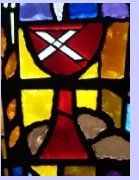


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## 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.

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

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

9:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall  
In-person & On-Line

9401 Johnson Dr.  
Merriam, KS 66203

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

**E-mail**

[merriamchristian@gmail.com](mailto:merriamchristian@gmail.com)  
[www.merriamcc.org](http://www.merriamcc.org)



Dear Friends,  
As I read the scripture for this Sunday's worship, I was struck by the imagery from Ezekiel 37: "The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones...and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know.""

There are times in our lives when our bones get very dry. When we feel separated, isolated, and alone. When we struggle to see the light of God in the darkness of our lives. Our spirits get parched, dry, listless, and we struggle through each day. Ezekiel did not know if the bones could live again, and said as much when asked - "O Lord God, you know".

I have felt like Ezekiel on occasion, not sure if my dry bones can live again. This past year has leached much of our spirit and life from our bones. It has been worrying, trying, and difficult for all of us. And sometimes, we find ourselves in that same

valley, full of dry bones. What will bring refreshment to them again? What will fill them with new life again? What will come and breathe new life into them again? As we begin to emerge from our year+ of quarantine and separation, our bones are crying out for the spirit of God to come anew upon them. To reattach the sinew and flesh of our life and to fill our lungs with the breath of God. We need this new life. We need this new breath to come and fill our lungs to overflowing. Join together this Sunday with your brothers and sisters in Christ as we celebrate the coming of Pentecost, the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Bring your dry bones and let them be filled with God's new life again. As the psalmist proclaims, "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."

In Christ,

Mark

# DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

Just a reminder to you all to plan to attend our business/Group meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. The last Tuesday of the month. We are trying to gather our flock and we need all of you. Our business at 12:30 will be "short & sweet" and our lesson will be longer but sweeter. Please try to attend. At this time, our treasury balance is the same as the last newsletter...\$2,626.65. If I spend your money, I will report it at the meeting. Also, watch the newsletters for news. I am now the designated reporter. LOL

We received a nice thank you letter from Church World Service for our \$400.00 check for blankets. Thank you all.

As you all may know, Jackie and Allen are moving out of state. She will not be here for our next meeting, so we need to tell her thank you, nice knowing you, and happy house hunting east of the Mississippi.

Joyce Luke  
Treasurer

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Mary Wisner has a new address:  
Brookdale College Square  
11000 Oakmont St  
Overland Park, KS 66210

She does not have a phone in her room. To get a message to her, call the front desk:  
913-491-1144

Consider sending her a card, she would love to hear from her church family.



## Memorial Day Remembrances

On Memorial Day weekend every year, the church pauses to remember those members who have passed in the previous year. Last year, due to Covid, this event did not happen. So this year we will lay roses during worship on May 30<sup>th</sup> for all church members who have passed since Memorial Day 2019. We hold these departed saints in our hearts and lift their families to God.

Merrill Spiegel  
Gene Dickerson  
Sherry Howe  
Cara Lee Dickerson  
Dallas Davis  
Ginny Smrtic  
Adam Goff  
Opal Seals  
Flo Biehl  
Floy Smith  
Rex Heavin  
Leroy Wisner

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Jo and Don Rudkin are both now at Anthology of Olathe, 101 West 151st St, Olathe, KS, 66061. Their phone number is 913-738-7015

Pastor Mark's  
***Prayerful Meditation***  
mid-week video (5/19)

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 [Psalms 14](#). 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.easytithe.com/merriamcc>
- Text giving: 913-444-6397

## Summer Snackpacks are back!



This summer Merriam Christian Church will be providing food families again at Merriam Park Elementary School. We start delivering food in June. We need your assistance!

**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 have any questions!**

## **We're Hiring!**

Nursery Worker Needed



We are in a need of a church nursery attendant! Please contact Mike Nichols at 785-760-1796 for more information about the pay and hours!



In-Person Worship is Sundays at 10AM. 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 Prayer:

- **Dorothy Kroh** fell and cracked her pelvis. She is at Lakeview Rehab and will be there for 6-8 weeks healing. If you want to contact her, call her at 913-481-1014
- **Nanette Ferguson** is doing better after her trip to the ER. She is walking again without the walker and her and Rick went to a family reunion this past weekend.
- Jim Owens fell, injuring his hand and needing 38 stitches to his fingers. He will need to meet with a plastic surgeon.
- We held the memorial service for Flo Biehl on Sunday. Please keep her family in your prayers as they grieve.
- Dorothy Kroh fell and cracked her pelvis. She is back home at Sunrise continuing her rehab. If you want to contact her, call her at 913-481-1014.

## Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Nancy Hines' son Dwayne Hines**, had a triple bypass . The surgery went well, and he is now home continuing his care and rehab.
- **Connie Hennigh's son-in-law Garland Johnson** passed away. Please keep Connie's daughter Christy and the whole family in your prayers during this difficult time.
- **Casey Meyer's mom Linda** has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Bev McDonald's best friend, Jeanie McCrowsky** fell and hurt her face, and **Bev's cousin LouAnn** has been diagnosed with leukemia and has decided to not take treatments.
- **Donna Rankin's brother Danny** got a good report from his oncologist in his ongoing battle with cancer. He is continuing his treatments.
- Please keep the families of **Tony Vielhauer and Don Uthe** in your prayers. Pastor Mark performed their funeral services this past week. Don's mother attended church here before her passing in 1992.
- **Barry Davis has offered** to help folks get registered over the internet for their vaccinations if anyone needs assistance. Call or email him for help on this if you want your shot but haven't been able to get it yet.
- **Carol Vann has announced she is moving to Phoenix**, Arizona in June, to be closer to family and warmer winters. We hold her and **Heather** in our prayers as they make this big transition. May God bless them and walk with them.
- Prayers for **Keith and Marie White and Dillon and Autumn Palmer** as they begin their lives together as husband and wife. Pastor Mark performed their ceremonies.
- **Rev. Donna Rose-Heim**, pastor of Longview Chapel

and wife of our Regional Minister, had surgery this week.

- **Happy Birthday to Jim Walker**, who turned 90!
- **Prayers for Justin and Erin Jones**, a couple Pastor Mark did a wedding ceremony with, as they begin their life as husband and wife.
- **The family of Zona Woods on her passing.** Pastor Mark performed the funeral service for the family.
- **Jim Owens' nephew Tom Witt**, passed from Covid. Please keep Jim and his family in your prayers as they grieve.
- **Anita Minshew's neighbor Monte** had to go to the hospital with diabetic health issues.
- **Casey Meyer's mom Linda has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.**
- **Pray that we find a church nursery attendant! It is vitally important we find that special person who can take care of our little ones for those parents wanting to attend Sunday Service.**

### **PRAISE:**

Prayers to Allen and Jackie Watts as they begin their new adventure together. We wish them well!

**We pray for all those who have received the vaccine, and for all those who want to get it but haven't yet. We especially pray for those who could get it but are hesitant or resistant. May their hearts be softened with grace and inspired by Christ to serve one another. May we come together to get vaccinated, and begin healing from this long struggle.**

**Please keep all the graduates in your prayers as they complete one leg of their adventure, and begin another. Several graduates were mentioned Sunday, and we lift them all in thanksgiving and prayer.**

**Please keep all of our teachers and students in your prayers as this difficult, stressful, chaotic school year comes to a close. Teachers and students have had to go above and beyond this year, God Bless Them All!**

**For our church, as we hopefully begin to gather again, may we always respond first with grace and love and hope. May we be a light in dark times, bread and cup to hungry people. May we outdo one another in serving others as we strive to do more together as able.**

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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.





## Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

In person &



Minutes recorded by Donna Rankin  
Board Secretary

**Present in Person:** Pastor Mark Willis, Carole Prentice, Donna Rankin, Jackie Watts, Allen Watts, Dixie Wheaton, Mike Nichols, Greg Spiegel, Pam Boyd, Joel Beaver, Bob Pape, Emily Hooker, Joyce Luke, David Roebuk, Barry Davis, Rick Ferguson, Christina Stokes

Carole called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Pastor Mark – Isaiah 64 and Prayer Concerns: Pastor Mark-Jim Owens' nephew passed away; Bob Owens can now have visitors.

**Minutes of 4/13 Board Meeting:** Carole asked the board to review the minutes and financials from the April meeting; Motion to accept reports by Mike Nichols; seconded by Pam Boyd; approved.

### Committee Chair Reports:

**CWF/DWM:** Pam-No report; Sarah met in April; next meeting is May 25.

**Clerk:** Carole-Betty Bohn will serve.

**Elders:** No report.

**Finance:** Dixie-Michelle is working with computer application; goal is to eventually operate without Miller Mgmt; Katie replacing Carol Vann for remainder of year.

**H&G:** Joel-New roof over porte cochere is completed; we have a new church insurance policy with Church Mutual for a sizeable savings-THANKS to Dixie for her assistance; Irrigation controller and light on the corner of the church are both working now, THANKS to Bob and his electrician friend for the repairs; porte cochere lights sensor needs to be replaced, working on it and will keep board posted; siding project well underway and looking good; McCarty completed the spring A/C start-up and went well.

**Outreach:** Carol-Food will be provided to several families this summer starting June 1st ; need donations, especially canned foods (vegetables, fruit, etc).

**Membership:** Allen-Muffins given out on Mother's Day after worship service, also delivered to home-bound; no chairperson to replace him, but Christina Stokes will keep Board advised of activities.

**Memorial:** Emily-No report.

Worship: Pastor Mark-A calendar of activities has been compiled.

**Pastor Report:** Pastor Mark-Worship service attendance in person is 35-40 people each week; live stream or recorded service attendance is 10-

25; online services continue, reaching a lot of folks, digital additions will remain; Children's Worship & Wonder in person will return June 27; performed 3 funerals and 3 weddings this month; contacted by Cub Scouts regarding opening a checking account, need MCC permission, MCC signor on account; Joel Beaver offered to do; Mark will compose letter and Carole will sign. Motion to approve by Joel Beaver; seconded by Mike Nichols; motion carried. AA group would like to use space on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm; discussion of same; Motion to approve by Mike Nichols; seconded by Rick Ferguson; motion carried. A reminder to please make sure front door is closed completely.

**Personnel:** Mike-No leads for nursery attendant; next step to make cold calls to local preschools or Merriam Park School to see if any interest.

**Trustees:** Michelle-Signature cards signed and funds in Brown fund transferred to Campbell fund for better rate.

**Old Business:** Carole-Thank you to the Watts for all their good works; appreciate everyone who has stepped forward to fill in. Allen-have a great team for live streaming and the newsletter will be done by Jeannette Howe.

**New Business:** Pastor Mark-presented an AV Consultant bid to re-do/update our live streaming technology in the sanctuary; after much discussion it was decided that Mark will get estimates for better internet service and two more bids to update our system.

**Open Forum:** None



Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Joyce Luke; seconded by Joel Beaver.



# June 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Room Codes:</i>  C-Chapel  S-Sanctuary  CH-Campbell Hall  DP-Disciple Place</p>	<p>B-Berea  R-Roundtable  L-Library  P-Pioneer  YR-Youth Room  OB-Out of Building</p>	<p>1  7:00 Committee Meetings  IN PERSON—CH</p> 	2	3	4	5
<p>6  <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  9am CH  10:00 Worship</p>	<p>7  9-12 Finance-LIB</p>	<p>8  7:00 Board Meeting  IN PERSON—CH</p> 	9	10	11	12
<p>13  <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  9am CH  10:00 Worship</p>	<p>14  9-12 Finance-LIB</p>	15	16	17	18	19
<p>20  <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  9am CH  10:00 Worship</p>	<p>21  9-12 Finance-LIB</p>	<p>22  CWF/DWM Business Meeting @ 12:30pm  Sarah 1PM</p>	23	24	25	26
<p>27  <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  9am CH  10:00 Worship</p>	<p>28  9-12 Finance-LIB</p>	29	30			
<p>30  <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  9am CH  10:00 Worship</p>	31					

**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE  
For JUNE 2021**

**June 6th, 2021— 10:00 AM -**  
**Serving Team —Team 1    Emily Hooker**  
**Liturgist Anita Collins**

**June 13th, 2021— 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 2    Michelle Land**  
**Liturgist        Pat Reed**

**June 20th, 2021— 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 3    Carol Prentice**  
**Liturgist Bruce Roach**

**June 27th, 2021— 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 4**  
**Liturgist                Susan Neill**



**Celebrating Birthdays This Month:**

Carole Vann	June 1
Dixie Wheaton	June 12
Joyce Hutchison	June 16
Evelyn Eastwood	June 24
Jan Pankey	June 30



**Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:**

Dave & Tammy Ramsey	June 29
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*Spring being a  
tough act to follow,  
God created  
June.*

— Al Bernstein



# Pastor Mark's Message

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



May 9th, "[Friends](#)"

May 16th, "[Ripples on the Pond](#)"

## Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



May 9th "[The Great Banquet](#)"

May 16th "[The Good Shepard Knows his Sheep](#)"

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Adult Sunday School class began the first of March and is thriving. We have members attending in person and via Zoom.

Three individuals have volunteered to teach: Anita Collins, Linda Railsback and Jim Owens. Jim taught in March, Anita Collins is teaching during April.

Currently we are studying the major prophets beginning with Moses and leading to the time of Jesus.

Our class begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and dismisses for the 10:00 a.m. worship Service.

Until we resume full church activities we will be holding just one adult class.

**We welcome each of you to join us, either in person or via Zoom.**



## [Vine and Branches](#)

## [The Good Shepard and the Big Bad Wolf](#)



Join us in worship on [Youtube](#).



**DON'T FORGET TO SHARE services & study sessions with family, friends and neighbors**