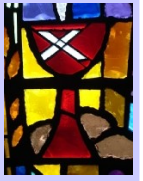


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



Dear Friends,

As August approaches its end, and summer draws to a close, the return of school is upon us. Normally this time of year is full of parents rushing out to buy school supplies: notebooks and pencils and calculators and folders. It is full of teachers and staff getting school buildings ready to receive an influx of excited anxious children as they start the new year. It is full of families settling back into the comfortable routine of classes and activities and sports. Normally, but not this year.

No, this year the season is full of shouting and arguing over how to open schools safely, how to keep adults and children safe, and how to provide the value of learning across various mediums and access points. School districts, often left to figure it out for themselves, struggle to navigate the best route forward for everyone. Parents, already inundated with 6-months of "not-normal", are caught in

conflict between wanting a return to the comforting fall routine and the overwhelming desire to protect their children from harm.

Suffice to say, there are no easy answers or options at this moment. We, and I say we communally, we are figuring this out as we go. We will make some right decisions. We will make some wrong ones. But we will move forward through this bramble together. So let's stop yelling at one another, or assuming the person on the other side of the argument is an idiot, and let's consider how we walk together on this path, surely and safely.

As church, you must be in prayer for our school districts, our schools, our teachers and administrators and staff. Be in prayer for our students, and our parents. Be in prayer for our communities and our nation and our world. I know it seems dark and scary right now. It seems like this night will never end. But as a people of Christ we know that the darkest night was broken by the dawn. And we remember that and believe in that in this dark night as we strive to find the first rays of morning light.

God Bless,
Mark

Minister
Rev. Mark Willis
markwillis@gmail.com Office
(816) 616-9746

Organist and Pianist
Emily Yeh

Secretary
Open

SERVICES: SUNDAYS:

8:30 a.m. Suspended
10:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m. Suspended
SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:00 a.m.

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

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

E-mail

merriamchristian@gmail.com
www.merriamcc.org

Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone. We reserve the right to reject submissions deemed incompatible with the mission of this church.

Pastor Mark's Message

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

INCLUDES Children's Message!

Aug. 16, 2020 "The Broken Road"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMhNXZD8QRA>

Aug. 23, 2020 "The Perfect Sacrifice"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Elbt6868OEA&t=1358s>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



Aug. 16, 2020 "The Tower of Babel"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muSArek6_I

Aug. 23, 2020 "Adam & Eve"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdTD8tscE08>



Watch for our next Newsletter on September 11, 2020. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*

MCC VIDEO LIBRARY

For all of Mark's video sermon messages and children messages & Christina's Worship and Wonder videos please click this button

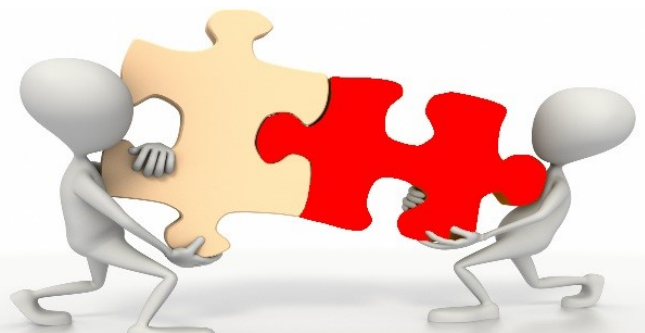
Join us in worship on [Youtube.](#)



DON'T FORGET TO SHARE study sessions and Sunday Services with someone. **Forward this email, share our Facebook message on your Facebook page, like our YouTube page.**

If you have a Facebook page, please like the one for Merriam Christian Church.

Click on the Facebook logo to be taken to the church's FB page.



Connect

Click the image to get involved in the life of the church

Monument Sign Replacement Fund Drive

As of August 28th, \$9,909 of the \$11,609 needed has been received!!
THANK YOU for your donations! \$1,700 to go!!!!

Please prayerfully consider donating to this project. Simply put "Sign" in the memo line of your check, or on the envelope of cash donations. You can also give through easytithe, go to <http://www.easytithe.com/merriamcc>, there is a drop down list you can choose from, select "other" for this donation. You can also text your donation at 913-444-6397. Please make sure to notify Dixie Wheaton, Church Treasurer if you text the donation so the money is applied correctly.



Thank you everyone for the thoughts and prayers and cards for my sister due to her short illness and passing. I am very grateful for my Church family. Also, many ask about my daughter Barbara who a lot of you know. She and hubby have been cleared and returned to work. However, we maintain a close eye out for symptoms as this virus has a history of hanging on and returning again.



Love you all. Joyce

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies, hope all is well with everyone. As Treasurer, I report that we started August with \$2,924.15. We received income was \$120.00, and made payments of \$50.00 to Disciples Mission Fund and \$200.00 to Tall Oaks. Our balance at this time is \$2,794.15. Anyone wishing to contribute to CWF/DWM may do so. Just see me in Church on Sunday. As your Service Chair, I received a "Thank You" letter from Church World Service for our generous gift of \$580.00 for blankets. Remember before the virus hit we collected money for blankets. The most ever. Excellent. Thank you all again.
Joyce Luke
Treas/Service

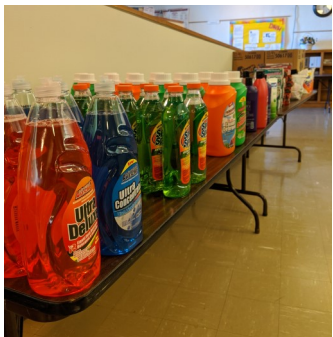
MCC Outreach

Even though we have been separated and unable to gather in many ways, the church is still actively involved in ministry and mission.

These pictures are of meals cooked and packed for the Johnson County Food Ministry



and of Hygiene Kits assembled for KC for Refugees.



Your support and commitment to MCC's ministry and presence in the community make these moments possible.

Good job Church!! Keep it up!

Summer Snackpacks

We continue our annual summer program of providing food for 6 families, with 19 children and 34 people overall at Merriam Park Elementary.

This week we are in need of

- ◆ **Spaghetti and sauce**
- ◆ **Canned fruit**
- ◆ **Canned vegetables**
- ◆ **Hygiene Kits**



You can buy these items and donate them by dropping them in the shopping carts at church, or you can donate funds to Make-a-Difference to support this ministry and the purchase of needed food.

THANK YOU for Your Support of this VITAL Ministry!

Our teams are delivering Meals On Wheels again!

“THANK YOU” to all of our dedicated drivers!

Carole Prentice



**Virtual Regional Meeting
October 3, 2020
8am to 5pm
More Details to Come
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



Click the image to learn more on how to get involved in the community

Pastor Mark's
Prayerful Meditation
mid-week video (8/26)

Take a few minutes, place your day on pause and dwell in God's word. Click on the image here.

This week's meditation comes from Psalm 108



Betty Cline was moved to a new room in rehab at Lakeview, so the number we had listed in the last newsletter and on the prayer email is no longer good.

We talked with her daughter and she is saying Betty really needs her rest, so they are not giving out the new number right now.

Continue to keep Betty in your prayers. When they are ready to share the new number, we will distribute it. You can still send her a card or letter.

Lakeview Rehabilitation
Betty Cline
9000 Park Ave.
Lenexa, KS 66215

Thank you!

Merriam Park Elementary School Supplies



Supplies Needed:

- Wide line paper
- 10 washable markers
- Dry erase markers
- 2 Pocket Folders (any color)

**Please drop off your
donations to the
church by Sunday
Aug 30, 10am**

**If you have any questions
please call Carole Prentice
913-485-6950**

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

Write a check. You can mail your check to the church or DROP-IT in our mail box.

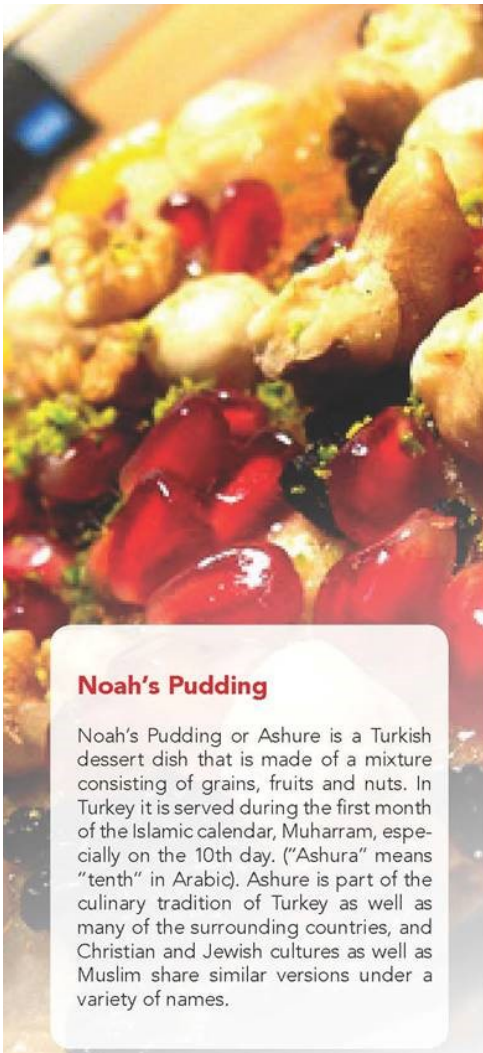
Have funds **automatically withdrawn** from your bank check or savings account or one-time special donations can be made. Go to: <http://www.easytithe.com/merriamcc> to set up your account. Or go to the church website and click on the new giving buttons

Text giving: 913-444-6397 through your smart phones

From our Friends at the Dialogue Institute!

Dear Rev. Mark,
We have a traditional dessert "Noah's Pudding" that we share with the community during this time of the year. We would normally bring this dessert to your office. However, due to the pandemic, we will sadly be unable to do so. Please know that Dialogue Institute appreciates your service and effort during challenging times. We hope to share it with you in person next year.

Below is more information about Noah' Pudding. It is a very tasty dessert, with dried fruits, grains, beans. Actually it is related to Prophet Noah's story. When the flood happened, they had little food to eat on the Ark and they put together everything they had and made a dish we call Noah's Pudding. It is a common practice among Muslims, Christians and Jews around the Mediterranean. It is a symbolic representation of the unity and essential relationship of humans to one another and to their Creator.



Noah's Pudding

Noah's Pudding or Ashure is a Turkish dessert dish that is made of a mixture consisting of grains, fruits and nuts. In Turkey it is served during the first month of the Islamic calendar, Muharram, especially on the 10th day. ("Ashura" means "tenth" in Arabic). Ashure is part of the culinary tradition of Turkey as well as many of the surrounding countries, and Christian and Jewish cultures as well as Muslim share similar versions under a variety of names.

Story

The Prophet Noah (pbuh) called his people to the religion of God for nine hundred and fifty years. But his people insisted on unbelief and persisted in their wrongdoings. So, God ordered Noah to build an ark and embark two of every creature, his family and the believers. A long and hard journey was awaiting Noah and the believers. Days had passed, and food was scarce. They were facing starvation. No food by itself was enough to make a good meal. Noah gathered all the foods and, mixing them, obtained a delicious meal. Believers survived through famine. The very next day, flood receded as God said "O earth! Swallow up your water, and O sky! Withhold your rain".

Today we call the meal Noah prepared "Noah's Pudding". It is also called as "Ashure".

References
Quran: Chapter 11, Verses 25-40.
Wikipedia: Ashure



Calendar

Sunday - August 30th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 3
Liturgist Jackie Watts

Sunday - September 6th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 1
Liturgist Pat Reed

Friday- September 11th

12:00 noon Newsletter Deadline

Sunday- September 13th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 2
Liturgist Carole Prentice

Sunday - September 20th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 3
Liturgist Susan Neil



Significance of Noah's Pudding tradition

Traditionally, Ashure is made in large quantities to commemorate the ark's landing and is distributed to friends, relatives, neighbors, colleagues, classmates, among others, without regard to the recipient's religion or belief system as an offering of peace and love. Ashure was traditionally made and eaten during the colder months of the year as it is calorie rich fare, but now it is enjoyed year-round.

The making of ashure is a common practice among Muslim and Christian people in the Middle East. In Turkey, it is customary to prepare ashure at a certain time of the year. Christian communities throughout the Middle East prepare a similar sweet wheat dish, called hedik, amah or qamhiyyi.

Day of Ashure is an important day in the Muslim year, corresponding to the Mosaic Yom Kippur observed by Jews.

Among Turkish and Balkan Sufis, the ashure is prepared with special prayers for health, healing, safety, success and spiritual nourishment.

SEPTEMBER 12th at 5:30pm



Back by Popular
Demand,
MCC
ANNUAL
SHRIMP BOIL

hosted by MEMBERSHIP

**CURBSIDE or
TABLE SERVICE** (in the
church parking lot with appro-
priate social distancing)

\$15 per person

**RESERVATIONS ARE
REQUIRED by 9/5/20**

**Signup sheet is on credenza
outside the church office**

[Or signup online by clicking here](#)

**September Committee and Board Meetings will be held in
person at the church. Social distancing and face masks will
be required at both meetings.**

September Regional Evening DWM Meeting

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
200 E. Loula, Olathe, KS 66061

Thursday, September 24, 2020
NO MEAL—MASKS REQUIRED

Registration and Meeting 6:30 PM
Reservations 913-764-3555 or by email to
pastorsherryfcc@gmail.com
By Monday September 21



Program
Speaker Alicia Dwyer Cianciolo
NASA Aerospace Engineer



As Covid numbers rise, we pray for all those who are sick, for their families, and for the healthcare professionals shepherding them through this difficult disease. We pray for healing, for comfort, and for strength as we work together to overcome this moment.

Those Needing Prayers

- **Betty Cline** fell at her home and broke her leg. She is at Lakeview Rehab.
- **Patti Beaver** broke her finger! Ouch!! Pray for healing.
- **Katie and Bruce Roach** could use prayers. Katie's extended family is going through some stressful, difficult times.
- **Heather Waite** please keep Heather in your prayers as she waits word of her company's contract status.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **David and Katie Schwenck's niece Taylor** lost a dear friend, Daniel Carpenter, in an auto accident. Please keep the Carpenter family and Taylor in your prayer.
- **Rex and Irene Heavin's niece Jennifer Baldwin**, had to have two surgeries, the second one due to complications from the first. But she is out of ICU now and continuing to recover.
- **Thel Maize passed away.** Please keep Dave and Eric and their family in your prayers
- **Alpha Wickham's daughter Linda's** surgery has been delayed. Please keep Linda and Alpha in your prayers.
- **Anita Minshew's son Todd** is having severe back issues. Please keep Todd in your prayers.
- **Joyce Luke's sister, Linda**, passed away. Please keep Joyce and her family in your prayers.
- **Pam Boyd** has a friend whose son, **Evan Cline**, has contracted Covid, and now his wife has fallen ill as well. They have three children. Please keep them all in your prayers.
- **Maria Vega, our nursery attendant**, and her children were diagnosed with COVID. Everyone is doing better and continues to recover at home.
- **Pat Reed's friend's one year old granddaughter** was diagnosed with liver cancer.

- **Wendy Manthe's nephew Joshua Jaqua** has been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.
- **Rev. Bill Rose-Heim asked for prayers for Tory**, a young man who is homeless and lost his job.
- **Colton and Mollie White**, a couple for whom I performed a wedding this past weekend, as they begin their life together as husband and wife.
- **We pray for all of our brothers and sisters afflicted by the sin of racism.** We pray for justice and peace, for the true Christian spirit to come to our cities and conversation. Racism and prejudice, injustice and oppression have no place in the church, nor in this world. Pray that we all work for a better path forward for all of God's children.
- We pray for all **those who are sick, for their families, and for the healthcare professionals** shepherding them through this difficult disease. We pray for healing, for comfort, and for strength as we work together to overcome this moment.
- **For all those whose employment is being affected, changed, and hampered** by the current crisis. Let them not walk alone in this scary time, but let them feel the prayers and support of the great cloud of witnesses surrounding them as they traverse this difficult path.
- **For churches, including Merriam Christian Church.** Our goal is to gather together again, in the best, safest way we can. There are no perfect steps and no easy answers, but together we will figure out what works for us, faithfully, theologically, and logistically.

++++


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.





SEPTEMBER 2020



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	September Committee and Board meetings will be held in person at the church. Social distancing and face masks will be required at both meetings.					
		1 7:00 Committee Mtgs CH	2	3 DWM TBD	4	5	
6 -ONE SERVICE 10:00 Worship	7 9-12 Finance-LIB	8 7:00 Board Mtg CH	9	10	11 Newsletter articles due @ Noon	12 SHRIMP BOIL 5:30PM 	
13- ONE SERVICE 10:00 Worship	14 9-12 Finance-LIB	15 Esther TBD	16	17	18	19	
20- ONE SERVICE 10:00 Worship	21 9-12 Finance-LIB Sarah TBD	22	23	24	25 Newsletter articles due @ Noon	26	
27 -ONE SERVICE 10:00 Worship	28 9-12 Finance-LIB	29	30	31			

**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE
FOR September 2020**

September 6, 2020 10:00 AM

Serving Team —Team 1 Carol Vann
Michelle Land
Emily Hooker

Liturgist Pat Reed



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

September 13, 2020 10:00 AM

Serving Team —Team 2 Carole Prentice
Pam Boyd

Liturgist Carole Prentice

Katie Roach	Sept. 1st
Donna McEndree	Sept. 4th
Liz Spiegel	Sept. 7th
Joan Tarwarter	Sept. 12th
Connie Harshner	Sept. 20th
Rick Ferguson	Sept. 21th
Terrance Bryant	Sept. 22th
Jim Owens	Sept. 27th

September 20, 2020 10:00 AM

Serving Team —Team 3 Jim Walker
Bob Pape
David Roebuck

Liturgist Susan Neil

September 27, 2020 10:00 AM

Serving Team —Team 4 Jon Beaver
Pat Reed
Emily Hooker

Liturgist Michelle Land



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Walt & Betty Bohn	Sept. 14th
Jim & Lucy Walker	Sept. 18th

