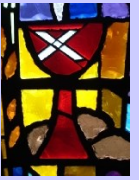


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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
www.merriamcc.org

Newsletters

jethowe@gmail.com



Dear Friends,
As you read this, I am basking in the mild November temperatures of south Texas as I sit on the

beach and stick my toes in the sand. I am enjoying two weeks of vacation with my family in Freeport, Texas, on the gulf of Mexico. This vacation time has become a tradition for my family over the past 5 years. We go to the beach at Thanksgiving to play in the surf, sit in the sand, and eat fresh-catch shrimp for our Thanksgiving feast. This is a time of rest and rejuvenation for me. A chance to unplug from my regular responsibilities and simply "be" for a moment. This time away refreshes my spirit and recharges my batteries for when I return.

Rest is important. Rest allows us to recover. Rest allows us to re-energize. Rest allows us to catch our breath, and prepare for whatever comes next. I have spoken often on the importance of rest to our spirits, mainly because as Americans we tend to not rest enough. We have come to idolize the break-neck pace and unending to-do-lists, where we are always on the run, always on-the-go. And that is not healthy for our bodies, our minds, or our souls. Rest is where we hear God in the whisper. Rest is where we feel the Spirit in the breeze.

This next month, full as it is with

holiday meals, parties, gatherings, and family get-togethers is a busy time. It is easy to get lost in the hecticness of the season. But I hope you take an opportunity over the next 45 days to also rest: to close your eyes for a second, catch your breath, simply listen to your heartbeat, and hear God speaking to you.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving! I will see you all on November 28th for our Hanging of the Greens Worship Service as we kick off the Advent Season together.

God Bless
Mark



Pastor Mark on Vacation

Pastor Mark is on vacation in Texas with his family from November 14-November 28. If an emergency should arise, Board Chair Carole Prentice, and vice-chair Mike Nichols will reach out to Pastor Mark and together they will coordinate help as needed.

Pastor Mark's Message

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



November 7th, ["The Forcast Calls for Abundant Sunshine"](#)

November 14th, ["Lessons from Nehemiah- Remember, Rejoice, Repent, Repeat"](#)

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies, It's me again,

Happy to report that 10 of us attended our Third Thursday meeting. Everyone seemed to enjoy our new program, "Keep It Shut". No one noticed it was all about me.

We ended October with \$2,403.53 and added \$46.50 collected at our meeting. We voted to donate \$150.00 to Make a Difference for gift cards to families this Christmas.

Eighteen people have signed up for our Olive Garden lunch on Dec. 16th. Your last chance to sign up is this Sunday, Nov. 21. This is open to the whole Church, and several men have signed up, including Mark. We apologize to anyone still working and cannot attend a daytime event. Most of us are retired and some don't drive at night if avoidable.

Keep collecting pill bottles for Unleashed, a pet rescue in Mission. The can tabs are for Merriam-Park Elementary, and we will also take old eyeglasses for the Lions Club. This Sunday may be your last chance to bring Hats and Gloves for the Christmas Bureau.

That's all 'til next time.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Its that time of year again! We will be collecting for staff gifts until December 10th. Please make checks payable to the church, (Memo line Staff gifts.) Checks or cash may be given to either Carole Prentice or Mike Nichols



Poinsettias for Christmas

We are taking orders for poinsettias for Christmas against his year. The cost is \$10/each, and we need to have your order in by December 5th. You can purchase in honor or memory of someone special, or simply get one because it is festive! Please make checks out to Merriam Christian Church and write "POINSETTIAS" in memo line or on envelope. The poinsettias will be a part of our worship space on Sunday, December 19th. After that worship service you may take your poinsettia home with you. If you have any questions, ask Pastor Mark.

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



November 7th ["The Israelites Return and Rebuild"](#)

November 14th ["How the Church Tells"](#)



Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Minutes recorded by
Donna Rankin, Board Secretary

Present in Person: Pastor Mark Willis, Carole Prentice, Donna Rankin, Joel Beaver, Michelle Land, Walt Bohn, Dixie Wheaton, Pat Reed, Mike Nichols, Joyce Luke, David Roebuck, Barry Davis, Anita Collins, Greg Spiegel, Jennifer Spiegel, Pam Boyd, Bob Pape, Anita Collins

Carole called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pam-Life Gets Hard-Everything Works Together

Minutes of 10/12 Board Meeting: Carole asked the board to review the minutes and current financial reports; Motion to accept reports by Mike Nichols; seconded by Walt Bohn; approved.

Committee Chair Reports:

Clerk: Carole on behalf of Betty-total membership is 151, no changes. Discussion of categories of Membership: active, legacy, second generation.

DWM: Pam-Seven ladies in attendance on 10/21. Discussion: collection of hats & gloves for Christmas Bureau; empty pill bottles continue to be well received by shelter; Regional DWM on 10/28 at Independence First Christian; making & sending Christmas cards to Kansas service men & women stationed overseas via Volunteer Kansas. Agreed that on 12/16 instead of our regular meeting we will go to lunch at Olive Garden. All women of church will be invited. New program "Keep it Shut" will begin at next meeting of 11/18.

Elders: No report.

Finance: Dixie-October financial reports provided for review.

H&G: Joel-Obtained bid from United Restoration for new roof. Discussion had regarding details of bid and breakdown of total amount, deductible, and insurance coverage. Recommend using United Restoration for roof replacement. They have done some roof repairs and roof replacement over carport and did a great job. Received proposal from MTS for tuckpoint brick surfaces.

Outreach: Carole-Thank you for all food donations. We will provide 25 boxes to Merriam Park and 10 boxes to Hocker Grove, if needed, or to Shawnee Community Services. Sunday (11/14) is last day to donate. Potatoes, crackers and mac & cheese are needed. Boxes will be packed at 2 pm on Sunday. For Christmas last year, gift cards were provided to families rather than purchasing gifts. That worked well so we will provide gift cards again this year.

Membership: Donna-Another Outside Fellowship Hour was held on 10/31 with hot cider and donuts. Membership discussed the possibility of future Coffee Hours with suggestion to hold a coffee hour once a month beginning in January 2022. Discussed activities for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Goal for a church potluck is Palm Sunday in April 2022.

Memorial: Emily-A sign dedication held on 10/03/21 for new digital sign in front of church. A printed notice listing memorial monies used and other donations was framed and is located on the wall above the Memorial Books outside the sanctuary.

Pastoral Relations: No report.

Pastor's Report: The majority of the new AV systems have been installed and first reports are excellent. The picture and sound are vastly improved and the company hopes to finish install with new microphones and projector right after Thanksgiving. Please check it out on church YouTube page. Google Fiber has been installed for better uploading speeds for our livestream. It will be networked through the church and Spectrum internet canceled. Webdeb Sites, the company that maintains our current web site, has submitted some ideas on updating our web-site. Reached out to the Girl Scout group we discussed last month but received no reply. Assuming they found

another place to meet. My family and I will be on vacation in Texas from 11/14-11/27. THANK YOU for allowing me time off to rest and rejuvenate, I deeply appreciate it.

I performed four funerals and three weddings this month.

Personnel: Mike-Nursery Attendant Caleigh will be available for church service on 12/26.

Trustees: Michelle-Investment doing well, with exception of some fluctuation in stock market.

Worship: Mark- The sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas on 11/23. Hanging of the Greens will take place on 11/28. Poinsettias will be ordered and delivered on 12/19. Christmas Eve service will be 12/24 at 5:00 pm with regular service held on 12/26.

Old Business:

Mike-Researched options for church office phone service. Would recommend Dialpad VOIP (voice over internet protocol) which is a business type desk phone using internet connection rather than connected to a phone jack. Motion to start phone service with Dialpad and order a phone for the office by Mike Nichols; seconded by Greg Spiegel; vote by Board; approved.

New Business:

Roof replacement-after much discussion regarding hail damage to roof & gutters, condition of overall roof, possibility of the need for new fascia board and the need to get work done before bad weather, Motion on roofing project to go to United Restoration by Joel Beaver; seconded by Bob Pape; vote by Board; approved.

Tuck-point bricks-after much discussion; Motion on tuck-pointing brick surfaces project go to MTS by Joel Beaver; seconded by Bob Pape; vote by Board; approved.

Coffee hour after worship service-Suggestion by Membership that beginning January 2022 we resume having a coffee hour in fellowship hall once a month, to be hosted by committee members. After discussion, Motion to have Coffee Hour on first Sunday of each month by Mike Nichols; seconded by Joel Beaver; approved.

Open Forum:

Carole-Staff Christmas gifts (Mark, Emily, Chris, Caleigh) can be made by check or cash to her or Mike Nichols by 12/10.

Mike-He will be checking with committee chairs to see if willing to serve in 2022.

Dixie-THANK YOU workers for nice sidewalk!

Rick & Nanette Ferguson have had dental work, prayers for them.

CONGRATULATIONS to Bob Pape, Mr. Mayor.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Michelle Land; seconded by Mike Nichols.





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:

- **Dave Driskill**, former member, passed away. Please keep his family in your prayers as they grieve.
- **Heather Waite** had her purse stolen. Please be in prayer for her as she deals with this event.
- **Johnnie Pieters**, the longtime owner of Merriam Feed, has leukemia and is in KU Med.
- **Donna Rankin asked for prayers for family members and the community of Bedford Iowa**, where there is a Covid outbreak.
- **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.
- **Bob Owens** has recovered from Covid and is back at Brookedale, healing from hip surgery.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Joe Myers' brother Mark Myers** was diagnosed with leukemia.
- **Alice Goff's neighbor, Mary Thomas**, fell down the stairs and fractured her neck.
- **Katie Schwenk's friend Maggie** got to bring her new son Roman home from the hospital after a month, but there are still doctors to see and treatments to follow, so please keep them in your prayers.
- **Heather Waite's niece Misty Waite** was diagnosed with a lung disease but was able to leave the hospital and go home. She will continue to work with her doctor on medication and treatment.
- **Glen and Dixie Wheaton's daughter Chris** had heart valve replacement surgery. She is staying with Glen and Dixie as she begins her recovery.
- **Marge Willard's cousin Donna Smith**, needs a bone-marrow transplant.
- **Donna Rankin's great-nephew Adam Harris** had surgery.
- **Anita Minshew's son Todd** had back surgery. The surgery went well, but he is in pain.
- Prayers for **the family of Jack English**. Pastor Mark performed a funeral for the family last week.
- **Heather Waite's aunt Altalee Bryant**, passed away. Please keep Heather and her family in your prayers.
- **Marge Willard's son Jewell** is dealing with a resurgence of his cancer and could use prayers.

- **Joyce Campbell's daughter Leigh** is being stalked - prayers for her safety and care.
- **Katie Roach asked for prayer for her grandparents, Jack and Irene Kirkpatrick**, who both have Covid. Irene is quarantined at home and Jack is in the hospital.
- **Connie Hennigh asked for prayers for her granddaughter and her husband, Chelsea and Noah Molder**, as they foster three young boys and are hoping to adopt them.
- **Joe Myers' brother Mark Myers** was diagnosed with leukemia.
- **Nancy Hines' neighbor Larry Krous** is very ill and could use healing prayers.
- **Dave Driskill**, former member, passed away. Please keep his family in your prayers as they grieve.
- **Barry Davis' friend Tyler Rain and his new wife** are expecting their first child December 25th! Tyler used to attend services with Barry.

PRAISE:

Congratulations to **Bob Pape** who was elected Mayor of Merriam, and to **Amy Rider (Christina Stokes' sister)** who won a seat on the City Council!

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.



HOUSE AND GROUNDS PROJECTS

In the last several weeks our house and grounds committee has been working diligently to secure bids for our roof replacement and tuck pointing of the brick surfaces before winter. It has taken much more time than expected and bids have just been received recently. The roof has hail damage from late summer storm and the exterior bricks need regular maintenance to prevent leak-ages.

House and Grounds committee presented recommendations at the November 9 board meeting and were approved by the board. In the interest of work being completed before winter weather, work is scheduled to begin as soon as possible.

Carole Prentice, Board Chair

Advent Devotionals

We have provided Advent devotionals for the Christmas season. An email will go out with a digital copy of the Society of St. Andrew Advent Devotional just prior to November 28th, the start of Advent 2021. We will also have physical copies available at the church if you wish to pick one up. Use these throughout Advent (November 28 - December 25) to bring a Word from God for each day. Share the digital copies with friends and family!

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 as we are beginning our Fall Quarterly. Hopefully you will also find this a good support group in many areas.

Update on Nancy Hines

Nancy Hines is in Brookdale Home at 12802 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, Ks. Room 407

She fell and broke her pelvis in two places. She is in a lot of pain and unable to walk.

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](#).

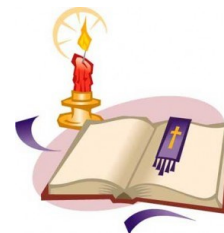


**DON'T FORGET TO SHARE services &
study sessions with family, friends and
neighbors**





December 2021



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 AA 5:30pm	2	3	4
5 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	6	7 7:00 Committee Meetings IN PERSON—CH 	8 AA 5:30pm	9	10	11
12 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	13	14 7:00 Board Meeting IN PERSON—CH 	15 AA 5:30pm	16 CWF/DWM Business Meeting @ Sarah 1PM	17	18
19 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	20	21	22 AA 5:30pm	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am DP 10:00 Worship	27	28	29 AA 5:30pm	30	31	

SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE

For December 2021

December 5, 2021— 10:00 AM

Liturgist Jim Owens

December 12, 2021— 10:00 AM

Liturgist Jan Pankey

December 19, 2021— 10:00 AM

Liturgist Michelle Land

December 26, 2021— 10:00 AM

Liturgist Heather Waite



Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, December 7th

Glen Wheaton 913-677-5327

Dixie Wheaton 913-677-5327

Tuesday, December 14th

Walt Bohn 816-550-5541

Betty Bohn 816-550-5541

Tuesday, December 21st

Rick Ferguson 913-215-4887

Susan Neill 913-306-2324

Tuesday, December 28th

Pam Boyd 913-515-5863

Jan Pankey 913-481-8612

Subs – Carole Prentice, Jan Pankey,
Rick Ferguson

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



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Mark Willis	December 4
Emily Hooker	December 5
Anita Collins	December 6
Paul Jorgensen	December 9
Marilyn Near	December 27
Jonathan Beaver	December 28



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Rick & Nanette Ferguson	December 12
Scott & Christina Stokes	December 17

