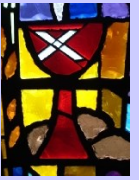


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

**Newsletters**  
[jnethowe@gmail.com](mailto:jnethowe@gmail.com)



Dear Friends,  
Lent has begun. Traditionally a time of year to consider how we have strayed from

God and re-correct our path to walk with God, Lent offers us an opportunity for self-reflection. Lent is a chance to repent, and turn back to God in our everyday lives. But there are always obstacles to this redemption. Temptation is a big one!

We begin Lent each year by hearing of Jesus' time in the wilderness, after his baptism, when he was fasting and praying, communing with God as he prepared for his mission and ministry. During this 40-day-fast, Jesus was tempted, time and again by the devil, offering food, offering power, and offering salvation. But Jesus resisted, leaning on God's Word each time, he rebuked Satan by reminding him and us we do not live by bread alone, but by the Word of God, we worship only God, and we do not test God. In reading this passage every year, it is possible to hear these tests and trials as easy, almost simplistic to Jesus. But it must have been hard. Jesus must have struggled with these challenges.

When we see this story in the scripture, I wonder what led Jesus to share these encounters with his disciples. He was the only person there, so for us to hear the story,

he must have shared it at some point. Was it after the disciples had wrestled with temptation themselves? Had they lost the battle perhaps? Were they down-trodden and depressed because of this moment? Whatever it was, I see Jesus turning to them, looking in their eyes, holding their hand, and explaining to them he understood how they felt. Proclaiming to them that he too had struggled with temptation and faced trials. Soothingly saying to them, "I know, you are not alone in this." Jesus is saying the same thing to each of us. He knows our struggles, our slip-ups, our weaknesses. He has walked this path as well, and he understands. We are not alone.

As we enter into this journey of Lent to repent and turn back to God, let us do so in full knowledge that we are not alone, that Jesus is walking this journey with us, that he loves us, and that he understands what we are going through right now.

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!



February 27th, ["Rocky Mountain High"](#)

March 6th, ["You Are Not Alone"](#)

## DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

The weather can't seem to make up its' mind. Let's pray it is good enough to meet this coming Third Thursday, March 17, at 1:00 in the library. We have a good lesson, and it will be first. The business will be after so those wanting to may leave. I hope we can gather again. I miss it.

So far, I have deposited \$350.00 for blankets. I will not send the money to CWS until after our March meeting. This will be your last chance to buy a blanket. Our business meeting will decide what programs we can afford to support. When we don't meet, we don't receive income. There is one exception. You can always give your donation for CWF/DWM to me any time you see me.

Continue to save pill bottles and can tabs and old eyeglasses. Also save your pennies for the Least Coin fund and fill your Blessing Boxes with blessings. Last, but not least, pray for the Ukrainians.

Over but not out.

Joyce Luke

Treasurer/Service

## EASTER LILIES!

We are taking orders for Easter lilies. They can be purchased in honor or in memory of someone, or simply purchased because you like Easter lilies! We are getting them from Penrod's Nursery again and the quality of the lilies has been excellent from them over the past few years. The cost will be \$13 per Lily. Checks should be made out to Merriam Christian Church, with "Easter Lily" in the memo line. If you use easy tithe or cash, please make sure to indicate that this will be for an Easter lily, and please let us know if it's in memory or honor of someone. We need all orders placed by March 27th. The lilies will be picked up the week before Easter and on display for the Easter worship service on April 17th. You may take them home after the service. If you have any questions, please talk to pastor Mark.

## Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



February 27th, ["The Great Banquet"](#)





**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE**  
**For March/April 2022**

March 13, 2022— 10:00 AM  
Liturgist Jim Walker

March, 20, 2022— 10:00 AM  
Liturgist Carole Prentice

March 27, 2022— 10:00 AM  
Liturgist Heather Waite

April 3, 2022— 10:00 AM  
Liturgist Joyce Luke

April 10, 2022— 10:00 AM  
Liturgist Michelle Land

April 17, 2022— 10:00 AM  
Liturgist Jennifer Spiegel

April 24, 2022— 10:00 AM  
Liturgist Connie Hennigh

*Grow* in the  
grace and  
knowledge of  
*Jesus*  
2 Peter 3:18

*Have  
Faith  
in  
GOD*

**Meals on Wheels**

Tuesday, March 15th  
Pat Reed & Jim Owens

Tuesday, March 22nd  
Carole Prentice & Anita Collins

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

**Backsnack Packing**

Week of March 21st  
Carole Prentice

Week of March 28th  
Jonathan Beaver



Free Hot Soup

MCC Outreach has joined forces with the Free Hot Soup organization to help our homeless population. We are working with Free Hot Soup Organization again to collect items for homeless.

**They need socks, bug spray, underwear, face cloths, and first aid items** (These should be new items). We will collect these items during March. Bring them any Sunday this month and place them in the shopping carts. If you have any questions, reach out to Pam Boyd.

REZOUND! HANDBELL ENSEMBLE  
TO PERFORM AT MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**Rezound!**, Kansas City's auditioned community handbell ensemble, will be in concert at Merriam Christian Church, 9401 Johnson Drive, Merriam, KS, on Saturday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of entertaining music in the unique and engaging style of Rezound!

This nationally acclaimed ensemble has captivated audiences around the country with their expressive music and engaging style. In addition to a year-round concert schedule in the Kansas City region, Rezound! has enjoyed successful tours throughout the Midwest and has collaborated with area ensembles in a variety of concert settings.

With education being integral to the group's focus, members have served as clinicians and instructors at local, regional and national events. Rezound! also hosts a techniques and ringing workshop, the *Fall Show-Me Ring*, and an advanced performance event, *Resonate*.

The ensemble enjoys interacting with the community by performing an annual holiday concert for the Salvation Army's adult rehabilitation center and offering educational programs in metro area churches and schools, giving participants a hands-on experience with bells.

Rezound! members share a passion for creating exceptional music and promoting the art of this versatile instrument. With 14 musicians and more than 300 individual handbells and chimes, each lending its unique timbre to the overall musicality of the performance, the ensemble creates a symphony of bells. We are looking forward to sharing our music with you

## 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**

