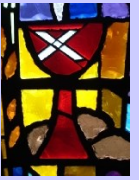


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## 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**  
[jethowe@gmail.com](mailto:jethowe@gmail.com)



Dear Friends,  
As some of you know, this past Sunday I stumbled blindly into a ticket to the Chief's playoff

game against the Bills. This was blind luck: a friend's in-laws had purchased tickets but were unable to go, so my friend got the two tickets. He asked his 14 year-old son to go...and the son decided he didn't want to be out late on a school night (What?!?!). So my friend called me, and at 5:30PM I found myself 21 rows up from the field in the western end zone! That is the corner of the end zone where Travis Kelcey made the game winning overtime catch. It was quite a game!

The section we were in had a lot of Bills fans, and right in front of us was a family of five from Sioux City, mom and dad and three kids under 14, who were all decked out in Buffalo Bills colors, rooting on their team. Throughout the night we talked with them, and bantered with them about the game. They cheered when their team did well, we cheered when our Chiefs did well. Many of the Chiefs fans around us even wished their teenage son a Happy Birthday when we learned it was his birthday that day.

In the last two minutes of the game, this family went through the same emotional roller coaster we all went through, just on the other side of it. We were up! They

were up. We were up! They were up. We tied it!!! And then we won, and the stadium erupted in cheers, but this family hung their heads as their beloved team lost. My friend and I stopped in the middle of our celebration to tell the family their Bills had played extremely well and they would be back, their quarterback is amazing. We also wished them safe travels home, and wished the son Happy Birthday one last time.

Through it all, even though we were rooting against their team, we tried to be kind. That was all, just kind. And as the game ended, I think they appreciated that kindness. It had been an incredible game for them as well, and their team came very, VERY, close to winning. Their kids had experienced their first NFL playoff game, and hopefully it was a good experience.

Sometimes in life, you are going to end up somewhere; maybe somewhere you want to be, maybe not. While there you are going to run into all sorts of - people on their own journeys. When you meet people, friends and strangers, in these moments, regardless of what is happening and what is going on and whether you are winning or losing, you have the opportunity to be kind. Take that opportunity.

In Christ,  
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 16th, ["The First Sign"](#)

January 23rd, ["Members of It"](#)

# DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

Hope you all are warm and safe. How about this yoyo weather? Blame it on "climate change". LOL

So sorry we had to cancel our January Third Thursday meeting, but it was just too cold, and we wanted everyone to be safe. Unless the weather is a factor, we will try again to meet on the Third Thursday of February. Mark your calendar.

We have our annual "Blanket Sunday" coming up on February 20th. I have ordered special envelopes, but just mark your check for blankets if you don't have a special envelope. Every blanket makes a difference to someone, somewhere.

I took another bag full of pill bottles to the rescue place in Mission and they are very thankful. I also took a small bag of can tabs to Merriam Park Elementary. They also are thankful. Keep up the good work ladies. That's all folks. Stay safe.

Joyce Luke  
Treasurer/Service



## Scout Sunday February 6th

February 6th is Scout Sunday when we recognize and celebrate our connecting and affiliation with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. Kids from our troops and their parents will be in attendance in worship that day. Prior to the service they will present the colors, lead us in the pledge, and give us a "state of the troop" report.

## Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



January 16th, ["Jesus in the Wilderness"](#)

January 23rd, ["The Mustard Seed"](#)



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:

- **Tammy Ramsey** has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She is working with her doctors to figure out a treatment plan.
- **Joel Beaver** has tested positive for Covid and is at home.
- **Connie Harshner** had carpal tunnel surgery on one wrist, but the doctors' want her A-fib under control before attempting the second wrist. This is causing some difficulty for her to get around.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Joe Myers' brother** Mark Myers, who has leukemia, ruptured his spleen and was taken to the hospital in Des Moines. Surgery went well but he remains in the hospital.

**Heather Waite's nephew's wife**, Brooklyn Boy-

er, is expecting at the end of the month and is experiencing black outs.

**Pat Reed's sister** fell and broke her kneecap, and in a separate incident, Pat's nephew broke his heel.

- **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.
- **The families of Oliver White, Robert Brown, Rolen Casebolt, Hazel Stewart, and Alene Beasley** who all passed. Pastor Mark performed these funerals.

**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.







**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

Minutes recorded by  
Donna Rankin, Board Secretary

**Present in Person:** Pastor Mark Willis, Mike Nichols, Donna Rankin, Greg Spiegel, Carole Prentice, Joel Beaver, Michelle Land, Betty Bohn, Dixie Wheaton, Pat Reed, Pam Boyd, Anita Minshew, Alice Goff, Rick Ferguson, Emily Hooker, Joyce Luke, Anita Collins, Jeannette Howe

Mike called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Mike- All Things Are Possible with God

**Minutes of 12/14/21 Board Meeting:** Mike asked the board to review the minutes; Motion to accept report by Carole Prentice; seconded by Michelle Land; board vote, approved.

**Current Financial Report:** Mike asked the board to review the current financial report; Dixie reported EasyTithe being used by several people; some discussion held. Motion to accept report by Betty Bohn; seconded by Emily Hooker; board vote, approved.

Mike-Happy to serve as Board Chair in 2022; appreciate everyone who serves on Committees and Board.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

**Clerk:** Betty-Jeffery Howe passed away 12/20/21 and Mary Ann Borchardt passed away 12/23/21, total membership 144.

**DWM:** Pam-On 12/16 sixteen attended our annual holiday luncheon. A contribution of \$150 was made to Make a Difference for the gift cards needed to support local families; DWM meets every third Thursday of the month at 1 pm; current study is "Keep It Shut." Prescription bottles continue to be collected for local animal rescues; please remove labels and empty bottles. February is Blanket Month. Funds raised will go to provide blankets supporting Church World Services. Every blanket makes a difference! More details soon.

**Elders:** No report.

**H&G:** Joel-Committee did not meet last Tuesday due to my schedule and the weather. New furnace installed and City will inspect on 1/13, that is all for this month.

**Outreach:** Pam-We closed the year on 12/30 with preparing meals for 150 at the Johnson County Food Ministry. Backsnack packing and deliveries began again on 1/03 following the Christmas Break at Merriam Park Elementary School. **Plastic grocery bags are needed** for the Backsnack program. We continue with Meals on Wheels deliveries every Tuesday. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Pam Boyd. We continue to support the following organizations: Salvation Army, Hospice, Crosslines, City Union Mission, Community & Family Services, Cancer Action, Safehome, Sunflower House.

**Membership:** Jeannette-Committee met on 12/19 to place cookies in Christmas tins for our shut-in members; tins were delivered by Elders and Membership Committee; Membership planned to host the first "First Sunday Coffee Hour" on 1/2 but due to the increase in Covid cases and weather, this event was cancelled; Discussion was held regarding Coffee Hour going forward; Mike suggested that it not be held in February and discuss whether to have it in March at next committee and board meetings. Mark reported that a thank you card is on the bulletin board received from Alpha Wickham expressing her appreciation for the Christmas cookies.

**Memorial:** Emily-Special music was provided for 1/2 worship service by Cherie Liu, a student of

Emily Yeh. Cherie performed a wonderful flute solo that was a nice addition to the service. A pedestal and flower arrangement in honor of Ralph and Mary Ann Borchardt has been placed in the upstairs hall located next to the stained-glass window that was also given to the church by the Borchardt family in 1993. The flower arrangement compliments the colors in the stained-glass window and the pedestal was made by their son, Doug. A page in their memory has been added to the Memorial Books to acknowledge the gift.

**Pastoral Relations:** No report.

**Pastor's Report:** VOIP sign-up completed and requested to port our main number for the church to it; request should be done in 3-5 days; ordered compatible desk phone, on back order to 1/27; once received and installed we can cancel Spectrum completely. Continuing to work with Webdeb Sites and discussing how we want the site to function. BlueFox finished installation of our new worship live stream technology; new microphones and projector installed; system working great and received several positive comments on it. BlueFox returned to fix a couple small issues, but all working perfect now. Meeting networking company to clean up wires/network to make it easier to maintain. Thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas Eve service, it went very well. Emily Yeh's flute student was here to play during 1/02 service. We will invite her back in the spring when we can have a bigger crowd. I performed five funerals and one wedding this month.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Trustees:** Michelle-Investment good, with exception of some fluctuation in stock market.

**Worship:** Mark-good attendance at Christmas Eve service, good feedback on "Longest Night" service on 12/26.

**Old Business:**

Mark-I plan to meet with Elders after worship service on second Sunday of each month for prayer and scriptures. We met 1/09 and will meet again on 2/13.

Mark-Mike and I will look over the Shepherding List and see if any changes need to be made.

Mike-I will then reach out to Elders.

**New Business:**

Greg-Passed out list for sign up to do monthly board meeting devotion.

Greg-Pulled up statistics from YouTube on views of worship service and shared some of those numbers.

Mike-Might research promotion on Facebook to increase views.

Greg-Suggest forming an AV Committee with Chair organizing live stream technology teams for Sunday services, report to Board, etc.

**Open Forum:**

Pat-would like to share some history with new members: beautiful stained glass in hallway outside of sanctuary is a Memorial for Ralph Borchardt and was the work of Melinda Prentice Haas. In addition, Melinda also created the stained glass located in the sanctuary doors, library and a piece in the chapel.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Michelle Land; seconded by Joel Beaver.





## 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**





# February 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Room Codes:</b> 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 5:30pm	3	4	5
6 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am DP Scout Sunday 10:00 Worship	7	8 7:00 Board Meeting IN PERSON—CH 	9 AA 5:30pm	10	11	12
13 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am DP 10:00 Worship	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15	16 AA 5:30pm	17 CWF/DWM Business Meeting @ Sarah 1PM	18	19
20 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am DP Blanket Sunday 10:00 Worship	21	22	23 AA 5:30pm	24	25	26
27 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am DP 10:00 Worship	28					



# SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE For December 2021

**February 1, 2022— 10:00 AM**  
Liturgist Betty Bohn

**February 13, 2022— 10:00 AM**  
Liturgist Nanette Ferguson

**February 20, 2022— 10:00 AM**  
Liturgist Anita Collins

**February 27, 2022— 10:00 AM**  
Liturgist Susan Neil



## Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, February 1st  
Glen Wheaton 913-677-5327  
Dixie Wheaton

Tuesday, February 8th  
Walt Bohn 816-550-5541  
Betty Bohn

Tuesday, February 15th  
Rick Ferguson 913-215-4887  
Susan Neill 913-306-2324

Tuesday, February 22nd  
Pam Boyd 913-515-5863  
Jan Pankey 913-481-8612

Subs – Carole Prentice, Jan Pankey,  
Rick Ferguson



## Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

David Schwenk	February 1
Caiden Stokes	February 1
Janet Speise	February 14
Opal Wylie	February 15
Ann Dickerson	February 21
Gilbert Larson	February 23
Joyce Campbell	February 25
Heather Waite	February 27
Pat Reed	February 28



## Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Mike Nichols & Casey Meyers February 19

