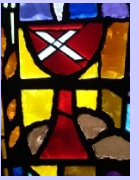


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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



Twelve-and-a-half-years ago I was called here to Merriam Christian Church to be your pastor. I was getting out of a children's ministry position that wasn't working out as I had hoped. I was wanting to get back into weekly preaching and serving and when I met the folks at Merriam, I knew I had found the church I needed.

Over the past decade-plus we have strived to live our faith together, through grace and mission. We have gone into our community to feed people, to help where we could help, and to be a living presence of the Body of Christ. We have gathered for worship and praise, for study and prayer, and for fellowship moments that bind us together as a church. I have loved my time here at Merriam, and have been touched and changed by the people, the ministries, and the time we have spent together. Much has changed during this journey, and the last two years alone have presented us with new challenges and obstacles. And now it must change again.

This past month, I informed the Board that I would be resigning my position as Pastor for Merriam Christian Church effective Sunday, July 17, 2022. I have accepted a call to be minister for North Oak Christian Church in the northland and will begin there on August 1st.. This is a new opportunity for me to work with that congregation, who are eager to get out and be a presence of the Body of Christ in their community. It is also an opportunity for

Merriam Christian Church to evaluate where they are, what they are blessed with, and where God is calling them anew.

I have been overwhelmingly blessed to be your pastor these past years, and I am grateful for each of you. You have blessed me in more ways than I can describe. Your kindness, generosity, and grace have filled my spirit time and again. I know that God is with you on this path, and will guide you to what comes next.

Over the next month, I will be working with our leadership here to begin setting up this transition. I will hand over my responsibilities and help our leadership to connect with our Regional church to enter into the interim process. Please be in prayer for Merriam Christian Church, for our leaders and our congregation as they seek out where God is calling the church today. Be in prayer that God will send an interim minister who can help the church to ask hard questions and seek good solutions to move forward. And lastly, please keep me in your prayers as I seek to serve in this new calling.

God Bless You and Thank You,

Mark



Pastor Mark's Message

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



June 19th, "The Ten Commandments: God First"

June 26th, "Ten Commandments: Part 3"

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

Hope you all are safe and sound in your homes out of the hot weather. Thank God for air conditioning. LOL

I delivered three bags of empty pill bottles to Unleashed Pet Rescue in Mission. They were very thankful. This is really an easy service. We did get a bag and a half at the Evening DWM meeting on June 23rd. Thank you everyone.

We started June with \$2,366.58, adding income of \$191.00, minus expenses of \$155.00, ending with \$2,402.58. We received a refund for the Wylie funeral meal, and I sent in our Blessing Box money. All is well with our finances.

That's all for now. Too early to remind you of our next Third Thursday meeting. Stay safe, stay cool, and pray for Ukraine and pray for our Church.

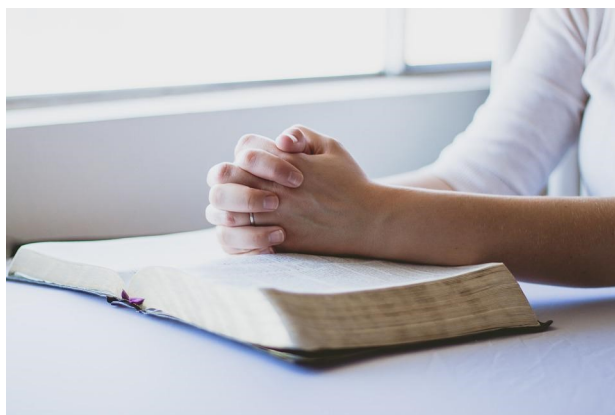
Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service

SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE

For July/August 2022

Liturgist

July 3, 2022	✝	Joyce Luke
July 10, 2022	✝	Nanette Ferguson
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



Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



June 19th, "Creation"



Those Needing Prayer:

Jim Owens is home with his family, hospice has been called in.

Sam Roach had to go back into the hospital last week for surgery on the swollen lymph nodes in his neck. While there he also tested positive for Covid! Thankfully he is now home and recovering - keep Bruce and Katie and Sam in your prayers as they continue to work with their doctors on Sam's condition.

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

Free Man asked for prayers for himself as he goes through some struggles.

Marilyn Near is moving to assisted living at Homestead at 87th and Pflumm.

Robert Neill was diagnosed with Parkinson's and is working with his doctor on treatment.

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

Requests for Family and Friends:

Bill Baker's good friend Robert Tribolet, is struggling with Alzheimer's.

Heather Waite's sister Debra Boyer has been in the hospital with water around her lungs and swelling in her legs.

Marilyn Near's daughter, Sharilyn Near, is having some serious health concerns.

Irene Heavin's sister Jean Hall, is having serious back pain, almost immobilizing her.

Jeanne Bryant's husband is suffering with severe back pain as well.

Pastor Mark performed a wedding for **Josh and Kaitlyn Hunt** last weekend. Please pray for them as they begin their life together as husband and wife.

Please pray for the **family of Harvey Russell**, who Pastor Mark performed funeral services for this past week.

Also pray for **Cassandra and Dennis Su**. Pastor Mark performed a funeral for their one-year-old daughter, Mlleena Su, who passed away at Children's Hospital after complications with bowel surgery.

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

As many of you have heard, Pastor Mark has submitted his resignation as Pastor effective July 17, 2022. He will be moving to another church and beginning ministry there August 1st. 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.



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.

Come Wish Mark a Fond Farewell

As much as we hate to say goodbye, Pastor Mark's last service with Merriam Christian Church will be July 17. The Pastoral Relations Committee invites you to join us in any or all of the several planned ways to thank him for his twelve and a half years of service to Merriam Christian Church.

Fill the Suitcase: On Mark's last service day, July 17, we will have a suitcase on display for the congregation to help fill with items that will send a fond farewell to Mark on his journey to the Northland! For example, items that represent a bond you and he shared, gas cards, mementos, a gift card to one of his favorite restaurants, a letter sharing your favorite story about him or his most impactful sermon, a picture of you and him, or even a card simply expressing "thank you" for serving God and our community well for more than a decade.

Contribute to the Slide Show: On July 17, after the service, we will have a short montage of memories over the past decade. We need your help with pictures! You can email Jennifer.spiegel@park.edu with digital pictures that show Mark in service to our church community. If you have hard copy pictures, Jennifer will happily take them during service the next few Sundays up to July 10th for inclusion in the presentation, and she will return them to you.

Celebratory Social Hour in Honor of Pastor Mark: On July 17 after service, we would like to invite you to stay for Social Hour to honor Mark while enjoying some delicious treats organized by the Membership Committee.

Let's send Mark off in style,

Pastoral Relations Committee



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Samuel Roach	July 5
Susie Arnold	July 7
Mike Nichols	July 7
Bill Tusk	July 7
Charlie Jin	July 9
Adeline Nichols	July 14
Jeannette Howe	July 17
Glen Wheaton	July 20
Wayne Hooker	July 20
Pam Boyd	July 22



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Joe Myers & Emily Yeh	July 26
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Like all of you, I was sad to learn that Mark's time as our pastor will be coming to an end next month. Mark has served Merriam Christian Church with dedication, kindness and, of course, humor for the last twelve and a half

years. He has become a special part of all our lives, and I will miss him.

However, there is a saying: "Life is about change. Sometimes it's painful. Sometimes it's beautiful. But most of the time it's both." Though we're all sad, I have already heard from many of you who have been through this before with the church and see it as an opportunity for us. Our congregation must grow to survive, and this might be just what we need. I have to trust that this is part of God's plan for Mark and for us and ask that you pray for guidance for us all. Carole Prentice has once again answered my call for help and agreed to lead the search committee for a new pastor. We first have to find an interim pastor and that will take some time, so we will likely have a few different pastors filling the pulpit in the weeks to come. We will have the support of the Regional Office with all of this. I will also be asking for your help with many of the non-pastoral duties Mark has taken on within the church over the last few years. In the meantime, let us have patience and give each other grace as we navigate this transition.

Mike

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





Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Minutes recorded by
Donna Rankin, Board Secretary

Present in Person: Pastor Mark Willis, Mike Nichols, Donna Rankin, Greg Spiegel, Jennifer Spiegel, Liz Spiegel, Joel Beaver, Dixie Wheaton, Carole Prentice, Pat Reed, Pam Boyd, Rick Ferguson, Joyce Luke, Michelle Land, Betty Bohn, Jeannette Howe, Sandy Curtis, Bob Pape, Jon Beaver

Mike called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pat Reed-God on All Sides

Minutes of 5/10/22 Board Meeting: Mike asked the board to review the minutes; Motion to accept report by Michelle Land; seconded by Greg Spiegel; board vote, approved.

Current Financial Report: Mike asked the board to review the current financial report; Motion to accept report by Rick Ferguson; seconded by Greg Spiegel; board vote, approved.

Committee Chair Reports:

Clerk: Betty-Opal Wylie passed away on May 2, 2022. Frank and Opal joined the church in November 1970. Frank passed away June 2014. Total membership is 142.

DWM: No report.

Elders: No report.

H&G: Joel-The flat roof at the North end of the church is leaking & water is running down the bricks and into the plaster at the top of the steps. We have received bids to make the necessary repairs. We have selected Badger Roofing to recaulk all around the flat roof and drains. He is a week to ten days out. We are getting bids for sidewalk replacement, asphalt work and resealing the parking lot. We had another water issue in the church basement. Bob and I cleaned up 2-3 inches of water and got it dried. Bob found the sump pump was not working as the breaker had tripped. We have no idea why it tripped, but the pump is working fine. The oldest air conditioning unit (number 3) was not working and Bob found the A-coil was a block of ice. I called McCarty for service/repair. Sherri with McCarty will contact me with a date. Meanwhile, any activities in the classrooms may need to move to Campbell Hall or the Library until the A/C is fixed.

Outreach: Pam-Merriam Park Elementary School does not have need from us for food in their summer program; Free Hot Soup continues to need bottled water. The next Johnson County Food Ministry is June 30. Food will be cooked on-site and packaged for pick-up.

Membership: Jeannette-Committee will be giving Father's Day donuts to all dads at service on Sunday June 19. We will be hosting Sunday Coffee Hour on July 10 and are starting to plan a barbeque in August or September at the church.

Memorial: No report.

Pastoral Relations: No report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark-Carole Prentice and Betty Bohn and I discussed the funeral meals and how we might continue to serve in this area for members and friends of MCC. Carole was willing to lead this ministry and organize our meal offerings. We discussed the board establishing this as a committee with a budget. Others at MCC, like DWM, can contribute as they see fit, whether monetarily or with food and service. Donations from families would go to future meals. We will discuss this further at the board meeting in July. We are continuing to work with Webdeb Sites, the company that maintains our current website, on updating our website. I have fallen woefully behind on this but am hoping to find some time this month to get this done. I performed seven funerals and five wedding this month.

Regional Report-Pastor Mark-I continue to serve with our Regional Board as Secretary and am involved in ongoing discussions about the future of Tall Oaks campsite. We are examining and exploring the current state of Tall Oaks, what it will take to get it solvent and what options are available moving forward. [These conversations are ongoing, and are considering all possible options and outcomes. There will be listening sessions set up in the coming weeks for people to hear and discuss these options, with a set goal of making a regional decision at the September Regional Board Meeting.](#)

Personnel: No report.

Trustees: No report.

Worship: Pastor Mark-Committee met and discussed upcoming events. Pentecost started June 5th. We will keep the red paraments up until July 3rd. That week I will meet with Bob & Rick to change the colors to green for the common season of the liturgy. We are coordinating with membership for Father's Day gifts after worship on June 19. I am looking into using the Narrative Lectionary this summer, which groups lectionary readings in a more narrative structure, allowing for more connected sermons or series. We will start with four-week sermon series on the Ten Commandments. Elders have returned to worship service, offering prayer for the offering & communion. We are still figuring out how to re-introduce deacons into worship as well. Worship Committee will have cookie hour the first Sunday in August.

Old Business:

Michelle-new computer has been purchased for the office and new cord for printer.

New Business:

Pastor Mark-I have accepted a call to serve as pastor for another Disciples congregation beginning August 1, 2022. As such, I must

resign from servicing Merriam Christian Church as pastor, effective July 17. It has been an honor to serve as pastor here and I love this congregation and the ministry and mission they do. This was not an easy decision, nor one I took lightly. But I believe this is a good opportunity for me to explore a new challenge. It is also a good opportunity for Merriam to honestly evaluate where the church is now, and who they need to lead them moving forward. Over the next month, I will be working with our leadership here to begin setting up this transition. I will hand over my responsibilities and help our leadership to connect with our Regional church to enter into the interim process. Please be in prayer for MCC, for our leaders and our congregation as they seek out where God is calling the church today. Be in prayer that God will send an interim minister who can help the church to ask hard questions and seek good solutions to move forward. And lastly, please keep me in your prayers as I seek to serve in this new calling.

Letter of resignation submitted by Pastor Mark Willis; Motion to accept letter of resignation by Joyce Luke; seconded by Joel Beaver; board vote, approved.

Mike-Much appreciation for Pastor Mark's service at MCC for 12 ½ years.

Open Forum:

Mike-Carole Prentice has agreed to head-up a Search Committee. I will contact Katie with PRC regarding a recognition for Mark. There will be much discussion as to how to move forward. We will proceed in a positive manner.

Mike closed with prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Michelle Land; seconded by Dixie Wheaton.

Outreach Committee

THANK YOU, CHURCH!

Because of your generosity of donations, answering the call to purchase hamburger at the amazing sale price & providing the vast array of cookies, we successful cooked and packed 125 takeout meals for the JoCo Food Ministry on Thursday evening. Outreach is alive & well at MCC





July 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Room Codes:</i> 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	2
3 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	4	5 7:00 Committee Meetings—CH 	6 AA 6:00PM	7	8	9
10 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	11 Scouts	12 7:00 Board Meeting—CH 	13 AA 6:00pm	14	15	16
17 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship Fellowship Sunday	18 Scouts	19	20 AA 6:00pm	21 CWF/DWM Business Meeting @ 1:00—Sarah	22	23
24 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	25 Scouts	26	27 AA 6:00pm	28	29	30
31 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship						

2022 Fellowship Coffee Hour

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



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 5th
Pat Reed

Tuesday, July 12th
Carole Prentice & Anita Collins

Tuesday, July 5th
Pam Boyd

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.easytithe.com/merriamc>
- **Text giving:** 913-444-6397

Join us in
worship on
[Youtube.](#)



DON'T FORGET TO SHARE services &
study sessions with family, friends and
neighbors

