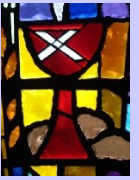


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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



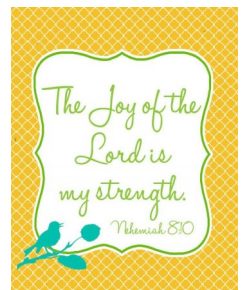
Dear Friends,
What did you have for lunch today? How about yesterday? Was it good food? Not just food that tasted good, but food that was good for you? Food that made you feel good when you ate it and after you ate it? Or was it bad food? Food that makes us feel bad for eating it, makes our bodies feel bad? Is it food that isn't good for us? You would think it would be easy to always choose the food that is good for us, but sometimes, many times, that bad food works its way in and we can't resist it. How many times do we find ourselves munching on something we know is going to not be good for us, and yet we keep taking another bite?

Our faith can be like that. We know the "good food" of God we are supposed to seek after. We know the bread and cup we are supposed to desire. And yet, in Isaiah 55:1-9, we find: "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food."

Isaiah implores us to reach for the food that will satisfy, for the good food that will fill us. This is the food that comes from God: love, kindness, forgiveness, patience, compassions, grace, and on and on. But even with this buffet of goodness, so many times we find ourselves enticed by the food of this world, like greed, power, and money. Too often we seek after these things, but every time we do, we discover we are still hungry for more. Only the good food of God truly satisfies us and makes us whole.

As you think about your next meal, I hope you try for the good food, the food that will fill you up and make you feel good. I also hope you seek after the good food of God, and make it a part of your daily diet. Hear Isaiah's plea, "to eat what is good".

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!



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

March 13th, ["The Shadow of Your Wing"](#)

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

The weather was good for our March Third Thursday meeting. Eight of us enjoyed our video about when to keep our mouths shut. Some of us, and I shall remain nameless, should have seen this video long before videos were invented.

As treasurer, I reported that \$370.00 was collected for blankets to be sent to Church World Service in Elkhart, Indiana. Our empty pill bottle collecting is going great and Unleashed Pet Rescue sends thanks. We also received a good number of old eyeglasses which were passed on to the Lions Club. Can tabs continue coming in which I take to Merriam Park Elementary. Thanks everyone.

We also agreed to set a container on the table outside the office to collect pennies for our "Least Coin" charity. This project has been ongoing since before I joined our Church. When the container is full, the money will be sent to Church Women United.

That's all for now. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service

EASTER LILIES!



Easter Lilies are available for purchase for Easter morning. The cost is \$13 and checks should be made out MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH, with "Easter Lilies" in the memo line or on the envelope. We are purchasing from Penrod's Nursery again and they will be delivered for Easter morning. You can take your lily(s) home with you after the service that day. **We MUST know if you want to order a lily by MARCH 27TH.** Payment can be made up through April 10th. If you are purchasing one in honor or memory of a loved one, PLEASE LET PASTOR MARK KNOW BY APRIL 10TH. Thank you!

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



March 13th, ["Let the Little Children Come to Me"](#)

March 20th, ["Jesus and Bartimeus"](#)



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:

Connie Harshner at the Shawnee Parc Rehab facility. This is at 75th & Antioch. Their phone is 913-401-3800. Connie is in Rm. 101.

Tammy Ramsey will be beginning radiation and chemo for her cancer soon. Please continue to lift her in your prayers.

The **family of Alpha Wickham** on her passing.

The **family of Donna Ward** on her passing. They plan to have a celebration of life for Donna later in the spring or summer. When plans are finalized we will disseminate the information to the church family.

Requests for Family and Friends:

Jim Owen's sister Margaret passed away, they were very close. Please lift Jim and his family during this time of grief.

Heather Waite' sister Denise Boyer, is in the hospital. She is working with her doctors on her blood pressure and blood sugars.

Jon Beaver's friend's 9-year old granddaughter, Clara Vickery, has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Linda Railsback's brother John Railsback passed away unexpectedly. Please lift John's family during this time of grief. John's service will be here at MCC on April 2nd.

Anita Minshew's son Todd is continuing to have strokes. And Anita's daughter-in-law Geryln is scheduled for surgery for her Parkinson's Disease next month hopefully.

Jan Pankey's nephew Tyler Pankey, as he continues to heal from an aneurysm.

The **families of Dayton Beasley and Allair Homburg** on their passing. Pastor Mark performed the services.

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



Easter Egg Hunt

The Membership Committee is planning an Easter Egg Hunt on April 9th at 10:00am. We are looking for donations of Easter candy that is individually wrapped and will fit into our plastic Easter eggs. We have lots of eggs so we will need lots of candy to fill them. Please let candy in the shopping basket by the front door.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the egg hunt and games with the kids.

If you are able to help, please call Jeannette Howe at 913-558-6459.



A Letter from Mike Nichols

Since taking over as Chairperson of the Board of Directors in January, I have been meaning to put something together to introduce myself a little better to the congregation. I grew up in Anthony, Kansas, a town of about 2,500 people south of Wichita and 11 miles north of the Oklahoma border. My dad was a lawyer, and my mom was a high school teacher. I started working on farms during the summer when I was 13, and worked about everywhere else in town during the school year.

I was a member of the Anthony Christian Church, a church with a lot of similarities to ours but not a Disciples church. I attended more regularly during elementary school and not a lot after that. I had some discussions about getting baptized but never actually did it. I really didn't attend church again until Casey, I, Addie, and Sam started coming here in the fall of 2018, and finally got baptized here during the summer of 2019.

I got both my undergraduate and law degrees from The University of Kansas and met Casey not long after when we were both working as Assistant District Attorneys in Wyandotte County. When we decided to get married, we ended up at Merriam Christian Church just by chance while looking for a church to get married in. We loved the building and, after meeting Mark, knew it was the right fit and we were married here in February 2011.

Over the years we talked about finding a church to attend, especially after Addie and Sam were born. We tried out a couple of other churches and always found ourselves talking about how much we liked Mark and wished this church was a little closer. We eventually decided it really wasn't that far and have been attending regularly since 2018.

I now am an attorney in private practice in Kansas City, Kansas, primarily handling criminal and family law matters, and Casey is a Senior Attorney for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas where she primarily represents the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. I was both surprised and honored to be asked to take on the role of Chairperson of the Board of Directors. This is not the first Board I have served on, but I was a little nervous taking on the role because I still feel so new here and have no experience serving on a church board of directors. However, everyone has been extraordinarily helpful, and I want to especially thank Pastor Mark and Carole Prentice for their help and support.

Even though I have only been here a few years, I hope you all feel comfortable coming to me if you have things you would like to discuss about the Church, or anything else for that matter. One good thing about the work I'm in is that I have seen and heard just about anything, and I'm not easily offended. I look forward to serving as your Board Chairperson this year.

Mike



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.

SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE For March/April 2022

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



Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, March 29th
Rick Ferguson & Pam Boyd

Tuesday, April 5th
Walt & Betty Bohn

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

Backsnack Packing

Week of March 28th
Jonathan Beaver

Week of April 4th
Pat Reed



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Scott Stokes	April 7
Harold Leakey	April 10
Casey Meyer	April 10
Josh Ramsey	April 10
Allen Watts	April 10
Nanette Ferguson	April 14
Paul Goff	April 28
Patti Beaver	April 29



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Kevin & Jeannette Howe	April 28
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Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Minutes recorded by
Donna Rankin, Board Secretary

Present in Person: Pastor Mark Willis, Mike Nichols, Donna Rankin, Greg Spiegel, Joel Beaver, Dixie Wheaton, Pat Reed, Pam Boyd, Rick Ferguson, Joyce Luke, Michelle Land

Mike called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Greg-Rest in the Lord

Minutes of 2/08/22 Board Meeting: Mike asked the board to review the minutes; Motion to accept report by Greg Spiegel; seconded by Pam Boyd; 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: Mark on behalf of Betty-No changes, total membership 144.

DWM: Pam-Unable to meet last month due to another snowstorm. Hopeful we can get back to our regular meetings this month on March 17. Moving ahead with Spring Activity, originally planned prior to pandemic, the Rezound Bell Choir performing on April 9th at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary. Met with their representative for inspection of our facility and discussion of their needs.

Elders: Mark-Will meet with Elders after worship on 3/13 for prayer and scriptures.

H&G: Joel-Bob has completed the installation of either new batteries or complete lights in the Emergency/Entry/Exit signs throughout the church and replaced five fire extinguishers, all approved by the fire department. Bob also replaced several burned out bulbs, including over the stairway to the sanctuary, with LED bulbs, much brighter and safer. Bob replaced three outlets in the choir loft. Latch on entry doors was repaired and working properly. Michelle will contact MTS Contracting regarding their schedule to do the tuck point repair project. Light bulbs will be replaced in the Library. Bids will be obtained to change Campbell Hall florescent lights to LED. Light bulbs will be replaced in the parking lot. WaterOne was contacted in February regarding the water leak on the corner of Johnson Drive and Campbell Lane and a crew was sent out and tightened a loose valve. The leak is still present. Contacted WaterOne again today, they will send out a crew to reinspect the area as soon as possible.

Outreach: Pam-Committee met on March 1 with six members present. Discussion topics: QuikTrip Gas Cards-received and will be distributed, when need arises; Free Hot Soup Organization-Congregation will be notified of current needs of short socks, underwear, insect repellent, first aid items, to be collected throughout month of March; Pam attended Caring for Kids Meeting-1)Two 6th grade students & Student Lighthouse Team members at MPE shared they are learning about ancient Greek civilization in social studies and fractions in math. They are preparing for Spirit Week in May. 2)Gotcha Bands are being well received. Student Lighthouse members, facility & staff pass these out to students when they observe Acts of Kindness or Good Rule Followers. 3)Students in grades 3-6 are preparing for Kansas Assessments. PTA is planning a Pep Assembly on March 24th at 2pm to provide encouragement and well wish before testing begins the following week. 4)Tall Oaks-decision was made to support them through the Gala. 5)JoCo Food Ministry-March 31. Sign-up sheet needed for cookies.

Membership: Donna-Committee hosted Coffee Hour on March 6th and it was enjoyed by all; an updated schedule of committees hosting monthly coffee hour will be provided by Jeannette; discussed having an Easter Egg Hunt on April 9th.

Memorial: No report.

Continued on page 7

Pastoral Relations: No report. Next meeting will be 4/12/22 at 6:00 pm.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark-Our phone number is switched over to the VOIP with a desk phone in the office and calls coming to my cell phone through an app; please let me know if there are any complications in using this new service. We are continuing to work with Webdeb Sites on updating our website. We have been approached by a small independent film production company, filming a movie in Kansas City. They are interested in filming some scenes at MCC; information will be presented during new business. I completed Boundaries Training for Regional Standing as a Pastor; a requirement every three years. My sister-in-law, in need of a home, medical and psychological assistance, has moved in with my wife and I to help her get back on her feet. This is a large undertaking and may require me to work from home to offer help when needed. I will stay in contact with PRC Chair Katie Schwenk and Board Chair Mike Nichols as this situation develops. Prayers greatly appreciated. I performed five funerals and one 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. The Region is also developing a partnership with two other regions to consolidate and cooperate on resources and expenses. In this vein, Rev. Bill Rose-Heim is asking Regional Board members to begin reaching out to neighboring churches to seek ways we might share resources and ministry opportunities in new and creative ways to address the struggles many congregations are feeling right now.

Personnel: No report.

Trustees: No report.

Worship: Mark-Committee met and discussed upcoming events for the season of Lent; Pastor Mark, Bob and Rick will change liturgical clothes to purple on March 2nd; for Ash Wednesday a twelve hour Prayer Vigil with scripture and prayer will be sent through email and Facebook every two hours from 6am to 6pm; Working on details for a trumpet player for Easter service; Discussion held regarding Elders and Deacons serving again in some way in worship starting on Easter, will discuss further with Elders at 3/13 meeting; Discussion held regarding possibility of having bulletins again, starting on Easter; A Maundy-Thursdays Service will be held on April 14 at 6pm.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mike-Nursery Attendant Caleigh has dates in March/April not available; will contact second person, previously interviewed, to substitute.

Mark- Approached by a small independent film production company with interest in possibly filming some scenes at MCC. They toured the church building and provided references and insurance information.

After much discussion, Motion to allow filming by Joel Beaver; seconded by Michelle Land; board vote, approved.

Open Forum:

Mark-congratulations to Greg on his new position at Pembroke Hill in the fall.

Mark-congratulations to Roaches on move to new home in Olathe on Saturday.

Dixie-Marge Willard has been with Alpha Wickham all day. Alpha not doing well.



Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

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



April 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Room Codes: 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 Scouts	5 7:00 Committee Meetings—CH 	6 AA 6:00pm	7	8	9 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 Ruzound Concert 7:00pm
10 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship Palm Sunday	11 Scouts	12 7:00 Board Meeting—CH 	13 AA 6:00pm	14	15	16
17 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship Happy Easter	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

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**

