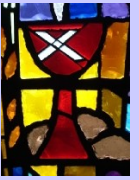


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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.
Fellowship Hall
In-person & On-Line

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

(913) 432-2390 &
(913) 432-5676

E-mail

merriamchristian@gmail.com
www.merriamcc.org



Dear Friends,
Easter has arrived!
Jesus is Risen! He is
risen indeed! I hope
you had a
blessed Easter day.

We had over 50 people in worship and another 25 households joined us online! I mentioned in my sermon this Easter felt like it was a particularly long time in coming. What with the last year, the cancelation of in-person worship a year ago, the quarantining and precautions of the last year, and our physical separation from friends and family, Easter morning took on special meaning this year. I especially love it when our weather cooperates and we have good weather on Easter. The warm sun, gentle breeze, green-ing plants and budding flowers add to the mystical presence of Easter.

In the midst of all of this though, we are still dealing with a pandemic. I hope all of you have gotten or are getting your vaccination shot. I received my second shot this past Monday and am thankful - thankful for healthcare workers and volunteers, thankful for scientists and doctors, thankful for medical opportunities and advancements. **IF YOU NEED HELP FINDING OR GETTING TO YOUR VACCINATION, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!** We have volunteers who have offered to help people set up/find appointments for

their vaccination or give them a ride to it. It is important, nay essential, that everyone who can get this shot, does get it. This is what will bring us out of this long Covid-winter and into the spring again.

As shots are obtained, and weather warms, we do continue to see the struggles of this long year all around us. With cases rising in several states, and the reality that only about 20% of the country has been fully vaccinated so far, we must continue taking precautions, like masking and physical distancing, for now. These measures continue to protect us as we hopefully move out of this event. The time will come when we can stop requiring masks and distance, but that time is not today. We must be a little more patient, we are almost there.

Easter is a time of the new dawn, the sun rising on the empty tomb and the world changing forever. We emerge from the darkness into the light. Here in this Easter season we serve one another first. We humble ourselves and willingly put our interests and needs last so that others might be ahead. Here we serve as Jesus served. God bless you Church! Serve On!

Pastor Mark

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

Just me with a few words (LOL) and a report on finances. Since the first of the year, we have taken in \$580.00, with \$400.00 of that designated for BLANKETS. Great amount considering this past year. You all can be proud. I have sent a check to Church World Service in that amount. I also sent our second check for \$50.00 to Disciples Mission Fund which we have been supporting for many decades. Our current balance is \$2,539.15. Thank you all for supporting CWF/DWM.

Next thing, do remember to attend our first combined study group starting on Tuesday, April 20th in Campbell Hall. Our business meeting will be at 12:30 and the study lesson will start at 1:00. You are invited to both. We are hoping to getting back together with our masks on and maintaining distance guidelines. No hugging and kissing yet.

If you are interested in attending the Evening DWM meeting at Raymore Christian Church on the 22th, we will need to carpool as there will not be a bus.

Hoping to seeing all of you soon, I remain,

Joyce Luke, Treasurer



April Regional Evening DWM Meeting

**Raymore Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
500 Peace Drive
Raymore, MO 64083**

**Thursday, April 22, 2021
NO MEAL - Masks Required**

**Registration and Meeting
6:30 PM Reservations to
karen39yount@yahoo.com by Mon-
day, April 19, 2021**

**Speaker
Barbara Peden
President of Fellowship of John Fox-
wood Springs
Live Stream: Raymorecc - YouTube or
Facebook**

Books available for purchase to benefit
Fellowship of John

Men are always welcome!

Directory Update

New Address and Phone # for

**Jo Rudkin
Anthology of Olathe
101 W. 151st St
Olathe, KS 66061
913-839-1319**



If your church would like to host Regional Evening DWM meeting or to recommend a speaker contact Rev. Karen Yount karenyount39@yahoo.com

If you have a chance, please send Jo a card and let her know we are thinking of her and Don!

Pastor Mark's
Prayerful Meditation
mid-week video (4/7)

Use this short meditation to bring a moment of God's Word to your journey. Use this time to remind yourself of God's presence and love.

This week's meditation comes from [John 20: 1-18](#). If this meditation is a blessing to you, consider sharing the link or posting the video to your social media, inviting others to pause their day and spend five minutes in God's Word for their life. God Bless and Stay Safe
Pastor Mark



Calendar

Sunday - April 11th
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 2**
Liturgist Carole Prentice

Sunday - April 18th
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 3**
Liturgist Bob Pape

Newsletter article submission deadline—Thursday April 22nd

Sunday - April 25th
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 4**
Liturgist Jackie Watts

Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings

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

MARCH 2021 Finance Report

Revenues \$ 14,450.00
Expenses \$ 12,765.00

THANK YOU ALL
for your continuing generosity
during this difficult time.

Your Treasurer

We're Hiring!

Nursery Worker Needed



We are in a need of a church nursery attendant! Please contact Mike Nichols at 785-760-1796 for more information about the pay and hours!

Pastor Mark's Message

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

March 28th, "Caught Between Crowds"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqA12OL1AzM&t=39s>

April 4th, "Caught Between Two Thieves"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6h35I5D_0Q&t=2627s

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



March 28th "Jesus is King?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADbkXiSuP6Y>

April 4th "The Last Supper"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRGr-r5zosk>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Adult Sunday School class began the first of March and is thriving. We have members attending in person and via Zoom.

Three individuals have volunteered to teach: Anita Collins, Linda Railsback and Jim Owens. Jim taught in March, Anita Collins is teaching during April.

Currently we are studying the major prophets beginning with Moses and leading to the time of Jesus.

Our class begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and dismisses for the 10:00 a.m. worship Service.

Until we resume full church activities we will be holding just one adult class.

We welcome each of you to join us, either in person or via Zoom.



Children's Message



We Love a Parade

The Easter Basket



Join us in
worship on
[Youtube](https://www.youtube.com).



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

In-Person and Online Worship Available

The building is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10AM. Please wear a mask (even if you have been vaccinated, not everybody has yet) the entire time you are in the building, and keep at least 6-feet of distance from anyone not in your immediate family or household, especially while entering and exiting the building. Worship is also live streamed on Sunday at 10AM if you wish to stay home and participate. Please be safe and make good decisions for you and your family.

God Bless!

Johnson County Food Ministry Thursday, April 29th

We will NOT be serving again due to COVID restrictions. We WILL be preparing "to-Go" meals as we have in the past year.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?!

We are seeking donations of cookies. Please drop off your donation to the MCC by NOON on the 29th.

If you have any questions, please contact Carole Prentice.

EASTER LILIES

Thank you to all who
purchased lilies for the
Easter Celebration



Bob Pape in memory of
**Mary and Graydon Kincaid and in
memory of Mary and Robert Pape**

Paul and Alice Goff in memory of **Adam
Goff**

Anita Collins in Memory of **family mem-
bers who are with the great cloud of
witnesses**

Donna Rankin in Memory of **Marjorie &
Claude Rankin & JoAnn Herzberg**

Jim Owens In loving memory of **Deborah**

Jan Pankey in memory of **those who have
lost their life to Covid .**

Carole Prentice in memory of **Steve Stites.**

Jeannette Howe in Memory of **Sherry
Howe and Dorothy Sheldon**

Volunteer Delivery Schedule



Tuesday, April 13	Pat Reed & Jim Owens
Tuesday, April 20	Carole Prentice & Anita Collins
Tuesday, April 27	Glen and Dixie Wheaton
Tuesday, May 4	Walt & Betty Bohn
Tuesday, May 11	Rick Ferguson & Susan Neill

**Subs – Carole Prentice,
Jan Pankey and Rick Ferguson**



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:

- **Charlie Jin** (Gilbert and Ya Larson's grandson) split his shin bone playing sports. Please pray for a quick recovery.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Bev McDonald's best friend, Jeanie McCrowsky** fell and hurt her face, and **Bev's cousin LouAnn** has been diagnosed with leukemia and has decided to not take treatments.
- **Donna's brother Danny** is taking chemo for his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- **Barry Davis has offered to help folks get registered over the internet for their vaccinations if anyone needs assistance. Call or email him for help on this if you want your shot but haven't been able to get it yet.**
- Emily Hooker's brother, **Tony Kriz**, had his eye surgery. It went well and now he is recovering at home.
- **Connie Hennigh's great-grandson Lance** had to get braces for his legs, but he is also going to be a new big brother.
- The family of **Marty Bradley**, former member and Board Chair for MCC and son of MCC Pastor Bill Bradley, who passed away. We are working on getting an address for those who wish to send a card.
- **Tanner and Carolina Thomas**, who were married April 3rd by Pastor Mark, as they begin their life together a husband and wife.
- **Pray that we find a church nursery attendant! It is vitally important we find that special person who can take care of our little ones for those parents wanting to attend Sunday Service.**

PRAISE:

- **Bev McDonald has her first grandSON! Jack McDonald**, 9 pounds - mother and baby doing well! Congrats!!
- We celebrate **twenty-years of Micah Ministry** at Independence Boulevard CC. The Johnson County Food Ministry MCC participates in was spawned from Micah.

- Congratulations to Allen and Jackie Watts on **Allen's retirement!**

We pray for our nation, that divides can be healed and hope can be found. We pray for those who are sick, or are afraid they might get sick. We pray for families who have not seen each other in a long time. We pray for people trying to get vaccinated that they find options. We pray for those ready to shuffle off the burden of this past year, that they might be patient for just a bit longer. We pray for all of us, that we might come through this and out of this, closer connected to our serving faith.

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.

