

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. Limited
attendance **IN-PERSON**
& **ONLINE**
10:45 a.m. Suspended

SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:00 a.m. Suspended

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Dear Friends,
As we journey through Lent, I came across this story, which I had once shared years ago. It is called, "The Tire Iron and the Tamale". I share it again now as it seems like a good message for our journey.

"I had borrowed a friend's Jeep for the weekend, when the unexpected happened. While driving on the highway, I blew a tire. The frustrating thing was when I discovered there was no jack in the car to fix it! What was I going to do? I was on the side of the road for close to three hours with no solution.

Right as I was about to give up and start hitching, a van pulled over, and this guy bounded out. He sized up the situation and called for his daughter, who spoke English. He conveyed through her that he had a jack but that it was too small for the Jeep, so we would need to brace it. Then he got a saw from the van and cut a section out of a big log on the side of the

road. We rolled it over, put his jack on top and we were in business. We finished the job with a little sweat and cussing and I was a very happy man.

The two of us were filthy and sweaty. His wife produced a large water jug for us to wash our hands in. I tried to put a \$20 in the man's hand, but he wouldn't take it, so instead I went up to the van and gave it to his wife as quietly as I could. I thanked them up one side and down the other. I asked the little girl where they lived, thinking maybe I'd send them a gift for being so awesome. She said they lived in Mexico. They were in Oregon so Mommy and Daddy could pick cherries for the next few weeks.

After I said my goodbyes and started walking back to the Jeep, the girl called out and asked if I'd had lunch. When I told her no, she ran up and handed me a tamale. This family, undoubtedly poorer than just about everyone else on that stretch of highway, working on a seasonal basis where time is money, took a couple of hours out of their day to

The Journey of Lent



help a strange guy on the side of the road and then fed him too. But we weren't done yet. I thanked them again and walked back to my car and opened the foil on the tamale and what did I find inside? My \$20 bill! I whirled around and ran to the van and the guy rolled down his window. He saw the \$20 in my hand and just started shaking his head no. All I could think to say was, "Por favor, por favor, por favor," with my hands out. The guy just smiled and, with what looked like great concentration, said in English: "Today you, tomorrow me." Then he rolled up his window and drove away, with his daughter waving to me from the back.

I sat in my car eating the best tamale I've ever had, and I just started to cry." Lent is about putting yourself second, and putting someone else, everyone else first: being a servant like Jesus. We have trivialized lent by making it about giving up chocolate or beer or TV, but that is not what Jesus had in mind when he began this journey. Jesus calls on us to sacrifice self for other, to give ourselves to God completely, without reservation, in order to see a glimpse of what God's Kingdom can be. As we enter into this journey of

Lent, I am asking you to give up yourself for Lent. For the next 30-some days, look for an opportunity every day to serve another by denying yourself. Standing in line at the checkout, let the person behind you go first. Going through a drive-thru, pay for the car behind you. Why do this? Why put yourself out for strangers, for people you don't know and may never see again – because when we do, we are truly on the road to Easter morning. Today you, tomorrow me.

Mark

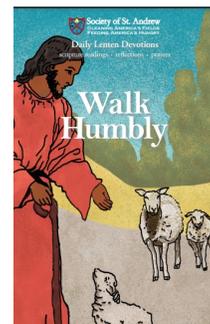
Lenten Devotional

Here is a Lenten Devotional to use for every day during Lent. You can find it online at

https://endhunger.org/docs_church/lent/Lenten_Devotions_Booklet.pdf

We also have physical copies you may pick up if you come to church.

Copies were mailed out to those without computers and shut-ins. If you want one mailed, please let Mark know.



The Journey of Lent



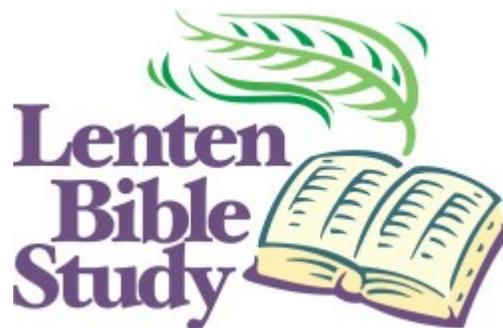
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starting Sunday March 7th at 9AM, there will be a Sunday School class for those interested in the Fellowship Hall. The class will also be available via Zoom for those who wish to participate from home. We will send out a zoom link next week. If attending in person, masks and physical distancing are required!

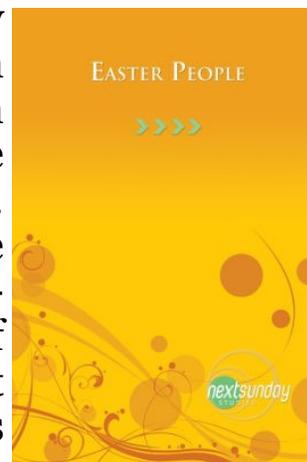
In-Person and Online Worship Available

The building is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10am. Please wear a mask 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.

In-Person Committee Meetings, 3/2 and In-Person Board Meeting on 3/9—both at 7pm.



Starting next Wednesday, March 3rd, Pastor Mark will be leading a study, both in-person and via Zoom, on Wednesday evenings at 7PM during Lent on the book: "Easter People" by Abby Thornton Hailey and Judson Edwards from the nextSunday series. This study has five lessons, and focuses on the event of Easter and how it transforms God's people. You may purchase the study book from Amazon to follow along, or simply join in the discussions each week. The weekly sessions will be on Wednesdays, March 3 through March 31, at 7PM. If attending in person, masks and physical distancing are required.



Pastor Mark's Message

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

Feb 14th, "Make Mine a Double!"

<https://youtu.be/h5Uovv8m4BE>

Feb 21st, "Driven by the Spirit"

<https://youtu.be/C7GpOEe5DGA>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



Feb 14th "The Good Samaritan"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxNS5PSZvx0>

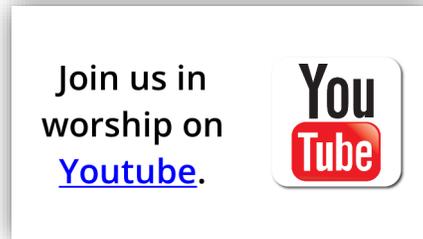
Feb 21th "The Pearl of Great Wisdom"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCFmU76cAbI>



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.



[Happy Valentine's Day!](#)



[Transfiguration](#)

Pastor Mark's
Prayerful Meditation
mid-week video (2/24)

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 [Psalm 49](#)



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

January 2021 Finance Report

Revenues	\$ 9,275.00
Expenses	\$ 14,963.00

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

Your Treasurer

Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings

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

Calendar

Sunday - Feb 28th
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 4**
Liturgist Jennifer Spiegel

Tuesday March 2nd
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
In Person

Sunday - March 7th
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 1**
Liturgist Jim Owens

Tuesday March 2nd
BOARD MEETING
In Person

Thursday- March 11th
Newsletter article submission deadline

Sunday - March 14th
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 2**
Liturgist Anita Collins

Sunday - March 21st
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 3**
Liturgist Connie Hennigh

Thursday- March 25th
Newsletter article submission deadline

Sunday - March 28th
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 4**
Liturgist Joyce Luke

CWF/DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,
Just a reminder we are collecting for "Blankets" for Church World Service. We do this every year. A mere \$10.00 will buy one blanket.

Be sure to mark the memo line of your check 'blankets' so Dix-will know it's for blankets and not the general fund.



Our current balance for the CWF/DWM is \$2,459.15. That looks good, but can go fast if we are not meeting and giving to the fund. Our board will meet the first Thursday of March to decide who and what we will support this year. I have ready for deposit \$240.00 (\$180.00 for CWF/DWM and \$60.00 for blankets.). If you wish to support CWF/DWM, mark your checks accordingly. Or give to me when you see me. LOL

That's all for now. It is my pleasure to be your treasurer.
Joyce Luke

The Balance Sheet of Life

The most destructive habit.....Worry
The greatest Joy.....Giving
The greatest loss.....Loss of self-respect
The most satisfying work.....Helping others
The ugliest personality trait.....Selfishness
The greatest 'shot in the arm'.....Encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome....Fear
The most effective sleeping pill.....Peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease.....Excuses
The most powerful force in life.....Love
The most dangerous act.....A gossip
The world's most incredible computer.....The brain
The worst thing to be without.....Hope
The deadliest weapon.....The tongue
The two most power-filled words.....'I Can'
The greatest asset.....Faith
The most worthless emotion....Self-pity
The most beautiful attire.....SMILE!
The most prized possession..Integrity
The most powerful channel of communication,
.....Prayer
The most contagious spirit.....Enthusiasm
Life ends; when you stop Dreaming,
Hope ends; when you stop Believing,
Love ends; when you stop Caring,
! So please share this balance sheet of life.
And Friendship ends; when you stop Sharing...!!



#SleeveUpJoCo
JOHNSON COUNTY
Health & Environment

Currently being vaccinated

- Those 65 and older
- Emergency responders
- K-12 special education staff
- Health care workers
- Long-term care staff and residents
- Pandemic response workers

Click NOW
For More Info!



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 Prayers

- **Lucy Walker** got to come home from rehab. Continue to pray for her as she works on building her strength up.
- **Bob Owens** has moved to Brookdale at Rosehill. His room #109, 913-962-7600. He would appreciate a call from his church family to raise his spirits.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Leroy Wisner passed away.** Please keep Mary and the family in your prayers.
- **Bob Pape's sister-in-law Deanna Pape** is in hospital battling cancer.
- **Bob Pape's his friend Paul Drinkard** had passed unexpectedly. Please keep the Drinkard family in your prayers.
- **Jeanne Bryant's son** is having an eye surgery to save his vision. If surgery is not successful it will be a cornea transplant.
- **Donna Rankin's brothers and daughter** are in need of prayers. **Gerry** has heart surgery at the Mayo clinic on March 2nd. **Danny's** non-Hodgkin's lymphoma has returned and is receiving chemo treatments. **Her daughter Angela and her family** have tested positive for Covid. Please keep everyone in your prayers
- **Jan Pankey's nephew Tyler Pankey** headed to Mayo clinic in Florida - continuing tests to find out what is causing his health struggle.
- **Jennifer Spiegel's parents, Debbie and Bernie Conlon,** have Covid and could use prayers.
- **Emily Hooker's sister Linda Collins** got to go home after seven weeks in the hospital and rehab with Covid. Pray for her as she continues to work on getting her strength back.
- **Joyce Luke's neighbor** of 46 years **Vita Hunsucker,** passed. Please keep her family in your prayers,
- **Allen and Jackie Watts' friend RJ** is scheduled for major surgery on his "good" eye this week, his other eye is severely impaired. Please keep him in your prayers.
- **Pastor Mark performed a funeral for Jason Taylor,** who was only 51. Please keep the Taylor family in your prayers as they grieve.

PRAISE:

- **Nancy Hines' granddaughter** earned her Eagle Scout
- **Happy Birthday Ann Dickerson!**

We pray for all those who are sick, or are afraid they will get sick. We pray for all those anxious to get the vaccine. We pray for front line workers and the elderly and those with underlying conditions, that they may all find their way to vaccination. May God's healing spirit be upon our world during this pandemic.

We pray for all those who have lost a job, had their hours cut back, or who are struggling to make ends meet. As vaccinations arrive and numbers decline, may their opportunities return and may they get back on their feet quickly. For all those businesses struggling to make it, may they find hope in this struggle, and a way through for them and their employees.

For our churches. As the world changes, sometimes in drastic ways all around us, may we respond to each moment with God's grace and courage. May we be the church God is calling us to be in these trying circumstances. May we be the hands and feet of Christ reaching out to a hurting, broken world.

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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.



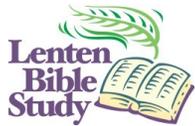
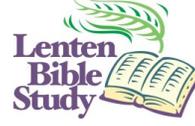
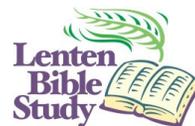
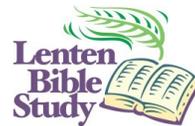
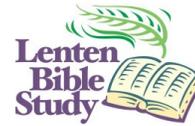


Narcissus or Daffodil

MARCH 2021



Aquamarine

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 7:00 Committee Meetings IN PERSON—CH 	3  via Zoom, 7pm	4 DWM Board Meeting @ 9am in CH	5	6
7 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am CH 10:00 Worship	8 9-12 Finance-LIB	9 7:00 Board Meeting IN PERSON—CH 	10  via Zoom, 7pm	11	12	13
14 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am CH 10:00 Worship	15 9-12 Finance-LIB	16	17  via Zoom, 7pm	18	19	20
21 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am CH 10:00 Worship	22 9-12 Finance-LIB	23	24  via Zoom, 7pm	25	26	27
28 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9am CH 10:00 Worship	29	30	31  via Zoom, 7pm			

