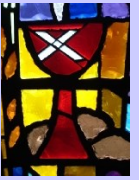


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## 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**  
[jethowe@gmail.com](mailto:jethowe@gmail.com)



Dear Friends,  
It has been quite a month! In between contracting Covid and having to quarantine, and THEN cutting off a finger tip while cooking! (They were able to glue it back together) Needless to say, I feel a little discombobulated over the past thirty days. But slowly and surely we are getting back into the swing of things.

There is a lot going on in the church right now. Our Cub Scout and Boy Scout groups have resumed in-person meetings, and our AA group is going strong on Wednesdays. The Johnson County Christmas Bureau is having meetings and training as they prepare for their Christmas shop in December, and the bus company's monthly safety meetings are bringing in lots of folks through our doors. And we are participating in the Johnson County Food ministry and Merriam-Park Community Partner Program again. AND we just started up our Thanksgiving Cornucopia food collection for Merriam-Park and Crestview Elementary families again! AND AND of course our Regional Office ministries and teams are meeting and working hard.

In the midst of all of that, this next Tuesday we begin the installation of our new audio-visual technology for worship. This project will bring a complete new

system for our live streaming, including three new cameras, and a new computer to run the system. Two of the cameras will be mounted on the back wall to give us wide angles of the room, plus close up capabilities from straight onto the chancel. The third camera will be mounted on the east wall toward the front, giving us another angle on the chancel, but also the capability to film straight on to the piano and organ when specials are being done. The computer will include software for putting information on the screen of the live-stream, including hymn lyrics, scripture, illustrations for sermons, allowing the folks watching at home to participate more easily.

We will also be getting a new sound board. This sound board will improve our sound quality online, BUT it will also improve the sound quality IN the sanctuary for those gathered in-person. This sound board can be controlled through a tablet or phone, making the job on our AV Teams easier.

We will also get new wireless microphones (2). Recently the channel our old wireless mics are on was opened up by the FCC, meaning we will get more traffic, static and interruptions on that signal. So we needed to move to the new signal for wireless mics. This change will up

Continued on Page 2

Continued from page 1

date our mics and allow for cleaner, smoother sound from them so everyone, those onsite and those online can hear better. There is slight delay on the two mics, they will be here toward the end of October/beginning of November, but we will continue to use our existing wireless mics until then on the new sound board.

Finally, we will also be getting a new projector and screen for those in the room. This update will be a clearer, more stable, brighter picture, so hymn lyrics, scripture, illustration, etc can be seen easier. I am excited to work with our AV teams to utilize this new tool for worship in new and creative ways. Now, this piece will take a bit longer to install as a part is back ordered right now, part of the global shipping slow downs we have been hearing about. It looks like it will be added to the sanctuary in early December. Until then though we will continue to use our current projector and screen which will be implemented into the new system until the new parts arrive.

With all of this technology, there are of course lots of parts and pieces, cables and connectors, and so on. The install starts Tuesday morning and the first big phase should be done by that Thursday. We are then having a training for AV Teams on Saturday, October 16, and the trainer will be onsite with us Sunday October 17th for worship as we start using the new cameras, sound board and computer system to answer questions and provide support. After that the installers will return to add the mics and projector when they arrive and are available for support and guidance throughout.

Pheww! That is a lot! This has been a huge undertaking, that we have been working on, discussing, re-hashing, and re-discussing since April, but it is finally coming to fruition. I want to thank the Board for their leadership and commitment to this idea and I want to thank all those that contributed to this project. We received donations from several folks, and a grant from our Region, so that no monies needed to come out of the church savings or investments for this project. THANK YOU ALL! I am looking forward to launching this new phase on October 17th and can't wait to see how it might impact our ability to get the Word of God out to more people.

As always, if you have questions, or would like to learn more details about this, or any ministry or project within the church, contact me at any time.

God Bless,  
Mark

## DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

It's me again. Hope you all are doing well. Don't forget to attend the next DWM/ Sarah Group meeting on the third Thursday, Oct. 21, at 1:00 pm. We will finish our study by Lisa from the Holy Land.

There's not much to report on. Winter is rapidly approaching and I hate the cold. Be safe and keep the faith.

Joyce Luke  
Treasurer/Service

## 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!

### **Pastor Mark's Message**

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



**October 3rd, "What Are We Today: Christina Katerina & the Box"**  
**August 8th "Doing a New Thing"**



## *Thank You*

Dear friends of Merriam Christian Church,

How does one ever adequately express appreciation when the out-pouring of kindness and Christian Love is shared during moments of crisis. I am deeply blessed to have each of you as part of my support. group. Your prayers, cards and later phone calls during my heart attack were "heart-felt!" and deeply appreciated. I still have four weeks of cardiac rehabilitation at Advent Hospital but gather strength each day. A special thanks to my shepherd, Pam Boyd, who maintained contact with my daughter Jane and myself relative to my progress and kept the church informed. Pam, you are an angel right here on earth. Sometimes it is difficult to be on the "receiving end" but Oh what a Blessing!" A simple thanks to everyone for your continued support. In Christian Love,

Jim Owens

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



**October 3rd "From Judges to Kings"**

**September 26th "The Promise Land"**



## 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 10th:  
*Praise for God's Ultimate Justice*

October 17:  
*Praise God for Past Deliverance*

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.easytithe.com/merriamcc>
- Text giving: 913-444-6397



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.

- 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.

### **PRAISE:**

- Pastor Mark performed two weddings last weekend, for **Evan and Lindsey Swindall-Mayes**, and **David and Shannon Flores**. 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.**

## **Those Needing Prayer:**

- **Terrance and Tyshawn Bryant and their mother** have all tested positive for Covid.
- **Jim Owens** as he continues to recuperate from having two stents placed in his heart.
- **Bob Owens** has recovers from a broken hip and COVID.
- **Harold Leaky** as he continues to rehab his leg surgery.
- **Liz Spiegel** was admitted to Menorah hospital after suffering a stroke. When released she will be going to do rehab.
- **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.

## **Requests for Family and Friends:**

- **Carol Vann's friend Connie** is battling cancer for the 2nd time.
- **Allan and Jackie Watts' daughter-in-law Jennifer** is struggling with pancreatitis again, she had to be hospitalized.
- **Katie Roach's uncle Gary** has a bleeding ulcer and is meeting with his doctor to work on a treatment.
- **Pat Reed** lost her best friend Carol Gentry to Covid this week. Please keep Pat and the Gentry family in your prayers as they grieve.
- **Katie Schwenck's friend Catherine** has an inoperable tumor
- **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.

++++

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.





# Sign Dedication Celebration



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



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

