



Merriam Christian Church Disciples of Christ

Vol. LV
No. 14 2020
July 4, 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.

10:45 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

9:30 a.m.

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

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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,

The State of Kansas has enacted a mandatory mask order. Due to this order, we must require everyone who comes into the church building to use a mask for at least the next three weeks (When the order expires per Johnson County). This order is in response to climbing infection numbers and the fact masks are the easiest way to diminish transmission. Churches are not exempt from this order.

I know some of you don't want to wear masks, and I understand. We are simply following the

order given for public safety. If you do not wish to wear a mask, then I would sincerely ask you to join us online for the next three weeks in worship.

Again, and I have said this many times, these are difficult times we are in, and we are trying to do our best to navigate the ever-changing landscape together, as faithfully as we can. Please be in prayer for our community, our state, and our country as we seek solutions to this national crisis.

God Bless You and
Yours.
Stay Safe.

Pastor Mark Willis

A copy of Governor Kelly's Executive Order is provided at the end of the newsletter.

Special Congregation Meeting on Monument Sign Replacement



On Sunday July 5th at the conclusion of the 10am service a special congregation meeting will be held.

House & Grounds will present a review of options for the replacement of the church monument sign that was destroyed in March. Option 2 (of 6 studied) was approved by board members present in the ZOOM/Phone meeting on June 16th.

Following the presentation by H&G the congregation will be able to ask questions and provide comments. The questions period will then be followed with the vote by the congregation. Thank you!

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.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Deliveries are currently scheduled for Mon., Wed. & Fri. Substitute drivers will be called on as needed.



OUR GANG

Next Meeting:
TBD



Summer Snackpacks are back!



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!

We are in need of soup, peanut butter, jelly and cereal.

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. We are delivering food boxes each week to families who do not have adequate food. **Thank you to the delivery teams** who take their time to deliver as well.
Carole Prentice, Outreach Chair



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.
- **Liz Spiegel** had a TIA, or mini-stroke. She is home from the hospital at home. Please keep Liz in your prayers.
- **Pam Boyd** fell down on the walkway at church. She fractured a bone in her elbow and sprained her wrist. She is recovering at home.
- **Jo Rudkin** had a procedure this past week. The results were good, but she is having some health concerns. Pray for her and her doctors as they seek solutions.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **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
- **Jackie & Allen Watts' daughter-in-law Jennifer** continues to be in the hospital. She has made some progress this week.
- **Tim & Susie Arnold's godson Chris, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.**
- **Maria Vega, our nursery attendant**, had an automobile accident this week. She has a head injury and concussion. Maria is home

recovering.

- **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

- **Bev McDonald's brother** passed away. Please keep Bev and her family in your prayers.
- **Lois Buchanan's mother** passed away June 16th. Please keep Lois and her family in your prayers.
- **Heather Waite's friend Richard Brewington** passed away unexpectedly. Please keep the Brewington family in your prayers.

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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.



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!

June 21, 2020 "The Extraordinary Welcome"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF-kz59Qf6w>

June 28, 2020 "Sacrifice and Provision"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grOg4-LWCyI>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes

June 21, 2020

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2WyFnqu_A

June 28, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2as0GF7iUJY>



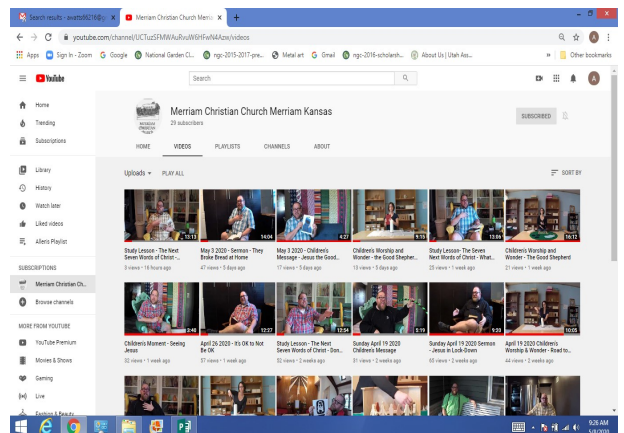
Watch for the next Newsletter on July 18, 2020. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*



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. Share with FRIENDS AND FAMILY!



DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies, miss you all. Glad to be back on Sundays even though we can't huddle. Not much going on to report. Balance at the end of June is \$2,854.15. We continue to send our \$50.00 each month to Disciples Mission Fund as budgeted. Our service project for July/August is school supplies. Not sure what to tell you since we are safer not out shopping. LOL We can watch the ads and set aside money to be spent later, by someone. (Not me) That's all folks.
Joyce, Treasurer

Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings



Write a check. You 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/merriamc> 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**

If you have a Facebook page, please like the one for Merriam Christian Church. We are trying to keep you updated and share words of faith, inspiration and encouragement. Invite your friends and family to join us. God bless!!
Connie Hennigh



Calendar

Sunday - July 5th

10:00 Worship

Special Congregation Meeting after service

Tuesday July 7th

Committee meetings TBA

Sunday - July 12th

10:00 Worship

Tuesday July 14th

Board Meeting 7pm CH

Friday - July 17th

12:00 noon Newsletter Deadline

ONE WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2020

July 5 – 10:00 am Independence day weekend

July 12 – 10:00 am

July 19 – 10:00 am

July 26 – 10:00 am

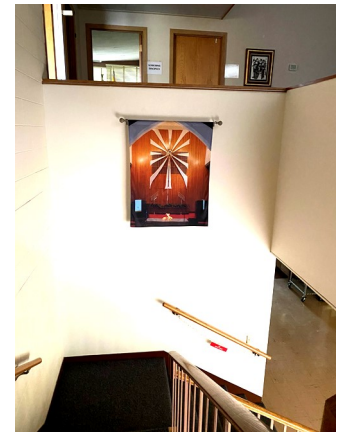
September 6 – Labor day Weekend

October 18 or 25 for Congregational Meeting

November 29 – Thanksgiving Weekend/

Alice and Paul Goff would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and concerns for their new great-grandson William Thomas Goff.

He has been released from KUMed and is home gaining weight!



The banner is located along the steps from the first floor entrance hallway going up to the sanctuary.

The Sun Burst

Jim Owens Family Living Memorial

Last month the Memorial Committee, with the assistance of House and Grounds, hung a banner with a picture of the Sun Burst we see around the cross in the chancel at Easter until Pentecost.

Do you know the history of the Sun Burst? Early in 1991 Jim Owens was seeking a way to recreate the traditional image of Christ's cross with "rays of sun light" behind it, bursting outwardly from the center signifying the resurrection and light of Jesus Christ. So with tape measure, pencil, butcher paper and scissors Jim set out on his basement floor the 12 rays of light! He then took the paper, laid them on white fabric and began cutting everything out. With the help of Deborah, Mary Kincaid, Myra Jenks and other CWF ladies the edges of the material were sewed. The individual fabric rays were attached to an iron ring fabricated and donated by Orser Iron Works .

Jim and LeRoy Wisner hung the first Sun Burst with Easter Lilies that year, 1991!



GOD BLESS

the **USA** *and*

HAPPY 4TH
OF

July



STATE OF KANSAS

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 241 SOUTH
TOPEKA, KS 66612



PHONE: (785) 296-3232
GOVERNOR.KANSAS.GOV

GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-52

Requiring masks or other face coverings in public

WHEREAS, securing the health, safety, and economic well-being of residents of the State of Kansas is this Administration's top priority;

WHEREAS, Kansas is facing a crisis-the pandemic and public health emergency of COVID-19-resulting in illness, quarantines, school closures, and temporary closure of businesses resulting in lost wages and financial hardship to Kansas citizens;

WHEREAS, the United States Departments of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning January 27, 2020, with now more than 2,580,000 cases of the illness and more than 126,000 deaths as a result of the illness across the United States;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020;

WHEREAS, a State of Disaster Emergency was proclaimed for the State of Kansas on March 12, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to Section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act");

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States pursuant to Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1601, et seq. and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 1320b-5), declared a national emergency that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020;

WHEREAS, as of this date, in Kansas there have been 14,990 reported positive cases of COVID-19 spread among 97 counties, including 272 deaths;

WHEREAS, after a steady trend of decreasing metrics, recent weeks have seen the numbers of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths spike in Kansas and across the nation;

WHEREAS, this worrying trend of increased COVID-19 spread is a danger to the health and safety of every Kansan and also presents a serious threat to reopening and reviving the Kansas economy;

WHEREAS, wearing a mask in public is the easiest and most effective way to protect each other and help keep our businesses open and our economy running;

WHEREAS, wearing a mask in public is not only safe and easy, it is necessary to avoid more restrictive local measures that could involve closing businesses, schools, organized youth sports, and other important activities;

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas must remain flexible to account for the evolving nature and scope of the unprecedented public health emergency posed by COVID-19, while also simultaneously safely, strategically, and incrementally reopening business and facilitating economic recovery and revitalization;

WHEREAS, for the aforementioned and other reasons, and in recognition and furtherance of my responsibility to provide for and ensure the health, safety, security, and welfare of the people of the State of Kansas, requiring that masks or other face coverings be worn in public spaces is necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population; and

WHEREAS, in these challenging times, this Administration will do whatever it can to avoid immediate dangers to the health, safety, and welfare of Kansans.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, including the authority granted me by K.S.A 48-924 and K.S.A 48-925(b) and (c)(11), in order to ensure that Kansans can to help keep each other safe and keep our businesses open as we restore our economy, I hereby direct and order the following:

1. Effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 3, 2020, any person in Kansas shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or other face covering when they are in the following situations:
 - a. Inside, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;
 - b. Obtaining services from the healthcare sector in settings, including but not limited to, a hospital, pharmacy, medical clinic, laboratory, physician or dental office, veterinary clinic, or blood bank;¹
 - c. Waiting for or riding on public transportation or while in a taxi, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle;
 - d. While outdoors in public spaces and unable to maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals (not including individuals who reside together) with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity.

¹ Unless directed otherwise by an employee or healthcare provider.

2. Also effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 3, 2020, all businesses or organizations in Kansas must require all employees, customers, visitors, members, or members of the public to wear a mask or other face covering when:
 - a. Employees are working in any space visited by customers or members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
 - b. Employees are working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
 - c. Employees are working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
 - d. Customers, members, visitors, or members of the public are in a facility managed by the business or organization; or
 - e. Employees are in any room or enclosed area where other people (except for individuals who reside together) are present and are unable to maintain a 6-foot distance except for infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity.
3. The following are exempt from wearing masks or other face coverings in the situations described in paragraphs 1 and 2:
 - a. Persons age five years or under—children age two years and under in particular should not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation;
 - b. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering—this includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
 - c. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, or communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
 - d. Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
 - e. Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
 - f. Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided they maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals (not including individuals who reside together or are seated together) with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity;

- g. Athletes who are engaged in an organized sports activity that allows athletes to maintain a 6-foot distance from others with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity;
- h. Persons who are engaged in an activity that a professional or recreational association, regulatory entity, medical association, or other public-health-oriented entity has determined cannot be safely conducted while wearing a mask or other face covering;
- i. Persons engaged in an activity or event held or managed by the Kansas Legislature;
- j. Persons engaged in a court-related proceeding held or managed by the Kansas Judiciary; and
- k. Persons engaged in any lawful activity during which wearing a mask or other face covering is prohibited by law.

4. Definitions:

- a. "Mask or other face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face. A mask or other face covering can be made of a variety of synthetic and natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen. Ideally, a mask or other face covering has two or more layers. A mask or other face covering may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.
- b. "Public space" means any indoor or outdoor space or area that is open to the public; this does not include private residential property or private offices or workspaces that are not open to customers or public visitors.

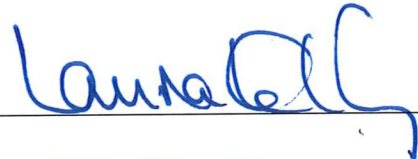
- 5. Nothing in this order shall restrict, limit, or supersede the Secretary of Health and Environment's authority to make isolation, quarantine, or other orders restricting movement as necessary to respond to escalating or worsening conditions in any local jurisdiction.
- 6. Local governments retain authority to issue and enforce equally or more restrictive orders or provisions and retain any authority to issue or enforce isolation or quarantine orders or other orders as necessary to respond to escalating or worsening conditions in any local jurisdiction. Counties may also exercise authority granted by K.S.A. 48-925 as amended by 2020 Special Session House Bill 2016, Sec. 33.
- 7. As currently permitted pursuant to state law, the Attorney General, county attorneys, and district attorneys enforcing this order should use their discretion and consider the totality of the circumstances as they determine appropriate enforcement actions.

8. In order to more accurately track and assess statewide status of COVID-19 cases, private labs conducting testing for COVID-19 shall report both positive and negative tests to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
9. The Four Tribes of Kansas (Iowa Tribe, Kickapoo Nation, Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation, and Sac & Fox Nation) retain any authority to regulate through their respective tribal councils for the health and welfare of their population.
10. This order should be read in conjunction with other executive orders responding to the COVID-19 pandemic that are still in effect and supersedes any contrary provisions of previous orders.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 20-52. It shall become effective as of 12:01 a.m. on July 3, 2020, and remain in force until rescinded or until the statewide State of Disaster Emergency extended by House Bill 2016 enacted during the June 2020 special session relating to COVID-19 expires, whichever is earlier. This order may be extended or modified as circumstances dictate.

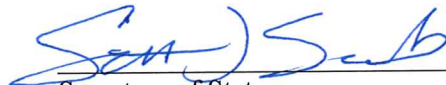
THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

BY THE GOVERNOR



DATED

7.2.2020



Secretary of State



Assistant Secretary of State

