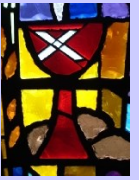


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## 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](mailto:merriamchristian@gmail.com)  
[www.merriamcc.org](http://www.merriamcc.org)

**Newsletters**  
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Dear Friends,  
Jesus told us: no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. (Lk5:33-39). Even with this instruction from Jesus, new things can be hard. They can be difficult. We don't always like them, but that doesn't mean they aren't needed or necessary. Change is the one true constant in our world, as the last two years have demonstrated abundantly! We have seen several changes in the church recently: the expansion of online services, the improvement of our worship technology for this endeavor, the repair and refurbishment of the building, including a new roof! All of these changes were needed and necessary, but they are still new and sometimes we need a moment to adjust to the new. I say all do that to say this: we are getting a new phone service for the church. With our upgrade of technology, we are switching our phones to voice-over-IP, or internet phones. This will cut our bill but keep our services. Let me stress, our main number, 913-432-2390, will NOT change. We are getting rid of our second line, which only receives spam calls. So this will be our only phone number for the church. Nothing

else will change. There will still be a phone in the office with the same phone number. But now our bill will decrease, and I will be able to monitor our phones remotely, including getting messages and answering the phone, even when I am not physically in the office.

These are good changes. This is something new for us to try. And I am excited about the possibilities of simple adjustments like this that make things more efficient and cost-effective. I hope you will give the many changes we are experiencing a good chance to catch on and look for more new ways we can engage and interact as church in this 21st century mission field.

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!



January 2nd, ["Be Kind"](#)

January 9th, ["The Gifts We Needed"](#)

## DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

I hope this year is getting off to a good start for you and for all of us. If the weather does not turn bad, let's all plan to attend our THIRD THURSDAY meeting on Jan. 20th at 1:00 pm in the library. Masks required, of course.

Keep saving those pill bottles with your personal info removed. Also, can tabs for Merriam-Park Elementary. Blanket Sunday is coming up in February. Not sure of the exact date.

I haven't spent any of your money since my last report, so our balance is still \$2,300.03. We had no income and no expenses in December. But this is a new year.

That's all folks.

Joyce Luke  
Treasurer/Service

# Thank You!

A big Thank You to everyone who helped put away Christmas decorations in the sanctuary Tuesday. Many hands make light work and you were all greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Pat Reed who came up early and got us organized and ahead!

## Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



January 2nd ["Boy Jesus in the Temple"](#)

January 9th ["Jesus is Baptized"](#)



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:

- **Bob Pape and Jim Owens** were both exposed to Covid, but both tested negative.
- **The family of Mary Ann Borchardt**, 101, long-time member, who passed in December.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Connie Harshner** has surgery for her wrists scheduled.
- **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
- **Donna Ward** fell and hurt her leg. She is back home recovering.

## Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Casey Meyer's mother** has cancer. Please keep Casey and her mom and their family in your prayers.
- **Heather Waite's niece Natalie** is home, but still working with her doctors on treating her appendicitis and difficulties from it.
- **Alice Goff's granddaughter Asklyn** and her boyfriend both have Covid.
- **Rick and Nanette Ferguson's daughter and son-in-law, Tara and Bradnon** and their children have Covid.
- **Alice Goff's sister-in-law Mary Baker** fell and has two brain bleeds.

- **Connie Hennigh's daughter Christy** and her family have Covid.
- **Emily Yeh's friend Chia-Fei Lin**, who plays violin for the KC Symphony and has played here at MCC, needs prayers. Her son Zachary has been diagnosed with Autoimmune encephalitis and is in Children's Mercy Hospital.
- **Anita Minshew's sister Juanita** and family have Covid.

**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.





## Borchardt Memorial

A pedestal and flower arrangement in honor of Ralph and Mary Ann Borchardt has been placed in the upstairs hall. The pedestal is located by the stained glass window that was given to the church in 1993 by the Borchardt family. The flower arrangement was chosen by the family and compliments the colors in the stained glass window. The pedestal was made by their son, Doug. It is a very nice addition to the display. A page in their memory has been added to the Memorial Books to acknowledge the gift.



## 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.

## Outreach Committee

December 30, we closed 2021 by preparing 150 meals at the Johnson County Food Ministry.

Backsnack packing and deliveries began again on January 3 following the Christmas break at Merriam Park Elementary School.

**Plastic bags continue to be needed.**

We deliver Meals on Wheels every Tuesday. Anyone interested in participating with this effort please contact, Pam Boyd 913-515-5863

We continue to support the following organizations:

Salvation Army  
Hospice  
Crosslines  
City Union Mission  
Community & Family Services  
Cancer Action  
Safehome  
Sunflower House

Our thanks to the wonderful members of MCC congregation for making all of this possible.

Pam Boyd - Chair

### *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**

