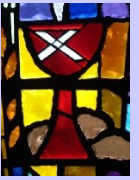


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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 &
(913) 432-5676

E-mail
merriamchristian@gmail.com
www.merriamcc.org

Newsletters
jethowe@gmail.com



Dear Friends,
"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

Merry Christmas. Whatever else I might say or encourage you to do or implore you to consider this wintry season, nothing else matters as much as this: Merry Christmas. Christ is come! Hallelujah!

This holiday usually gets lost in the decorations and parties, the festivities and bows, the presents and gifts, the gatherings and meals. We get busy, making our lists and checking them twice. We are focused on finding that perfect gift, the one that will make the recipient's eyes light up and their face break out in a big

toothy grin. I hope you find that gift, it is a true joy when you see someone open a gift like that. But in all this hustle and bustle, I hope you also take time to stop for a moment, quiet down, and simply be thankful for where we find ourselves every December 25th. We have traveled with Mary and Joseph to the manger, we are present with shepherds and angels, we hear the cattle lowing, and we see the babe. Christ, God's son, the light of heaven, come to us as a baby in a manger. What a joyous, awe-inspiring, heart-filling moment. So whatever else might come up this week, as you hurry to finish your Christmas list and secretly hope for something special in your stocking, Merry Christmas to you and yours this wonderful holiday season. May the grace and love of God abide in you and in your home this Christmas.

Merry Christmas,

Mark



Pastor Mark's Message

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



December 5th, ["Finding Our Way to Peace"](#)

December 12th, ["The Joy Joy Joy Joy Down in My Heart"](#)

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies & Gents,

We had a very nice crowd at the Olive Garden for our luncheon on the 16th. A total of 16, to be exact. Mark made it; Beverly brought her sister; and Susan Neill surprised us. Linda gave a thought-provoking message on Christmas. Pam gave our blessing and Mark closed with a prayer for the season. I heard no complaints about the food or the service, April, like the month. All in all, it was a very good day. Sorry for those who couldn't attend.

Our current balance is \$2,300.03. In November, we gave \$150.00 to Make a Difference for cards for the families we support. We have had no income and no expenses so far in December. But a new year is coming, and we will continue to serve others. Keep saving those pill bottles.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year. Take care and spread the love.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th at 5PM - Make plans to attend this special service as we gather at the manger with the Christ-child. The scripture and songs of Christmas abound as the Word is made flesh in Bethlehem.



YOU ARE AWESOME!

The contributions for gift cards for Merriam Park families have been larger this year. We were able to provide more money for gifts as well as grocery money than in previous years. A big thank you from the Outreach committee for your support. It takes us all to provide for needy folks in our community. A community member also provided a smoked turkey, mashed potatoes and a vegetable for each family. May you all have a great Christmas and remember the reason for the season.
Carole Prentice, Outreach Chair

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



December 5th ["Second Sunday in Advent"](#)

December 12th ["Third Sunday in Advent"](#)



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:

- **Jon Beaver** is home after a couple days in the hospital for heart issues. He is working with his doctors on how to treat.
- **Nanette Ferguson** fell at home and is banged up and sore.
- **Nick Hennigh** was involved in an accident. He is home, but very sore. Connie Hennigh fell at home and is also banged up.
- **Joan Tarwater and Susie Arnold's sister Linda Firth** passed away. Please pray for their families as they grieve this loss.
- **Connie Harshner** has surgery for her wrists scheduled.
- **Nancy Hines** is home from rehab for her broken pelvis.
- **Alpha Wickham** is at home but unable to get out. She would love to hear from church friends, give her a call 913-631-9223

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Casey Meyer's mother's** cancer has spread from her lungs to her brain. Please keep her in your prayers, as well as Mike and Casey and the girls.
- **John Gulick**, former church member and **son-in-law to Floyd and Marie Lytle**, long time members of MCC, passed away Thursday evening. If you want to send a card:
Barbara Gulick
1826 Cedar Ridge Rd,
Jefferson City, Mo. 65109
- **Rick Ferguson's brother-in-law Pat Pask** passed away. Please keep Rick and his family in your prayers.
- **Jim Owen's friend Richard Schroeder** passed away from Covid.

- **Barry Davis' sister Beverly** has lung cancer again.
- **Heather Waite's niece Natalie** is still in the hospital dealing with appendicitis. She has a fever that is continuing to spike, so she cannot come home just yet.
- **Barry Davis' friend Tyler Rain and his new wife** are expecting their first child December 25th! Tyler used to attend services with Barry.
- **Marge Willard's son Jewell** is dealing with a resurgence of his cancer and could use prayers.
- **Connie Hennigh asked for prayers for her granddaughter and her husband, Chelsea and Noah Molder**, as they foster three young boys and are hoping to adopt them.
- **Joe Myers' brother Mark Myers** was diagnosed with leukemia.
- **Joe Myers' sister-in-law Jean Myers** passed away after battling Covid and double-pneumonia. Please keep Joe and Emily and their family in your prayers.
- Please pray for the **families of Buddy Grant and Jeanne Shea**, who pastor Mark did a funeral service for this past week.

Prayer for all those impacted and affected by tornadoes this past weekend in Kentucky and other states.

We pray for all those who have received the vaccine, and for all those who want to get it but haven't yet. We especially pray for those who could get it but are hesitant or resistant. May their hearts be softened with grace and inspired by Christ to serve one another. May we come together to get vaccinated, and begin healing from this long struggle.

We pray for our church, as we hopefully begin to gather again, may we always respond first with grace and love and hope. May we be a light in dark times, bread and cup to hungry people. May we outdo one another in serving others as we strive to do more together as able.

++++

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.





Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Minutes recorded by
Donna Rankin, Board Secretary

Present in Person: Pastor Mark Willis, Carole Prentice, Donna Rankin, Joel Beaver, Michelle Land, Walt Bohn, Betty Bohn, Dixie Wheaton, Pat Reed, Mike Nichols, Greg Spiegel, Pam Boyd, Bob Pape, Anita Minshew, Rick Ferguson, Emily Hooker

Carole called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Bob- read The Story of the Christmas Guest by Helen Steiner Rice.

Minutes of 11/09/21 Board Meeting: Carole asked the board to review the minutes and current financial reports; Motion to accept reports by Mike Nichols; seconded by Dixie Wheaton; board vote, approved.

Committee Chair Reports:

Clerk: Betty-no change, total membership 151

DWM: No report.

Elders: No report.

Finance: Dixie & Michelle-November financial reports provided for review. We have been very busy this month collecting money for Christmas families, Poinsettias, Christmas giving and staff bonus. We only pay bills when we have the invoice signed by the committee chair; write checks once a week, please turn in by Sunday for payment that following week. Donations have been very good this month, including EasyTithes. THANK YOU for your continued support.

H&G: Joel-Church roof completed 12/03, looks great. Once downspouts are received, the guttering will be installed; hope to complete this week. Additional work of scraping and painting the fascia boards behind the gutters was approved and completed. Final clean-up of limbs from cedar tree, fill-in ruts left in Roebuck property and Moffitt house and seeding will be completed by 4T hopefully this week. Clean-up of the sanctuary was needed after the roof installation. THANKS to all who responded to Mark's request for help. It looks great! THANK YOU to David Roebuck for giving us access to their backyard for the roofing project! Basement: The toilet in the church basement leaked for some time and flooded over half of the basement. Bob and Rick vacuumed up the standing water. Bob fixed the problem at the supply line. The red carpet in the basement was saturated. After cleaning the sanctuary, several of us also removed the carpet. Chris moped the floor with a cleaning solution. It looks great and helped with some of the bad smell. The drain outside the basement door was clogged. Bob snaked it out and it is now working. Concrete project-We are in the process of getting bids for replacing the concrete which is busted all around the parking lot and drive. We are also taking bids to seal coat the parking lot after the concrete work is completed. The parking lot will also be restriped. Campbell Hall-I was notified of a humming noise coming from one of the light fixtures; Bob disconnected the light as the ballast was bad and we are in the process of replacing it. Hall restroom-It was reported that the toilet was leaking; Bob replaced the fill valve and also added drain cleaner to the slow draining sink. Brick surfaces-MTS Contracting was selected to replace all missing and/or broken tuck pointing around the church. They will do this project in the Spring. Furnace-Bob met the McCarty Mechanical tech who came to install parts that had been ordered for some of the furnaces. McCarty also reported that the furnace that heats the upstairs classrooms has a broken heat exchanger. That furnace has been disconnected, it is 29 years old and needs to be replaced. We are very THANKFUL for the time, effort and skills of Bob Pape and Rick Ferguson! They are always a phone call away and it is critical to the functioning and care of this church. THANK YOU BOTH for everything you do!

Outreach: Carole-Johnson County Food Ministry is 12/30 with us cooking and packing 150 boxes take-outs. Sign up sheet for cookies is available outside the office. Dates for food ministry in 2022 are March 30, June 30, September 29 and December 29 with possibly adding an additional date. Gift cards for Merriam Park School needy families is going well and will be given out this week. We have 8 families and 27 children this year. THANKS to all who have contributed this year.

Membership: Donna-Thanksgiving cards were mailed out to all members. On 12/19 we will meet at 10 am to place cookies in Christmas tins to be delivered to 17 shut-ins. Request to board members to help with delivery; list of shut-ins passed around. THANK YOU! A Coffee Hour will be held the first Sunday of each month in 2022, hosted by each of the Committees. Membership will host the first one on 1/02/22.

Memorial: No report.

Continued on page 4

Pastoral Relations: No report.

Pastor's Report: New projector and mics installed today. Working on getting us switched over to VOIP for our phones, hope to have it done this week then Spectrum can be canceled. Webdeb sites have submitted some ideas for our current website and we are discussing how we want the site to function. Christmas eve service is 12/24 at 5 pm, Longest Night (Blue Christmas) service for worship on 12/26, remembering and recognizing loved ones who have passed and not present for holiday gatherings and events. It is meant to be a reflective, compassionate service for those who struggle with this time of year. THANK YOU, church, for the time off in November with my family to rest and relax. THANK YOU all for recognizing the need for this time and generously offering it to me. I performed four funerals and one wedding this month.

Personnel: Mike-Nursery Attendant Caleigh will be available for church service on 12/26.

Trustees: Michelle-Investment continues to do well, with exception of some fluctuation in stock market.

Worship: Mark-Twenty poinsettias have been ordered and will be in the sanctuary for worship on 12/19. If you ordered one, you can take it with you after worship service.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Joel-A new furnace is needed to replace the 29 year old furnace that heats the upstairs classrooms. Michelle reported that Finance has a fund designated for use towards heating & cooling needs of the church.

Motion to purchase a new furnace by Bob Pape; seconded by Mike Nichols; board vote, approved.

Open Forum:

Mike-THANK YOU to Carole Prentice for her excellent job as Board Chair and willingness to replace Jackie Watts for the remainder of 2021.

Looking forward to being Board chair in 2022. I will be checking with committee chairs to see if willing to serve in 2022.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Nichols; seconded by Michelle Land.

Cleanup Crew



December 26 Worship -The Longest Night (Blue Christmas) Service

We are planning a special worship service for Sunday, December 26th at 10AM. A Longest Night (or Blue Christmas) service recognizes those loved ones we have lost, especially in the past year, and the impact their passing has on the holidays. Instead of ignoring these painful feelings of loss and grief, we are going to recognize and name them, and spend time remembering those we love who are not here any longer. Bring loved ones who have experienced this hurt that we might worship and heal a little together.

IN 2022 COFFEE HOUR IS COMING BACK ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE HOSTING A COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE ON JANUARY 2, 2022 IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

New Sidewalk and Landscaping



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 as we are beginning our Fall Quarterly. Hopefully you will also find this a good support group in many areas.

JOHNSON COUNTY FOOD MINISTRY

We will be preparing 150 take out boxes of food on December 30 and will need cookies to be included for dessert. Signup sheet will be outside of church office or call Carole Prentice, 913 485 6950 or Pam Boyd, 913 515 5863 if you can furnish cookies.

Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings

- Write a check.
- <http://www.easytithes.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





January 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 <i>Happy New Years!!</i>
2 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	3	4 7:00 Committee Meetings IN PERSON—CH 	5 AA 5:30pm	6	7	8
9 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	10	11 7:00 Board Meeting IN PERSON—CH 	12 AA 5:30pm	13	14	15
16 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	17	18	19 AA 5:30pm	20 CWF/DWM Business Meeting @ Sarah 1PM	21	22
23 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	24	25	26 AA 5:30pm	27	28	29
30 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	31					

SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE For December 2021

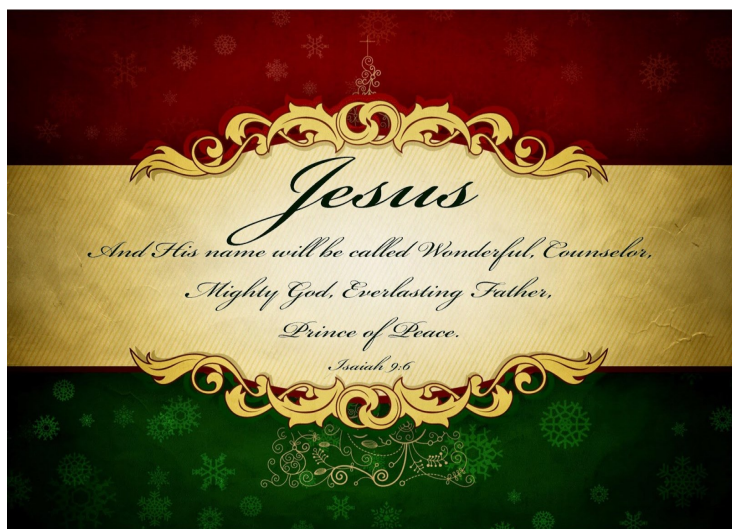
January 2, 2022— 10:00 AM
Liturgist Bob Pape

January 9, 2022— 10:00 AM
Liturgist Emily Hooker

January 16, 2022— 10:00 AM
Liturgist Pat Reed

January 23, 2022— 10:00 AM
Liturgist Donna Rankin

January 30, 2022— 10:00 AM
Liturgist Joyce Luke



Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, January 4th
Mark Willis 816-616-9746
Rick Ferguson 913-215-4887

Tuesday, January 11th
Joan Tarwater 913-236-5286
Linda Railsback 620-423-7854

Tuesday, January 18th
Pat Reed 913-375-3628
Jim Owens 913-888-6977

Tuesday, January 25th
Carole Prentice 913-485-6950
Anita Collins 913-362-6139

Subs – Carole Prentice, Jan Pankey,
Rick Ferguson

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



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Connie Hennigh	January 1
Barry Davis	January 3
Susan Neill	January 3
Jackie Watts	January 6
Beverly McDonald	January 19
Lynne Beaver	January 20
Betty Russell	January 22
Wendy Manthe	January 22
Mary Wisner	January 22
Joe Myers	January 25



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Gilbert & Ya Larson	January 13
David & Katie Schwenk	January 20

