



Vol. LV  
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October 12, 2019

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Organist and Pianist  
Emily Yeh

Secretary  
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**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

Dear Friends,

October is month of ghost and goblins, scares and screams, monsters and beasts. In this month we embrace that which scares us, by dressing up and becoming our worst nightmares. Halloween night is filled with frights and fears and things that go bump in the night. But it is easy to let fear gain too much control over our lives. In a month where we decorate with scary things and hand out candy to little creatures knocking on our doors, it is easy to forget how powerful fear really is.

Fear causes us to ignore our faith. Fear causes us to forget our faith. Fear blinds us to the power and hope of Jesus Christ. Far too often in our lives we allow fear to make decisions for us, to set our priorities, to choose our path. Fear pushes our faith instincts of service and compassion and love out of the way so it can instill worry and doubt and selfishness instead. Fear is an enemy of faith, and one we are instructed to strike down time and again by Jesus.

As a matter of fact, the Bible tells believers "do not fear" over 300 times! We are not called to be a people of fear, we are called to be a people of faith. We are called to walk forth in the strength and armor of God. If God is for us, who could possibly be against us? The people of God are called to a bold faith, one that does not cower in corners, but shines forth with the light of God.

Fear has no place in our faith. We will not bend to its devilish ways, nor forget our faithful calling.

Have fun this month, put up decorations, wear silly costumes, hand out tasty candy. But when the month ends, put your fear away with the decorations. Don't hold on to it, don't let it control your life, and don't let it make your choices. Lean on faith for those actions, and leave fear behind. Be the church of faith God calls us to be.

God Bless,  
Mark

### ONE WORSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 27th we will have ONE Worship service at 10AM, immediately followed by the Annual Congregation Meeting. At this meeting, we will review and vote on the proposed 2020 Budget, as well as the new Deacons and Elders for the upcoming term.

Please make note of this and plan on attending. Thank you.

### CONGREGATIONAL APPRECIATION DINNER

After our Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, October 27th, Pastor Mark is providing a soup lunch for the congregation in appreciation of all the ministry and mission accomplished together this year. As we look forward to the coming year, let's eat a good meal together and celebrate what God has done in our midst..

*Everyone is welcome to attend!*

## “THE BREAD OF LIFE”

A mentor in seminary, Howard Hendricks, always encouraged his students to keep the hope of Heaven at the center of their preaching because it is in Heaven where life is found. He would say, “We are not in the land of the living on our way to the land of dying. Instead, we are in the land of the dying on our way to the land of the living.” How true that is!”

For a Christian, death is not a terminus of life; death is a transition to life--real life. However, for the unbeliever, death marks a transition to what the Bible calls “the second death” (Rev. 20:14) -- an eternal existence separated from God.

I believe every person born is presented with a choice at some point in his or her life: either to accept or reject God’s free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is a choice that can only be made in his life. Once we’ve passed through death’s door into the afterlife, our choice is eternally fixed.

An epitaph on a century-old tombstone in an Indiana cemetery serves as a stark reminder of the certainty of death for all of us:

“Pause, stranger, when you pass by;  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, so you will be,  
So prepare for death and follow me.”

An unknown visitor to the cemetery saw the tombstone and, after a few moments in contemplation, scrawled a reply:

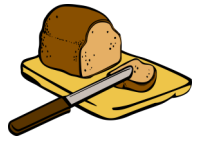
“To follow you I’m not content,  
Until I know which way you went.”

Whether you (or I) will die is not for debate. The crucial question is this: “Where are you (we) going after we die?” That question can only be answered by another question: “Did we trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins?” Our destiny...Eternal Destiny, rests on our answer to that question.

Please read: 2 Corinthians 5:6-9: **“So we are always of good courage; we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. We are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the**

**body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him.” AMEN!**

Love Ya!  
Rex & Irene



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## BOO FOR BEARS

*Thursday, October 17th, 5PM-8PM*



Come help us hand out candy at this Halloween event for all the Merriam-Park Elementary kids. The event is inside, at the school. We set up a table with candy and decorations and interact with over 300 students and their families. We need donations of candy to hand out and volunteers to hand it out! Talk to Mark or Carole Prentice if interested.

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## ONE WORSHIP SUNDAYS

Please make note of these special Sundays coming up when we will gather at ONE worship service together at 10AM:

October 27th - Congregational Meeting  
December 1st - Hanging of the Greens  
December 29th



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## CELEBRATION

We have been lucky enough to have had Mark Willis as our Pastor for 10 years.

The date of his anniversary is November 17th, and we are celebrating with a BBQ lunch after church. There will be a sign-up sheet for side dishes and desserts, and we will have the opportunity to give a monetary donation for him. We are asking for a cash donation given to either Jon Beaver who is the PRC Chair or Carole Prentice, Board Chair.

I know we will all want to show our appreciation for 10 great years. Please sign up so we can plan accordingly.

Jon Beaver and Carole Prentice



# DWM NEWS

## ATTENTION SHOPPERS

October is half over, but there's still time to bring books and hats and gloves for the JCCB. The glove/hat tree is available, and thanks to all who donate. November and December will be groceries for the Cornucopia, and the Christmas Baskets. Where or where has the time gone?

Other news, we have booked a small bus for the trip to Fairview Christian Church in Gladstone for the evening CWF/DWM meeting on Thursday, October 24th. Please sign up so we know how many want to go. The program will be celebrating the DWM 145th anniversary presented by Karen Yount. Sounds like a great evening to me.

Thanks you for your support!  
Joyce Luke  
Treasurer/Service



## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, December 5th - 12 noon

Please mark your calendar for December 5th for a Christmas party for the DWM/CWF. We are very excited about our Christmas get-together this year. We will have a potluck luncheon, play games and have a gift exchange. More to follow.

Jackie Watts  
President

## TALL OAKS GALA

Monetary donations will be accepted on Sundays Sept. 29th, Oct. 12th and Oct. 20th. Cash and checks written to : Tall Oaks, memo line: *Tall Oaks Gala Donation.*

The theme this year is "Some Enchanted Evening". Please donate a note to our song on the poster, and be generous in your support of Tall Oaks.

Thank you,  
Emily Hooker



## ELDER SCAM AWARENESS LECTURE

The FBI and KCMO Police are putting on an event with information about elder scam awareness.

If you are interested, it is a free event:  
Monday, October 21st  
5:30PM -8PM



Let pastor Mark know if you want to attend.



## MEALS ON WHEELS

October 15: Glen & Dixie Wheaton

October 22: Gary & Linda Ruffin

## CORNUCOPIA COLLECTIONS COMING SOON!

We are collecting non-perishable food items to feed families from Merriam-Park and Crestview Elementary Schools for our annual Thanksgiving Cornucopia.

We will be collecting food from October 6th through November 17th.

Here is what we are collecting each Sunday:

- Oct 13 - Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Oct 20 - Canned Veggies
- Oct 27 - Canned Fruit
- Nov 3 - Spaghetti and Sauce
- Nov 10 - Cereal, Hot or Cold
- Nov 17 - Potatoes - Boxed  
(Mashed, scalloped, etc)



Any other non-perishables you would like to donate are also welcome. Folks are welcome and encouraged to donate to Make-a-Difference as well. We use those funds to purchase extra food we need.

If you would like to help with this vital ministry, talk to Carole Prentice and the Outreach Committee.



## OUR GANG CLUB

Next Meeting  
October 17th  
1:00-3:00







# Prayer List



**Those Needing Prayers:** Joe Myers, Opal Seals, Don Rudkin, Connie Hennigh, Dorothy Kroh, Wendy Manthe, the new members Greg, Jennifer, and Zach Spiegel, Harold Leakey, Congregation on South Summit Christian Church-closing, Anita Collins, Jim Walker

## Requests for Family and Friends:

Scott Stokes father, Jeff Stokes  
Joyce Campbell's cousin, Diane Mingus  
Katie Schwenck's friends, Becky & Matt  
Bob Pape's nephew, Chris & Melissa Weiss  
Those affected by the shooting in KCK

## Praises:

Nancy Hines granddaughter, Amanda Stevenson on her marriage  
Mason & Kyle Homoly on their wedding  
Jaycee & Austin Trammel on their wedding  
Zach & Aubrey Bailey on their wedding  
Nina & Au Quatch on their wedding  
Lynne Beaver's daughter, Kyle & Mary Rall, on their marriage

## Those in Grief:

Gene Dickerson & family on his passing  
Jeanne Bryant's sister-in-law's mother passed away  
Staff, faculty, & students of Ottawa University on the passing of a student  
Heather Waite's cousin, Richard, on his passing  
The family of Mike Conley on his passing  
The family of Ray Angel on his passing  
The family of Dr. Edward Stout on his passing  
The family of Mary Rogers on her passing  
Joyce Campbell in the loss of her uncle  
Carol Vann's cousin, Blue Hophouse passed  
The family of Doris Vanderwoude on her passing  
The family of Norma Jean Brock on her passing  
Jim Owens & family on the passing of his sister, Mary Witt  
The family of Joel Powers on his passing  
The family of John Mullens on his 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 - October 13  
8:30 Early Service  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:45 Worship  
Monday - October 14  
9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB  
9:00 Regional O&S Meeting-SD Room  
Tuesday - October 15  
12:30 Esther  
12:00 November Calendar Deadline  
Wednesday - October 16  
5:30-7:00 JCCB-LIB  
7:00-8:00 JCCB-CH  
Thursday - October 17  
1:00-3:00 Our Gang  
4:45-5:45 DS Bus Lines  
Friday - October 18  
9:15-10:15 DS Bus Lines  
12:30-1:30 DS Bus Lines  
Sunday - October 20  
8:30 Early Service  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:45 Worship  
Monday - October 21  
9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB  
6:30 Sarah  
Wednesday - October 23  
9:30 Region Interim Minister-Clrm  
11:30 Regional Personal Commit  
6:00 Regional Durm-Tentative  
6:30-8:00 Church Planters Cohort-LIB  
Friday - October 25  
12:00 Newsletter Deadline

## SEND A CARD!

Let's send a card or note to Ann Dickerson this month. Ann has been a member of Merriam Christian Church for many, many years and her presence is greatly missed.

Ann's address is:  
14100 West 90th Terrace, Apt 103  
Lenexa, KS 66215.



Drop her a note this month, and let her know how much she is loved by her church family.

Watch for the next Newsletter the week of October 26, 2019. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*

