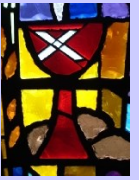


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

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Newsletters

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Dear Friends,
The other day I was feeling low. Reflecting on the past two years, the interrupted lives, the health crisis, the global pandemic and how they have impacted not only our everyday lives, but the church itself. There is no doubt the church is in the midst of a massive, transformative shift. To be honest this shift has been slowly gaining steam for 20 years, but Covid accelerated it. Suddenly, after the last two years, our Sunday morning attendance is half what it was, we have an online following, and our giving has shifted to mostly electronic through Easytithes. All of these challenges bring about a reckoning we all must face. The church as we know it is changing. As I reflected on this macro-evolution of church, I also took note of the micro changes and shifts we are experiencing in our everyday at MCC. I was a little sad, grieving what has been lost, and grieving my own inexperience and inadequacy with being prepared for what might come next. I was dwelling in this theological milieu last Sunday as we gathered for worship on Scout Sunday. Our Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts joined us in worship and we celebrated our connection and cooperation with scouting. Before the service I had let the Scout leaders know to inform their families and scouts that communion was available for anyone who wanted to take it and explained how we would do communion during the service. After the service I was talking with Scouts, their leaders, and their parents when one mom of a young cub scout ap-

proached to thank me. I assumed she meant the Scout service itself and told her how much we appreciated our relationship with Scouts. But she stopped me to say what she meant was thank you, because her young son had never had communion. This Sunday was the first time he ever was invited to the table and invited to partake. She was touched by this moment of grace and let me know what it meant to her and her son that day.

Mike Nichols, our Board Chair, reminded us at our February Board meeting that even with smaller numbers, even with fewer resources, even after coming through the past two years, we are still church and we still make an impact in people's lives and this community. That young mother Sunday morning reminded me of that. We might be small, but God's grace is mighty. We might be weak but He is strong. Yes, the way of church is changing, that is inevitable, but we are still, regardless of size, numbers, and attendance, we are still church. Go out and Be Church today - touch someone's life and change someone's world.

God Bless

Mark

Lent Begins March 2 2022
Palm Sunday April 10 2022
Easter Sunday April 17 2022

Pastor Mark's Message

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



January 30th, "Love, You Just Don't Get It"

February 6th, "The Servant's Call"

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

As of this writing, the weather is GREAT. But it can't last as it is still winter.

Blanket Sunday is coming up on the 20th. Mark will have a short message on that day. I have placed envelopes in several places. Please take one and buy a blanket for a mere \$10.00. Or, \$5.00 for half a blanket which will be matched by someone, somewhere. Our Church has always supported this charity and you all should be proud.

Our new charity of saving empty pill bottles has gone over big time. I am always surprised by how quickly the box fills up. The animal rescue shelter Unleashed is very grateful and happy to accept our bag of bottles. Be sure to black out any personal information with a black marker if you cannot get the label off. Also, South Park School appreciates the can tabs, so keep doing that.

Last, but not least, don't forget to attend our next Third Thursday meeting on the 17th, weather permitting. Wear your mask, of course. Our message "Keep It Shut" continues. Balance still \$2,300.03. No money spent.

That's all folks. See you Sunday. Weather permitting. LOL

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service

Outreach Schedule Reminders

Meals on Wheels:

Tuesday, February 15

Rick Ferguson & Susan Neil

Tuesday, February 22

Pam Boyd & Jan Pankey

Backsnack Packing

Week 2/14 Carole Prentice

Week 2/21 Jonathan Beaver

Week 2/28 Pat Reed

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers!

Because of you, we CAN
Make A Difference



Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



January 30th, "Parables: The Leaven"

February 6th, "David and Goliath"



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:

- **Jim Owen** tested positive for Covid and is quarantining. **Ann Dickerson** was exposed and is quarantining to be safe.
- **Tammy Ramsey** has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She got some hopeful news from the doctor and they are formulating a treatment option.
- **Connie Harshner** is at Advent hospital. She needed surgery for spinal stenosis, Her family are unsure if she will be able to return home or if she will need assisted care after this.
- **Alpha Wickham** is at home and is declining health. She is unable to get out of bed and her family has asked for prayers during this difficult time.
- **Bill Baker** had skin cancer removed from his nose and is doing OK.
- **Nancy Hines'** eye surgery went well and she is recovering at home.
- **Joan Tarwater** had knee replacement surgery on December 27th. She is home and continuing her recovery.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Allen and Jackie Watts'** daughter-in-law **Jen** is back in the hospital needing surgery for her health issues, please lift her up in prayer.
- **Heather Waite** asked for prayers for her sister, **Denise Boyer**, a nurse at Centerpoint Hospital, who is worn out and worn down by the healthcare crisis right now.
- **Free Man**, who has been worshipping with us the past two weeks, asked for prayers. He is having surgery on his shoulder at the VA hospital this week.
- **Pastor Mark's** sister-in-law **Kristin Hazen** was hospitalized with seizures.
- **Pam Boyd's** daughter-in-law **Susan Vandelinde's** father **Bob Hosier**, passed away. Please keep Susan and her family in your prayers.
- **Pam Boyd's** neighbor **Debbie Holterman** received a new kidney and is recovering. Her hus-

band is getting ready to donate a kidney to another patient in need.

- **Joe Myers' brother Mark Myers**, who has leukemia, ruptured his spleen and needed surgery. Surgery went well and he is now recovering at home.
- **Casey Meyer's** mother got some good news on her cancer. It had spread to her brain, but with treatment she had a clear scan at the doctor.
- The families of **Ken Sinclari** and **Tamara Uziel** on his passing. Pastor Mark performed the services.
- **Michael and Jennifer Wolfe** were married by Pastor Mark. Please pray for them as they begin their journey as husband and wife .

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.



Valentine's Day

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.

Free Hot Soup

MCC Outreach has joined forces with the Free Hot Soup organization to help our homeless population. We are collecting blankets, coats, sleeping bags, hats & gloves to help this community. Also, we will offer our help by providing disposable containers for them to serve hot soup and a variety of ingredients needed to make the soup.

Weekly, Free Hot Soup share meals with the houseless and economically insecure communities in the KC Metro area , providing our friends with food, love, and items to help them survive the elements. Hot soup is the minimum, friendships are their goal.

Thank you CHURCH

Proverbs 22:9 (NIV)

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

Pam Boyd
Outreach

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**

