



Merriam Christian Church Disciples of Christ

Vol. LV
No. 15 2020
July 18, 2020

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:

9:30 a.m.

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

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(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.



Dear
Friends,

We have re-opened for in-person worship, and we have several folks participating online as well. We appreciate everyone's efforts in maintaining physical distancing and wearing masks. As we move into July the plan is to allow our small groups to meet again in person if they wish, following the same guidelines for worship. Obviously we are monitoring the current situation with rising numbers of positive cases and we will make adjustments as needed. This is a stressful, delicate time and we ask for everyone's prayers as we navigate this new normal.

In a move to bring a

peaceful moment to your week, I have begun recording 5-6 minute prayerful meditations on Psalms, and putting them on our YouTube channel. These are meant as a pause, a short break in the middle of your day or week to just sit in peaceful connection with God and hear God's word. If you haven't seen these yet, go to YouTube and search for Merriam Christian Church. Consider sharing these videos with someone in your life, someone who could use a peaceful moment, or someone who could just use a pause in God's Word for their day.

We take each step forward together, following God's path. Thank you for all your prayers and help as we seek solutions and discover new ways to be church.

God bless and stay safe.
Pastor Mark Willis



On Sunday July 5th, a congregational meeting was held after worship to discuss and decide on a replacement church sign. Our sign was damaged by an auto accident back in early March, and after several months of conversations and bids from two sign companies, we met to decide which option we would choose.

After much discussion, the congregation voted to replace the sign with a new sign with an LED message board. This upgrade will cost \$32,632 plus the cost of permits from the city. We have \$11,751 from the insurance settlement for the replacement of the old sign, and our Memorial Committee worked diligently to secure an additional \$9,272 from Memorial funds to be used for this project.

That leaves \$11,609 that we must come up with to complete this project. The congregation at Sunday's meeting felt confident the congregation would be willing to make donations to help cover this balance. We need your help to make this project a reality. We are asking for donations to help cover the remaining balance. These donations would be in addition to or above tithes and regular offerings for this special project.

Results of the Special Congregation Meeting on the Monument Sign

We need to collect these donations or commitments to donate by August 1st to complete this project successfully. If the money cannot be raised through donations, it will have to come from our Church Savings. House and Grounds mentioned several other projects in need of attention, so getting donations for the sign helps us to accomplish these other projects as well.

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.



DWM NEWS

Hi ladies, it's me again, reporting in. Still miss you all. Lockdown is boring. But I don't want to catch the virus. Sarah and Esther have not met either. Not sure when they will start up again.

The year is half over and we have \$2,805.15. Not bad considering we have had no income since March and I keep spending your money. **LOL** We have only two more \$50.00 payments to Disciples Mission Fund, but we have budgeted \$400.00 to Tall Oaks, and I expect they need it. Other budgeted items will be put on hold.

However, if any of you wish to contribute to our DWM, you can give your money to me directly, or clearly mark your check and envelope for DWM. Make checks out to Merriam CC and I will deposit into our account separate from the Church's account. Just be sure you indicate on the memo line it is for CWF/DWM.

Service for July and August is School Supplies. If you do not want to shop, you can give your money to Carole Prentice. Mark it for school supplies.

Over and out. Stay safe.

Joyce Luke
Treas/Service



OUR GANG

Next Meeting:
TBD



BLOOD DRIVE

I will be chairing our semi-annual Blood Drive on Monday, August 10th, from 3:00-7:00. The Community Blood Center is in dire need of blood donations. Please donate if at all possible.

They will take every precaution for your safety. Several other churches have already participated in the Drives.

Please let me know if you are available on that date so I can make an appointment for you.

Thank you and God Bless,
Pat Reed, Chairman
Phone: 913-631-0699 or
913-375-3628

Church Building Re-Opening in July

Merriam Christian Church is open in July for any of our small groups, like Sunday school classes, DWM, or Our Gang.

IF these groups decide to meet, we must insist that we observe physical distancing and all participants must wear a mask. There is hand sanitizer, masks, and gloves available in the foyer for anyone who needs them while here.

We do ask the group to clean up their area when finished, including wiping down surfaces.

Thank you.



Merriam Park Elementary

Type of Supplies Needed:

- Box of 24 crayons
- Wide line paper
- Spiral notebooks, wide lined, assorted colors
- Facial tissues
- Highlighters
- Pencil boxes
- 10 washable markers
- Dry erase markers
- Pink erasers

Thank you for your donations!

Please drop off your donations to the church by Sunday August 9th

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

Summer Snackpacks



This summer Merriam Christian Church is providing food for 6 families, with 19 children and 34 people overall. We started delivering food the first weekend in June. And we need your help!

At this time we are in need of

- ♦ **Canned fruit**
- ♦ **Canned vegetables**
- ♦ **Peanut butter and jelly**
- ♦ **Spaghetti and sauce**
- ♦ **Soups**
- ♦ **Capri Suns or other fruit drinks**

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.



Talk to Carole Prentice if you would like to help!

The Outreach Committee would like to thank all who have given so generously both money and grocery items for our Summer Food Program. Thank you to the delivery teams who take their time to deliver as well.
Carole Prentice, Outreach Chair



MEALS ON WHEELS

We will begin delivering Meals On Wheels again on Tuesday, July 21.

If you are a driver for this program, you will receive a schedule.
Carole Prentice

Johnson County Food Ministry

We will be cooking and packing 150 takeout meals on July 30.



We will need homemade cookies to be packed with our food.



If you can bake 3 dozen cookies, please call me.

**Carole Prentice
913-485-6950**

JUNE 2020 Finance Report

Revenues \$ 13,273.00
Expenses \$ 13,023.00

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. You can mail your check to the church or DROP-BY the church and place it in the 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.easytithes.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

Mary Ann Borchardt, a long time member who joined Merriam Christian Church in 1955, is celebrating her 100th birthday on July 28th! Let's all send her cards for this momentous occasion.

Her address is:

2007 E. 20th Street, Pittsburg, KS 66762



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!

July 5, 2020 "Yolk for Yolk"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPSxMI7WkBY>

July 12, 2020 "The Soil of a Heart"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EaVQdk4PDg&t=11s>

**Children's Worship and Wonder by
Christina Stokes**

July 5, 2020 "Abraham and Sarah"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHdIGVTIMdU&t=411s>

July 12, 2020 "The Exodus"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeRJmEGJj_I&t=40s



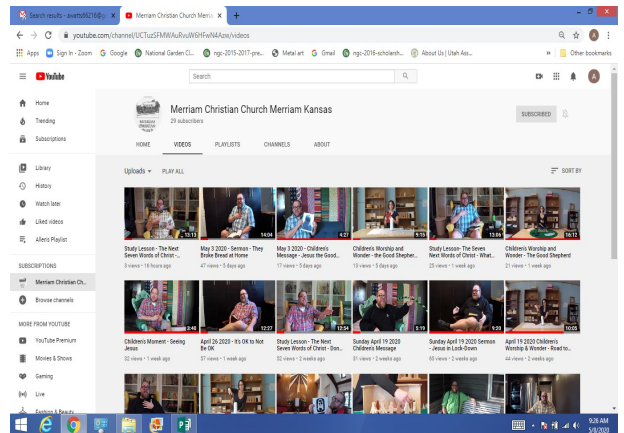
Watch for the next Newsletter on August 1, 2020. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*



MCC VIDEO LIBRARY

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

please click <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTuzSFMWAuRvuW6HFwN4Azw/videos>



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.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2020

July 19 – 10:00 am
July 26 – 10:00 am
Aug 2 - 10:00 am
Aug 9 - 10:00 am
Aug 16 - 10:00 am
Aug 23 - 10:00 am
September 6 – Labor day Weekend
October 18 or 25 for Congregational Meeting
November 29 – Thanksgiving Weekend/
Hanging of the Greens
December 27 – Christmas weekend

Calendar

Sunday - July 19th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 3

Sunday - July 26th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 4

Friday - July 31th

12:00 noon Newsletter Deadline

Sunday - August 2nd

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 1

Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 14, 2020



Minutes recorded by Pam Boyd

Attending: Joel Beaver, Donna Rankin, Pat Reed, Joyce Luke, Dave Roebuck, Barry Davis, Joan Tarwater, Dixie Wheaton, Bob Pape, Carole Prentice, Michelle Land, Jim Owens, Pam Boyd, Jackie Watts, Allen Watts

Pat provided Devotions

Committee Chair Reports:

DWM:

Secretary, Joyce Luke provided balance of \$2,804.00 No meetings have been held in recent months.

Clerk:

Jackie reported a total membership on 155. Leaving the membership are: Sally Hick, Francis Shafer and Maggie Howard.

Elders:

Bob Pape – Nothing to report.

Treasurer:

Dixie \$550 received on Sunday plus and additional \$2,600 to the new sign. An additional \$2,000 has been promised which leaves us with a balance of \$6,500 needed.

H&G:

Joel - The paperwork has been submitted and ok'd by city for the new sign. No cost for permits at this time. \$16,316.21 will be sent to the contractor on Monday. Carol suggested that a letter should be sent to everyone in addition to the email and newsletter articles asking for donations. If needed funds are not received within 2 weeks, Jackie will request the everyone be called. Walt is working on getting bids for the windowing and siding work needed.

City of Merriam has a free trash pick up on Monday. Bob

volunteered to cut down the evergreen tree that is dying located on the Roebuck property. Dave said he would get in touch with this cousin and ask permission and advise Bob before the weekend.

Outreach

Carole reported Meals on Wheels continues to deliver on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. At this time MCC is not requested to assist.

Cookies needed for the JoCo Food Ministry on July 30. Jim, Dixie, Donna & Pam said they would provide.

School Supplies needed for 15 children this year.

Memorial – Jim reported \$1,200 remains after contribution to the sign. Dixie advised an additional \$199 had been received.

Membership – Allen reminded everyone that the Newsletter will be published this week.

Carol will send Outreach article to Allen. The last newsletter received 70 views were recorded out of 100 sent out, we mail 15 hard copies.. Membership also send out the prayer list and continuing to load Sunday Services on 2 laptops for homebound members which are delivery and pick-up weekly.

Pastoral Report – Jackie asked for feedback on our Sunday services. Concerns over who decides the teams of who services. Michele said we should get back to serving teams fulfilling worship service responsibilities.

Worship:

Upcoming Blood Drive participation from members has been good. Pat will provide an article regarding the Blood Drive for newsletter

Dixie volunteer to do communion in August.

Old Business— None

New Business— None

Jackie Watts, Closing Prayer

Meeting Adjourned



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

- **Opal Wylie** has contracted Covid-19. She is in quarantine at Garden Terrace where she lives.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Katie and Bruce Roach** and their families as they work through stressful times.
- **Joyce Luke's sister, Linda**, has been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep Linda and Joyce's family in your prayers.
- **Wendy Manthe's nephew Joshua** has been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.
- **Tim & Susie Arnold's godson Chris**, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.
- **Maria Vega, our nursery attendant**, had an automobile accident and is still home recovering from her injuries.
- **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.
- For **all those who are returning to work, WE GIVE THANKS** and PRAY for their protection and for all those still working from home.
- For **churches, including Merriam Christian Church**, as we strive to faithfully navigate

re-opening during these trying times. 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. Please be in prayer as we re-open this summer.

Those in Grief

- **Heather Waite's friend Richard Brewington** passed away unexpectedly. Please keep the Brewington family in your prayers.

Praise

- **Jackie & Allen Watts' daughter-in-law, Jennifer** is finally home recovering from a 5 week stay in the hospital.
- **Jim and Lucy Walker** have tested negative for COVID-19.

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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.

