



Vol. LV
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March 14, 2020

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Organist and Pianist
Emily Yeh

Secretary
Patty Harper

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

CHURCH CANCELLED FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH

After careful consideration and discussions with other church leaders and other churches in the area, we have decided to cancel all services and Sunday school for this Sunday, March 15th.

Dear Friends,

This has been a harrowing week. The stock market has deeply adjusted, major sporting events are being suspended, travel is restricted, and grocery store shelves are being emptied of supplies. The COVID-19 virus has been classified as a pandemic and its impact and affect on our world is being sharply felt all over. In a time such as this, fear and panic can easily overcome us. As we figure our way through we remember Jesus' words in the boat, when the storm seemed at its worst: Do Not Fear.

And so we go forward together as the body of Christ, not in fear, but in preparedness. Not in panic but in cautious preparation. Over the next few days and weeks we will need to adjust how we do some things to help keep everyone safe during this time of heightened awareness.

Some things to keep in mind: Get your information about this pandemic from reliable sources such as the CDC, Center for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov>, and WHO, World Health Organiza-

tion <https://www.who.int/>. or even the county public Health Department. Next, take common sense precautions. Wash you hands regularly. Avoid touching your face/mouth/nose. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or your elbow when sneezing or coughing. Use hand sanitizer regularly. Avoid large crowds or gatherings/events for the time being. Clean all surfaces within hands reach (Counter tops, door handles, etc). Avoid physical contact. There is no reason for panic, but there is for wisdom. Let us be a church that is firm in our faith, prudent in our actions, a channel of blessing for our world, and confident in the sovereignty and providence of our God.

Lastly, be in constant prayer - for each other, for our community, for our nation, and for our world. Pray for those already impacted by this disease, and those who will be impacted in the coming days, weeks, and months. Pray that people take this moment seriously, and take the precautions necessary to keep everyone safe.

Jesus told us not to fear, and sometimes that is hard. But we are the Body of Christ, and go forward to help, to serve, and to support during these trying times.

God Bless, Stay Safe
Mark

"THE BREAD OF LIFE"

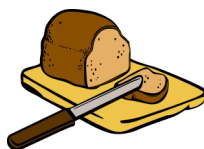
Have you ever wondered what we, as Christians, and most people desire from God is? It's something we all need! However, as believers, we all desire GOD'S KIND OF COMFORT! You see, we're not immune to grief. In fact, at times life can be even more difficult for a Christian because of the intense trials and brokenness we encounter on the path of submission and service. Whatever we are facing today, I encourage you not to despair. Your Heavenly Father loves you and will comfort you in all your troubles. In fact, He is "the Father of mercies and God of all Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). We always have the gift of forgiveness through His Son and the Presence of the Holy Spirit, Who is called the "Comforter" (John 14:16 KJV)--to sustain us and give us Hope. God desires to soothe your sorrows as you pursue Him each day. Therefore, you need not suffer alone.

I have a question: "If you knew every thought people had about you, or IF they knew your thoughts about the, how long would those relationships last?" Thankfully, God isn't limited in this way, even though He knows "every thing" about us, not just our thoughts (Psalm 139:4). He hears each word and sees our most private actions. And, though He alone knows the full extent of our brokenness, His Love for us persists like an unquenchable fire.

Acknowledging our brokenness before God changes the way we think about our sin---and His love for us in spite of it. It causes us to grieve, not only for ourselves, but also for the sins of the world. Yet, we should remember Jesus didn't just mourn sin; He conquered it. And He invites us to pursue something more than this old world can offer. Do you know the Greatest Love of all? Read 1 Corinthians 13. "The Love of God Himself!"

"SO FAITH, HOPE, LOVE ABIDE, THESE THREE: BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE" (1 CORINTHIANS 13:13)!

Love to all!
Rex & Irene



Thank You!

Dear MCC,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary for the last 4 years. I have truly loved the time I have spent working here, and feel very blessed.

The decision was not made easily, and I will miss all of you dearly.

Sincerely,
Patty Harper



MEALS ON WHEELS

Mar 24: Linda & Gary Ruffin

Mar 31: Walt & Betty Bohn

EASTER EGG HUNT UPDATE

As you know the membership committee has been planning this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Given the current conditions we are temporarily suspending any activities for the hunt. We had announced in church this past Sunday that we were seeking candy for the stuffing of the eggs - please do not purchase any at this time. We are not cancelling the event, but will look at this on a day-to-day basis. We will keep you posted!

Thank you for all for your constant support. We ask that you keep everyone in your prayers as we all navigate through these challenging times.

Your membership committee



Watch for the next Newsletter the week of March 28, 2020. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*



DWM NEWS

ATTENTION SHOPPERS

Just a reminder that our service for March/April is "Personal Care Items for Safe Home". Shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush/paste, etc. See complete list on the DWM bulletin board in Campbell Hall. Everything at the Dollar Tree is a dollar. LOL

Joyce Luke
Service Chair



EASTER LILIES

The envelope for Easter Lilies will be put in next week's Bulletin. If you want to purchase one in honor or memory of someone, the cost is \$10.00 each, and you can take them with you after Easter service April 12th. Palm Sunday, April 5th, is the last day to order a Lily. Envelopes will be in the Bulletins each week until then.

Thanks,
Worship Committee



LENTEN STUDY THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Mark is teaching a class on The Lord's Prayer during Lent on Sunday mornings at 9:30AM.

Childcare is available. All are welcome to come engage in a discussion about this central prayer of our faith.



THE BOARD REPORT

House & Grounds - March 2020

The paint job Steve did on the wall by the steps going up to the Sanctuary turned out great! Super job by Steve! Now it is ready for the banner we are talking about hanging up in that area.

Waiting for additional information on the banner.

I am still looking for 2 more siding contractors to give us a bid for that work. Have reached out to two but no luck yet, will keep trying as we need to get these completed.

The mats at main entry door need to be washed after the winter season. Ricky said he would get those taken care of.

I was reminded that we still need to get McCarty out to replace the breaker box on the new A/C unit as it is supposed to be an indoor/outdoor box and it is not. I need to let Tony know with the city when that is completed and ready for inspection.

Beaver Creative crew came and pruned the viburnum and roses etc. It was well done. Thanks, Jon.

Someone came in the church office and said they were supposed to take pictures of the Sanctuary carpet. No one knows who it was that I have talked with. Does anyone know? Need to talk with Jessica, in the office, and see if they left a card. *Update: It was the company that installed the carpet. They needed pictures for another customer to show them the work they had done.*

Ricky called me Monday morning and said they had water leaking into the office from the ceiling. There was also a leak in the ceiling in the classroom that was the Challengers class room. There was also water leaking from the ceiling at the entry doors. I will get some calls made and get to work on seeing what is going on. I would assume the wind was an additional problem with this issue.

Joel Beaver, Chair
House & Grounds

Prayer List



Those Needing Prayers: Opal Seals, Flo Biehl, Alpha Wickam, Susan Neill, Irene Heavin, Anita Collins

Requests for Family and Friends:

Susie Arnold's friend, Chris Pieschl
Marge Willard's son, Jewell
Lucy & Jim Walker's daughter, Lucy Cox
Pat Reed's friend, Charles Delgado
Donna McEndree's granddaughter,
Jessica Grote

Praises:

Rob & Nikki Walkowiac on their marriage
Shyane & Stephanie Mora on their marriage
Rex Wallace & Laura Pelligrino on their marriage

Those in Grief:

Family of Beverly Saucerman on her passing
Jane Sander & family on the passing of her cousin, Fred Clark
Family of Betty Aldrige on her passing
Alice & Paul Goff on the passing of their grandson, Adam Awad
Family of Sue Knapp on her passing
Family of Belva Myers on their passing
Family of Don Morris on their passing
Family of Brenda Cantrall 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 - March 15 - **Services Cancelled**

8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School & Lenten Class
10:45 Worship

Monday - March 16

9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB
6:30 Sarah - **Postponed**

Tuesday - March 17 - **St. Patrick's Day**

12:30 Esther - **Postponed**
Regional-RYW Save-the-date-CH

Thursday - March 19 - **1st day of Spring**

1:00-3:00 Our Gang - **Cancelled**
Regional RYW Save-the-date-CH

Saturday - March 21

9:00-11:00 Regional Shanda Camp
Training-CH

Sunday - March 22

8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School & Lenten Class
10:45 Worship

Monday - March 23

9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB

Thursday - March 26

9:30 Regional Interim-LIB

Friday - March 27

12:00 Newsletter Deadline

ONE WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2020

April 12 – Easter (with Sunrise Service early)

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



Next Meeting:
To be determined





CONNECT THROUGH CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Events:

Month	Special Event	Game Night	Potluck
March			
April	Easter Egg Hunt 4/4 10am to Noon	No Game Night this month	
May	Mother's Day Recognition 5/10	May 2nd 5pm to 8pm	
June	Father's Day Recognition 6/21	June 13th "Picnic in the Park" 5pm to 8pm	
July	Outside Service Merriam Farmers Mkt Date TBD	No Game Night this month	Food Truck after Service
August		August 8th SHRIMP BOIL	
September		Sept. 12th "Sock Hop" with surprise event 5pm to 8pm	
October		October 3rd 5pm to 8pm	
November		No Game Night this month	
December	Home Bound Tins Prepared 12/19	No Game Night this month	