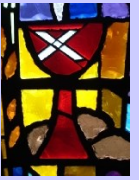


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## 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.

**IN-PERSON & ONLINE**  
10:45 a.m. Suspended

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** **9:00 a.m.**

**In-person & On-Line**

**9401 Johnson Dr.**  
**Merriam, KS 66203**

**(913) 432-2390**

**E-mail**  
[merriamchristian@gmail.com](mailto:merriamchristian@gmail.com)  
[www.merriamcc.org](http://www.merriamcc.org)

**Newsletters**  
[jethowe@gmail.com](mailto:jethowe@gmail.com)



Dear Friends,

The second Sunday after Easter is traditionally a time to focus on the disciples and Jesus appearing to them after the resurrection. In this story, inevitably, we run into Thomas, who misses Jesus' first visit. When informed of the miracle sighting, Thomas is uncertain and doubtful. He wants to see the risen Jesus as well, wants to know that Jesus is back. One week later, Jesus reappears and Thomas' uncertainty and doubt is put to rest as Christ comes proclaiming, "Peace be with you." Often we view Thomas with a little disdain and incredulity: how could he possibly doubt that Christ had come back? Hadn't Jesus talked about this event? Hadn't he spoke to them of his coming back from the grave? How dare Thomas not offer a full-throated apologetic in defense of his belief in Jesus' Resurrection. How could Thomas be so...uncertain...about his faith? But I applaud Thomas' questions and doubts. His uncertainty is a necessary, vital part of a strong faith journey. It is only through doubt and questioning and wrestling with the hard parts of faith that our faith will grow. For Thomas, his uncertainty arose after a week of ups and downs, in which Jesus and his disciples had entered Jerusalem

in triumphant splendor only to see it all come crashing down in the pain and anguish of the crucifixion and death of Jesus. How could his faith not be shaken and trembled by the week that had been? For us, our uncertainty arises when faith meets life head on: in crisis, in tragedy, in success, in hardship, in loss, or in injury. When we face life's ups and downs, it is in the rise and fall that our faith ebbs and flows. We begin asking questions that do not have easy answers. We quit accepting weak platitudes that only serve to make the speaker feel more comfortable in an uncomfortable situation. We wrestle and argue with God, demanding to see behind the curtain and know the answer to hardest question of all: why.

For faith to be able to stand the tragedies and triumphs of this world, it must be run through this ringer eventually. Sooner or later, we all ask the questions that have no good answers. Sooner or later we will all pause in our doubts for a moment. When that time comes, may we be as Thomas, who, while full of question, found himself face-to-face with Jesus and in that moment surrendered completely, declaring, "My Lord and Savior."

God Bless  
Mark

## Pastor Mark's Message

In case you missed any of Pastor Mark's messages sent by email, here are the last two weeks!



April 10th, ["Palm or Passion"](#)

April 14th ["Maundy Thursday"](#)

April 17th, ["Be The Light"](#)

## DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

Hope you did not miss our April Third Thursday. If so, bring your Blessing Boxes to the May meeting. Most important, the Evening DWM meets on the 28th. May not be too late to sign up. Program will be about Tall Oaks. Let me know.

Continue to save empty pill bottles and can tabs. Both are easy to do and greatly appreciated.

That's all folks. Stay safe. See you in Church.

Joyce Luke  
Treasurer/Service

### Special Request

Anyone with extra yarn, please bring to church for Lucy Walker who is currently knitting calming blankets for grade school children.

*Thank You!*

Thank you to everyone for their expressions of caring, for the cards, and for acknowledgements and attendance at my brother John's memorial service.

The women's group is so appreciated for their planning and service at the memorial dinner. Thank you, Pam for your help guiding us through the planning and preparation.

Thank you, Mark for making family feel welcome and cared for. Your words in the service were comforting and hopeful.

I am so grateful to be part of a congregation that is there in troubling times.

With sincere gratitude,  
Linda Railsback

## Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



April 10th, ["The Last Super"](#)

April 17th, ["The Easter Basket"](#)



In-Person Worship is Sundays at 10AM. Online worship WILL continue for those who wish to stay home and participate. Masks are required while inside the building. Please be in prayer that all who attend are safe.

## Those Needing Prayer:

Longtime member **Bob Owens** passed away last week. Please keep his family in your prayers. If you would like to send a card to his family, you can send it to his son, Robert Owens, at 8203 Hauser St, Lenexa, KS 66215

**Paul Jorgenson's family** has called in hospice for him.

**Connie Harshner** at the Shawnee Parc Rehab facility. This is at 75th & Antioch. Her direct phone number to her room is 913-444-7313 . Connie is in Rm. 101.

**Joe Brandmeyer** suffered a stroke but is at home recovering and doing very well.

**Betty Bohn** broke bones in her foot at home. She has to wear a "boot" and stay off of it as much as possible for a few weeks.

**Tammy Ramsey** as she continues her radiation and chemo treatments for breast cancer.

**Nick Hennigh** has had cataract surgery on both eyes in the last three weeks.

**Jim Owens** will be traveling to Virginia this week for his sister's memorial service. Prayers for safe travels.

## Requests for Family and Friends:

**Connie Hill's brother Charles Nikias** is having surgery on both of his feet and will be off of them for quite a while.

**Bev McDonald** asked for prayers for her **sister Margaret Rose**.

**Jeannette Howe's coworker and friend, Casey Evans** is needing a test to see if she has leukemia.

**Bob Pape** mentioned his **friend and former firefighter Steve Parks** had heart surgery. Dur-

ing the operation a complication arose, and Steve is now blind.

**Anita Minshew's daughter-in-law Gerlyn's** first surgery went well, she has another scheduled for tomorrow and should be home to recover that day.

The **family of Paul Bell** who passed recently. Pastor Mark performed the services. Please pray for this family as they grieve.

**The People of Ukraine. Pray for their safety, pray for their deliverance, and pray for peace.**

## Thank YOU!!

DWM wishes to thank everyone who came out for the ReZound Bell Concert. It was an overwhelming success.





## Easter Egg Hunt 2022



## Free Hot Soup

MCC Outreach has joined forces with the Free Hot Soup organization to help our homeless population. We are working with Free Hot Soup Organization again to collect items for homeless.

We will collect bottled water during April. Bring them any Sunday this month and place them in the shopping carts. If you have any questions, reach out to Pam Boyd.



**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE**  
**For April 2022**

**April 24, 2022— 10:00 AM**  
**Liturgist    Connie Hennigh**



**Meals on Wheels**

Tuesday, April 26th  
Mark Willis & Rick Ferguson

Tuesday, May 3rd  
Joan Tarwater & Linda Railsback

Tuesday, May 10th  
Pat Reed & Jim Owens

Pick up meals at 10:30 am at the Merriam  
Community Center, 6040 Slater

**Backsnack Packing**

Week of May 3rd  
Pat Reed

Week of May 19th  
Rick Ferguson

Week of May 16th  
Carole Prentice



**Celebrating Birthdays This Month:**

Heather Vann	May 1
Betty Bohn	May 6
Tyshawn Bryant	May 10
Marjorie Willard	May 11
James Walker	May 14
Gwenyth Schwenk	May 15
Bonnie Bohn	May 24
Irene Heavin	May 24
Ray Bohn	May 29
Carole Prentice	May 29



**Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:**

Joel & Patti Beaver	May 6
Bruce & Katie Roach	May 13
Fred & Connie Lockard	May 18
Tim & Susie Arnold	May 22
Nicholas & Connie Hennigh	May 26





**Tuesday, April 12, 2022**  
Minutes recorded by  
Donna Rankin, Board Secretary

**Present in Person:** Pastor Mark Willis, Mike Nichols, Donna Rankin, Greg Spiegel, Joel Beaver, Dixie Wheaton, Pat Reed, Pam Boyd, Rick Ferguson, Joyce Luke, Michelle Land, Bruce Roach, Emily Hooker, Anita Collins, Jennifer Spiegel, Bob Pape

Mike called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Emily-Walk in Your Light

**Minutes of 3/08/22 Board Meeting:** Mike asked the board to review the minutes; Motion to accept report by Michelle Land; seconded by Pam Boyd; board vote, approved.

**Current Financial Report:** Mike asked the board to review the current financial report; Motion to accept report by Emily Hooker; seconded by Pat Reed; board vote, approved.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

**Clerk:** Pastor Mark on behalf of Betty-Alpha Wickham passed away March 12, 2022/joined April 11, 1993 and Donna Ward passed away March 18, 2022/she and husband Arnold joined November 20, 1955; Arnold passed away May 14, 2018; total membership 142.

**DWM:** Pam-On March 17 we had the pleasure of setting up and serving a meal to Alpha Wickham's family following her funeral service. We were able to hold our monthly meeting on March 17 with nine ladies in attendance. We agreed to place the "FELLOWSHIP ON THE LEAST COIN" container on the table outside of the office for all members to deposit their pennies. These monies will go to the National Christian Women United to administer. On April 2 we set up and served a meal for the Railsback family following the funeral service for Larry Railsback. ReZound Bell Choir provided us with a very successful Spring Program on April 9. Prior to the concert we provided a dinner for the performers. It was wonderful to see the sanctuary filled with people enjoying the concert. Our THANKS to everyone who assisted with these events.

**Elders:** Pastor Mark-Met with Elders & Deacons after worship on 4/10 for prayer and scriptures. Will be reintroducing Elders and Deacons into worship service on Easter and moving forward.

**H&G:** Joel-Bob and Rick put up the Star Burst in the sanctuary prior to Palm Sunday. Spring service by McCarty on air conditioning units. All were good except for Unit No. 4, which lost its freon again, and needs to be replaced. Received a bid on a Trane Unit in stock now. If sold and need to reorder, may take a long time to receive. Bob replaced all light bulbs in library with 100 watt LED, much better lighting now. Bob replaced 8' lights in kitchen; however, they did not work indicating the ballast is bad. He will get two new light fixtures to match the others. Bob was able to use the lift used by the tuck point repair guys to replace four light bulbs in the parking lot. One light does not work. It may be a ballast or something else. If Bob is unable to figure out the problem, we will need to hire a lighting company. The three replaced lights are much brighter now. The tuck point work is progressing nicely. The repairmen did point out that the metal braces over the windows are all rusted and in danger of collapsing. They need to be replaced as soon as possible. MTS can give us a bid for this work. A second problem is because of the water getting into the church, the plaster is cracking badly and falling off the wall all around the windows. We will get bids for this work. Due to low funds, we have decided to put our parking lot and sidewalk repairs on hold until we receive bids for the above work.

**Outreach:** Pam-Items collected during March delivered on April 4 to Free Hot Soup. They are very grateful for our continued support. She expressed the need for bottled water since most of these people live in tents and their only access to water is through this donation. We will make this a priority this month and throughout the coming season. Our weekly Back Snack request from Merriam Park Elementary has dropped to 50. We will receive a list of needs for our Summer Delivery Program within the next week. On March 31 we prepared and packed 125 meals at the church--brown bag take out of peanut butter & jelly sandwich, applesauce sup, chips and cookies—which were picked up for delivery to Olathe for distribution. The kitchen is under renovations at Center for Grace. June 30 is our next scheduled date to provide meals. We continue our weekly schedule for Meals on Wheels every Tuesday.

**Membership:** Donna-Committee hosted Easter Egg Hunt on April 9 with 9 children participating. After hearing an Easter story by Pastor Mark, playing some games and hunting eggs, all children went home happy with lots of candy. Upcoming activities will be Mother's Day and Father's Day. Coffee Hour on May 1st will be hosted by the House & Grounds Committee.

**Memorial:** No report.

**Pastoral Relations:** Pastor Mark- Committee met tonight. Next meeting will be 7/12/22 at 6 pm. PRC will host June Coffee Hour.

Continued on page 7

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mark-We are preparing for Easter. THANK YOU to the Worship Committee, Bob Pape, Rick Ferguson & especially Pat Reed for their help in putting up & changing paraments & picking up palms for last week's Palm Sunday service. We will have a Maundy Thursday Service April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm which will focus on the Lord's Table. THANK YOU to Membership Committee for organizing the East Egg Hunt. A big THANK YOU to DWM for hosting the ReZound concert. It was a rousing success with a full sanctuary! We have had several service opportunities this month, including serving two funeral meals & packing meals for Johnson County Food Ministry. THANK YOU to everyone who helped with these ministries. THANK YOU to Mike Nichols who helped me get the new office phone working correctly for outgoing and incoming calls. The calls still go to the app on my cell phone as well so I can answer when I am not here. We continue to work with Web Sites, after Easter I hope to get this done. I had the opportunity to help Bruce & Katie Roach move into their new home with my truck & trailer. They were very excited to move in after a long search for their new home. I performed thirteen funerals and one wedding this month.

**Regional Report-**Pastor Mark-I continue to serve with our Regional Board as Secretary and am involved in ongoing discussions about the future of Tall Oaks campsite. We are examining and exploring the current state of Tall Oaks, what it will take to get it solvent and what options are available moving forward. These conversations are ongoing, but if we cannot find a way to make Tall Oaks work financially, we will need to consider selling the property.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Trustees:** Michelle-Investment better returns last month.

**Worship:** Pastor Mark-A Maundy Thursday Service will be held on April 14 at 6 pm.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Joel-The air conditioning Unit No. 4 needs to be replaced. Received bid, with 5% discount including delivery and installation, in the amount of \$6,089.50. After discussion, Motion to purchase the new unit by Joyce Luke; seconded by Michelle Land; board vote, approved.

Bob-Pastor Mark addressed the Merriam City Council.

Pastor Mark-Council was to vote on a ban on conversion therapy, a form of religious harassment regarding gender id. He spoke to Council in favor of ban. The Council did not vote but tabled the matter to a later time.

Pastor Mark-Current copier lease expiring. The lease provides maintenance, toner, and support and is paid by the Regional Office. Information provided to board regarding extending the current lease on current copier vs. new copier with a lease. This information was previously discussed with the Region. After much discussion, Motion to purchase new copier with 60 month lease in the amount of \$245.74 per month by Joel Beaver; seconded by Michelle Land; board vote, approved.

**Open Forum:**

Pastor Mark-Bob Owens' visitation at Amos Family Funeral Home will be held on Monday, April 18, from 6 pm to 8 pm; service on Tuesday, April 19, at 1 pm.

Emily-Prayers for Jim Owens.

Bob-Continued prayers for Steve Park.

Some discussion regarding sound system in sanctuary.

Bruce-Please bear with Production Team, learning the new system, will continue to adjust.

Concern about coordinating schedules of Elders & Deacons & Production Team.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.



Motion to adjourn by Greg Spiegel; seconded by Michelle Land.



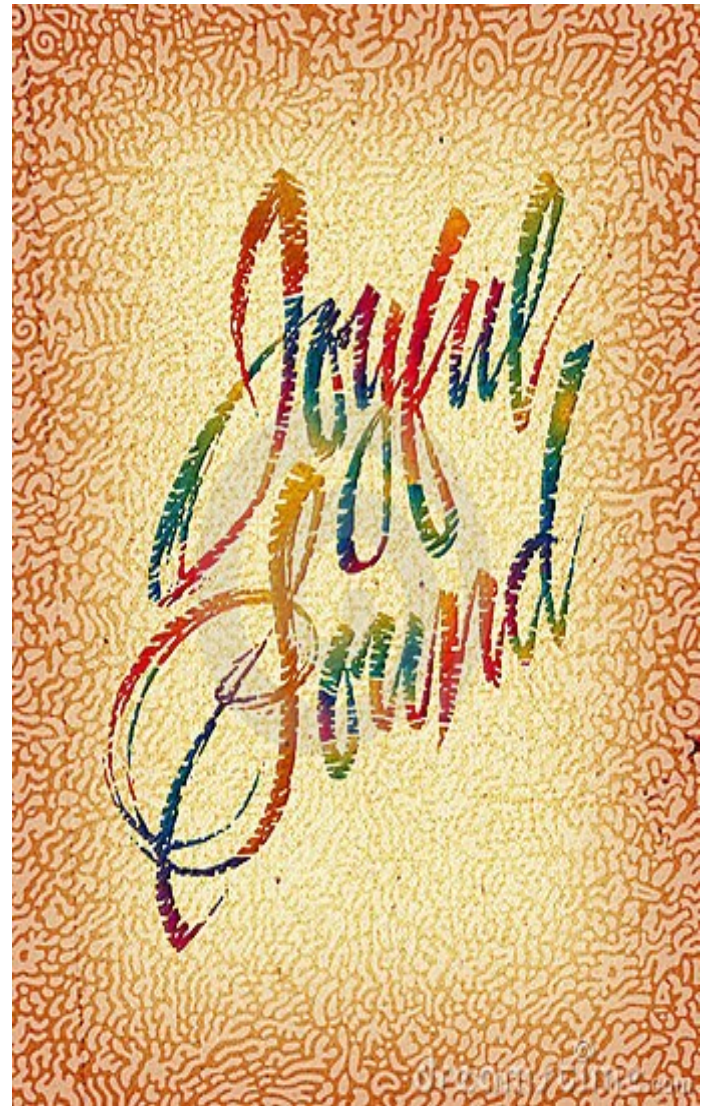


# May 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Room Codes:</i> <i>C-Chapel</i> <i>S-Sanctuary</i> <i>CH-Campbell Hall</i> <i>DP-Disciple 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>					
1 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am DP 10:00 Worship	2 Scouts	3 7:00 Committee Meetings—CH 	4 AA 6:00PM	5	6	7
8 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am DP 10:00 Worship Happy Mothers Day!!	9 Scouts	10 7:00 Board Meeting—CH 	11 AA 6:00pm	12	13	14
15 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am DP 10:00 Worship	16 Scouts	17	18 AA 6:00pm	19 CWF/DWM Business Meeting @ 1:00—Sarah	20	21
22 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am DP 10:00 Worship	23 Scouts	24	25 AA 6:00pm	26	27	28
29 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am DP 10:00 Worship	30 Scouts	31				





## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Our Sunday School class meets from 9:00 -9:45 each Sunday. Following our class time we have a 15 minute break to prepare for Morning Worship at 10:00. We have a nice group and if you haven't started back now would be a good time. Hopefully you will also find this a good support group in many areas.

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

- **Write a check.**
- <http://www.easytithe.com/merriamcc>
- **Text giving:** 913-444-6397

Join us in  
worship on  
[Youtube.](#)



**DON'T FORGET TO SHARE** services &  
study sessions with family, friends and  
neighbors

