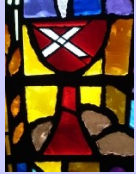




MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



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

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

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

E-mail

merriamchristian@gmail.com

Dear Friends,
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New
Year to you
and yours. 2020
has been quite an
interesting year.



We have experienced many new adjustments and developments and have had to reconsider how we do the basic pieces of church, like worship and service in a time of global pandemic. We have had to be creative, doing drive bys and posting signs in yards. We have had to be diligent, calling one another purposely and continually to stay connected. We have had to be intentional, reaching out and doing things differently than we have ever done them before.

Through it all, you have been resilient and amazing. You have continued to give to the ministry and mission of this church. You have tried new things and made changes that were not easy. And through it all, you have done it together supporting one another, praying for one another, and walking with one another, even as physical distance separates us. Just in the past two months, you have fed families for Thanksgiving and supported families at Christmas, while feeding hungry

people at the food ministry, and touching and changing lives through the Christmas Bureau. Good Job Church!

But we aren't done yet. Even as news of vaccines break and bring us light at the end of this long dark tunnel, we know it will still be several months before any semblance of normality returns. And even then, there will be some changes and adjustments that linger. We were changed by this and will carry the scars of this moment forward. Be faithful. Be committed. Be disciples of Christ. Lean on one another and pray constantly for our world, our church, each other and ourselves. Pray that God will continue to move through us to bless our community and our nation. Pray that we emerge from this experience more tightly knit as brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray that we continue to serve God in new and amazing ways, even as the landscape shifts and evolves.

Thank you church. You have been faithful and good stewards this year. Let us continue that streak into 2021 and beyond. God Bless You, Stay Safe. And have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Mark

In-Person Worship Canceled in December

All in-person meetings and worship has been canceled for December. We WILL continue to offer worship online at 10am on Sunday mornings.

We will have a zoom meeting in late December to evaluate progress and make a determination about January in-person events. Please continue to engage with our online worship, prayer, and children's videos. And continue to be in contact with one another and in prayer for one another and MCC. Please stay home and stay safe as we get through this difficult time, God Bless!



Rex Heavin was laid to rest in a small, private family graveside this week.

Please continue to keep Irene and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season.

Rex was a dear and beloved member of Merriam Christian Church. His deep bass voice will be missed when singing the old standard hymns. And the service will not be the same without his "Amen"s ringing out after a moment he felt moved by. He was our friend and our brother in Christ. And while we rejoice that he has gone home to his Lord and Savior, a journey he had expressed recently he was ready to take, we also acknowledge our sadness and grief at his absence in our lives. God Bless you Rex, and thank you for being a part of our journey.

[*Click here to view the previously recorded graveside service.*](#)



ONLINE

Our Christmas Eve service will be **streamed on line** **Thursday Dec. 24th.**

It will be available for viewing all day on the 24th so you view it at any time. There will be Christmas scripture, Christmas songs, a special Christmas story. Let us REJOICE in the gift from God to all.



Watch for our next Newsletter on January 2, 2021.

Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.

Pastor Mark's Message

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

Dec 6th, "And So It Begins"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH_eTo1azJ8

Dec 13th, "Mary and Jospheh"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Trihx-sO-74&t=15s>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



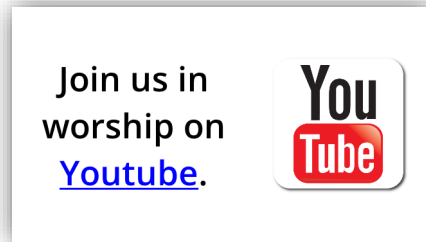
Dec 13th "Third Sunday of Advent"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6s7hhJZKSk>

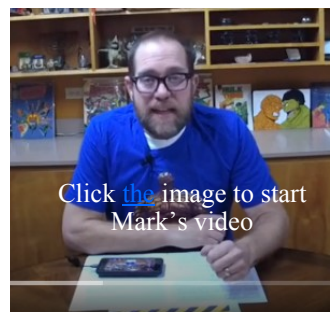


MCC VIDEO LIBRARY

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



DON'T FORGET TO SHARE study sessions and Sunday Services with someone.



Under Construction

Christmas Lights



Pastor Mark's
Prayerful Meditation
mid-week video (12/2)

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 6



Calendar



Sunday - Dec 20th

10:00 Worship, SERVICE ONLINE

THURSDAY- DEC 24th

Christmas Eve Service—ONLINE

An email will be sent with the link which can be viewed anytime this day.

Sunday - Dec 27th

10:00 Worship, SERVICE ONLINE

Thursday- Dec 30th —Newsletter article submission deadline

Sunday - Jan 3rd

10:00 Worship, TBD

Adopt-a-Family



A BIG THANK YOU to all who contributed to make this year's Adopt-a-Family an AWESOME success. Your contributions will make a HUGE difference for a number of families at Merriam Park Elementary School.

Thank you for your help and financial support of this vital ministry! God Bless Carole Prentice



Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings

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



Lord, as cases rise and more people get sick, we pray to you for guidance, for hope, and for healing. Be with your people during this time of crisis. Calm our

hearts. Give us wisdom to follow sound medical and scientific advice. Help us to keep others and ourselves as safe as we can. Watch over all of your children and bless them we pray.

Those Needing Prayers

- **Rex Heavin passed away last week.** Please keep Irene and their family in your prayers. A small family graveside service was held. Irene hopes to have a memorial service when we are able to gather in person again.
- **Lucy Walker is doing rehab** at Shawnee Gardens. Her blood pressure meds were adjusted and are causing some difficulties. Pray for her and her doctors as they work through this.
- **Bob Owens**, could use prayers, and if you are able, he would appreciate a call.
- **Joyce Hutchinson** could use prayers.
- **Pastor Mark** as he recovers from his foot surgery and rehabs at home.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Carol Vann's sister Kathi** passed away unexpectedly. Please keep Carol and her family in your prayers.
- **Jackie and Allen's son Stefan** recently had surgery on his shoulder, now in rehab.
- **Carole Prentice's brother Steve** is in the latter stages of Parkinson's
- **Pam Boyd's sister & brother-in-law tested positive for COVID.**
- **Paul and Alice Goff's great-granddaughter Kailey** could use some prayers.
- **Jan Pankey's nephew Alvis Shelton** who had been diagnosed with lung cancer has passed away. Please keep the family in your prayers.
- **Heather Waite's niece's husband, Michael Wright**, was recently diagnosed with leukemia.
- **Connie Hennigh's daughter Christy Johnson** is in the hospital with pancreatitis.
- **Marilyn Bosley's family.** Marilyn was a dear friend of Joyce Campbell. Marilyn was 98 years of age and passed away from COVID.

We pray for all those who are sick, or are afraid they will get sick. We pray for all those without adequate health insurance who live in fear of injury or disease. We pray for all those on the front lines, healthcare professionals putting their lives at risk to serve. We pray for all the scientists working to find answers and a vaccine. May God's healing spirit be upon our world during this pandemic.

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 our churches. Help us to find our way forward to be the serving living embodiment of the Body of Christ in difficult and trying times.

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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.



Memories of Christmas Past



Jan



Meals on Wheels Snack Pack

2020 in REVIEW
Inspite of the Challenges that COVID has brought upon us and the Community look at all the things MCC was able to ACCOMPLISH because of your FINANCIAL DONATIONS and hours of VOLUNTEER WORK.

Feb

SOUPER-BOWL Sun., 2/2
KC Chiefs win Super Bowl

Game Night 2/8

Game Night 2/29

Church Directory
Distributed 2/9

Ash Wednesday
Service 2/26

Pastor Mark Classes
History of the
Church



Sign Destroyed

Meals on Wheels

Snack Pack

March

In-Person Worship Services
cancelled 3/15. Streaming
video of Sunday services

Pastor Mark Classes
OnLine
Lenten Study of the
Lord's Prayer

Pastor Mark Classes
OnLine
The seven Next Words
of Christ

Meals on Wheels

Snack Pack

April



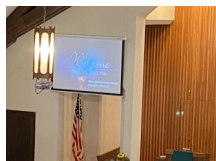
**CHURCH
CARAVAN
PARADE**

May



**YARD SIGNS
Distributed**

June



In-Person Worship Services
begin June 21st



**SUMMER
SNACK
PACKS
BEGIN!**

July



SCHOOL SUPPLIES
for
MERRIAM PARK ELEMENTARY

August

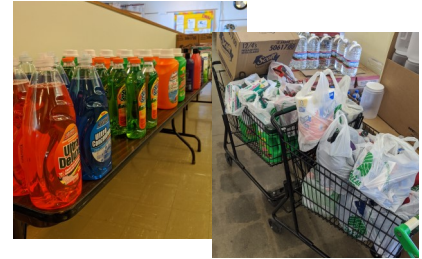


JOCO Food Ministry



BLOOD DRIVE

Meals on Wheels



HYGIENE KITS
KC for REFUGEES

September



SHRIMP BOIL

Meals on Wheels



EXTERIOR
PAINTING &
WINDOW REPAIRS

October

Hamburgers and Hot
Dogs
Fellowship and Fun!
10/25

Meals on Wheels

Snack Pack



JOCO Food Ministry

November



CORNUCOPIA

Meals on Wheels



Snack Pack



NEW SIGN
INSTALLED






BLOOD DRIVE

December

Meals on Wheels



JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Room Codes:</i> C-Chapel S-Sanctuary CH-Campbell Hall DP-Disciple Place</p>	<p>B-Berea R-Roundtable L-Library P-Pioneer YR-Youth Room OB-Out of Building</p>				1	2
						
3 10:00 Worship TBD	4	5 7:00 Committee Meetings 	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 Worship TBD	11 9-12 Finance-LIB	12 7:00 Board Meeting 	13	14	15	16
17 10:00 Worship TBD	18 9-12 Finance-LIB	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 Worship TBD	25 9-12 Finance-LIB	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 Worship TBD						

**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE
FOR January 2021**

January 3rd, 2021 — 10:00 AM - TBD
Serving Team —Team 1

Liturgist

January 10th, 2021 — 10:00 AM -TBD
Serving Team —Team 2

Liturgist

January 17th, 2021 — 10:00 AM -TBD
Serving Team —Team 3

Liturgist

January 24th, 2021 — 10:00 AM -TBD
Serving Team —Team 4

Liturgist

January 31st, 2021 — 10:00 AM -TBD
Serving Team —Team 1

Liturgist



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Connie Hennigh	Jan 1
Barry Davis	Jan 3
Susan Neil	Jan 3
Jackie Watts	Jan 6
Beverly McDonald	Jan 19
Lynne Beaver	Jan 20
Wendy Manthe	Jan 22
Joe Myers	Jan 25
Mary Wisner	Jan 29



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Gilber & Ya Larson	Jan 13
David and Katie Schwank	Jan 20