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Interim Sabbatical  
Minister

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Organist and Pianist  
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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 and family of Merriam Christian Church-

It is harvest time in our part of the world! The days grow shorter and cooler. The leaves begin to fall. We can and store the rich fruit of summer for a season of Sabbath in the land. All of earth prepares to lie dormant, to enter into deep rest, in the blanket of winter.

Harvest time is a busy time. It is for squirrels scattering around our yards and parks to collect acorns. And it is a busy time for MCC. Beginning October 8th we will be collecting items for our Cornucopia offering to Merriam Park and Crestview Elementary Schools. Below is our schedule for collection:

October 8- Canned soup & crackers  
October 15- Peanut butter & jelly  
October 22- Canned fruit & veggies  
October 29- Spaghetti & sauce  
November 5- Cereal (hot or cold)  
November 12- Potatoes & Macaroni (boxed)

We are also in the spooky month of October, which means it is time to collect bags of candy to hand out at Merriam Park Elementary 'Boo for Bears' fest.

As I sit in my office at MCC today to write this letter, I see our church at work as the hands and feet of Christ in the busy harvest season. This morning, I accompanied Carole Prentice to the Shawnee Mission School Partnership Kickoff. The room was filled with folks representing groups who support the neediest kids in these schools. And MCC is in that number. Talking with leaders at Merriam Park, it is very obvious that they are eternally grateful for the partnership that MCC has with them.

Then I returned to the office to find Rick Ferguson waiting on a delivery from Harvesters. Again, I was in awe of the boxes that were loaded into the elevator. I was reminded of all the kids and parents in this neighborhood whose livelihood is rooted in our willingness to collaborate with organizations in this good, hard work.

MCC is a community that strives to bring a harvest all year round to those in our midst who seem to live in perpetual winter. There is, in my mind, no better way to reflect the ministry of Jesus Christ who fed the hungry in body as well as in spirit.

I am grateful to be a partner with you all in the labor.

With gratitude for our season of growing as disciples together,

Pastor Casey



### MEMBER PROFILES

*Katie Schwenk*

Ten things you might not know:

1. Grew up in Salem, Illinois (not NE)
2. Middle child of 3 kids.
3. Favorite movies musicals -  
White Christmas is my all-time fav.
4. I collect Barbie dolls!
5. My middle name is Terrill -  
K.T. Katie ...Get it?
6. I have danced for 29 years of life.
7. Music took me to 9 foreign countries
8. Favorite musician, Florence + the Machine
9. Missed college graduation, but made grad school ceremony
10. Played French Horn solo in front of Arnold Schwarzenegger, he clapped

## “THE BREAD OF LIFE”

In Hebrews 11:1, we find these words (RSV): “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” And now, I will add to that passage, I Corinthians 13:1-3, which reads: “If I speak in tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as a I have been fully understood. SO FAITH, HOPE, LOVE ABIDE, THESE THREE; BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.”...

I have always understood that “FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE,” were “The Big Three” words of the Bible. They are the “Three Pillars of Christianity!” Paul says that the greatest of these is LOVE because it took the Love of God to die on the Cross that we who call ourselves Christians might have Eternal Life in Him. This is our “HOPE!” “Jesus paid a debt He did not owe, and we owed a debt we could not pay!”...

In Billy Graham’s book, “Reason For my Hope,” he wrote these words for people who truly love the Lord Jesus Christ Who gave his life in our behalf: “The Gift To The World” is not on display, locked away under glass in a museum. The Gift To The World” is not on display, locked away under glass in a museum. The Gift of the world came in the form of a personal Savior Who for our freedom with His priceless life. His Spirit remains with us today, bringing salvation to all who will take hold. This Hope is an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.” I hope to see you Sunday in His House.

Love ya,  
Rex

## MEALS ON WHEELS

October 3: Jim Owens & Paul Goff  
October 10: Carole Prentice & Michelle Land

## VISITATION REPORT

**Pauline Smith**—visited with Pauline, she is living with her son, Joe and family in their new house in the Piper area; they have 5 generations together; she is enjoying having children, grandchildren, & great grandchildren around; Pauline is in good physical health, although dementia is taking its toll. She is 96 (will be 97 in February). Her address is: 12817 Roswell, Kansas City, KS 66109. She would appreciate cards from her church family.

**Jim Owens**—was still hospitalized; Jim had several complications following his minor surgery, including a bout with pneumonia; he is scheduled be released from the hospital, Sat., Sept. 30., and is going to the Rehab unit at Lakewood for awhile. He is feeling better and now it’s a matter of gaining his strength back. His daughter Millie from California was here visiting.

**Jo Rudkins**—visited by phone, she had company arriving, so I didn’t go to their house; Jo is doing very well following treatments for her back, and is getting around without her walker.

**Nona Davis**—via phone, Nona is progressing after her surgeries; is at home and gaining her strength back from her hospital stays. She has help going places but had just returned from grocery shopping so was not up to having company.

**Donna & Arnie Ward**—visited with them, always a delight; Arnie was feeling good today,

**Mary Kincaid**—visited with Mary, she has been walking some (very limited) with the assistance of Bob Pape. She is proud she can be up on her feet;. She was feeling pretty good while we were there, always a smile.

**Ruth Sullivan**—visited Ruth at The Healthcare Resort of Olathe; she was at Happy Hour and was very glad and happy to see me. Of course, she asked how I knew where she was (Thanks Wendy Mathe), she has been there less than a month. Her new address is: The Healthcare Resort of Olathe, 21250 W. 151stSt., Olathe, KS 66061.

**Jennifer Abbott**—unable to reach Jennifer; last I heard she is at home recuperating from her hospital stay, still expecting more medical issues in future.

Please let me know of anyone who is hospitalized, unable to attend church, or would like a visit so I can bring contact them for Merriam Christian Church. I always call ahead before I go so as to not “surprise” anyone and to make sure they are up to having visitors. Francis

## JUST A REMINDER....

Please have all articles for the Newsletter in the Church Office by noon on Friday before the Newsletter is due to be printed on Saturday. All articles received after that time will go in the next Newsletter.



Watch for the next newsletter  
the week of October 14, 2017



# MEMBERSHIP

Friends,

As this newsletter goes to print, two of our members are participating in a 2-day training for our church family and future.

What it is:

Children's Worship & Wonder is a Disciples of Christ program that introduces young children to worship in a way that works for them.

"Children do love and worship God, but they need to be introduced to the meaning and actions of corporate worship in a sensorimotor way. They need to know how to find the quiet place within, which enables them to get ready to worship "all by themselves" rather than sit in church in an imposed silence. – (Young Children and Worship, Stewart & Berryman)

How you can help:

First, please be open-minded! Change is always difficult, especially in a 100+ year old church. Please open your heart to the opportunity that we have. If that means being flexible and agreeing to do things "a little bit different" than they've always been done, please have an open mind.

Second, please be supportive! As a new program, we don't know many details yet, but we do know that there will be some preparing of materials that needs to happen to conduct the worship properly. We MAY ask for donations such as crayons, paper, shoe boxes, fabric, wood, etc or possibly donations of your time to help get materials prepared or financial resources to help pay for materials if needed.

Third, strive to understand why this or some type of worship for our children is important. Currently, our worship offers very little to keep children involved and is concerning that this will turn away potential new members who could be the future of our church. We would love to see MCC still alive and well at the 200-year anniversary! Our children offer that opportunity.

If you have questions, please email me at ymarettes@gmail.com.

If you want to help, stay tuned to the Newsletter and announcements. We will surely let you all know what is needed! Thank you in advance!

In His Service,  
Amy DeCoursey & Christina Stokes

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## CHURCH BOARD AND OTHER HAPPENINGS

Several interesting and eventful happenings occurred during our Board meeting on September 12th.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Bob Pape, Chairman, presented the slate of officers to be elected for the 2018 church year. These individuals will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting in October. Our thanks to the Nominating Committee for their work.

## BUDGET FOR 2018

Dixie Wheaton presented the proposed budget for the 2018 church year. This budget will be discussed and voted upon at the annual Congregation Meeting, October 15th. Our thanks to the Finance Committee for their work.

## REGIONAL OFFICE TO SHARE SPACE @ CHURCH

Our Board voted several months ago to offer the Regional Office space and office at Merriam Church beginning October 1st. An article and announcements were previously made.

Although the secretary will share our office area we are to all remember that she is not the secretary of the church. We will continue using Pat for all our office needs.

## JCCB SHARING SPACE

The Client Services Committee of the JCCB will be sharing one or two classrooms during the day. Their primary function is to contact and schedule clients as they prepare to serve around 12,000 clients this year. Most of their work will be on lap-top computers and thus very little materials will remain in the classroom. They simply need a place to work during October and November. MCC has always been a great supporter of JCCB, and the consensus of the Board was that we will continue in the outreach program. Should any issues need to be addressed, please contact Jim Owens

## DIALOGUE INSTITUTE OF KANSAS CITY

You may remember when we hosted a dinner during Ramadan for some members of the Dialogue Institute. They would like to host our church for a Saturday brunch at 10:30 am at the Dialogue Institute to reciprocate our hospitality. Our goal is to flourish our relationship through this Intercultural and Interfaith exchange. The Dialogue Institute is located at 4215 Shawnee Dr., Kansas City, Ks.

We have tentatively set October 7th as our exchange brunch date. We will keep you posted as plans develop.

## NEW FRONT DOORS

The New Front Doors are complete and we think they are beautiful. Our sincere thanks to Jon Beaver & Co. for their dedication and design of these doors. You must step outside to get the total essence of their beauty. The doors are a memorial to Jeff Beaver and Deborah Owens. Tentative plans are they will be dedicated on Sunday, November 5th.

As you can tell we have some exciting events coming up this fall and we want you to become involved. Our church continues to serve our community in so many ways and we are truly blessed to have all of these opportunities. Thank you for working together as a church team.

Jim Owens  
Board Chairman

# Prayer List



**Those Needing Prayers:** Jennifer Abbott, Jim Owens, Francis Shafer, Rex Heavin.

**Requests for Family and Friends:**  
Shayna Adam's father, Jeff Cleghorn  
Wendy Manthe's relative, Debbie Detray

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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.

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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

October 15, 2017

To vote on the new budget for 2018, Please plan to attend!



## OUR GANG CLUB

Our Gang Club met Thursday, Sept. 21 in the Library at MCC. There were 10 who came to watch the sequel, God Is Not Dead 2. There were some new faces in the crowd, and some regulars who could not make it. Popcorn and snacks were enjoyed by all. Both of these are very good movies and we recommend you view them if possible.

The next meeting will be our regular third Thursday of October, the 19th at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be playing dominoes and board games. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend.



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## BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH DAY

Our most recent "Bring a Friend to Church" Day was on Labor Day weekend. The next one will be October 22nd. We ask that you welcome a friend, family member or neighbor to join us that day for worship. If you see someone new in your pew, please make sure to mention that we offer open communion and to welcome them back any time.

Likewise, if you have been visiting, we welcome you to thoughtfully consider joining our congregation of believers. At the end of each worship, Pastor Casey offers an invitation. Joining our body is as simple as walking forward during that final hymn. We would love to have you and yours on this journey with us!



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## Calendar

- Sunday - October 1
  - 8:30 Early Worship
  - 9:30 Sunday School
  - 10:45 Worship
- Monday - October 2
  - 3:00-7:00 Blood Drive
- Tuesday - October 3
  - 7:00 Committee Meetings
  - 7:00 Scouts
- Wednesday - October 4
  - 9:00-4:00 Regional-LIB
- Thursday - October 5
  - 9:30 CWF
  - 10:00 Tall Oaks Meeting-Classroom
  - 11:30-1:30 Regional-LIB
- Sunday - October 8
  - 8:30 Early Worship
  - 9:30 Sunday School
  - 10:45 Worship
- Monday - October 9
  - 8:30-12:30 Regional-CH
- Tuesday - October 10
  - 4:00 Cubs Set-up
  - 7:00 Board Meeting
  - 7:00 Cubs-Classroom
- Thursday - October 12
  - 10:30-2:00 Regional CH/K
- Friday - October 13
  - 12:00 Newsletter Deadline
- Saturday - October 14
  - 8:30-2:00 DWM Regional Cabinet-CH

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## ATTENTION SHOPPERS

Thank you all for the Children's Books for Johnson County Christmas Bureau. Still some time left to bring in books if you can. The service for October is Hats & Gloves for JCCB. We will have the wood tree for display. Let's fill it up with hats and gloves. We also accept sample-size shampoo, toothpaste, and so forth. Put them on the shelves in Campbell Hall. Don't forget the bar codes and can tabs.

Looking ahead: In November we collect groceries for the Cornucopia and December will be groceries for the Christmas Baskets.

Thanks again, Ladies, for your continued support of these charitable programs.

Joyce Luke  
Service Person  
DWM

