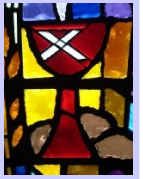


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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.

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

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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.



Dear Friends,
As I write this, I
am finishing up
a two-week
vacation on

Dauphin Island, Alabama
with my wife. We are ex-
traordinarily blessed to be
able to come and sit on the
beach and isolate ourselves
in warm weather and gentle
surfs. Thank you, not only
for giving me vacation time,
but for allowing me to use it
in this way. My family
thanks you as well. These
respites are good for the
body and good for the spirit.
They allow us to relax, to
rejuvenate, and to renew
ourselves again.

Unfortunately, as I prepare
to return this Sunday, we
have had to cancel all
in-person events, worship,
and meetings for December.
I spoke with our leadership
Tuesday night and helped to
make this difficult decision.
This was not what we wanted
to do, but it was what was
necessary at this time to help
keep everyone as safe as
possible as area Covid cases
continue to climb.

I want to stress, we **WILL**
still have online worship, as
well as our prayer videos,
and Children's moments and
worship videos. If you are
able to utilize these, then
please do so. Share them
with family and friends. As
we journey through Advent
this year, I know it is differ-
ent than what it has been
before. But we are Church -
we have persevered through
world wars and international
conflicts, through social
injustices and cultural up-
heavals, and through global
pandemics and crises. We
will come through this;
changed yes, but still church.
As we physically distance
ourselves again this month -
pray, read scripture, call each
other, and find some way to
engage your grace and
compassion. With news of
vaccines coming, there is
light at the end of this long
tunnel. Let us continue to
walk together in faith.

God Bless you this Advent
Season!

Mark

Special ON-Line Meeting of Church Leadership

Tuesday Dec. 1, 2020

12-01-20

Present by Zoom: Pastor Mark Willis, Jackie Watts-Chairman, Pam Boyd-Vice Chair & Personnel, Donna Rankin-Board Secretary, Bob Pape-Elder & Trustee, Joel Beaver-House & Grounds, Carole Prentice-Outreach, Allen Watts-Membership, Emily Hooker-Memorial, Pat Reed-Worship

Pastor Mark opened with prayer.

In person worship services have been cancelled for three weeks as several members have tested positive for COVID. Due to these circumstances, and the increasing numbers in Kansas City area, Pastor Mark recommended that in person worship be cancelled for the remainder of December. Online worship services filmed in the sanctuary, children messages by Pastor Mark, and children worship & wonder by Christine Stokes will continue.

The discussion and comments from those on the call were as follows:

- This is a wise choice, other churches have also made this decision.

- The **sanctuary is decorated for Christmas** and looks beautiful. Worship will be filmed in sanctuary so this can be shared with everyone.

- Although it is difficult, it is the safest thing to do. If things change, we can make adjustments.

- We are still "having church," just not in person.

Shepherds will call their flocks. Suggestion made to call once a week. Everyone stay in touch.

No Board meeting next week. Schedule another *zoom* meeting at end of December to re-evaluate circumstances and make decision for January.

Adopt A Family Project:

Carole has a list of 5 families, which includes 19 children.

Due to situation, will provide families with gift cards and a box of food.

The contribution of gift cards or funds is needed by December 9.

Thank you in advance for your contribution!

Staff Bonus:

Please provide to Dixie by December 8.

Blood Drive of 11/30:

Pat reported it went very well. Received several units. Thank you MCC!

Prayers:

Prayers requested for Rex & Irene Heavin, Marge Willard, Alice Goff daughter, Bob Owens, Leroy & Mary Wisner, everyone on recent prayer list, all of Merriam Christian family.

Newsletter will be coming out December 5.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Minutes recorded by
Donna Rankin
Board Secretary

In-Person Worship *Cancelled in Decemeber*

The leadership for Merriam Christian Church Tuesday night to discuss the current situation regarding rising Covid numbers and hospitalizations, as well as our own members who have recently become infected.

We have decided that all in-person meetings and worship will be cancelled for December.

We WILL continue to offer worship online on Sunday mornings.

We will have a zoom meeting again in late December to evaluate progress and make a determination about January in-person events. Please know this was not an easy decision and was not what we wanted, but we believe it is what is needed right now. 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!

Please help us recognize the dedication and hard work of our staff through a contribution to this year's Christmas Bonus. Gifts should be mailed to the church office, attn. Treasurer with "STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUS" written on the envelope or you go on Easy Tithe, select "Staff Bonus" in fund dropdown.

<http://www.easytithe.com/merriamcc>

December 8th is the cutoff to contribute.



Many thanks to all of you who helped with putting up the Christmas decorations on the 23rd.

Hugs to Joyce Campbell, Anita Collins, Dixie Wheaton, Bob Pape and Rick Ferguson.

Couldn't do it without you, guys!

Worship Committee

Thank you to everyone who donated during our CHIEFS BLOOD DRIVE On Nov 30th. We had 28 pints donated!

Thank you all for your participation and support of this vital mission.

**Pat Reed,
Blood Drive Chairman**



Watch for our next Newsletter on December 19, 2020. 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!

Nov. 22, "When I am Lost"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYrY60c-l_I



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.

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



Nov. 29 "First Sunday of Advent"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw5yXyyMOJk>



Mold Us and Shape Us

Be Thankful



Last Scraps of Color in Missouri

Today I passed a stand
of trees: tall, closely packed,
bare and almost black
from rain. But underneath,
I saw smaller trees, just
getting started on their slow
snatch-and-grab of sky,
and I saw these were golden
still, and they glowed
like campfires in the dark.

Lately I'd been wanting
a little light — and there it was,
and all I had to do was turn
my gaze a few degrees
from center. Some blessings
find us when we move to them —
they're waiting only to be seen.
Near the end of a difficult year,
may we spot the light,
as we breathe in prayer
or supplication: Show me,
Show Me, show me.

By Karen Craigo, poet laureate of Missouri

Submitted by *Jackie Watts*

!! SPECIAL NEWS!!

Nancy Hines' grandson and his girlfriend will be singing on
December 10th at 7pm on NBC
when Tina Fey hosts
**“One Night Only: The Best of
Broadway”**.

The special is a benefit for [Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS](#).

The evening will include performances from the casts of *Ain't Too Proud, Chicago, Jagged Little Pill, Diana, Jersey Boys, Mean Girls, Rent* and an appearance by the cast of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. The night will also showcase sneak peeks of shows aiming to play Broadway in 2021.

Give Nancy a call and let her know you'll be watching!

Great news this past weekend for T! **MO state champs! He is beyond excited!** New hardware and ring! This coming weekend they play in national hall of fame tournament that is usually in canton Ohio, but due to COVID is in KC at bishop Miego. They will be play Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. They will play against teams from New Jersey, St. Louis and Indiana. He is so excited!

Also, lil Ty made 8 baskets during his game yesterday! He is such a great athlete And he went to baseball camp Friday and received award for camper of the day for his hard work and good behavior! That is being framed.

So much fun being their grandma! Had to brag !

Jeanne Bryant

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 94



Calendar

Sunday - Dec 6th

10:00 Worship, SERVICE ONLINE

Sunday - Dec 13th

10:00 Worship, SERVICE ONLINE

Thursday- Dec 17th —Newsletter article submission deadline

Sunday - Dec 20th

10:00 Worship, SERVICE ONLINE

Thursday- Dec 24th - ONLINE

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday - Dec 27th

10:00 Worship, SERVICE ONLINE

November 2020 Finance Report

Revenues \$ 18,161.00
Expenses \$ 29,549.56*

* This includes payments for the repairs and painting of the church.

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

Your Treasurer

OUR NEW SIGN IS ON!!!
Drive By and Check it Out!



Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings

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

Adopt-a-Family



This year, to help keep the families from Merriam-Park Elementary school safe, **AND** keep us safe as well, we have decided to alter how we do adopt-a-families for Christmas.

Rather than asking folks to go out shopping, we are going to give gift cards to our families, so they can shop themselves, online if possible, for the gifts they need.



If you would like to donate gift cards (Walmart, Target, Amazon, etc. are all good ideas), **OR** if you would like to **donate funds we can use to get gifts cards, we need all donations to be sent into the church office by WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9th!** In addition to the gift cards, each family will also receive a box of food from the church.

If you have any questions, please contact Carole Prentice. Thank you for your help and support of this vital ministry.



Thank You for Your Generous Donations to the MCC Annual Cornucopia. 30 Families at Merriam Park Elementary and Crestview Elementary will now have Thanksgiving Meals!



Free, COVID-19 Testing Community Events

Get tested for COVID-19 at one of these free events. You're encouraged to get tested if you have coronavirus symptoms, if you've been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, or if you've been in a large crowd. Ages 6+. Registration is encouraged.

Click here to register—(<https://www.hearttoheart.org/jococovid/>)

**Saturday, Dec. 12: Shawnee Town, 11600 Johnson Drive; Shawnee
9 a.m.-noon**



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**, could use constant prayers. His oxygenation levels dropped low Monday evening and he was taken by ambulance to Shawnee Mission Hospital. He is on oxygen, but not intubated. Irene is at home and unable to be with Rex while he is there. She is very upset and worried. Please pray for Rex right now. And pray for Irene. If you have a moment, consider giving her a call to let her know we are praying for her and Rex during this struggle
- **Marge Willard**, diagnosed with COVID-19
- **Bob Owens**, could use prayers, and if you are able, he would appreciate a call.
- **Dorothy Kroh** diagnosed with COVID-19
- **Joyce Hutchinson** could use prayers.
- **Betty Cline** is home from rehab. Keep her in your prayers as she transitions back home.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Carole Prentice's brother Steve** is in the latter stages of Parkinson's
- **Marilyn Near's son Tony** diagnosed with COVID-19.
- **Paul and Alice Goff's daughter Lyn** had her surgery on her ankle/foot. She is recovering.
- **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.
- **Jan Pankey's nephew Tyler Pankey** had part of his colon removed. He is working with his doctors to figure out his health concerns.
- **Heather Waite's niece's husband, Michael Wright**, was recently diagnosed with leukemia.
- **Heather Waite's co-worker LJ Davis** lost her uncle and then her brother recently.
- **Joyce Luke's grandson Jacob Burkholder** had one of his roommates test positive for Covid. He is in quarantine, but has no symptoms.
- **Connie Hennigh's friend Shirley McGovern** has been struggling with cancer. She is now in the ICU on a ventilator with Covid-1
- **Marilyn Bosley's family.** Marilyn was a dear friend of

Joyce Campbell. Marilyn was 98 years of age and had contracted 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.

