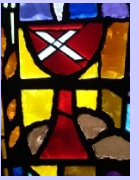


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## 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.

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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

9:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall  
In-person & On-Line

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,  
Jesus told us he was the true vine, and God was the vine grower. He implored us to be connected to him, that we might grow and bear fruit. It is a command to be connected to God in our life, as God is the wellspring from which we find spiritual sustenance and nourishment. So, in light of a year that has isolated and divided many, the question to each of us would seem to be: How are you staying connected to God, the vine grower?

This year has challenged many of our routines and habits. We have had to learn and try new ways of doing seemingly basic things. We have had to stretch ourselves and work extra hard at many different tasks. And it has taken its toll. We have not seen many of our friends and family as often (there are some of you I haven't seen in person in over a year!). We have stepped back from some activities, paused others, picked up some new ones, and had to start thinking hard about how we move forward now.

Through all of this, our connection to God has been tested and sometimes strained. We have lamented and grieved some of these changes, while surprisingly finding new hope in others. And our faith has become more work than it might have been before. So, after a year of changes and adjustments, how are you connecting to God today? Where do you find your connection wearing thin and where has it strengthened? Where do you hope to increase your connection going forward into these next twelve months?

Our faith takes purposeful effort and consideration. Stop today and consider your connection to God. Consider how your faith has grown, or changed, or withered in the past year. Consider what steps come next to increase that connection. Jesus is the true vine, and God is the vine grower, and you and I are the branches that reach out into this world. To do that, we must be connected.

God Bless,  
Mark

# DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

Just a reminder to you all to plan to attend our business/Group meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. The last Tuesday of the month. We are trying to gather our flock and we need all of you. Our business at 12:30 will be "short & sweet" and our lesson will be longer but sweeter. Please try to attend. At this time, our treasury balance is the same as the last newsletter...\$2,626.65. If I spend your money, I will report it at the meeting. Also, watch the newsletters for news. I am now the designated reporter. LOL

We received a nice thank you letter from Church World Service for our \$400.00 check for blankets. Thank you all.

As you all may know, Jackie and Allen are moving out of state. She will not be here for our next meeting, so we need to tell her thank you, nice knowing you, and happy house hunting east of the Mississippi.

Joyce Luke  
Treasurer



## Memorial Service for Flo Biehl

We will have a Memorial Service for Flo Biehl on Sunday, May 16, 2021 here at the church at 12:30PM. All are invited to come back in after worship and celebrate Flo's life with her family. After the service there will be a lunch in the parking lot, the family is renting a large tent to accommodate outdoor eating. Masks and distancing are still required during the service inside.



Pastor Mark will be gone May 9, 2021 as he takes some time away with his wife.



Pastor Mark's  
***Prayerful Meditation***  
*mid-week video (5/5)*

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 [Psalms 12](#). 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



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

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

## Summer Snackpacks are back!



This summer Merriam Christian Church will be providing food families again at Merriam Park Elementary School. We start delivering food in June. We need your assistance!

**We need donations to make this ministry work. You can buy and donate the following food items:**

- Cereal
- Canned fruit
- Canned veggies
- Drink Boxes
- Granola Bars
- Canned pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Snack Crackers
- Cheese and Crackers
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Tuna
- Soups



OR, you make a donation to the church, label it for "Make-a-Difference" and we will use those funds to purchase what is needed. We also need volunteers to deliver the boxes of food each weekend.

**Talk to Carole Prentice if you have any questions!**

## **We're Hiring!**

Nursery Worker Needed



We are in a need of a church nursery attendant! Please contact Mike Nichols at 785-760-1796 for more information about the pay and hours!



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:

- **Dorothy Kroh** fell and cracked her pelvis. She is at Lakeview Rehab and will be there for 6-8 weeks healing. If you want to contact her, call her at 913-481-1014
- **Nanette Ferguson** is doing better after her trip to the ER. She is walking again without the walker and her and Rick went to a family reunion this past weekend.

## Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Nancy Hines' son Dwayne Hines**, had a triple bypass . The surgery went well, and he is now home continuing his care and rehab.
- **Connie Hennigh's son-in-law Garland Johnson** passed away. Please keep Connie's daughter Christy and the whole family in your prayers during this difficult time.
- **Casey Meyer's mom Linda** has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Bev McDonald's best friend, Jeanie McCrowsky** fell and hurt her face, and **Bev's cousin LouAnn** has been diagnosed with leukemia and has decided to not take treatments.
- **Donna Rankin's brother Danny** got a good report from his oncologist in his ongoing battle with cancer. He is continuing his treatments.
- Please keep the families of **Tony Vielhauer and Don Uthe** in your prayers. Pastor Mark performed their funeral services this past week. Don's mother attended church here before her passing in 1992.
- **Barry Davis 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.
- **Carol Vann has announced she is moving to Phoenix,** Arizona in June, to be closer to family and warmer winters. We hold her and **Heather** in our prayers as they make this big transition. May God bless them and walk with them.
- Prayers for **Keith and Marie White and Dillon and Autumn Palmer** as they begin their lives together as husband and wife. Pastor Mark performed their ceremonies.
- **Pray that we find a church nursery attendant! It is vitally important we find that special person who can take care of our little ones for those parents wanting to attend Sunday Service.**

## **PRAISE:**

- **Joyce Campbell** shared a blessing - due to the recent stimulus check she was able to fix the transmission on her car and keep it running.
- The **ladies for Disciples Women's Ministry** were able to meet together, in person, today. This is their first in-person meeting in a year. It was a welcome blessing!
- For **Allen and Jackie Watts**. In addition to Allen's recent retirement, Allen and Jackie have sold their house and are moving to the Tennessee mountains in May. We wish them many blessings and pray this next part of their journey is filled with faith, family and friends.

**We pray for all those who have received the vaccine, and for all those who want to get it but haven't yet. We especially pray for those who could get it but are hesitant or resistant. May their hearts be softened with grace and inspired by Christ to serve one another. May we come together to get vaccinated, and begin healing from this long struggle.**

**Please keep all of our teachers and students in your prayers as this difficult, stressful, chaotic school year comes to a close. Teachers and students have had to go above and beyond this year, God Bless Them All!**

**For our church, as we hopefully begin to gather again, 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. May we outdo one another in serving others as we strive to do more together as able.**

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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!

April 25th, "Who Knows Who?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ytyh2MbYy0>

May 2nd, "Spring Planting"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KJmawX9g9M>

Children's Worship and Wonder  
by  
Christina Stokes



April 25th "Road to Emmaus"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTKAi7Ngzw>

May 2nd "The Great Banquet"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyRzMUU7PRc>

## 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 taught in March, Anita Collins is teaching 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



**The Good Shepard and the Big Bad Wolf**

**Can I get a Witness!**



Join us in  
worship on  
[Youtube](https://www.youtube.com).



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