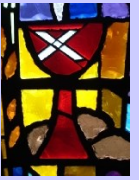


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

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



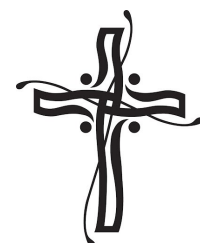
Dear Friends,  
Late October every year brings us to our Annual Congregational Meeting this Sunday, October 24th after worship. This yearly meeting is a gathering of the congregation to discuss and vote on a couple big items the Board has put forward. The first is our 2022 Budget. This budget has been shaped and formed by our Finance Committee in cooperation with out committee chairs, and our Board. This budget will shape our ministry and mission for the next year. It reflects our giving trends, and allows us to plan together for how we will serve in 2022.

With the budget, the Board also puts forth a list of new Elders and Deacons. These are leaders in our church that have been asked to serve for the next three years. Right now, with our current adjustments due to Covid, these individuals are serving less in worship. However, they do make up the Board and as such discuss and decide ideas, and help guide the church's actions and ministries. These individuals are asked to spiritually and prayerfully engage in God's purpose for our church and to help us take the steps to reach that purpose. On the list of officers for the church, we will vote on those marked with an asterik. Everyone else listed is currently serving and will

continue to serve next year. Please say a prayer of thanks for those who have stepped up to accept a role and pray that God will bless them with wisdom and vision.

The Annual Congregation Meeting is a chance for the whole church to come together and make these important decisions. As Disciples of Christ we are a congregationally based denomination, meaning each congregation is tasked with making its own decisions, choosing its own path, and being the church God is calling it to be. We do not have an ecclesial authority structure where we get decisions handed down from a bishop or presiding body. Instead we leave the responsibility of decision making to each church individually to engage in for themselves. Please make time to be a part of this decision-making meeting on October 24th. We will worship together first, and then immediately move to business. Thank you for all you do for the church, and may God Bless you this week.

In Christ,  
Mark





# Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Minutes recorded by  
Donna Rankin, Board Secretary

**Present in Person:** Pastor Mark Willis, Carole Prentice, Donna Rankin, Joel Beaver, Rick Ferguson, Michelle Land, Walt Bohn, Betty Bohn, Dixie Wheaton, Jan Pankey, Pat Reed, Mike Nichols, Anita Minshew, Joyce Luke, David Roebuck, Barry Davis, Anita Collins, Greg Spiegel

Carole called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Mike -Trusting in His Plan

**Minutes of 9/14 Board Meeting:** Carole asked the board to review the minutes and current financial reports; Motion to accept reports by Betty Bohn; seconded by Jan Pankey; approved.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

**Clerk:** Betty-Don Rudkin member since 1989, passed away on 9/28; total membership is 151.

**DWM:** Joyce-Empty pill bottles were delivered to pet rescue and they were thrilled to get them.

**Elders:** No report.

**Finance:** Michelle-September financial reports provided for review.

**H&G:** Joel-Roof-repair to the North end of the sanctuary was completed, however, United Restoration informed me of hail damage and entire roof in bad shape. I met with insurance adjuster and a claim was filed. His report was received just today. I will submit the report to United Restoration for their bid on replacing the roof. Tuck point-received the second bid, waiting on third bid. Sidewalk repair-Installation of new plant material, timber wall, much and sidewalk forms completed. Delay in getting two yards of concrete delivered to complete the sidewalk. Moffitt House-installation of mulch completed. Property looks much better. Will install some dirt around the foundation on the west and south sides. Fall furnace service check-McCarty will be here tomorrow morning. Bob will meet with the Tech. Kitchen garbage disposal-water was backing up, Bob cleared out and is working fine now. A big THANKS to Bob for all your help!

**Outreach:** Carole-Merriam Park Elementary Boo for Bears will be held 10/21, candy donations needed, will also have opportunity this year to pass out MCC information, Johnson County Food Ministry was held on 9/30, Cornucopia has started, gathering food for 50 Thanksgiving boxes. Food or monetary donations are accepted at any time.

**Membership:** Donna-An Outside Coffee Hour was held on 9/26 at the Disciples Place. Refreshments of cake and coffee provided on 10/03 after the Sign Dedication Ceremony. Next activity will be another coffee hour with hot cider and donuts.

**Memorial:** No report.

**Pastoral Relations:** Jan-Katie Schwenk will be co-chair.

**Pastor's Report:** AV Technology for live streaming worship service has begun. New mics and projector are back ordered but expected to be installed by December. We are working on updating our website. Webdeb, company who currently maintains it, has submitted some ideas. We will participate in Merriam Park Truck or Treat event, Boo for Bears, on 10/21. Need candy donations and volunteers. We have been invited to advertise again in the Merriam Magazine which goes out to Merriam residents and area hotels. We have been approached by a Girl Scout Troop looking for a place to meet on Thursday evening. They would only need a classroom space. I appreciate the church's concern and support, calls and emails during my bout with Covid.

I performed five funerals and four weddings this month.

**Personnel:** Mike-Nursery Attendant Caleigh is working out well. Plans to be out of town on a fall break.

**Trustees:** Michelle-Investment continues to be profitable.

**Worship:** Mark-Plan to be off on 11/14 and 11/21; will make arrangements for fill-in preacher. Hanging of the

Continued on page 3

Greens will take place on 11/28. Date to decorate sanctuary to be determined.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Congregational meeting will be held on 10/24. Pastor Mark will be emailing the Board Chairman Letter, 2022 Budget and Nominating Committee Report and mailing to those with no email address. Staff Christmas Gifts will need to be received early December for payroll. Discussion held regarding Merriam Magazine advertisement. Motion to not renew the Merriam Magazine advertisement made by Mike Nichols; seconded by Walt Bohn; vote by Board; approved. Pastor Mark provided information from Spectrum and Google Fiber regarding updating our internet/phone services. We need more upload speed to live stream effectively. After much discussion, a Motion to accept the internet upgrade by Google Fiber and Spectrum cell phone service by Greg Spiegel; seconded by Michelle Land; approved.

**Open Forum:**

Liz Spiegel is doing much better and is home.

Anita Minshew's son is having back surgery.

Dixie Wheaton's daughter is having heart valve replacement.

Carole expressed appreciation that Mike Nichols has agreed to serve as Board Chairman and Greg Spiegel has agreed to serve as Board Vice-Chairman for 2022.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Michelle Land; seconded by Betty Bohn.

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## DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

It's me again, reporting in. We had seven at our third Thursday meeting today. We missed you all that couldn't make it. We finished our current DVD and it was very moving. Also, we learned something new about olives. Hopefully the next lesson will be as good or better. It's titled "Keep It Shut" which sounds like a good idea. Please come on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas is rapidly approaching and we need to collect hats & gloves for the JCCB. The stick tree is in the lobby waiting for your donations. Continue to save pill bottles, can tabs, and old eye glasses. Every little bit helps and the recipients are always thankful.

The Ladies of the Church are all members of the DWM and we used to have a Christmas Dinner in December. Well, how about a 1:00 PM luncheon, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Olive Garden on 95<sup>th</sup> and Metcalf. I can take four in my car if you need a ride. Please let me or Pam or Connie know so we can make the reservation, sooner rather than later. We hope to have a large gathering of Disciples Women. Maybe we can wear red or green for the season. We may have a short message and everyone will pay their own way.

Also, if you want to attend the Evening DWM on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Oct., we will need your head count by Sunday to be turned in on Monday. We will have to carpool to Independence First Christian Church. Let me know.

Last, but not least, our checkbook balance at this time is \$2,360.53. Income today of \$43.00 will be deposited in the bank tomorrow. That's all folks. Hope I didn't miss anything important.

Joyce Luke  
Treasurer

## Pastor Mark's Message

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



October 17th, ["Dream Small"](#)

October 10th ["What Kind of Bird is That: Envy and Faith"](#)

### A Message from Martha Hole

Dear Friends at Merriam Christian Church: As many of you may know by now, Rollin Hole left this world and entered the eternal world of Heaven on the Lord's Day, Sunday, September 26, 2021. His last days were full of suffering and stress. Much of the time in those days he spent "talking" to beings that only he could see. They were obviously real to him. He was not connecting with anything I tried to communicate, staring past me as he slowly began disconnecting with earthly life. It was sobering and sad, yet still fascinating to witness. I held his hand and brushed his hair back as his breaths became longer and longer in between, until there was that one, last breath that led him into his new life of perfection, health and joy. I am full of endless gratitude to have shared our time on earth.

As so many of you know, who have already experienced this loss in your own lives, my days ahead without Rollin seem so foreign and blank to me. I know he is with me at every moment and I know that each day will bring a mixture of sadness as well as joyful memories of all we shared together.

Please read his obituary that I wrote for the funeral home website.

Love, Martha

You can read Rollin's complete obituary here:

<https://www.smithfamilymortuaries.com/memorials/john-hole/4740337/obituary.php>



If the members would like to bring cards expressing their gratitude to the service men & women of Kansas, DWM will have a basket outside the sanctuary. Deadline is fast approaching but, we have a couple of weeks to make this happen.

Simply purchase holiday cards (or better yet, make them), write a message to our deployed troops and sign the cards. Cards must be received by November 10th to Volunteer Kansas in Wichita who will package them and send them to deployed troops in time for Christmas.

[https://www.volunteerkansas.org/opportunities/make\\_holiday\\_greeting\\_cards\\_for\\_deployed\\_troops\\_presents\\_in\\_a\\_package.html](https://www.volunteerkansas.org/opportunities/make_holiday_greeting_cards_for_deployed_troops_presents_in_a_package.html)

### Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



October 17th ["Solomon Builds a Home for God"](#)

October 10th ["David and Goliath and More"](#)





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:

- **Jim Owens** is in the hospital experiencing shortness of breath. Doctors are evaluating his medications.
- **Addie and Sam Nichols** both tested positive for Covid. Luckily they have had mild to no symptoms and are quarantining at home with Mike and Casey who have not gotten it.
- **Jo Rudkin and family** on the passing of Don Rudkin.
- **Paul Goff** as he recuperates from recent surgery.
- **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.

## Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Carol Vann's friend Connie** is battling cancer for the 2nd time.
- **Joe Myers' brother Mark Myers** was diagnosed with leukemia.
- **Alice Goff's neighbor, Mary Thomas**, fell down the stairs and fractured her neck.
- **Katie Schwenck's friend Maggie** had a new baby, Roman, who is having some health issues, including sepsis.
- **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.
- Prayers for the **family of Rev. Rollin Hole**, past minister for MCC, on his passing.
- Prayers for the family of **Stan Perry**. Pastor Mark performed a graveside for the family last week.
- **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.

## PRAISE:

- Pastor Mark performed a wedding last weekend, for **Mackenzie and Tyler Selby**. 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.



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 24th after the morning worship service. We will discuss and vote on the 2022 Budget, as well as new Elders and Deacons and church officers. After the Congregational Meeting, the Elders will vote on the Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Please plan on staying and participating in this annual exercise of our church structure. Thank you!

## 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.

Our October series is well under way and Anita Collins is leading the study discussion.

October 24:  
*Praise God for His Presence*

October 31:  
*Praise God for His Greatness*

### ***Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings***

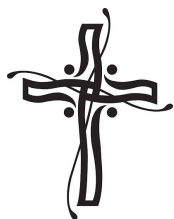
- **Write a check.**
- <http://www.easytithes.com/merriamcc>
- **Text giving: 913-444-6397**

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

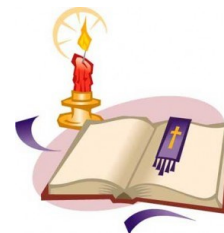




**DON'T FORGET TO SHARE** services &  
study sessions with family, friends and  
neighbors





# November 2021



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

## SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE

For October 2021

**November 7, 2021— 10:00 AM**

Liturgist Pat Reed

**November 14, 2021— 10:00 AM**

Liturgist Carole Prentice

**November 21, 2021— 10:00 AM**

Liturgist Joyce Luke

**November 28, 2021— 10:00 AM**

Liturgist Connie Hennigh



### Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, November 2nd

Pam Boyd 913-515-5863

Jan Pankey 913-481-8612

Tuesday, November 9th

Mark Willis 816-616-9746

Rick Ferguson 913-215-4887

Tuesday, November 16th

Joan Tarwater 913-236-5286

Linda Railsback 620-423-7854

Tuesday, November 23rd

Pat Reed 913-375-3628

Jim Owens 913-888-6977

Tuesday, November 30th

Carole Prentice 913-485-6950

Anita Collins 913-362-6139

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:

Bob Pape	November 1
Anita Minshew	November 3
Katie Schwenk	November 4
Susan Bonjour	November 8
Ya Larson	November 14
Zeke Schwenk	November 16
Dorothy Kroh	November 18
Nicholas Hennigh	November 23
Joyce Luke	November 30



### Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Paul & Alice Goff	November 11
Allen & Jackie Watts	November 26
Wayne & Emily Hooker	November 28

