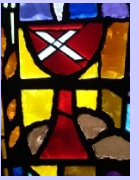


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

E-mail

merriamchristian@gmail.com

www.merriamcc.org

Newsletters

jnethowe@gmail.com



Dear Friends,
Well this is it, my final letter. Twelve-and-one-half years ago when I came here, I was looking for a church to preach and teach in, to serve the community in, and to build good relationships in. I think we accomplished those things! I have loved, LOVED, my time here ministering with you and will miss you all dearly. But it was time for me to do something new, and time for MCC to do something new as well. You now embark on a journey of discovery to find where God is calling you today and who might help you get there. Be a part of the process, join in the discussions, and work with your interim pastor to sort out some of these questions. I know God will lead you, have the vision and courage to follow. As I go, there are some house-keeping items we need to discuss. As a part of this denomination, there are ethics we seek to employ in times of transition. In order for me to be able to apply myself fully to my new ministry, and in order for MCC to begin moving forward with their new ministry, we agree to not be in regular contact, in person or social media, for a period of at least one year after your new minister arrives. This means I will not be able to come to events, or officiate at funerals or weddings, etc. I must remove myself as your pastor so a

new pastor can come and minister to/with you. This allows them to establish their relationship with you as pastor, without my presence disrupting anything there. After this time period, working with your new pastor for guidance, we can begin to re-establish our connections. I love you all, and want to hear from you and know what is going on in your lives, but it must be after this time of separation. This is for your benefit, and mine as well.

Lastly, I want to say, "Thank you". Thank you for loving me, for working with me, for tolerating me, and for walking with me this past decade+. Thank you for helping me to be a better disciple, a better Christian, and a better pastor. I have cherished these years and feel that we accomplished much in our mission to Connect, Serve, and Grow. I will always look fondly on my time in service here, and look forward to still connecting with many of you through regional ministries and opportunities. Thank you church. I am a better pastor today because of my ministry here with each of you.

God Bless You Now and Always,

Your friend, Mark

Pastor Mark's Message

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



July 3rd, ["The Ten Commandments—The Root, Part 4"](#)

July 10th, ["Like a Good Neighbor"](#)

SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE

For July/August 2022

Liturgist

July 17, 2022	✝	Carole Prentice
July 24, 2022	✝	Michelle Land
July 31, 2022	✝	Connie Hennigh
August 7, 2022	✝	Betty Bohn
August 14, 2022	✝	Jim Walker
August 21, 2022	✝	Susan Neill
August 28, 2022	✝	Anita Collins

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

Hope all is well with everyone. Not much to report except to remind you all to attend our July Third Thursday meeting at 1:00 in the library. Hope to see you there. Come if you want to hear the treasurer report. LOL

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service



Listening / Discerning sessions

Sunday, July 17

KC Central: [Central CC](#)

3801 Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO (816) 921-3614

Sunday, July 31

KS North: [Merriam CC](#)

9401 Johnson Dr, Merriam, KS (913) 432-2390

Sunday, August 7

KS South: [Hillcrest CC](#)

11411 S Quivira Rd, Overland Park, KS (913) 663-2822

Sunday, August 14

Metro Southeast: [Lee's Summit CC](#)

800 NE Tudor Rd, Lee's Summit, MO (816) 524-3616

You are welcome at any of these sessions regardless of where you live. While not required, it will help us with planning if you indicate which session you plan to attend here. More information: <https://www.kcdisciples.org/todr.html>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



July 3rd, ["Noah and the Ark"](#)

July 10th, ["How the Church Tells Time"](#)



Those Needing Prayer:

Marilyn Near's new address is:
8740 Caenan Lake Rd, Room 506, Lenexa, KS
66215

Joyce Hutchinson is in St Luke's South Hospital with Covid.

Jim Owens is home with his family, hospice has been called in. He gets tired easily, but welcomes calls and possible visits.

Heather Waite is having a big transition at her work and could use prayers as she navigates these new changes.

Paul Jorgenson's family has called in hospice for him.

Requests for Family and Friends:

Katie Roach lifted up her nephew **Graham Sixta** who had to go to ER with burns from hot coffee spilled on him.

Nannette Ferguson's daughter Tara had a biopsy, but thankfully it was NOT cancerous.

Heather Waite's friend Mary Anderson, lost her three-day-old grandson.

Mike Nichols' friend lost their mother **Willma McLain**.

Connie Lockard's brother-in-law Leo Lockard, had heart surgery, including a triple bypass. He is out of the hospital and home recovering - the surgery went very well.

Please pray for the **families of Bill Bell, Penny**

Wilson, Victoria Bejarano, Kim Holsapple, Rachelle Cook, and John Nicol, who Pastor Mark performed funeral services for this past week.

Please pray for **Christian and Samantha Beardall**, who Pastor Mark married last Saturday as they begin their journey as husband and wife.

The People of Ukraine. Pray for their safety, pray for their deliverance, and pray for peace.

Pastor Mark's last Sunday is this Sunday, July 17th. There will be a fellowship time after worship with him.

Please be in prayer for Merriam Christian Church as it enters this time of transition. Pray for this community of faith as we explore where the church is now and where it is wanting to move in its future and what type of pastor we need to help us with that direction. There will be more information following in the coming weeks.

Prayer Request

Please contact Pat Reed at 913-631-0699 with prayer requests.

Funeral Meals

Please contact Carole Prentice at 913-485-6950 if you would like to be part of the funeral meal prep group.



Free Hot Soup

We're continuing to collect cases of individual water bottles for this organization to hand out to KC's homeless population. Drop them by the church or if you'd prefer to make a monetary contribution, you may do so by writing "Free Hot Soup" on the memo line of our check or indicate your wishes through EasyTithe.

Covenant of Closure

MINISTER

1. I will separate myself from participation in the life of the congregation from which I am resigning during the interim/transitional period and for at least one year after the arrival of the new pastor.
2. I will be a true and loyal friend to my former congregation and to its minister by not making pastoral calls, hospital calls, or counseling with members, not presiding at weddings or funerals of former parishioners, and by declining all offices, positions and responsibilities in this, my former congregation, except at the invitation of the current minister.
3. I will confer only with the Regional Minister or the current minister of this congregation about any problems I perceive in the congregation, and not discuss them with members of the congregation or others.
4. I will communicate with the Regional Minister should confusion, conflict or other differences arise between myself and this congregation.
5. If at the end of one year after the arrival of the new pastor I wish to participate in this congregation, I will communicate such interests to the Regional Minister who will facilitate discussion of this possibility with the congregation and its pastor.
6. I reaffirm my vows as an ordained/licensed minister. Relying on the grace of God I also reaffirm my commitment to the "Ministerial Code of Ethics" of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

CONGREGATION

1. We accept that our former minister will separate himself from participation in the life of this congregation during the interim/transitional period and for at least one year after the arrival of the new pastor.
2. We will be true and loyal friends to our former minister by not asking him to make pastoral calls, hospital calls or to counsel with members. We will not ask him to preside at weddings or funerals of parishioners nor will we offer positions, offices and responsibilities in this congregation, except at the invitation of the current minister.
3. We will confer only with the Regional Minister or the current minister of this

- congregation about any problems we perceive in the congregation, and not discuss them with the former minister.
4. We will communicate with the Regional Minister should confusion, conflict or other differences arise between the former minister and this congregation.
 5. If one year after the arrival of the new minister we wish our former minister to participate in this congregation, we will communicate such interests to the Regional Minister who will facilitate discussion of this possibility with the congregation and its new minister.
 6. Relying on the grace of God, we reaffirm our commitment to the "Congregational Code of Ethics" of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



World Café Sunday—August 7th Campbell Hall

Join us after worship for lunch and discussion regarding our change in pastoral leadership at MCC.

Community Blood Center

**BLOOD DRIVE
Merriam Christian Church
JULY 18 - 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

The Community Blood Center must collect almost 600 units of blood daily for patients. As there is no substitute for blood, they rely on volunteer donor blood and blood components to furnish to hospitals in Kansas and Missouri

If you are willing and able to donate, please call and make an appointment for July 18th. My phone #913-631-0699. If you would like to you can also make an appointment on line to the COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER.

Thank you and God Bless!

Pat Reed, Blood Drive Chairman
913 631-0699



BACK TO SCHOOL 2022

In conjunction with Center of Grace & Local Grade Schools

Needed:

Girls & Boys Underwear...ALL SIZES!

Girls & Boys Socks....ALL SIZES!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

Spiral Notebooks (wide rule)

Colored Folders no prongs

Pencils # 2

Large Markers non-permanent

Dry Erase Markers (mix of black & multi-colored)

Glue Sticks

Pink Erasers

These items may be purchased and brought to the MCC for distribution or you can make a donation to Make A Difference and we will do the shopping for you. Just add School Supplies to



2022 Fellowship Coffee Hour

JULY 17TH	MEMBERSHIP
AUGUST 7TH	OUTREACH
SEPTEMBER 4TH	HOUSE & GROUNDS
OCTOBER 2ND	PASTORAL RELATIONS
NOVEMBER 6TH	MEMBERSHIP
DECEMBER 4TH	OUTREACH



Games Night!!

Join us for Game Night beginning July 16th at 6:00—8:30 pm. We are meeting upstairs in the Berea classroom. Bring a snack, beverage and your favorite game. All adults and kids are welcome!

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.

Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, July 19th
Pam Boyd

Tuesday, July 26th
Carole Prentice & Susan Neill

Tuesday, August 9th
Pam Boyd & Jan Pankey

Tuesday August 16th
Rick Ferguson

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



We need volunteers to help us with this service to our community. It only takes approximately 1 hour on a Tuesday morning. We pick up meals at the Merriam Community Center at 10:30 and are given our drop off instructions. The number of volunteers determines how many times it's your Tuesday to deliver. Please, if you can help just once a month or once every 6 weeks, we can use the help to reduce the number of times our current volunteers are delivering. You don't have to do this alone, we can work out a team schedule. If you have questions or you're ready to help, talk to Pam Boyd.

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

