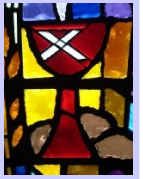


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## 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.

10:45 a.m. Suspended

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

9:00 a.m.

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)

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,  
This will be our last newsletter prior to the election on November 3rd. I want to encourage all of you to vote. Make a plan, leave early, be prepared to wait, but vote!  
This year, we have had to deal with all the tremendous physical and mental strain and suffering everyone is or has or will go through as a result of the pandemic. This pandemic has caused so much sickness and loss of life, the loss of income to many individuals and families, unbelievable unemployment and an extreme number of businesses that will never reopen. Now in addition to the multiple crises we find ourselves facing, we are thrust into the middle of a national election. To say that it could be overwhelming is perhaps the understatement of the year.

So this year, as a church body, as a member of a larger Church body in the Christian Church Disciples of Christ, as we go to exercise our civic duty of voting we are also going to focus on bringing some peace, hope, and grace to this stressful day. Along with many of our sister disciples congregations in Johnson County we are going to participate in a prayer vigil on election day, November 3rd. Here's how it will work: starting at 6:00 a.m. when the polls open

and continuing through 7:00 p.m. when the polls close, every 2 hours I will be sending out a prayer and devotional that you can stop and use throughout the day. I will send these through email, and also post them on our Facebook page. What I'm asking is that every couple of hours you stop and take 5 minutes to be in an attitude of prayer and reconnect with God on this day. As we do this we will be joined with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we pray for our nation, for our fellow citizens, for our leaders, and for ourselves. In addition I will also be posting a 30 minute prayer service that I and other disciples pastors recorded two weeks ago. this 30 minute service is available throughout the day on our Facebook and YouTube pages to watch and join in a time of prayer and scripture and song. As this election day arrives, go vote. You might vote differently than me, that is OK. We don't always agree and we won't always see eye-to-eye, but we can still come to the same table and break bread and share cup together. Know and understand why you vote and how you vote. Do your research. Read competing perspectives. Educate yourself on the candidates and the issues. The power to vote is an instrumental piece of the foundation of our country. Think about it. Pray about it. And then go do it.

God Bless Us All,  
Mark



Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Minutes recorded by Donna Rankin  
Board Secretary

**Present in Person:** [Pastor Mark Willis](#), [Jackie Watts](#), [Allen Watts](#), [Donna Rankin](#), [Pat Reed](#), [Joel Beaver](#), [Dave Roebuck](#), [Dixie Wheaton](#), [Bob Pape](#), [Carole Prentice](#), [Michele Land](#), [Emily Hooker](#), [Anita Collins](#), [Rick Ferguson](#), [Carol Vann](#), [Jim Owens](#), [Barry Davis](#)

**Devotions:** Bob Pape – Pray for Our Nation

**Addition to Prayer List:**

Mark-Joyce Luke grandson back to work  
Jim Owens-Lakeview has 13 new cases of Covid in Care Center

Carol Prentice-Brother Steve in later state of Parkinsons

**Chairman Jackie Watts** asked for a motion to accept the 9/08/20 Board Minutes and financial statements. Carol Prentice moved to accept; seconded by Michelle Land. The motion passed.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

**Clerk:** Jackie-no change

**CDW/DWM:** Jackie-The next Regional Evening DWM gathering is 10/23 at 6:30 pm at Countryside Christian Church.

**Elders:** Bob-No report.

**Finance:** Dixie-2021 Budget and donation cards will be handed out on 10/18 and remaining mailed on 10/19. The annual congregation meeting and vote on the budget will be 10/25. Donation cards will be requested returned by end of Nov. Committee voted to drop donation to DARF of \$250.00 from World Outreach. Finance is writing checks twice a month and would like all receipts in by middle of month.

**H&G:** Joel-Painting work progressing. Several new windows have been ordered to replace broken ones. Will be installed along with new wood trim, as needed, and painted. Crew is doing good job and church is looking much better. Roof repair over carport was completed 10/3. Rotted plywood was replaced on ceiling of carport and will be paint-

ed. H&G was going to set up for outside church service on 10/18; canceled, we will have service inside. Tables and chairs will be set up outside for Fall Roundup Lunch, depending on weather. Bob will meet McCarty at church on 10/26 for fall check/service of furnace. New sign base was installed 10/7 and sign installed 10/13. There will be some upgrading done for the electrical connection. Furnace thermostats will be programmed by Bob and Rick for Monday-Saturday and Sunday. Antibacterial soap will be purchased and installed in dispensers in restrooms. A contract will be signed with Heartland Custom Siding for steel siding and small trim areas in white aluminum. Job can not be completed this fall; therefore, temporary repair to the siding to get through winter and will do the job in the spring to be done. Shingles over the carport and area to the north of it need to be replaced. Bids will be solicited. We received a bid of \$16,000.00 for tuck pointing on north end of church. We will look into sealing them this fall and continue to get more bids. Bob installed a new bracket on the chapel banner. The handrail going up to the sanctuary has been tightened. Bob and Rick replaced the steel door for the roof access. It has also been painted. H&G has been extremely busy this year with projects and more to come in the spring. A huge **THANK YOU** to members of the committee for hard work and our church member for their amazing donation. Our Lord has truly **BLESSED** us-our church is going to look amazing when this work is completed!

**Outreach:** Carol-Summer Food Program completed. Harvesters will deliver Backsnacks 10/14 and continue through school year. Let Carol know if you would like to be on schedule to pack each week. Snacks and bottled water are being supplied to nurse's office at Hocker Grove. Cornucopia collection of food for Thanksgiving begins 10/18. MCC will serve JoCo Food Ministry on

10/29. Meal prepared and take-out boxes packed. Homemade cookies needed. Sign-up sheet outside office.

**Membership:** Allen-Fall Roundup hamburgers and hotdogs after church service on 10/18. Depending on weather, table service outside or to-go boxes. Next newsletter is 10/24. Four new members to assist with slides and videotaping in church services.

**Pastoral:** Pastor Mark-We are continuing to live stream worship service, emailing the YouTube link out on Mondays. Decision was made to keep one worship service at 10AM until 2021 and re-evaluate based on conditions. We are sending out/posting to social media Children's Moment, Worship and Wonder, and Mid-Week Prayerful Meditation. We are looking to add an online Bible Study as well. In Sept it was announced that the following new outside groups had inquired about using space in the building for meetings: JoCo Water Board, Alcoholics Anonymous and Chukese Disciples Congregation. After much further discussion, it was decided that there would be no new groups allowed through the end of the year. The present groups of the DS Bus Co., Boy Scouts (adults only for now) and JCCB are allowed. Joel requested that he be informed so he can coordinate with janitorial services.

**Personnel:** Jackie-Nursery attendant, Maria, is having financial difficulties and suggested some assistance from church.

**Trustees:** Bob-No report.

**Worship:** Pat-In recognition of Veteran's Day the Honor Guard will present colors during worship service on 11/8. Pastor Mark will be gone on 11/22 and will ask Bill Rose-Heim to present sermon. Pastor Mark will be gone on 11/29 and there will be no sermon but rather the Hanging of the Greens service.

**Memorial:** Emily-No report. Jim-When he contacted memorial funds regarding donations to new sign, he informed them that we will have a dedication service sometime in the future.

**Old Business:** Jim-Submits Nominating Committee recommendations of 2021 church

positions. Elders and Deacons of early and late services combined into one. When we go back to two services, Committee will reconvene. Asterisks on report indicates positions voted on by congregation. Chairman Jim Owens made motion to accept the slate of Elders and Deacons and church officers for 2021. Bob Pape seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Vote was taken of the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:** Dixie-Submits MCC 2021 Budget. Postage and insurance increases, otherwise basically same as 2020. Mark suggested the Convention Expense of \$500.00 be removed as there are none scheduled. In addition, a few corrections in decimal points. Financial Secretary Dixie Wheaton made motion to accept 2021 Budget as amended. Carol Prentice seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Vote was taken of the Board and the motion passed unanimously.

Allen-Upgrade of internet service would help with streaming of church service. He will check into these options with Spectrum and Google. Will follow-up at next Board Mtg.

**Open Forum:**

Mark-Due to election on 11/3, Committee Meetings will be held 11/10 and Board Meeting will be held 11/17.

Jackie-She will remind JoCo Election to follow sanitation guidelines at MCC on 11/3.

Carol Prentice-Appreciate how nice church and lawn looks.

Allen-He would like church to have an understanding (guidelines) of what types of groups are able to use church building. Such as groups who "help others," rather than business organizations. Due to COVID, need to wait on accepting any new groups.

Jackie-Thank you for everyone supporting the Zoom meetings when we were unable to meet in person.

[Pastor Mark closed with prayer.](#)

Michelle Land moved to adjourn; seconded by Bob Pape

## **November Committee and Board Meetings Moved Back One Week**

In November, due to the national election on November 3rd, we will move our committee night to Tuesday November 10th and our Board meeting to November 17th.

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## **Johnson County Disciples November 3rd Prayer Vigil**

In cooperation and conjunction with other Johnson County Disciples congregations, on November 3rd we are calling on our members to be in prayer. November 3rd is, of course, election day, and not only are there many local and state races, but there is an acrimonious national election as well. It has been an extremely difficult and challenging year so far, and this day brings many emotions with it. The church has been challenged this year to be creative and active in new ways. In an effort to be the Body of Christ on every day, but certainly on election day, we are calling on all members to be in an attitude of prayer throughout the day. I will be sending out prayers every two hours, from 6AM to 7PM when polls close. I would ask that whatever you are doing, every two hours, when you are able, stop and offer a short moment of prayer. This works out to eight prayers for the day (You are welcomed and encouraged to pray more if you desire). You can use the prayers I send out through email and social media during this time, or say your own prayers. Our prayers this day should focus on peace, grace, and hope. Please seriously consider joining together, with your church family, and your regional church family in prayer this day as Johnson County Disciples raise prayer to God for our communities, our churches, our state, and our country.

## **Annual Congregation Meeting Oct 25th**

**The Meeting will be  
conducted  
after the worship service.**

All members are encouraged to stay to vote on the 2021 Budget and new Elders and Deacons to start serving in 2021.

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## **JoCo Food Ministry 10/29**

If you would like to make **HOMEMADE** cookies please sign-up on the sheet outside of the office.

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**MEALS ON WHEELS**

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**Our teams are delivering  
Meals On Wheels again  
but**

***WE FIND OURSELVES IN  
NEED OF  
ADDITIONAL DRIVERS***

**Please contact Carole Prentice  
if you would like to be a part  
of this important ministry.**

## 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!*

October 11, "Your Golden Calf"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5owG8sfYgk>

Oct. 18, "Parts is Parts"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JG6hgf-oSiA>

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Children's Worship and Wonder by  
Christina Stokes

Oct. 11 2020 "Judges to Kings"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAMNp57Q338>



October 18 "Solomon Builds the Temple"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPLNbucaDk8>



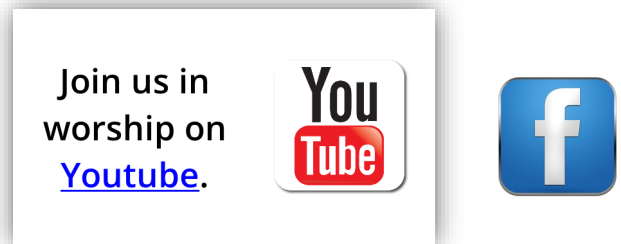
Click the image to get involved in the life of the church

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Watch for our next Newsletter on November 7, 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 this button



**DON'T FORGET TO SHARE** study sessions and Sunday Services with someone.

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## DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies, It's me with a report.

We started October with \$2,774.15, no income, and one expense. We sent Tall Oaks a check for \$200.00 as a donation to the Gala. This completes what we budgeted for Tall Oaks, and leaves a balance of \$2,574.15.

The Service Chair (me) took a Walmart size bag full of can tabs to Merriam-Park School. They were very happy to accept. Thanks to you who save and bring tabs to the Church.

About a half dozen of us enjoyed the Evening DWM meeting at Countryside on Thursday. The Rev. Dr. Roger Beason gave an interesting program on the Apocrypha. Sorry you missed it.

Hopefully Sarah and Esther can get back to meeting after the election is over and Pam and Jackie are available again.

That's all for now.

Joyce Luke, Treasurer  
and Service

Pastor Mark's  
**Prayerful Meditation**  
mid-week video (10/7)

Take a few minutes, place your day on pause and dwell in God's word. Click on the image here.

This week's meditation comes from Psalm 76



**Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings**



**Write a check.** You can mail your check to the church or DROP-IT in our 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

**Calendar**

**Sunday - October**

10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 4**  
**Liturgist Bruce Roach**

**Congregation Meeting after service**

**Sunday- Nov. 1st**

10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 1**  
**Liturgist Jim Walker**

**Thursday - Nov. 5**

NOON Newsletter Deadline

**Sunday - Nov. 8th**

10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 2**  
**Liturgist Susan Neil**

**Sunday - Nov. 15th**

10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 3**  
**Liturgist Jennifer Spiegel**

**September 2020 Finance Report**



**THANK YOU ALL**  
**for your continuing generosity**  
**during this difficult time.**

*Your Treasurer*



Click the image to learn more on how to get involved in the community



**THE NEW CHURCH SIGN HAS BEEN INSTALLED.  
THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS ARE  
SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED THE LAST  
WEEK OF OCTOBER**

**LOOK FOR THE SIGN TO BEGIN DISPLAYING  
MESSAGES THE FIRST WEEK OF  
NOVEMBER!**

***THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING THIS  
BEAUTIFUL SIGN POSSIBLE!***

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR HOUSE & GROUNDS  
COMMITTEE FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK ON THE  
EXTERIOR OF THE CHURCH! THE PAINTING, WOOD  
REPLACEMENT AND WINDOW REPAIRS  
ARE NEARLY COMPLETED.  
*THE CHURCH IS LOOKING MAGNIFICENT!***



As Covid numbers rise, we pray for all those who are sick, for their families, and for the healthcare professionals shepherding them through this difficult disease. We pray for healing, for comfort, and for strength as we work together to overcome this moment.

## Those Needing Prayers

- **Jim Owen's** has a stiff neck, possibly a pinched nerve
- **Ann Dickerson** went to the hospital last week for extreme back pain, but is back home now.
- **Betty Cline** continues to rehab her broken leg at Lakeview.

## Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Carole Prentice's** brother **Steve** is in the latter stages of Parkinson's
- **Joyce Luke's** grandson **Luke** is diagnosed with Covid, but is having no symptoms so far.
- **Pam Boyd's** friend **Chris Moreno** diagnosed with brain tumor, has three small children at home.
- **Bruce Roach's** and his family on the passing of his grandmother.
- **Connie Hennigh's** son-in-law's cousin was diagnosed with cancer.
- **Connie Hennigh's** great grandson **Benny Lindley**.
- **Sylvia Martin**, former member, passed away.
- **Maria Vega**, our nursery attendant, and her children were diagnosed with COVID. Her children are doing better but Maria continues to struggle.
- **Donna Rankin's** niece **Julie Moon** has been diagnosed with Covid.
- **Bev McDonald's** cousin **Lou Ann** has been diagnosed with leukemia.
- **Jan Pankey's** nephew **Tyler Pankey** had part of his colon removed. He has been in the hospital for three weeks and they are still trying to figure out what is wrong. He and his wife have 10 kids at home.
- **Heather Waite** and her family on the passing of Heather's uncle Junior Waite.
- **Lakeview**, where several of our members reside, has a recent outbreak of Covid. Nineteen residents and six staff have tested positive recently, all within the care center. Please pray for this senior community.
- The family of **Betty Gulick**, who passed away. Pastor Mark performed the service.
- **Sean and Megan Kelly**, and **Lyn and Jon White** were married by Pastor Mark this past weekend. Please pray for them as they begin their journey together as hus-

band and wife.

- **Joyce Campbell's** son **Leigh** could use prayers.
- **We pray for all peace, understanding, and compassion** in our nation during this election season. May we not see one another as enemies and adversaries, but as brothers and sisters, united in passion to make our country better even as we are separated by ideologies. May we remember to love our neighbor and those we might perceive as our enemy alike, and approach these next few weeks with humility, patience, and kindness to serve one another. And a special prayer of peace and strength for all those who work in our election offices during this incredibly busy, stressful season.
- To that end, **on November 3rd, we will be joining with other Johnson County DOC churches in a virtual prayer vigil.** Throughout the day I will send out reminders to stop and pray, with suggested prayer resources. Additionally we will be posting and sharing a special prayer service you can watch and participate with online. As we prepare for this emotional day, make plans to join in, as part of the Body of Christ.
- **We pray for all those who are sick, or are afraid they will get sick.** We pray for all those without adequate health insurance who live in fear of injury or disease. We pray for all those on the front lines, healthcare professionals putting their lives at risk to serve. We pray for all the scientists working to find answers and a vaccine. May God's healing spirit be upon our world during this pandemic.
- **For all those whose employment is being affected, changed, and hampered by the current crisis.** Let them not walk alone in this scary time, but let them feel the prayers and support of the great cloud of witnesses surrounding them as they traverse this difficult path.
- **For our churches as they navigate this new normal.** Help us to find our way forward to be the serving living embodiment of the Body of Christ.

### **PRAISE**

- **Dorothy Kroh's** grandson, **Phillip**, started seminary.

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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.**







## ***It's Time for our Annual Cornucopia!***

We are feeding 30 families from Merriam-Park and Crestview Elementary Schools for Thanksgiving this year. These are families the schools identified as needing some extra help at this time of year, who aren't being aided by

other organizations. We provide a box of food and a ham for their Thanksgiving meal. We will collect donations of food items or donations to Make-a-Difference from October 18 through November 22.

**Oct 25** - Peanut Butter and Jelly

**Nov 1** - Canned Veggies and Canned Fruit

**Nov 8** - Spaghetti and Sauce

**Nov 15** - Cereal, Hot or Cold

**Nov 22** - BOXED Potatoes (Mashed, scalloped, etc.) No fresh potatoes please

Any other non-perishables you would like to donate are also welcomed. Folks are welcomed and encouraged to donate to Make-a-Difference as well, as 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.



## **Elders Helping Elders**

**Oct 25, 2020**

**5:00 PM Central Time**

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/99482503727?pwd=dVduUFBidmNNOWdZdVNwMHlrSTZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 994 8250 3727

Passcode: 217476

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,99482503727#,,,,,0#,,217476# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,99482503727#,,,,,0#,,217476# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 994 8250 3727

Passcode: 217476

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aEI6eaPfr>

# NOVEMBER 2019

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

**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE  
FOR November 2020**

**November 1, 2020 — 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 1** Carol Vann  
 Michelle Land  
 Emily Hooker  
**Liturgist** Jim Walker

**November 8, 2020 — 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 2** Carole Prentice  
 Pam Boyd  
**Liturgist** Susan Neil

**November 15, 2020 — 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 3** Jim Walker  
 Bob Pape  
 David Roebuck  
**Liturgist** Jennifer Spiegel

**November 22, 2020 — 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 4** Jon Beaver  
 Pat Reed  
 Emily Hooker  
**Liturgist** Pat Reed

**November 29, 2020 — 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 4** Jon Beaver  
 Pat Reed  
 Emily Hooker  
**Liturgist** Hanging of the Greens



**Celebrating Birthdays This Month:**

Bob Pape	Nov. 1
Anita Minshew	Nov. 3
Katie Schwenk	Nov. 4
Floy Smith	Nov. 5
Virginia Wilson	Nov. 6
Fred Lockard	Nov. 10
Dorothy Kroh	Nov. 18
Nick Hennigh	Nov. 23
Ya Larson	Nov. 25
Joyce Luke	Nov. 30



**Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:**

Paul & Alice Goff	Nov. 11
Allen & Jackie Watts	Nov. 26
Wayne & Emily Hooker	Nov. 28