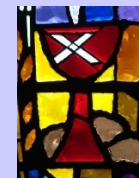


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

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

E-mail
merriamchristian@gmail.com
www.merriamcc.org



Dear Friends,
I don't know what to say. Honestly, I am just exhausted. And out of words. Ten months of lock-downs and restrictions, mask wearing and physical distancing. Daily contagion rates that continue to climb after holiday gatherings and daily death rates determined to set new records every week. As I write this, 4022 people died in America yesterday from Covid-19 related issues. That is twice the daily average from November 1st. For those of you caught in the same time-warp-weeks-feel-like-years-and-days-like-hours-continuum I find myself in - that was only two months ago. I am tired. I am tired of smelling like hand sanitizer. I am tired of not going to restaurants and movies. I am tired of not seeing friends and family. I am tired of Zoom. But mostly, I am tired of people getting sick and people dying. Every day feels like it is mired in some anticipatory suspension where I am just waiting for the next phone call, text, email, or social media post announcing someone else I know has this thing. My wife's aunt got it over the holidays - she still can't walk across the room without getting winded. One of my mother's oldest friends, the woman who timed my mother's contractions when she was pregnant with me, got it last month - she died. Another friend got it,

and he was fine: quarantined at home for two weeks, he had mild cold-like symptoms and re-watched the Marvel Cinematic Universe from his couch. There is no rhyme or reason for it - some get it and are fine, some get sick, some die.

But as I wait; wait to see who gets it or wait to get it, I am tired and I am weary. I am telling you this because many of you are tired as well.

When we get tired, we feel our isolation growing. Our fears seem bigger. Our aggravations seem worse than before. Our irritations grow to angers faster. And our faith can feel strained, distant, foggy, and small. So today, when I feel small, and tired, and wondering - I share with you this piece of God's Word from Psalm 27 - not that it would solve all of our problems necessarily, but that it might be a salve for today, comforting us, lifting us, and strengthening us. So take this Word, read it, take it with you for the rest of today. Get to tomorrow. God Bless.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'

Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

Pastor Mark

We will re-open the building for In-Person Worship on a limited basis starting Sunday, JANUARY 17 2021 at 10am.

ONLINE WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE for those who wish to stay home but join in worship.

Covid Precautions

We have applied an antimicrobial film to several door handles, elevator buttons, and surfaces commonly touched while entering and exiting the building. These help to decrease the amount of germs that can live on that surface. The film appears as a clear sticker. Please **DO NOT** remove the clear stickers.

This does not eliminate the need to use hand sanitizer. Bottles have been located in the entrance hallway and upstairs outside the sanctuary.

Thank you!

We are **limiting attendance to 20 people** per service. In order to attend, YOU WILL NEED TO REGIS-

TER for worship by emailing Pastor Mark at markswillis@gmail.com or calling him at 816-616-9746



In-Person
Worship
Guidelines

1. **Masks, covering your nose and mouth, are required. This means masks will be worn while in worship, sitting in the pews, waiting for the elevator, or walking in hallways or to your car with others.** If you don't wish to wear a mask 100% of the time while inside the building, we understand, please stay home and join us online.



2. You **must maintain at least 6-feet of physical distance from those not in your immediate household/family.** To facilitate this, you must sit only where there is blue tape marking the pews, Please be mindful of others not in your household and keep an appropriate distance while entering/exiting, in worship, while waiting for the elevator, or using the stairs.



3. We must insist, **if you do not feel well, or are exhibiting ANY symptoms, PLEASE STAY HOME and worship online.** If you are at a higher risk for difficulties with Covid, including being over the age of 70, with extenuating health issues, please stay home and join us online. The health and safety of all our members is of paramount importance.

Pastor Mark's Message

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

Jan 3rd, "If you Bring a Gift, Bring Wisdom"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-u1fqtVrBQ>

Jan 10th, "Move into the Light"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BXWvaw11IA&t=2675s>

Children's Worship and Wonder
by
Christina Stokes



Jan 10th "Jesus is Baptized"

<https://youtu.be/w59zKbxoQhU>

Jan 2nd "Jesus as a boy in the temple"

<https://youtu.be/jpnyTVFXTho>



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.



[A Promise is A Promise](#)

[What's in a Name](#)



Pastor Mark's
Prayerful Meditation
mid-week video (1/14)

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 7

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

December 2020 Finance Report

Revenues \$ 14,960.00
Expenses \$ 14,278.00

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.easytithe.com/merriamcc>
- Text giving: 913-444-6397

Calendar

Sunday - Jan 17th
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 3**
Liturgist **Joyce Luke**

Sunday - Jan 24th
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 4**
Liturgist **Bob Pape**

Thursday - Jan 28th -
**Newsletter article submission
deadline**

Sunday - Jan 31st
10:00 Worship, **Serving Team 1**
Liturgist **Michelle Land**

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

Not Everything is Cancelled...

Sun is not cancelled
Relationships are not cancelled
Love is not cancelled
Reading is not cancelled
Devotion is not cancelled
Music is not cancelled
Imagination is not cancelled
Kindness is not cancelled
Conversations are not cancelled
Hope is not cancelled
**And God's love for HIS
people is never cancelled.**



We will be reopening the building for **In-Person Worship this Sunday January 17th at 10AM. Attendance is limited to 20 people, you must register to attend by emailing**

Pastor Mark or calling 816-616-9746. 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.**

We pray for our nation during this time of transition. We pray for peace and hope to abound in people of every political stripe and inclination. May we represent God in our words, deeds, and lives during this tumultuous time.

Those Needing Prayers

- Continue to keep **Irene Heavin** in your prayers. She deeply appreciates all the phone calls, they help her get through each day.
- **Lucy Walker is doing rehab** at Shawnee Gardens for issues with her blood pressure medication.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Carole Prentice's brother Steve** passed away. Please keep Carole and her family in your prayers.
- **Donna Rankin's** sister JoAnn Herzberg passed away from **Covid**. Please keep Donna and her family in your prayers.
- **Carol Vann's sister Kathi** passed away unexpectedly. Please keep Carol and her family in your prayers.
- **Carol Vann's mother-in-law Loretta Vann** has **Covid**. She is 90 years old.
- **Donna McEndree's sister Deloris Bell** as she was admitted to the hospital this week with **Covid**.
- **Mike Nichols and Casey Meyer** work with Wyandotte County District Court Judge, Delia York and Kansas City, Kansas Police Chief, Michael York. Judge York's mother and father were killed in a car crash on Christmas day. Please keep the York family in your prayers.
- **Connie Harshner's longtime friend and neighbor Carol Cornwell** passed away. Please keep Connie, and the Cornwell family in your prayers.
- **Bob Pape's niece Jennifer Wilson** has **Covid** and is struggling with it.
- **Emily Hooker's sister Linda Collins** has been hospitalized with **Covid**.
- **Jacque Willis' aunt Dr. Cathy Anderson** has been hospitalized with **Covid**.
- **Jessica Lopez**, Regional Administrative Assistant, **her father Alberto Lopez** is in KU Med recovering from surgery.

- **Amy Decoursey's grandmother** suffered a stroke in November. After being in the hospital, she was moved to a nursing home where she contracted **Covid**, and another serious infection. She is now in Kansas City Hospice. Please pray for peace and comfort for Amy's grandmother, for Amy and for her entire family.
- **Jackie & Allen's step-grandson**, who is in the national guard has been called up to DC. Please keep him and the family in your prayers.

PRAISE:

- **Anita Collins** is celebrating her first great-grandchild Coraline Jordan! Praises!
- **Donna Rankin** has a new great-great nephew! Blessings!
- Congrats to **Dorothy Kroh** who has a new Great Grandchild - Charlie Lee. Grandfather is Brian Kroh.

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.

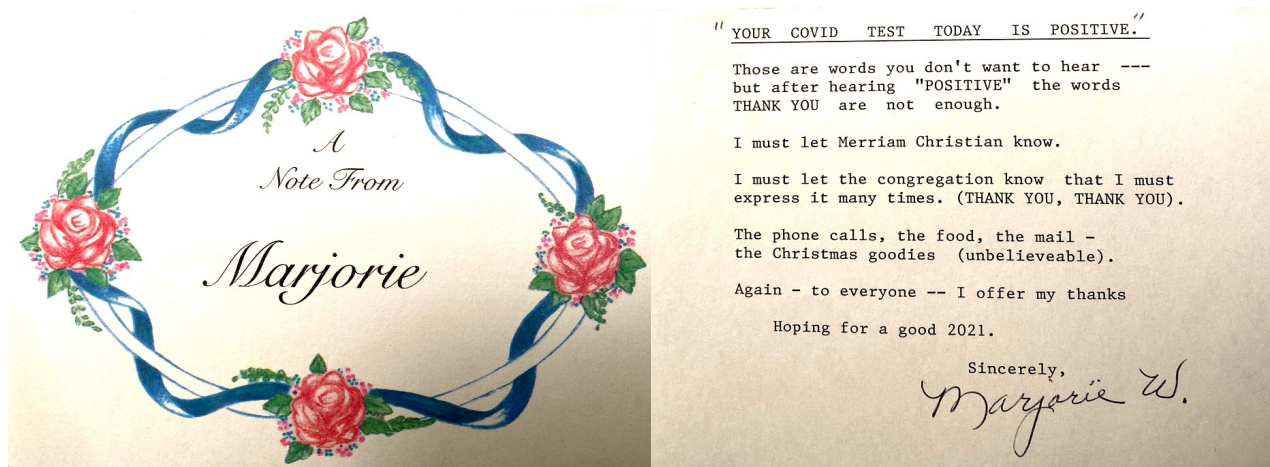


Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



[**Philippians 4:6-7**](#)

Thank You Notes



COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS

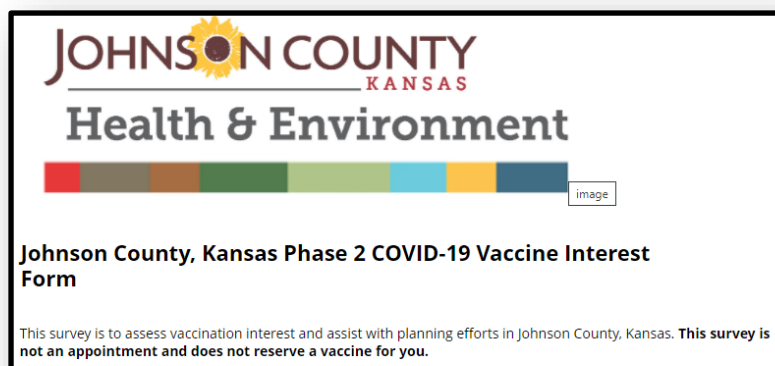
JOHNSON COUNTY, Mo. — County officials are trying to figure out who wants to get a COVID-19 vaccination within the next phase of the rollout plan. The Johnson County Department of Health & Environment announced they are nearing the end of Phase 1 of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's vaccination plan. Officials said they think they can move on to the next phase in the beginning of February.

Phase 2 includes residents 65 years old and older, people in "congregate settings," high-contact critical workers and those still unvaccinated in the previous phase.

To find out who in the next phase wants a vaccine, Johnson County has put together a survey. The online tool will allow the county to notify residents when the vaccine is available and how they can sign up. The survey will ask about age, occupation, contact information and more. Go to:

<https://redcap.jocogov.org/surveys/?s=8KWLNLWWHL>

Or click on the linked image here to be taken directly to the web site.



2021 MCC Committees



Below are the church's committees and their members. If you would like to serve please contact the committee chair!

Jackie Watts
Board Chairperson

Finance

Dixie Wheaton—Chairperson
Michele Land
Betty Bohn
Carol Vann

House & Grounds

Joel Beaver—Chairperson
Jon Beaver
Walt Bohn
Rick Ferguson
Emily Hooker
Michelle Land
Joyce Luke
Bob Pape

Membership

Allen Watts—Chairman
Pam Boyd
Alice Goff
Anita Minshew
Donna Rankin
David Schwenk
Christina Stokes
Marge Willard—phone calling

Memorial

Emily Hooker—Chairperson
Jim Owens

Outreach

Carole Prentice Chairperson
Pam Boyd—Co-chair
A complete list of members will be provided in the next newsletter.

Personnel

Mike Nichols—Chairperson
Joel Beaver
Carole Prentice
David Roebuck
Allen Watts

Worship

Pastor Mark—Chairman
David Roebuck—Co-chair
Patti Beaver
Jeanne Bryant
Anita Collins
Marilyn Near
Dixie Wheaton

**CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER
AND THE COMMUNITY
THROUGH CHURCH
MINISTRIES & ACTIVITIES**



Membership Committee

Allen Watts—Chairman
Pam Boyd
Alice Goff
Anita Minshew
Donna Rankin
David Schwenk
Christina Stokes
Marge Willard—phone calling

The Membership Committee works closely with Pastor Mark, other committee chairs and the congregation as they seek to share the life of the Church internally AND with the local community and beyond. The committee:

- Creates, coordinates and host church social and recreational activities that bring the congregation members, non-members, visitors and guests together in fellowship (example: Pot Lucks, Game Night, Picnics, Special Events like Easter Egg Hunt, Outside Service, Fall Roundup)

- Welcomes new members. The committee is to be accessible, hospitable, and helpful in connecting new members to other people, groups and ministries within the church.
- In coordination with pastor, church staff and church committees creates, publishes and distributes church newsletter both printed and electronic, printed communications such as the church directory welcome packets, web site and social media platforms
- Stream and record worship services for uploading to church web site, Facebook and YouTube channel. Prepares slides and operates computer projector for worship services.
- Works with the Pastor and Elders to develop and coordinate constant contact and coordination of resources of church home bound members who are out of direct contact with the church...help identify and coordinate the resources of the church when members have special needs ie food/meals, transportation, simple home or yard maintenance.

**CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER
 AND THE COMMUNITY
 THROUGH CHURCH
 MINISTRIES And ACTIVITIES**