



Merriam Christian Church Disciples of Christ

CHURCH BUILDING STATUS

The church building will remain closed through at least June 7, 2020. Continue to look for emails, videos, and other communication as we strive to remain connected to one another during this time.

Vol. LV
No. 11 2020
May 23, 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.



Dear Friends,
I wanted to share a story with you about my time in isolation. In early April I received an email from a

gentleman in Georgia named John Johnson. He lives in Cobb County Georgia, just outside of Atlanta. His mother-in-law, Martha Land Affalter had passed away the week before at the age of 99. She and her husband Arthur Affalter, who had passed in 2008, had moved to Georgia from Memphis when Arthur opened one of the first Waffle House restaurants in Georgia in 1965.

After Martha had passed this April, John and his wife Cynthia, Martha and Arthur's youngest daughter, were cleaning out Martha's things, when they found something. In her Bible, pressed between two pages was a folded piece of paper. The paper had Merriam Christian Church on the letterhead, and the name of our minister, R.D.

Freleigh. Rev Freleigh served here from 1937-1946. It also listed our phone number as "Merriam 1390". The paper was signed by about 50 people, and was the guest list for Arthur and Martha's wedding here

at the church. Art and Martha were married in August of 1941, and by the following February, Art was serving in the army in North Africa for WWII.

John was kind enough to send me a copy of the paper for our historical archives. It has many names of church folks, some I recognize. Lenore and David Campbell are on it, as is Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Beaver, Jon and Joel's grandparents. We included a copy of the paper here for you to see as well.

I am touched by how Merriam Christian Church has touched so many lives; lives we don't even see or realize. Eighty years ago a young couple in our church was married and went off to live their lives. But they never forgot their connection to this place, this church. I wonder who this church will touch today? I wonder if in eighty years someone will find their parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent was touched and changed by their moment here? When we seek to touch the world with God's grace and love, it is amazing to see how far that love can go.

God Bless and Stay Safe,
Mark

On the following page is the document with everyone's signature that attended the wedding.

Merriam Christian Church

Merriam, Kansas

R. D. FRELEIGH, MINISTER
8803 WINNIGAR ROAD

(Mother)

(father)

Mrs. Sauler
Gladys Steinmetz
Leone England
Helen Maeder
Jane Mabes
Lila Wright

Mrs. Wm. Nagle
Lucille Hoyt
"Miss" Phyllis Holmes
Mrs. Roy Wright
Alfred Spalding
Bob Mabes

Gerty Jane Beaver
Virginia Lockman

Lillian Bernice Duncan

Mrs. Mrs. E. H. Spalding

(Grand Mother) Mrs. Land (Dora)

Mrs. Lloyd High
Mrs. Kathryn Cackman
John Richard Cackman
Ignice High
Forest Larson
Harry E. Mendenhall
Marjorie Raudel
H. J. Raudel
Mrs. Clyde E. Beaver

Martha Land
Arthur Affalter
Mrs. Harry Mendenhall
Lula Miles
Lenore Campbell
David Campbell

Mrs. Forest Larson
Pearl Mabes

Lillian Estelle
Kathryn Meyer and Danny
Mrs. M. R. Smith

Mrs. V. C. Daulty
Mary Ruth Close
Mrs. Freleigh
Glenna Curry
Mrs. Bertha England

Bess Chase

Mrs. E. A. Sinks

W. P. Smith

J. A. Kemler

Bertha Lepold

E. E. Beaver

Merriam Christian Church

Merriam, Kansas

R. D. FRELEIGH, MINISTER
5503 WINNIGAR ROAD

Sam Estill,
H. J. Bethke

Stella Affalter

Pops Sister

Geraldine Affalter (?)

Mary Louise Freleigh

Mrs H. J. Bethke

Hazel Crispin

Pops Sister

Mrs. Aline Affalter

COUSIN ?

Jane Affalter Hensler

Pops Sister

General J. Hensler

Bernard Bethke Jr.

Alta Benson

R. D. Freleigh

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 17, 2020 "Oh Give Us a Home"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-jn7xxMeQQ>

May 10, 2020

"Sometimes We Don't Want to Hear"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--pjzHZi1AY>

Children's Worship and Wonder by
Christina Stokes

May 17, 2020 "The Great Banquet"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XM5FZbiMstM>

May 10, 2020 "The Good Shepherd"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5a3vIPZtG0>



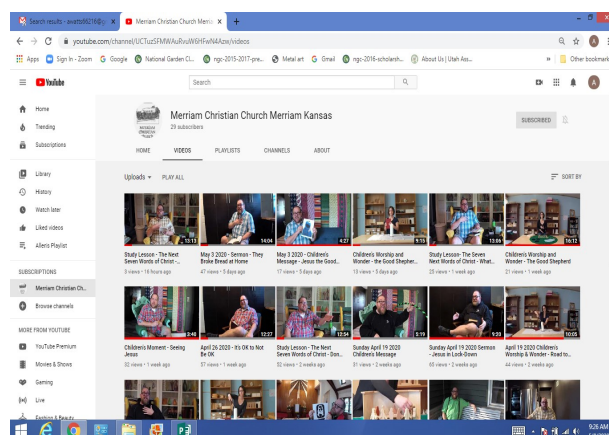
Watch for the next Newsletter the week of June 6, 2020. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*



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**

Registration 6:00 PM \$6.00

**Olathe First Christian Church
200 E. Loula St.**

Olathe, Kansas 66061

Speaker Rev. Dr. Roger Beason

*****Please stay tuned on future
important notifications or updates*****

Weekly Study Group with Pastor Mark

Mark continues his study group series titled "Next" seven words of Christ, a look at the first seven things Jesus said after the resurrection. We will be using Shane Stanford's book, "The Seven Next Words of Christ: Finding Hope in the Resurrection Sayings".

Week One— "Who are you looking for"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrQ0fdEC2kM>

Week Two—" Don't Be Afraid "

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AID_9oluekI

Week Three—" What are you so concerned about?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTkA43LZC1k>

Week Four—" Peace be with you "

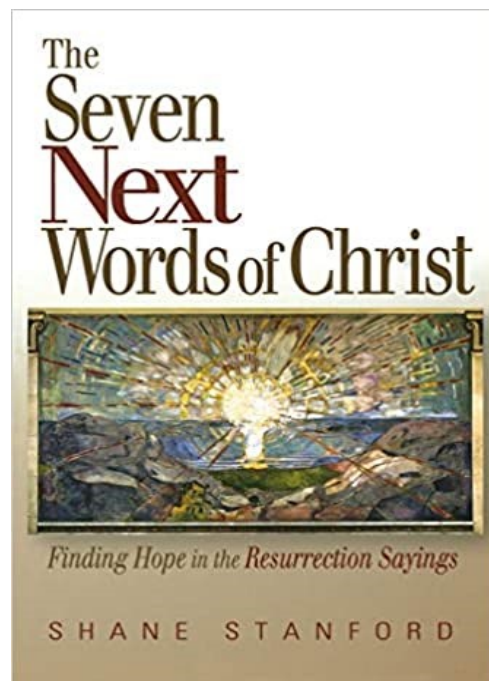
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvRjec2X840>

Week Five—"Go"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9uEMmY1hAg&t=28s>

Week Six—"Have you caught any fish"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iw6Bbzn-jDc>



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.easytithe.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**



Tuesday, May 12, 2020



Minutes recorded by Mark Willis

Present: Allen Watts, Jackie Watts, Bob Pape, Anita Collins, Carol Vann, Joel Beaver, Emily Hooker, Jan Pankey, Dixie Wheaton, Carole Prentice, Pat Reed, Mark Willis, Pam Boyd

Devotions - Pam Boyd - "Fear and Worries" - We are not meant to live in fear, scriptures and Christ comfort our fears. Psalm 23:4, Psalm 27:1, Psalm 29:11, Psalm 55:22, Psalm 37:23-24, II Timothy 1:7, John 14:1, John 14:27, John 16:22, Philippians 4:6, Galatians 3:15, Isaiah 26:3, I Peter 5:7.

Pastor's Report - Mark Willis - discussed reopening ideas, worship adjustments, communion ideas discussed, several noted not wanting to do the individual communion (bringing your own).

Carol Vann - Concern over wearing masks (Heather wont wear mask). Also brought up masks on small children. Some voiced opinion of not wanting to wear masks. Some brought up medical issues, and they would want people to wear masks. Maybe until we can meet safely with or without masks, we should keep doing online worship?

Pam spoke to her flock - most weren't ready to come back in June and feel safe, OR if we did come back wouldn't feel like "church", they would prefer to keep online worship.

Bob spoke to his flock. They were unsure about committing to come back as early as June 7th. A lot of unknowns still.

Emily spoke with her flock - two said no, the rest said yes about coming back June 7th. They were concerns about why we would need to remove bibles and hymnals from pews as they sit there for seven days between worship services.

Carole Prentice - hasnt talked to all of her flock - she prefers Youtube worship over coming back with so many adjustments/changes.

Allen spoke on letter, mentioned individual communion disposable kits. Also researched not singing, could not find anything that said singing was a good idea.

Dixie - spoke with several folks - no one in favor of coming back June 7th.

Pat spoke to flock - three said they would not come back June 7th.

Joel - **House and Grounds** - Sign, talked to insurance, talking depreciation, Joel argued that sign was fine till their client hit it, they are waiting on figures from sign company.

Allen - **Membership** - mailed cards for mother's day with seeds, gave small planters to 10 homebound folks.

Dixie - **Finance** - doing OK, not ahead, but staying afloat. Also asked question about permit for new sign. Joel will check it out. Dixie mentioned we are going to pay Marie once a month during shut down so we can write one less check per month, to make it a little easier.

Jan - **PRC** - did not meet, sent email to members - will meet again in July

Pat - **Worship** - expressed concern about communion solutions, does not feel bringing your own communion would be sacred, not to mention possible mess.

Allen reminded us we are trying to make the best decisions we can with available information. We will make mistakes, and we will figure it out as best we can. We make these decisions for each other, for the other.

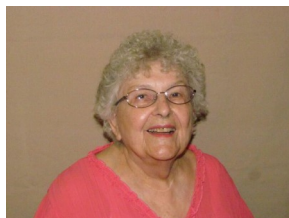
Joel added the cleaning issue - that we have to be safe, but that is a large component of coming back together.

It was also added that before outside groups meet, we need to be back in the building ourselves, and we need to have procedures for outside groups that are enforced.

Carole - **Outreach** - spoke with Merriam Park Elementary school - concerned about getting food to hungry families - school district not wanting outside groups to interact with families on school behalf right now. Harvesters did outside food delivery Saturday, Pam reported hundreds of cars were there. Also students can get lunch twice a week at Hocker Grove Middle school. They give out five meals per week at these pick ups. Carole very concerned there are families hungry.

Meeting adjourned with prayer by Mark Willis

Flo Biehl



Florence Biehl of Lenexa Kansas died May 17, 2020 in the comfort of her home. Florence, Flo to all her friends, was born April 8, 1930 in Burns Kansas to Wil-

liam Jerry Larsen and Adelia May Ireland. She had four siblings; Milt, Clyde, Ruth, and Lowell. She graduated High School from Burns, Kansas in 3 years (instead of four) and obtained a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University. Flo married Orval S. Biehl in 1953 spending 37 years together. When asked about the saddest moment in her life, Flo told her son, "It was when Orval [my love, my husband] died Jan. 3, 1991. I couldn't stop it. It was going to be." She never dated or remarried after his passing.

Flo made her living as an educator, when asked how she wanted to be remembered, "I'd like to think people learned something from me". And learn they did. Flo was a teacher of Home Economics at Roosevelt junior high school in Topeka Kansas before being distinguished for 37 years of service as Home Economics Agent for Kansas State Research and Extension in Johnson County, Kansas. Flo left a legacy of learning. She was published in numerous newspapers, magazines, extension bulletins, etc. And was the focus of many news articles describing and reporting her work within the community.

Flo what is your first memory? "It's a car-load of Indians on the highway. Their car broke down right in front of our farm. We fed them...My Mom said it was a valid memory even though I was only 2 years old – normally you don't have memories that early. My brother, Clyde, was coloring a sail boat that he had drawn, and the Indians joined in coloring."

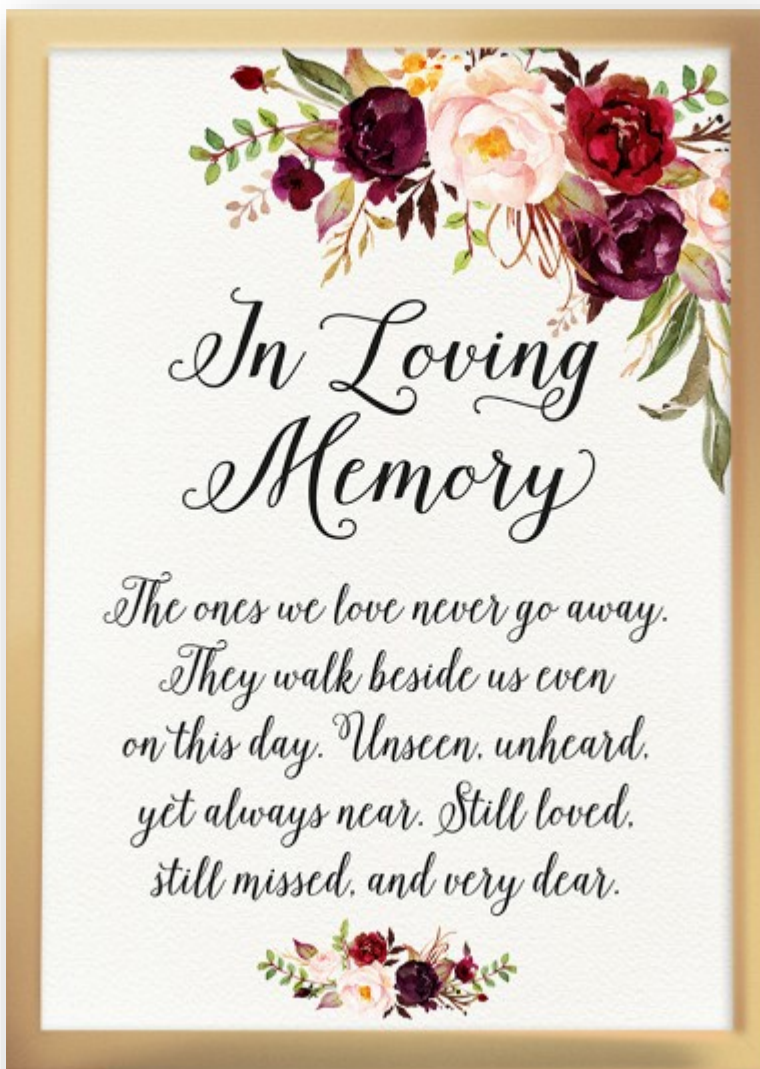
How wonderful and ironic is the circle of life? Flo's last memory is her tribe of Children, Grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Great-Grandchildren surrounding her in her loving home as she takes the final steps of her journey. Only, it has was her coloring with us on pictures we drew in a life filled with her love. We will miss you and are jealous that you will be with all those you have been waiting to see. Say Hello to your Mom, Dad, Husband, Brothers and Sister from all of us.

Adam Paul Goff



Adam Paul Goff, 30, passed away Monday March 2nd, 2020 at 5:45 am at his home surrounded by his family. Adam was born on May 25th, 1989 in Overland Park, KS. He was a 2008 graduate of Lee's Summit High School and was working towards his degree at Longview Community College.

Everyone dies, but not everyone lives. Adam truly lived. He packed so much life into his 30 years. He had a contagious smile and spirit that immediately drew you to him, a profound passion for music through and through, he dreamt of his big plans for his future, lived for being the best uncle he could possibly be, was intensely devoted to his friends and family, and still moved forward battling what he knew from the start was an incurable disease. He did so with grace, dignity, integrity and above all courage.





Those Needing Prayers

Walt Bohn had a pacemaker put in. **Nancy Hines** fell at her house and broke her right wrist. It is in a splint for 2-3 more weeks. **Dorothy Kroh** (she fell and broke 3 ribs but is now back at Sunrise rehab in quarantine)

Requests for Family and Friends:

- Ally Bauer, a friend of Wayne and Emily Hooker's granddaughter Emma, 15 years old, passed away from cancer. We have had Ally on our prayer list many times. Please keep her mother and father, the Bauer family in your prayers. They attend St Andrews CC.
- Connie Hennigh' son-in-law Garland Johnson
- Donna McEndree's granddaughter's husband, Brandon Armstrong, was deployed to New York with his Army unit.
- Anita Minshew's friend's son Tom Gryska was diagnosed with Covid-19 but is doing much better.
- Jackie & Allen Watts' daughter-in-law who suffers from pancreatitis is back in the hospital as of Friday 5/22.
- Ya Larson—I spoke with Gilbert this week and asked if Ya had experienced any harassment and he said that she had encountered some. This is based on her being Chinese. There are ugly, stupid people in this world and unfortunately Ya is having to deal with some of them. Please pray for God to give her strength, and peace, and to watch over her and protect her during these unsettling time.
- 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

Those in Grief:

Please keep **Flo Biehl's family** in your prayers. Flo passed last Sunday peacefully with her family around here. When we are able to gather physically again there will be a celebration and dinner in her honor per the family's wishes. For now, hold them close in your thoughts and prayers as they grieve.

David Campbell's (youngest son of Lenore Moffett) wife of over 65 years, Barbara, passed away. They are related to the Roebuck family. David is 90 and in quarantine during this time. Please keep David Campbell and his children in your prayers.

- 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.

Praise:

Some **good news from Jim Owens**: I sincerely appreciate all of your prayers, and phone calls during the COVID19 virus here at Lakeview Retirement Village. Eight weeks ago we had 10 testing positive. 3 deaths, 4 have been released and returned home and 3 are in Rehab and doing fine. There are 750 residents and 500+ employees here. During the past 53 days we have not had any new cases. Lakeview is doing a great job in caring for us. We remain confined to campus except for doctor appointments. Thanks again for all of your concerns. -Jim Owens

Jeanne Brandmeyer's sister had surgery and is doing great!

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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.




The background of the top half of the page features a dark, textured field filled with numerous stars. Some stars are a warm, golden-brown color, while others are bright white. The stars are scattered across the frame, with a higher concentration in the upper left and center. On the right side, a portion of a red and white striped American flag is visible, extending from the top edge down towards the middle. Below the stars, a horizontal band of red and white stripes, similar to the flag, runs across the width of the page.

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who **died** while in the military service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. In other words, the purpose of Memorial Day is to memorialize the veterans who made the **ultimate sacrifice** for their country. We spend time remembering those who lost their lives and could not come home, reflecting on their service and why we have the luxury and freedom that we enjoy today. We might consider how we can support and safeguard their grieving families and loved ones who are left behind.

On Memorial Day, people visit cemeteries and memorials, and volunteers often place American flags on each grave site at national cemeteries. **A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.**

A silhouette of a soldier in profile, facing right, with his right hand raised to his forehead in a salute. The soldier is standing against a bright, hazy background of a sunset or sunrise, with soft clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The overall mood is solemn and respectful.

"May we never forget
our fallen comrades.
Freedom isn't free."

SGT. MAJOR BILL PAXTON

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



Calendar

Sunday - May 24th - Services Online

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

Sunday - May 31st Services Online

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

Friday - June 5th

12:00 Newsletter Deadline

ONE WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2020

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

Directory Update

Changes to info are
Underlined

No updates this week!



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






JUNE 2020

THE JUNE
BIRTHSTONES



PEARL, ALEXANDRITE,
AND MOONSTONE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Room Codes: 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					
	1 9-12 Finance-LIB	2 Committee Mtgs On Line or Phone	3	4 DWM Cancelled	5 Newsletter articles due @ Noon	6
7 SERVICES TBD SERVICE ON LINE	8 9-12 Finance-LIB	9 7:00 Board Meet- ing TBD—On Line or in person	10	11	12 -	13
14 - Flag Day SERVICES TBD 	15 9-12 Finance-LIB Sarah TBD	16 Esther TBD	17	18 Our Gang TBD	19 Newsletter articles due @ Noon Ce	20
21 - Father's Day SERVICES TBD	22 9-12 Finance-LIB	23	24	25	26	27
28 SERVICES TBD	29 9-12 Finance-LIB	30	Jul 1	2	3	4 Independence Day

June 7, 2020
TO BE DETERMINED
SERVICES ON LINE

June 14, 2020 -
TO BE DETERMINED

June 21, 2020
TO BE DETERMINED

June 28, 2020
TO BE DETERMINED



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Carol Vann	June 1
Samantha Nichols-Casey	June 8
Dixie Wheaton	June 12
Joyce Hutchison	June 16
Evelyn Eastwood	June 26
Linda Ruffin	June 28
Jan Pankey	June 30



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Gary & Linda Ruffin	June 13
Dave & Tammy Ramsey	June 29

