



Vol. LV
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SUNDAYS:
8:30 a.m.
10:45 a.m.
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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,

For the past month we have been discussing stewardship in worship. We have asked ourselves the question: What Do I Bring? It is a question posed in response to God's grace and love in our lives. It is a question based on our response to God's provision in our lives. It is a question we must ask ourselves again and again each time we come. What do I bring to offer to God.

What gifts do I bring? My talents, abilities, gifts, blessings, my very super-powers; those things I am good at and enjoy doing, do I bring those and offer them to God? What about the things I don't see value in? I am good at crossword puzzles. Or I am enjoy watching football. Or I am good at juggling while riding a unicycle (I am not good at this, but you get the point). Everything I am good at, possess skills for, or excel at; that is a gift from God and God expects me to use those gifts for God's kingdom. So do I bring those things and lay them at God's feet on Sundays and say, "Use these gifts you have given to me"?

What about my time? We value time so much, we refer to it like money. We spend it, save it, lose it, waste it, and find it. No other piece of us so clearly reflects our priorities and values. What we spend time on tells the world what is important to us. Such a valuable gift from God, are we good stewards of our time? Do

we bring our clocks into worship and lay them on the altar and offer our time to God? All of it. Every second of every day. This is one of our most valuable assets. Do we bring it to God and offer it at all? And lastly, what money, or financial resources do we bring as stewards of God's church. The ministry and mission of the church happen because of good stewards like you, who give to make this church's presence in our community possible. But what part of our money do we bring? Do we bring God our first fruits? The best of what we have to offer? Our first deposits. Or are we giving God whatever is left over? Are we bringing the scraps to God and hoping for a miracle each time? Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." That is overwhelming possibility if we only give God the best of what we have. So ask yourself, what do I bring?

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.

“THE BREAD OF LIFE”

The more I read the Bible, the more I realize that Love is God’s supreme attribute. Behind every dealing God has with us is His Perfect Love. It was Love that mad Him create us, and it was Love that caused him to send His Son to redeem us. His Love pursues us and draws us to Himself, and His Love wills some day take His children into His presence forever.

As with other aspects of His nature, we have a difficult time fully understanding God’s “Love.” For one thing, the word “Love” has come to mean almost anything today. Of course, we say we “love ice cream or the color of a car,” or we say we “love” an entertainer or celebrity (even though we’ve never met them, and never will.) But I tell you God’s “Love” is far deeper than this. His “Love” is not a passing fancy of a superficial emotion; it is a profound and unshakable commitment that seeks what’s best for us. Human love may change or fade, but God’s “Love” never will. He says to us, “I have Loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness” (Jeremiah 31:3 NIV).

Therefore, do not sentimentalize God’s “Love,” however. God’s “Love” is not always a warm, fuzzy feeling that ignores sin or shuns judgment. God’s holiness demands that sin be punished, but God’s “Love” has provided the Way to Redemption through Jesus Christ. If it weren’t for God’s “Love” we would have no Hope, either in this life or the life to come.

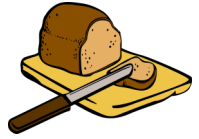
There is no other love like “the Love of God,” and I do know there is “HOPE” for the people who truly believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Father of all who know Him.

“FOR GOD SO LOVE THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. FOR GOD SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD, NOT TO CONDEMN THE WORLD BUT THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE SAVED THROUGH HIM. (JOHN 3:16-17)

A GOOD THOUGHT TO REMEMBER:
“THE MAN WAS AS CALM AND CONFIDENT AS A CHRISTIAN WITH THREE ACES!” (DONALD KAUL-KC STAR long ago)

“FAITH...HOPE...LOVE: THESE THREE, BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE!” Ain’t that wonderful?

Love ya,
Rex & Irene



SAVE THE DATE

Historic Churches Tour-Thursday, October 3rd

There is still time to sign up! Don’t miss out! Sign-up sheet is outside the church office.

Bus will leave the church at **8:45 am** and return to church around 1pm

We will tour 3 churches where docents will provide the tour and we’ll drive by others. Touring:

- Country Club Christian (sculpture of the Last Supper by Zappia)
- Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Donation of \$10 per person is suggested
ALL MEN & WOMEN ARE WELCOME



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, lets eat a good meal together and celebrate what God has done in our midst..

Everyone is welcome to attend!

FINANCIAL REPORT AUGUST 2019

Revenues - \$13,549.00

Expenses - \$12,378.00

A large, stylized green dollar sign graphic is positioned at the top left of the financial report box. Another smaller green dollar sign graphic is at the bottom right corner of the box.

ATTENTION SHOPPERS

Just a reminder that our service for September and October is Hats & Gloves and Books for the JCCB.

Thanks again for your continued support of our CWF/DWM.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer & Service



NEW MEMBERS

Gregory Lee Spiegel his wife, Jennifer Lynne Spiegel and son Zachary Spiegel, joined Merriam Christian Church on September 22, 2019. Greg is the son of Liz Spiegel and Merrill Spiegel. Greg teaches Chemistry at Staley High School in Kansas City, Missouri where their son Zach is a student also. Jennifer teaches Language Arts at Antioch Middle School in Gladstone, Missouri.

Please welcome them to our congregation and add their address and phone numbers to your directory. They live at 10320 N Cypress, Kansas City, MO 64156. Jennifer's phone number is 816-853-7514 and Greg's number is 816-853-2064. Greg's email address is gspiegel@me.com and Jennifer's is jennifer.spiegel@park.edu.

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



Thank You!

Thanks to all you great cooks for the wonderful salads you donated to the Regional Dinner/Meeting Thursday evening. As your treasurer, I am happy to announce that I deposited \$240.00 gathered at the door. If you missed it, you missed a good meal and a very informative program. (Thanks Susie)

As your Service Chair, be reminded that we are collecting books and hats and gloves for the Johnson County Christmas Bureau. Christmas is rapidly slipping up on us, and will be here before I am ready. Thank you for your continued support of our CWF/DWM.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service

CORNUCOPIA COLLECTIONS COMING SOON!

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

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

Here is what we are collecting each Sunday:

- Oct 6 - Canned Soup and Crackers
- 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 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.



OUR GANG CLUB

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



Elder Scam Awareness Night

Monday, October 21, 2019

South Patrol

9701 Marion Park Drive

Kansas City, MO

5:30 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Presentation

Join the FBI and the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department as they present Elder Scam Awareness. The evening is specifically geared to elders and caretakers of elders (those that are looking after a mother/father/etc.)

The goal is to educate the public on some of the common scams that elders fall victim to, how they investigate/prosecute those cases and what options are available for victims. This event is open to the public and is not specifically for the FBIKCCAAA. However, you are welcome to attend and to share with groups/businesses/organizations that you deem appropriate and would benefit from this evening's presentation.

Please RSVP for this event by clicking the link rsvp-kc@fbi.gov or email directly using that address if the link doesn't work for you.



ELDER SCAM AWARENESS NIGHT

PRESENTED BY THE FBI AND KCMO POLICE DEPARTMENT

You get a call that says you've won a low cost vacation. All you have to do is pay a flat fee up front. Without thinking you wire the money, because the deal is too good to pass up! But instead of a free vacation, you've fallen victim to a scam.

Every day people fall victim to scams like this and many times it's our senior citizens. The FBI and KCMO Police Department are hosting an elder scam awareness night for elders and their caretakers. Learn about different types of scams, how to identify them and what to do if you are contacted by a scammer.

KCPD SOUTH PATROL
9701 MARION PARK DRIVE,
KANSAS CITY, MO 64137

6:00-8:00 P.M., REGISTRATION AT 5:30 P.M.

****PLEASE EMAIL "RSVP-KC@FBI.GOV" TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.****

Prayer List



Those Needing Prayers: Joe Myers, Opal Seals, Don Rudkin, Jo Rudkin, Connie Hennigh, Dorothy Kroh, Wendy Manthe, Welcome new members Greg, Jennifer, and Zach Spiegel

Requests for Family and Friends:

Susie Arnold's friend, Chris Pieschl
Lynn Beaver's friend, Corey Stoker
All impacted and affected by Hurricane Dorian
Pam Boyd's friend, Suzanne White's husband
Francis Shafer's friend Daniel's grandmother,
Betty Borsing
Jackie Watt's friend, Gala Hanson
Scott Stokes father, Jeff Stokes

Praises:

Rebecca & Eric Brown on their marriage
Nancy Hines granddaughter, Amanda Stevenson
on her marriage
Mason & Kyle Homoly on their wedding

Those in Grief:

Sharon Conor's family in her passing; friend of
Jennifer Abbott
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

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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.



MEALS ON WHEELS

October 1: Jim Owens & Pat Reed

October 8: Francis & Wendy Shafer

Watch for the next Newsletter the week of October 12, 2019. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*



Calendar

Sunday - September 29
8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
Monday - September 30
9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB
Tuesday - October 1
6:00 Elders Meeting
7:00 Committee Meetings
Thursday - October 3
9:30 DWM
Saturday - October 5
9:00-5:00 Pastoral Ethical Wkshops-CH
Sunday - October 6
8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
Monday - October 7
9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB
Tuesday - October 8
7:00 Board Meeting
Friday - October 11
12:00 Newsletter Deadline
Saturday - October 12
9:00-12:00 DWM Cabinet-Clsm

JESUS CAN

If your heart is broken and you need a friend to help you get your life back together again...Jesus can just have a talk with him.

If you feel unwanted and you feel afraid you can't forgive yourself for mistakes you've made...Jesus can, He's your best friend.

If your heart feels empty and you don't know why and life just seems to be passing you by and you just can't win...Jesus can.

My life's been fair, my life's been good I would change some things if only I couldJesus can, I had a talk with him.

The Bible says it so I know it's true. He's prepared a place for me and you. Just trust in Him, He's your best friend

By Beth & Dave Irwin

Thank you Bev McDonald - she will be singing this Sunday, September 29th