lines of this pandemic. Wayne and Emily Hooker's daughter Monica, is a nurse at Children's Mercy downtown, and Joyce Luke's daughter, Barbara, is a nurse at St. Luke's South. Connie Hennigh's

adopted granddaughter, Nikki Miller is an RN at Ascension Via Christi in Wichita.

• For churches, including Merriam Christian Church, as we strive to faithfully navigate re-opening during these trying times. Our goal is to gather together again, in the best, safest way we can. There are no perfect steps and no easy answers, but together we will figure out what works for us, faithfully, theologically, and logistically. Please be in prayer as we seek to re-open for worship on June 21st.

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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.



In Memory of Florence "Flo" Biehl

Dear Church Family,
We genuinely appreciate your expression of sympathy and support to our families during our mother's passing. Your support and comfort means a great deal to us. We can't thank you enough for it. Your beautiful words of encouragement give us strength and help us remember the kindness Flo shared in life. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness and your kindness.

Sincerely,

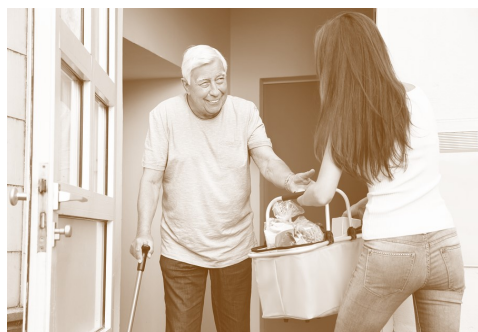
Bonnie & Raymond Bohn Family
Bill & Cari Biehl Family

Don't forget and share study sessions and Sunday Services 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**



MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels service continues to be reduced to Monday delivery only.

Regular service may be restarted in Mid June. Stay Tuned!



OUR GANG

Next Meeting:
To be
determined



Summer Snackpacks are back!



This summer Merriam Christian Church will be providing food for 6 families, with 19 children and 34 people overall. We start delivering food the first weekend in June. And we need your help!

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 want to help!

April 2020 Finance Report

Revenues \$ 13,205.00

Expenses \$ 13,438.00

THANK YOU ALL

**for your continuing generosity
during this difficult time.**

Your Treasurer

***Multiple options of
how you may give
your tithes and offerings***

Write a check. You you can mail your check to 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.easytithes.com/merriamcc> to set up your account. Or go to the church website and click on the new giving buttons

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

Calendar

Sunday - June 7th - Services Online

8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship

Sunday - June 14th Services Online

8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship

Friday - June 19th

12:00 Newsletter Deadline

ONE WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2020

June 21

June 28

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

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, inspiration and encouragement. Invite your friends and family to join us. God bless!!
Connie Hennigh

