



Merriam Christian Church Disciples of Christ

CHURCH CANCELLED

Due to the stay-at-home order from Johnson County, we have extended the our cancellation of all services and Sunday school until Sunday, April 26th.

Vol. LV
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March 28, 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

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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.

Dear Friends,

These are strange, scary, worrisome times we are living in. The world is gripped in fear as the Covid-19 pandemic circles the globe. Daily, and even hourly we see grim updates of those infected, those in critical condition, and those who have died. This disease has brought the nations of the world to a standstill, stalled economies, frightened the populace, and cost lives and jobs. At times it is overwhelming and terrifying.

In these dark times, I am reminded of the fifth chapter of Matthew. Jesus is preaching and teaching his Sermon on the Mount. He starts by talking of who is blessed in this world and it isn't who you would think. It isn't the rich and the beautiful, the have's and the powerful. He talks of God's blessings on the poor, the merciful, and the peacemakers. And then he talks directly to his disciples and says, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light

shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Jesus is talking to you church, right there, in Matthew 5. YOU are the light of the world. In dark times it is YOU, through your words and actions, through your lives and deeds, YOU who will shine the light of God into dark places. Look outside. It's pretty dark out there right now. The world could use a few light bearers.

While we are dealing with shut-downs, and slow-downs, and set backs, what are you doing to shine God's light into the world? While people are gripped by fear and worry, what are you saying to bring light into the world? While we are unable to stand in the sanctuary together, what are you doing to be the light to the world? The church stands at a crossroads. The world is shrouded in darkness and is looking for the light. Will we be the ones to shine it on them?

Stay at home if possible. Wash your hands. Avoid physical interactions and contact. Be safe. But still be social: call people, text people, email, connect through social media and the internet. And still be kind, generous, grace-filled and loving. BE church, and shine your light.

God bless-stay safe
Mark

MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Here is the week of March 22nd mid-week moment of worship with thanksgiving and communion.

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

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIfZFK-KyPw>

God bless you all, share these videos with family and friends. Stay safe.

Pastor Mark

If you missed Marks Previous Mid-Week Worship messages here are the links:

<https://youtu.be/0PAUB31OmWs>

LENTEN STUDY THE LORD'S PRAYER

Watch for Pastor Marks emails on his Lenten Study class on The Lord's Prayer during Lent

Previous class video:

<https://youtu.be/bdrfHzyCHHI>

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



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

EASTER EGG HUNT CANCELLED

To protect the health and wellbeing of those in our congregation and community this year's Hunt has been cancelled. The Membership Committee



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



Watch for the next Newsletter the week of April 11, 2020. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*



Mark's Sunday Message Library

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

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

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

We also have had two videos here for the kids! One is a short children's message from Mark, and one is with Christina with the Children Worship and Wonder message.

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

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0GQtZIFXMg>

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—913-6348-8437**



TAKE MY HAND
WE WILL GET THROUGH
THIS TOGETHER

From Pam Boyd

Many people will walk in and out of your life,
But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.
To handle yourself, use your head;
To handle others, use your heart.

Anger is only one letter short of danger.
If someone betrays you once, it's his fault;
If he betrays you twice, it's your fault.

Great minds discuss Ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people.

He who loses money, loses much;
He who loses a friend, loses much more;
He who loses faith, loses all.

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature,
But beautiful old people are works of art.

Learn from the mistakes of others
You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Friends, you and me.....You brought another friend...
And we started our group,...Our circle of friends...
And like a circle ...There is no beginning or end.

Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is mystery.
Today is a gift.

Written by
Eleanor Roosevelt

Submitted by Glenn Wheaton

Prayer List



Those Needing Prayers: Bev McDonald's son-in-law's brother, Barry Davis, Opal Seals, Flo Biehl, Alpha Wickam, Susan Neill, Irene Heavin, Anita Collins, Ruth Capp's son David Marsh

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:

Those in Grief:
John Smrtic and family on the passing of
 Ginney (Bethel) Smrtic
Marg Willard and her family on the passing of
 her son-in-law Ed Rockers
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 29 - **Services Cancelled**
8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School & Lenten Class
10:45 Worship
Sunday - April 5 **Services Cancelled**
8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School & Lenten Class
10:45 Worship
Friday - April 10
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

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



OUR GANG

Next Meeting:
To be determined

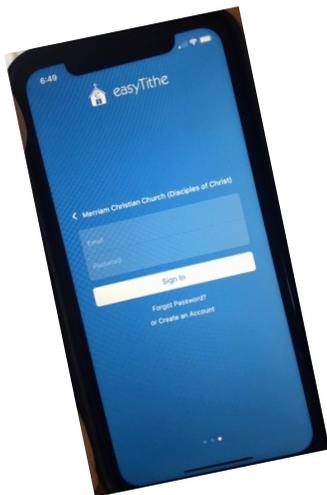


Your options of how you may give your tithes and offerings during the “Stay-at-Home” Order.

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.easytithes.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 easyTithes 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.



CONNECT THROUGH CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Events:

Month	Special Event	Game Night	Potluck
	Easter Egg Hunt		
April	CANCELLED	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	