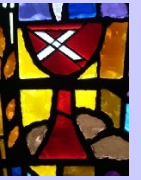


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## 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](mailto:merriamchristian@gmail.com)  
[www.merriamcc.org](http://www.merriamcc.org)



Dear Friends,  
This next week is our Holi-est of Hollies - the week of Easter! We come through six weeks of Lenten journey to find ourselves at the table with Jesus, at the foot of the cross on that fateful night and at the empty tomb on Easter morning. Our faith calls us to this week of trial and suffering, this week of joy and grace, this week of salvation and redemption as disciples of Jesus. We have followed him, strayed from the path sometimes, found our way back again, and now we find ourselves at the saving moment of history.

How will we approach the table this week? Who will you invite to sit there with you? What words of Jesus will fill your ears as you fill your stomach? How will you approach the cross? Heavy with sin and shame, it calls mournfully out to us, trying to drag us to death. How will you sit at

its foot and consider what Jesus has done for you? And how will you approach Easter morning? When the dawn breaks and love and hope and wondrous forgiveness flow like water from the heavens onto you and your journey, how will you approach the empty grave, the awe-struck women, the glorious appearance of Jesus again - resurrected and alive?

This week is an encapsulation of our faith. Wandering in sin we are found and set free by the love of God in Christ Jesus. This week is all of that. How will you approach it? As just another week, with some stuff you have to get done? Or as the embodiment of our faith journey, the very presence of the Word that walked among us, the life-saving grace of Jesus Christ!

Gather church, for this is Easter. He is risen! he is risen indeed!

In Christ,  
Mark

# The Journey of Lent



## Maundy-Thursday Communion Service

We will have a Maundy-Thursday Communion Service at 6PM, Thursday April 1st (No fooling!). The service will be in-person (masks and distancing) and live streamed. Plan on joining in and invite someone else to be a part of this special worship as well.

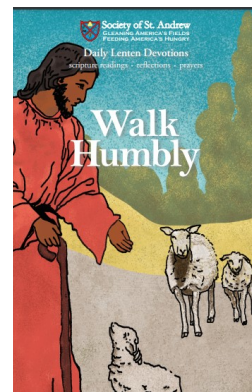
## Lenten Devotional

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

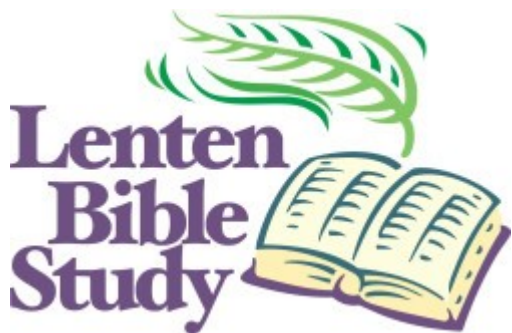
[https://endhunger.org/docs\\_church/lent/Lenten\\_Devotions\\_Booklet.pdf](https://endhunger.org/docs_church/lent/Lenten_Devotions_Booklet.pdf)

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

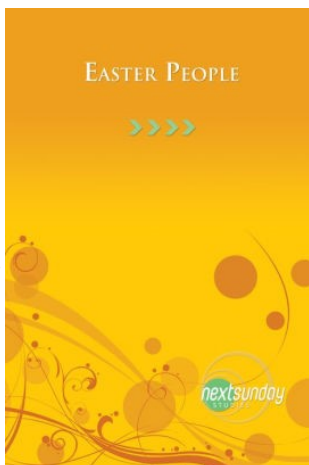
Copies were mailed out to those without computers and shut-ins. If you want one mailed, please let Mark know.



# The Journey of Lent



Starting Wednesday evenings in March, Pastor Mark is leading a study, both in-person and via Zoom, 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.



## EASTER LILIES

If you ordered an Easter Lily the cost is \$12 and we will need the money by March 28th! You can send it in, made out to "Merriam Christian Church" with "Easter Lilies" on the envelope or memo line. Lilies will be out on Easter morning, April 4th, for worship. You may take it home after Easter Worship.



## In-Person and Online Worship Available

The building is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10AM. Please wear a mask (even if you have been vaccinated, not everybody has yet) 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.

God Bless!

# Pastor Mark's Message

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

March 14th, "There is a Snake in My Boots!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGxiVgYgkt8&t=337s>

March 21st, "It's Not Me, It's You"

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

Children's Worship and Wonder  
by  
Christina Stokes



March 14th "Jesus & Bartemeus?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5Jpew8BSFU>

March 21st "Jesus and Zacchaeus"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3L9jYwR2bt4>

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Adult Sunday School class began the first of March and is thriving. We have members attending in person and via Zoom.

Three individuals have volunteered to teach: Anita Collins, Linda Railsback and Jim Owens.

Jim is teaching during March and Anita Collins will teach during April.

Currently we are studying the major prophets beginning with Moses and leading to the time of Jesus.

Our class begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and dismisses for the 10:00 a.m. worship Service.

Until we resume full church activities we will be holding just one adult class.

**We welcome each of you to join us, either in person or via Zoom.**



Children's Message



[Drawn Closer to God](#)

[How to Measure God's Love](#)



Join us in  
worship on  
[Youtube.](#)



**DON'T FORGET TO SHARE services & study sessions with family, friends and neighbors**

Pastor Mark's  
***Prayerful Meditation***  
mid-week video (3/24)

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 10](#)

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



## DWM NEWS

On the 2nd of March, Pam Boyd, Anita Collins, Joyce Luke and myself met at the church to discuss starting back up our CWF program at MCC in Fellowship Hall.

We are **going to combine our two women's groups into one and call it Sarah**. It will meet the third Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. **Our first meeting will be the 20th of April at 1 pm**. We will have our **Business Meeting at 12:30 each Tuesday** before the Sarah meeting and everyone is invited to attend that meeting also. Of course we will have to wear mask and there will be the 6 ft social distancing for now.

We would like to invited all the ladies of MCC to attend. If you have any questions please ask Pam, Anita, Joyce or myself.

Thank you,  
Jackie Watts, President  
CWF

## Calendar

### Sunday - April 4th

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 1

Liturgist Jim Walker

### Thursday- April 8th

Newsletter article submission deadline

### Sunday - April 11th

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 2

Liturgist Carole Prentice

### Sunday - April 18th

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 3

Liturgist Bob Pape

*Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings*

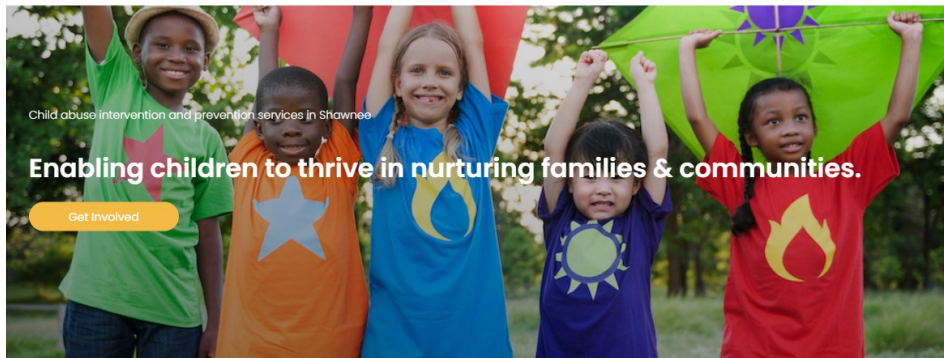
- Write a check.
- <http://www.easytithe.com/merriamcc>
- Text giving: 913-444-6397

**Volunteer Delivery Schedule**  
**3/30 to 4/27**



**Tuesday, March 30**  
Mark Willis & Rick Ferguson

**Tuesday, April 6** Joan Tarwatter & Linda Railsback



## The Outreach Committee has begun to be involved with the Shawnee based Sunflower House!



It is a non-residential children's advocacy and abuse prevention center serving Johnson and Wyandotte counties.

*The heart for children. The courage to step up and help.*

As a non-profit, Sunflower House relies heavily on community support to continue their programs for child victims of abuse in your community.

Community support in 2019 allowed Sunflower House to provide 523 children with a safe place to tell their stories and a place for them to find healing and support.

**Sunflower House is a non-profit organization for child victims of abuse that was founded in 1977.**

Please donate items from the wish list shown below OR if you prefer, a financial donation through our **MAKE-A-DIFFERENCE** fund. Items listed below can be dropped off at the church to the attention of Carole Prentice or Pam Boyd!

- Individually-packaged snack items
- Juice boxes
- Bottles of water
- Gift Cards (increments of \$10, \$15 and \$20)
  - Wal-Mart, Target
  - Fast food (McDonald's, Subway, Wendy's, Taco Bell, etc.)
  - Grocery stores
  - Home Depot and Lowe's (to help with our facility maintenance or family needs)
  - Other hardware or landscaping stores (to help with our facility maintenance)
  - Gift cards to GAS STATIONS for assisting families with transportation to medical, therapy or legal appointments
- Disinfectant Spray (Lysol) and Disinfecting Wipes
- AA & AAA Batteries
- Culturally diverse toys, dolls, action figures, reading materials, books or games for a variety of age groups
- Footballs, soccer balls, basketballs, and nerf balls
- Scarves, hats, gloves, mittens
- Full size personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, women's hygiene, toothpaste, lotion, chapstick)
- 16 GB USB 3.0 Flash drives
- Copy Paper, 8.5 X 11



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 Prayer:

- **Charlie Jin** (Gilbert and Ya Larson's grandson) split his shin bone playing sports. Please pray for a quick recovery.

## Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Bob Pape's sister-in-law Deanna Pape** passed away. Please keep the family in your prayers.
- **Donna Rankin's** nephew's mother-in-law passed away. Keep the Peabler Family in your prayers as they grieve.
- **Donna's brother Gerry** had heart valve surgery and a pacemaker installed. Her other **brother Danny** is taking chemo for his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- **Jan Pankey's nephew Tyler Pankey** continuing tests at the Mayo Clinic to find out what is causing his health struggle.
- **Allen and Jackie Watts' friend RJ's** major surgery on his "good" eye this week went well and is now waiting to "see" results over next 5 weeks. Please keep him in your prayers.
- **Barry Davis' sister Carol Bollmann's son James was hospitalized with covid. His wife and oldest son** also have it. James was rushed by ambulance to the ER with very low oxygenation levels, but is responding to the oxygen given him, and being treated for Covid induced pneumonia, but his prognosis is uncertain.
- **Barry has received his 2nd vaccination and he helped his sister and her husband find a vaccination site and get registered.** He then helped register his 88 year old cousin living near Branson Mo at a local site there. Barry has offered to help folks get registered over the internet for their vaccinations if anyone needs assistance. Call or email him for help on this if you want your shot but haven't been able to get it yet.
- The **families of Charles Masoner and former Merriam police officer, Wynfield Tubbs, Jr.,** who both passed recently. Pastor Mark performed the services for their families.
- **Emily Hooker's brother, Tony Kriz,** has a fast growing cataract, but his surgery has been scheduled, which is in itself an answer to prayer.
- **Connie Hennigh's great-grandson Lance** had to get braces for his legs, but he is also going to be a new big

brother.

- The family of **Marty Bradley**, former member and Board Chair for MCC and son of MCC Pastor Bill Bradley, who passed away. We are working on getting an address for those who wish to send a card.
- **Daryl and Whitney Williams**, who were married March 20th by Pastor Mark, as they begin their life together a husband and wife.

### **PRAISE:**

- **Glen and Dixie Wheaton** celebrated their first GREAT-grandchild, Harvey Thomas, 10 lbs 10 oz!

**We pray for all those who are sick, or are afraid they will get sick. 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 desire to get the vaccine and are having difficulty getting it. May God's angels reach out and help them in their quest. We pray for all those who are declining to get the vaccine, even when they could. May they be touched by Jesus' words that call us to serve one another and to put other's lives before our own.**

**For our church, as we seek to respond to the situation we find ourselves in, may we always respond first with grace and love and hope. May we be a light in dark times, bread and cup to hungry people.**

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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.






Daisy

# APRIL 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Room Codes:</i> C-Chapel S-Sanctuary CH-Campbell Hall DP-Disciple Place	<i>B-Berea</i> <i>R-Roundtable</i> <i>L-Library</i> <i>P-Pioneer</i> <i>YR-Youth Room</i> <i>OB-Out of Building</i>			1	2	3
4  <b>EASTER</b>	5 9-12 Finance-LIB	6 7:00 Committee Meetings IN PERSON—CH 	7	8	9	10
11 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am CH 10:00 Worship	12 9-12 Finance-LIB	13 7:00 Board Meeting IN PERSON—CH 	14	15	16	17
18 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am CH 10:00 Worship	19 9-12 Finance-LIB	20 CWF/DWM Business Meeting @ 13:30pm Sarah 1PM	21	22	23	24
25 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9am CH 10:00 Worship	26 9-12 Finance-LIB	27	28	29	30	



**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE  
For April 2021**

**April 4, 2021— 10:00 AM -**  
**Serving Team —Team 1**    **Emily Hooker**  
**Liturgist**            **Jim Walker**

**April 11th, 2021— 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 2**    **Michelle Land**  
**Liturgist**            **Carole Prentice**

**April 18th, 2021— 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 3**    **Carol Prentice**  
**Liturgist**            **Bob Pape**

**April 25th, 2021— 10:00 AM**  
**Serving Team —Team 4**    **Allen Watts**  
**Liturgist**            **Jackie Watts**



**Celebrating Birthdays This Month:**

Scott Stokes	April 7
Harold Leakey	April 10
Casey Meyer	April 10
Allen Watts	April 10
Josh Ramsey	April 11
Nanette Ferguson	April 14
Betty Russell	April 22
Paul Goff	April 23
Jennifer Spiegel	April 29
Patti Beaver	April 29



**No Anniversaries**



**Currently being vaccinated**

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

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JOHNSON COUNTY  
Health & Environment

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