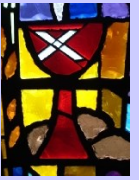


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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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www.merriamcc.org

Newsletters
jnethowe@gmail.com



Dear Friends,
Well, 2021 is officially behind us and 2022 is beginning! I always feel hopeful at this time of year, as we stand on the precipice of a brand new year; a year that is unmarked and full of potential. I also feel thankful as I glance back over the year that just was; all we accomplished and built up over the past twelve months. Sometimes I will flip back through the calendar to remind myself of what we did in January, February and March, of what we did through the summer months, of what we did in the fall as temperatures began to cool, and of course what we have done as the holiday season set in.

Each year we are presented with 365 opportunities to BE CHURCH to our friends and family, to strangers and community, to our world. What will we do with all those opportunities? How will we embrace this chance to impact each day with our faith? What life might we touch if we treat each day, EACH day, in this new year as a day to be lived in the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit?

There is a saying that goes: In a world where you can be anything; Be Kind. I like that idea. We can choose each day to be whatever we want. We can be grumpy, irritable, frustrated, angry, or sad.

We can be happy or joyful or excited or energetic. But whatever we choose each day, we should start by choosing to Be Kind. Imagine if we all chose that each day for 2022. How different would this world be if we all chose that and encouraged the people we know to chose it as well? How different might YOUR world be if you chose this every day?

2022 is full of potential and opportunity. Let's not waste this chance we have to BE CHURCH in our lives, and in our world. Get up each day this year, and start it by choosing to be kind and let's see how the year goes then.

God Bless and Happy New Year!

Mark

JESUS
Grace
SAVIOR
spirit REJOICE pray
LOVE Hope PRAISE
faith God Sacred JOY
GRACE
LORD
pray
FAITH
JOY
SAVIOR
peace
PRAY
SALVATION

Pastor Mark's Message

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



December 19th, ["Where?"](#)

December 26th, ["The Longest Night"](#)

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

Happy New Year. Hope you had a great Christmas. I did. I hope you will make plans to attend our third Thursday meeting in January. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate. Our study is on "Keep It Shut". (Our mouths) LOL

Also, keep saving those pill bottles. If you cannot easily pull the label off, you can use a black magic marker to blot out any personal information. The rescue place says thank you.

Coming up in February is "Blanket Sunday". Our Church has always been a good supporter of this program from Church World Service. Every blanket makes a difference to someone.

That's all 'till next newsletter.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service

Thank You

Thank you MCC!

I wanted to thank all of you for the wonderful staff Christmas bonuses. They were a blessing and I appreciate your kindness and generosity in this holiday season and throughout the year. Thank you!

Thank you for the Christmas gift card. It is very appreciated.
Chris Ammerman

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



December 19th ["Fourth Sunday in Advent"](#)

December 26th ["Christmas"](#)



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** had knee replacement surgery on December 27th.
- **Connie Harshner** has surgery for her wrists scheduled.
- **Nancy Hines** is having eye surgery on December 30th.
- **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
- **Mary Ann Borchardt**, 101, longtime member, passed away on December 23. Services will be at Amos Funeral Home on Saturday, January 8th, with visitation at 9:30AM and a funeral service at 10:30AM.
- **Donna Ward** fell and hurt her leg. She is back home recovering.

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.
- **Rick Ferguson's brother-in-law Pat Pask** passed away. Please keep Rick and his family in your prayers.
- **Jeffrey Howe**, Myra Jenks' grandson, Sherry Howe's son, and brother-in-law to Jeannette Howe, passed away at the age of 51. Please be in prayer for the Jenks/Howe families as they grieve this loss during the holidays
- **Heather Waite's niece Natalie** is home, but still working with her doctors on treating her appendicitis and difficulties from it.

- **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.
- **Alice Goff's granddaughter** Asklyn and her boyfriend both have Covid.
- **Pastor Mark's friend Allair Homburg** fell and had a brain bleed. He had surgery on December 23 to relieve the pressure and is recovering.
- **Rick and Nanette Ferguson's daughter and son-in-law, Tara and Bradnon** and their children have Covid.
- Please pray for the **families of Marshall Dietz and Sam Bell**, 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.

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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.



COFFEE HOUR

WE WERE PLANNING TO HAVE COFFEE HOUR STARTING ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, BUT DUE TO THE RAISING COVID INFECTION RATE, WE ARE CANCELING THIS MONTH. WE HOPE TO BACK ON SCHEDULE NEXT MONTH.



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

