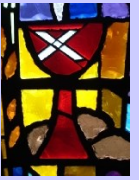


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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



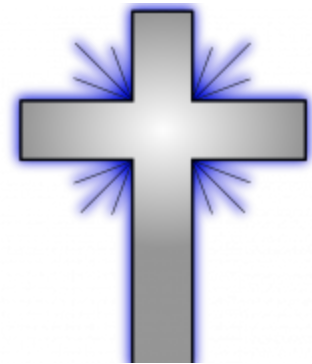
Dear Friends,
March 2, 2022 Lent will begin. Lent is the 40-day-journey to Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday, a day set aside to contemplate and recognize the ways we have separated ourselves from God and to recommit ourselves to turning back to God. To kick off Lent this year, we will be participating in a 12-hour online prayer vigil. This prayer vigil will feature scripture and prayer designed to turn our focus again to God's presence in our lives and our connection to God's grace and love.

During this season of Lent, I encourage you to engage in your faith in new ways. Take up a Bible study, read a new book, listen to an interesting podcast on faith, participate in worship or service, do something to reignite your passion and connection to God. This season is meant to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ's salvation and redemption. We are working our way to Easter morning by preparing our hearts to greet the risen-Christ once more.

Take advantage of this annual pilgrimage to refresh and rejuvenate your faith. Take a step

closer to God on your journey as we travel this road again to the cross, the grave, and the resurrection.

God Bless,
Mark



Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil

To start the season of Lent, we will engage in a 12-hour prayer vigil online, through email and Facebook. Physical print-outs will also be available at church for those who do not have access to online resources. This prayer vigil will include scripture and a short prayer every 2 hours from 6:00AM to 6:00PM. Be watching for these reminders to enter into the Lenten journey in an attitude of prayer and redemption. Join us March 2nd as we kick off the sojourn to Jerusalem and Easter!

Pastor Mark's Message

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



February 13th, ["The Price of Love"](#)

February 20th, ["A Bridge Too Far"](#)

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

So very sorry we had to cancel our February Third Thursday meeting. This "yoyo" weather is to blame. Surely the March weather will allow us to gather again. If it rains, use your umbrella. If needed, I will park your car for you.

We haven't spent any money yet, but we have had some income over the "Blanket" money. You may donate to DWM by giving your DWM envelop directly to me. I will give an accounting of the blanket money at our next meeting in March. We should have it all by then.

I delivered a kitchen size trash bag full of pill bottles to Unleashed Pet Rescue. I could barely tie it shut. They were thrilled as always. This project really has been well received by our Church as well as Unleashed. Thanks Ladies.

Well, I can't think of anything else. Except, save the date, April 9th, for the concert of handbells by Rezound!. Thanks to Pam Boyd for booking this group. Should be a wonderful addition to our Easter Season.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service

Thank you ❤️

I want to thank my church family for your calls and prayers while enduring COVID quarantine. I usually eat with five other men and one of them tested positive for COVID and we were all quarantined for 5-6 day. I was just finishing this time to quarantine when I tested positive and had to repeat all those days. I had a slight cough but no temp or any other signs. I have had all three shots. It is good to be back in Sunday School and Church. My thanks to each of you for your concerns.

Jim Owens

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



February 13th, ["The Parable of the Sower"](#)

February 20th, ["The Good Samaritan"](#)



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:

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY to **Ann Dickerson!!**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to **Mike Nichols and Casey Meyer** on 11 years as husband and wife!!

Nancy Hines was in the hospital last week with severe back pain. They traced the issues to her heart. Nancy would love to hear from her church family, give her a call at 913-631-8569

Tammy Ramsey has been diagnosed with breast cancer but her doctors are hopeful and have prescribed a "less-invasive" treatment plan moving forward.

Connie Harshner had surgery for spinal stenosis last week and is hopefully moving to rehab at Midwest Rehab.

Alpha Wickham is at home and is in declining health. She is unable to get out of bed and her family has asked for prayers during this difficult time. You can still call Alpha and she does answer and appreciates the chance to talk.

Requests for Family and Friends:

Joyce Luke's grandson Jacob is a teacher in KCK. He has had several students hurt or involved in shootings recently. Please lift him and his students in your prayers.

Jan Pankey's nephew Tyler Pankey, had surgery for a brain aneurism. He will need to be in the hospital for an extended time in ICU.

Marge Willard's son Jewell Dolton had surgery Monday for his cancer. He is recovering well.

Dixie and Glen Wheaton's son-in-law Tom's father passed away. They are traveling to Cincinnati for the services.

Allen and Jackie Watts' daughter-in-law Jen had surgery for her health issues, please lift her up in prayer.

Pastor Mark's sister-in-law Kristin Hazen has moved into a spare bedroom at his house. Her family are working with her to get medical and psychiatric care set up.

The families of **Dave Berve and Liesl Todd** on their passing. Pastor Mark performed the services.

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.





Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Minutes recorded by
Donna Rankin, Board Secretary

BOARD MEETING -TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Present in Person: Pastor Mark Willis, Mike Nichols, Donna Rankin, Greg Spiegel, Jennifer Spiegel, Carole Prentice, Joel Beaver, Betty Bohn, Dixie Wheaton, Pat Reed, Pam Boyd, Anita Collins, Rick Ferguson, Emily Hooker, Joyce Luke, Jeannette Howe, Bob Pape, David Roebuk

Mike called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Greg-God's Purpose

Minutes of 1/11/22 Board Meeting: Mike asked the board to review the minutes; Motion to accept report by Rick Ferguson; seconded by Jeannette Howe; board vote, approved.

Current Financial Report: Mike asked the board to review the current financial report; Motion to accept report by Betty Bohn; seconded by Pam Boyd; board vote, approved.

Committee Chair Reports:

Clerk: Betty-No changes, total membership 144.

DWM: No report.

Elders: No report.

H&G: Joel-Duct work has been replaced and final inspection approved; Fire Marshall visited for inspection; five fire extinguishers out of date; Bob will purchase new ones and install; Bob is replacing batteries and/or lights or installing new Exit and Emergency signs in sanctuary, Campbell Hall and main entrance. Also replacing a light over the stairway to sanctuary (Rick assisting); replacing three outlets in the choir loft. THANK YOU, BOB AND RICK, FOR ALL YOUR TIME AND EFFORT!

Outreach: Pam-Actively collecting items for our local homeless community, sacking and delivering BackSnacks to Merriam Park Elementary each week; as well as Meals on Wheels every Tuesday. We have joined forces with Free Hot Soup organization to provide warm clothing and sleeping items for our local homeless community. In addition to these items, we are contributing to their efforts to feed this community. Weekly each leader of eight areas in the Metro prepares 3+ gallons of soup depending upon resources and supplies. The soup is stored in a large cooler and transported to local parks to be served in disposable cups. They also provide each person with a bag containing a sandwich and snack items. The content depends on what is available to them. If there is any leftover soup, it is taken to a designated shelter. THANKS TO OUR CONGREGATION for always responding to those in need!

Membership: Jeannette-Committee discussed hosting the first "First Sunday Coffee Hour" on March 6th and have agreed that we can bake cookies and be ready to serve that Sunday after worship.

Memorial: No report.

Pastoral Relations: No report. Meeting held on 2/08/22; next meeting will be 4/12/22 at 6:00 pm.

Pastor's Report: Our phone number 913-432-2390 has been switched to VOIP. I will be hooking up the new desk phone; currently all calls are going directly to my cell phone. We are continuing to work on updating our website with Webdeb Sites. Councilwoman Amy Rider let us know about Free Hot Soup, a group serving the homeless population of Kansas City. They were seeking donations of food and blankets/sleeping bags. Our Outreach team coordinated collection of items and those will be delivered tomorrow. NICE JOB EVERYBODY! Scout Sunday was held 2/6. It was good to worship/celebrate with our Cub and Scout groups. I continue to serve with our Regional Board and am involved in ongoing discussions about the future of Tall Oaks campsite. We are ex-

amining and exploring the current state of Tall Oaks, what it will take to get it solvent, and what options are available moving forward. I performed ten funerals and two wedding this month.

Personnel: No report.

Trustees: No report.

Worship: No report.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mark-Request if AA Group can have a key to building; 20-25 people attend, very responsible and appreciative group.

Mike-Deadbolt with locking codes (also lock & unlock with smart phone) might be a good option to consider.

Joel-will look into this type of lock and get bids.

Motion to allow a designated person of the AA Group to have a building key by Pat Reed; seconded by Dixie Wheaton; board vote, approved.

Open Forum:

Mark-Request help to cover downstairs in event Rick, Dave and Walt are not able to attend Sunday morning.

Mike-Even though smaller numbers in attendance, there is still good work being done, still making an impact in people's lives and the community.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Emily Hooker; seconded by Bob Pape.



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.

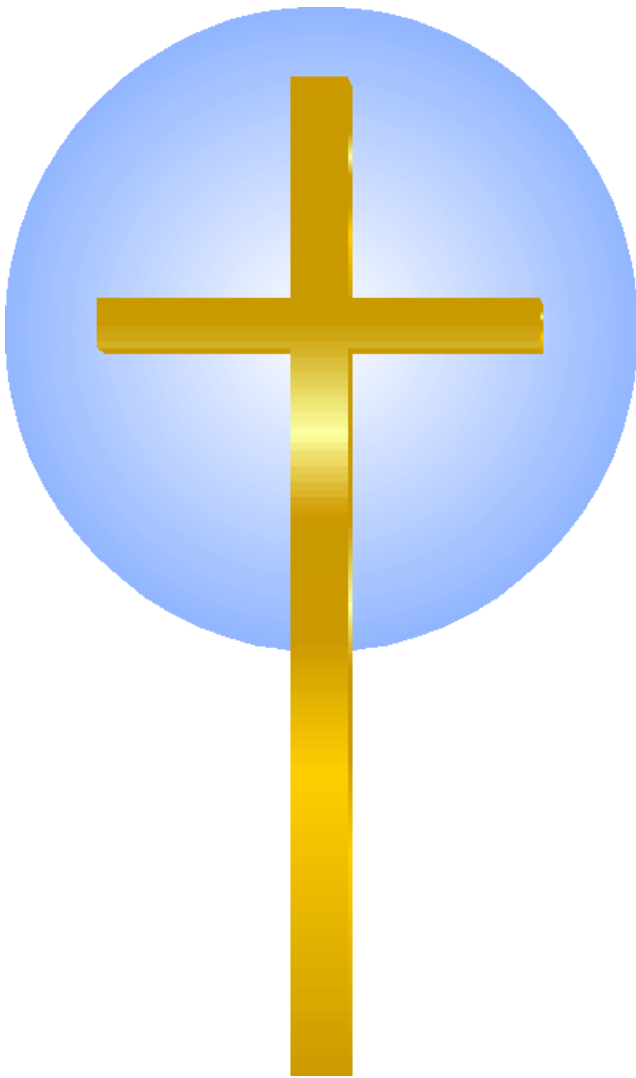
Weekly, Free Hot Soup share meals with the houseless and economically insecure communities in the KC Metro area, providing our friends with food, love, and items to help them survive the elements. Hot soup is the minimum, friendships are their goal.

Thank you CHURCH

Proverbs 22:9 (NIV)

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

Pam Boyd
Outreach



Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, March 1st

Mark Willis & Rick Ferguson

Tuesday, March 8th

Joan Tarwater & Linda Railsback

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

Backsnack

Week of February 28th

Pat Reed

Week of March 7th & March 14th

Rich Ferguson & Pam Boyd

Week of March 21st

Carole Prentice



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Christina Stokes	March 2
Joel Beaver	March 3
Tammy Ramsey	March 4
Alice Goff	March 5
Kailey Stokes	March 6
Walter Bohn	March 8
Donna Rankin	March 9
Robert Owens	March 16
Jo Rudkin	March 21
Jeanne Bryant	March 22
Jon Beaver	March 23
Vivienne Schwenk	March 29



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Quentin & Linda Jones	March 14
Steven & Janet Speise	March 28





March 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Room Codes: C-Chapel S-Sanctuary CH-Campbell Hall DP-Disciple Place	B-Berea R-Roundtable L-Library P-Pioneer YR-Youth Room OB-Out of Building					
		1 7:00 Committee Meetings IN PERSON—CH 	2 AA 6:00pm	3	4	5
6 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship Reg DMW Parking Lot drop 2-4	7 Scouts	8 7:00 Board Meeting IN PERSON—CH 	9 AA 6:00pm	10 Bus Co 5:00pm	11 Bus Co 9-1	12
13 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	14 Scouts	15	16 AA 6:00pm	17 CWF/DWM Business Meeting @ Sarah 1PM	18	19
20 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP Blanket Sunday 10:00 Worship	21 Scouts	22	23 AA 6:00pm	24	25	26
27 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	28 Scouts	29	30 AA 6:00pm	31		

REZOUND! HANDBELL ENSEMBLE
TO PERFORM AT MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Rezound!, Kansas City's auditioned community handbell ensemble, will be in concert at Merriam Christian Church, 9401 Johnson Drive, Merriam, KS, on Saturday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of entertaining music in the unique and engaging style of Rezound!

This nationally acclaimed ensemble has captivated audiences around the country with their expressive music and engaging style. In addition to a year-round concert schedule in the Kansas City region, Rezound! has enjoyed successful tours throughout the Midwest and has collaborated with area ensembles in a variety of concert settings.

With education being integral to the group's focus, members have served as clinicians and instructors at local, regional and national events. Rezound! also hosts a techniques and ringing workshop, the *Fall Show-Me Ring*, and an advanced performance event, *Resonate*.

The ensemble enjoys interacting with the community by performing an annual holiday concert for the Salvation Army's adult rehabilitation center and offering educational programs in metro area churches and schools, giving participants a hands-on experience with bells.

Rezound! members share a passion for creating exceptional music and promoting the art of this versatile instrument. With 14 musicians and more than 300 individual handbells and chimes, each lending its unique timbre to the overall musicality of the performance, the ensemble creates a symphony of bells. We are looking forward to sharing our music with you

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.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**

