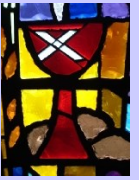


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

jnethowe@gmail.com



Dear Friends,
Thankfully, it is finally November. November is a month full of thanksgiving and thankfulness.

The month began with elections: the opportunity to express our thoughts and opinions through a democratic process. Millions went to voting places to cast their voice for their community, their state, and their country and it is a marvelous and awesome moment.

Then we stop to celebrate and remember our veterans; those men and women who have put aside personal needs to stand up for and defend their country. We pause on a day that originally was set aside to commemorate the end of what was referred to as the "War to end all wars", but which sadly only preceded more and more horrific examples of violence and devastation. With each conflict we asked young people to rise up and defend their homeland, and time and again our young answered the call bravely and selflessly. For that sacrifice we are ever thankful.

The month then culminates in Thanksgiving itself: a time to gather with family and friends, mindful of the blessings that fill our journeys.

As this month proceeds, take time each day to mark your admiration and appreciation of all the blessings in your life. Even in the

midst of struggle we can see the countless ways God is moving in our lives and in the lives of those we know and love. Be purposeful and mindful of your thanks this month. Each day set aside a moment to pause and say, "I am thankful for..." and allow the thanksgiving to pour forth from you. May God open your eyes to the blessings all around and may your heart be touched and moved by these blessings.

In Christ,
Mark



Advent Devotionals Available
We have Advent devotionals that are available to anyone who would like one. These booklets feature a devotion for each day during Advent, which starts on November 28th and ends on Christmas Day. These short devotions or a wonderful way to remind yourselves of the beauty and Grace of the Christmas season. I'll be emailing out a link to a digital version of this devotional. If you would like a physical booklet those will be available to pick up after worship starting on November 21st. I encourage you to use these devotionals during the Advent season as we walk together to the manger in Bethlehem.

Pastor Mark's Message

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



October 24th, ["You are a Beloved Child of Odd"](#)

October 31st, ["Argue with Me"](#)

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

It's me, reporting in. Our beginning balance for November is \$2,403.53. Plan to attend our monthly meeting on the third Thursday, Nov. 18th at 1:00 pm. We will start our new program, "Keep It Shut", which sounds interesting.

We haven't heard back from anyone about our idea to have a December luncheon at the Olive Garden in lieu of a "hard work" dinner at the Church. We need a head count to make a reservation for 1:00 pm on the third Thursday, December 16th. Let us hear from you. Any and all Ladies of the Church are invited to lunch. Dutch treat, of course.

Five of us squeezed into one car and made the trip to Independence First Christian Church for the Regional Evening DWM meeting on October 28th. We had a tasty dinner and a marvelous program. Rev. Terry Diehl gave a most informative presentation on "Christians Working on the Border". It was dark and rainy coming home, but our driver did a fantastic job and we made it.

Can't think of anything else. See you Sunday and hopefully at our next business/program meeting Nov. 18th. Keep saving empty pill bottles.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

It's 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

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES

Thanksgiving food boxes will be completed on November 14 for delivery to Merriam Park School on the 16th. Please bring your donations by November 14th.

Cider & Donuts



Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



October 17th ["Jonah and the Big Fish"](#)
October 31st ["Daniel and the Lion's Den"](#)



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:

- **Katie Roach** asked for prayers for her family on the passing of her cousin Loretta Fernandez
- **Bob Owens** has recovered from Covid and is back at Brookedale, healing from hip surgery.
- **Bev McDonald's** car has broken down. She is working with her family on getting something to replace it.
- **Liz Spiegel** is back home again! She is doing much better after suffering a stroke. She did not need to go to rehab, and will do rehab in-home instead.
- **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
- **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.
- **Bob Owens** has recovered from Covid and is back at Brookedale, healing from hip surgery.
- **Paul Goff** as he recuperates from recent 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.
- **Connie Hennigh** asked for prayers for her grandson and his wife, **Chris and Chelsey Bungart**, on the birth of their daughter Raegan Kay.
- **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.
- **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 Inglish**. Pastor Mark performed a funeral for the family last week.
- **Nancy Hines' neighbor Larry Krous** is very ill and could use healing prayers.
- **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.
- **Barry Davis' friend Tyler Rain and his new wife** are expecting their first child December 25th! Tyler used to attend services with Barry.

PRAISE:

- Pastor Mark performed a wedding last weekend, for **Andrew and Bobbette Cook**. Please lift them up in prayers as they begin their journey together as husband and wife.

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.



Thanksgiving Cornucopia

FALL IS HERE!

And that means Thanksgiving is on the horizon. Each year Merriam Christian Church provides families from Merriam-Park Elementary and Crestview Elementary schools with a Thanksgiving food box. This box contains food for the Thanksgiving meal, complete with potatoes and ham, and provides additional meals for the whole family. To do this, we need your help! We will be collecting food donations THRU NOVEMBER 14TH. Bring your donations and place them in the grocery carts and will build our cornucopia!



Oct 3 - Canned Soup and Crackers
Oct 10 - Peanut Butter and Jelly
Oct 17 - Canned Veggies
Oct 24 - Canned Fruit
Oct 31 - Spaghetti and Sauce
Nov 7 - Cereal, Hot or Cold
Nov 14 - Potatoes - Boxed (Mashed, scalloped, etc)

Any other non-perishables you would like to donate are also welcomed. Folks are welcomed and encouraged to donate to Make-a-Difference as well, as we use those funds to purchase extra food we need. If you would like to help with this vital ministry, talk to Carole Prentice and the Outreach Committee.

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.



**PRESENTS
IN A
PACKAGE**

*Christmas Card
Drive For
Our Troops*

We provided Volunteer Kansas with 25 Christmas Cards to our deployed Kansas service men & women Thanks

to everyone who participated!

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

