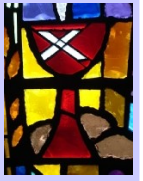


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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.
10:45 a.m. Suspended
SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:00 a.m.

9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203

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

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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,
Thanksgiving week is upon us. But instead of talk of turkey and football games, stuffing and large family dinners, we are talking about mask mandates, gathering restrictions, and calls to skip the big dinner this year. In the midst of the year that has been 2020, it might be a little hard to be thankful for anything right now. It would be much easier to settle into grumbling and complaining as I eat a whole pumpkin pie by myself.

But 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tell us, Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Give thanks in ALL circumstances, even in the midst of a global pandemic. Fine...so what am I thankful for this year? Well, I am deeply thankful for you - the body of Christ in residence at Merriam Christian Church. I am thankful for your generosity - you have continued to give this year, even in difficult stressful situations. We just gathered all of the

donations for the Cornucopia and it was overwhelming. I am thankful for your kindness and compassion. You have continued to be gracious and grace-filled - paying staff salaries even in shut-downs, reaching out to one another to check on each other's well-being, and being in constant prayer for one another and our world. And I am thankful for your faith. Even as we have navigated this new terrain, you have continued to seek out God's will and direction as a church.

Thanksgiving may be a little different this year. We may have to make adjustments. But that doesn't mean we aren't called by God to be thankful. Consider this as this week dawns upon us - what are you thankful for this year? Maybe for Thanksgiving this year, instead of turkey and stuffing, instead we share through email and social media our thankfulness with one another. Reach out to someone and tell them what you are thankful for and ask them to reciprocate. Maybe this could be our new Thanksgiving tradition. God Bless-
Mark



Hang the Greens

**Sunday November 29th
during the 10am Service!**

Please help us recognize the dedication and hard work of our staff through a contribution to this year's Christmas Bonus. Gifts should be either mailed to the church office, attn. Treas. or turned-in through the offering plate with

"STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUS"

written on the envelope.

**December 6th is the last
Sunday to contribute.**

Thank You

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

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

In-Person Worship ***Cancelled this Sunday Nov. 22***

The Board has canceled in-person worship for this Sunday, 11/22/20. Pastor Mark will be recording a worship service and posting it online and sending it out through email this Sunday morning.

It is our hope that if there are no new reports of anyone testing positive for Covid or getting sick, then we will reconvene for in-person worship on November 29, 2020 at 10AM for the Hang of the Greens service to kick off the Advent Season together.

We will of course let you know if this changes.

Be in prayer for all those who are sick, for our church, our community, and our nation during this difficult time.

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies, it's me again.

I am happy to report we had another donation of \$25.00 and I sent \$200.00 to the Tennyson Center for Children In Denver, Colorado. This is one of several NBA homes our DWM supports. We rotate our choice of several every year. Anyone wishing to donate to DWM, can see me in church if we can, or drop it off at church for me to pick up. Our balance at this time is \$2,459.15.

That's all folks.

Stay safe. Love.

Joyce Luke, Treasurer
Service Chair



Watch for our next Newsletter on December 5, 2020.

*Submissions for publication
may be edited for size, clarity,
and tone.*

CHIEFS BLOOD DRIVE

**We will have our
Blood Drive
Monday,
Nov. 30th,
3:00-7:00.**

Volunteers Needed



**The Worship Committee
could use some help with
decorating the
Church for the Christmas
season. We will be putting
up the Christmas tree and
other decorations
Monday, 11/23/20
at 10:00a.m.**

**If you can help us, it would
be greatly appreciated.
Just show up if you can
help!**

**Pat
Worship Committee**

**This time, *each donor will
be given a beautiful
Chiefs red long-sleeved
pullover.***



**If you are willing and able
to donate,
Please call me at
913-631-0699
so I can put you down for
an appointment.**

**Of course,
The Community Blood
Center is following all of
the CDC's COVID-19
Precautionary guidelines.**

**Pat Reed,
Blood Drive Chairman**



Pastor Mark's Message

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

Nov. 8, "We Remember and We Choose"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSYNRlaoj2Y>

Nov. 15, "You Have to Spend Money to Make Money"

<https://youtu.be/DJhrvnMmlq4>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



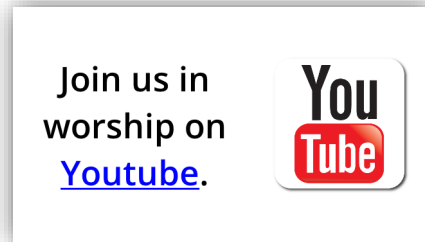
Nov. 15 "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego"

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



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.



Use Your Talent

All You Need is Love



Pastor Mark's
Prayerful Meditation
mid-week video (11/17)

Take a few minutes, place your day on pause and dwell in God's word. Click on the image here.

This week's meditation comes from Psalm 46



Calendar

Sunday - Nov. 22th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 4
Liturgist **Pat Reed**

Sunday - Nov. 29th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 4
Liturgist **Hanging of the Greens**

Thursday- Dec 3rd —Newsletter article submission deadline

Sunday - Dec 6th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 1
Liturgist **Jackie Watts**

Sunday - Dec 13th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 2
Liturgist **Jan Pankey**

OCTOBER 2020 Finance Report

Revenues \$ 16,130.00
Expenses \$ 12,500.00

THANK YOU ALL
for your continuing generosity
during this difficult time.

Your Treasurer



**OUR NEW
SIGN IS ON!**

***Thank You for Your Generous Donations to the
MCC Annual Cornucopia. 30 Families at
Merriam Park Elementary and Crestview Elementary
will now have Thanksgiving Meals!***



**It's that time of year
again! We have
families to be adopted
for Christmas.**

If you and your Sunday School class or family would like to help a family this year please contact Carole Prentice or a member of the Outreach Committee.

Free, COVID-19 Testing Community Events

Get tested for COVID-19 at one of these free events. You're encouraged to get tested if you have coronavirus symptoms, if you've been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, or if you've been in a large crowd. Ages 6+. Registration encouraged.

[Sign up here](https://www.hearttoheart.org/jococovid/). (<https://www.hearttoheart.org/jococovid/>)

Saturday, Nov. 21: Shawnee Town, 11600 Johnson Drive; Shawnee // 9 a.m.-noon

Saturday, Dec. 12: Shawnee Town, 11600 Johnson Drive; Shawnee // 9 a.m.-noon



Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Minutes recorded by Donna Rankin
Board Secretary

Present by Zoom: Pastor Mark Willis, Jackie Watts, Allen Watts, Donna Rankin, Joel Beaver, Pat Reed, Dave Roebuck, Dixie Wheaton, Bob Pape, Carole Prentice, Michele Land, Pam Boyd, Barry Davis, Anita Collins, Jim Owens, Greg Spiegel

Devotions: Dixie Wheaton – Prayer for those with COVID, all congregation, thank Mark for hard work this week on food boxes, next week Mark will be on vacation
Mark reported prayer list emailed today.
Updated on condition of members or family members with COVID.

Committee Chair Reports:

Clerk: Jackie- no change

CDW/DWM: Pam- According to Johnson County Christmas Bureau website, they will accept groceries, winter coats, personal care items and toys. They will pre-package and deliver by drive through. CDW/DWM usually provides hats and gloves. Contacted them regarding what we can do for them, no response yet.

Elders: Bob-No Report

Finance: Dixie- No report. Several donations to Make A Difference received this week.

H&G: Joel-Painting walk through done on 11/11. A few corrections being worked on. They did an awesome job. Gutters-rotted and need replaced. Put on to-do list. New sign-electrical up to code and digital working. Mark and Bob worked on messages. Siding-Buddy Hartman Siding will do work in spring. Temporary fix for now. Materials have been ordered. Furnaces-fall inspections completed. One or two furnaces may need to be replaced in the not-so-distant future. Total 7 furnaces; total 5 a/c units. Mark's office door trim-fixed by Bob. Roof over carport-needs replaced; obtaining bids. Gutter cleaning and front doors reseal-Jon Beaver working on these projects. Bricks on north side-getting bids for tuck pointing. Bus Company-due to COVID will not meet at church right now but reschedule later. A HUGE thank you to all of House & Grounds for hard work!

Outreach: Carol-Thank you to Mark for boxing up Cornucopia 30 food boxes. Thank you to everyone for great contributions to Make A Difference. Adopt A Family for Christmas will be next project.

Membership: Allen-Upcoming projects-something special for Thanksgiving for members and something special for shut-ins for Christmas. Newsletter will go out this weekend. Will request (his) office handle the usual mailed hard copies.

Pastoral: Pastor Mark-Cornucopia boxes were completed and will be delivered tomorrow to the schools. THANK YOU to all who contributed and helped feed 30

families! Due to three households contracting COVID, 11/15 worship was cancelled. Members were emailed or called. A worship service was recorded and sent out Sunday morning. Recommendation that we cancel 11/22, and if no more outbreaks occur, resume services on 11/29 with Hanging of the Greens Service. Discussion by Board and determined to cancel 11/22. Pastor Mark on vacation 11/21-12/5. However, will do video of service and send out Sunday morning.

Personnel: Pam-Our nursery attendant, Maria, is feeling better now and able to work some. Father now living with she and her children.

Trustees: Bob-No report

Worship: Pat-Five members met. Hanging of Greens will be held on 11/29, replacing sermon. Dave Roebuck and Anita Collins will arrange the readers. Poinsettias will be obtained for pedestals only. A date, prior to 11/29, will be set for decorating the sanctuary and put in the newsletter.

Memorial: No report

Old Business: None

New Business:

Jackie-Collection of staff bonus funds needs to be made by 12/07.

Allen-Heard from David & Katie Schwenk and family asking he say "hello and miss everyone."

Jackie-Heard from Mike & Casey Nichols with pictures of their girls.

Open Forum:

Bob-Talked to Leroy and Mary Wisner; they are doing fine.

Jim-Lakeview Care Center had COVID outbreak on one floor only. Other areas are okay.

Pam-Johnson County Dashboard reported 237 COVID; 5 deaths in 24 hour period.

Mark-Foot feeling better; MRI done. He and family vacationing next week.

Pat-Question regarding calls to members regarding 11/22 cancellation; please call same members.

Bob-He will provide list for the newsletter of locations for a COVID test.

Barry-COVID tests are covered by insurance; free if no insurance.

[Pastor Mark closed with prayer.](#)

Bob Pape moved to adjourn; seconded by Dixie Wheaton.



In spite of the many challenges 2020 has presented us with, there is still so much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. One of the greatest gifts 2020 has given us is a new perspective on the things we may have been taking for granted all this time!

It has afforded us a new perspective on just how grateful we are for the simplest of things.

Without a doubt there are so many struggling this Thanksgiving, but maybe this is an opportunity to take a moment and practice some gratitude for all the lessons 2020 has brought us. Spread some gratitude around, send a Thanksgiving card or just a simple note to a friend, loved one and family, even if they live here in town or live a 1,000 miles away.

Remember this, if you're feeling extra gloomy studies have shown practicing gratitude is one way to boost your mood.

Very Thankful for Our MCC Church Family,

Your Membership Committee



Lord, as cases rise and more people get sick, we pray to you for guidance, for hope, and for healing. Be with your people during this time of crisis. Calm our

hearts. Give us wisdom to follow sound medical and scientific advice. Help us to keep others and ourselves as safe as we can. Watch over all of your children and bless them we pray.

Those Needing Prayers

- **Marge Willard**, diagnosed with COVID-19
- **Dorothy Kroh** diagnosed with COVID-19
- **Melinda Haas, Carole Prentice's daughter**, diagnosed with COVID-19.
- **Jackie and Allen Watts**, diagnosed with COVID –19
- **Betty Cline** is home from rehab. Keep her in your prayers as she transitions back home.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Carole Prentice's brother Steve** is in the latter stages of Parkinson's
- **Marilyn Near's son Tony** diagnosed with COVID-19.
- **Jim Owen's sister Betty Cummings** could use prayers.
- **Jeanne Brandmeyer's grandson Michael** lost his best friend, who was killed in a case of mistaken identity.
- **Joyce Hutchinson** could use prayers.
- **Lyn Beaver's daughter Mary** and **son-in-law Kyle** recently moved back to KC (Praise!), but could use prayers as they are having trouble selling their apartment in Chicago.
- **Paul and Alice Goff's daughter Lyn** had her surgery postponed to Mon 11/23 on her ankle/foot.
- **Jan Pankey's** nephew Alvis Shelton was diagnosed with lung cancer.
- **Jan Pankey's nephew Tyler Pankey** had part of his colon removed. He is working with his doctors to figure out his health concerns.
- **Heather Waite's co-worker LJ Davis** lost her uncle and then her brother recently.
- **Alex and Melissa Ford, and Tyler and Samantha Todd** were married by Pastor Mark this past weekend. Please pray for them as they begin their journeys together as husband and wife.
- **Joyce Campbell's son Leigh** could use prayers.
- **Connie Hennigh's friend Shirley McGovern** has been struggling with cancer. She is now in the ICU on a ventilator with Covid-1

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.

PRAISE

- **Jeanne Brandmeyer** announced there is a new niece, **Grace**, in her family! Mother and baby are doing well.
- **Marge Willard's friend Violet** turned 104 years old!

++++

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.



DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Room Codes: C-Chapel S-Sanctuary CH-Campbell Hall DP-Disciple Place	B-Berea R-Roundtable L-Library P-Pioneer YR-Youth Room OB-Out of Building	24	25	26	27	28
		1 7:00 Committee Meetings 	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 Worship	7 9-12 Finance-LIB	8 7:00 Board Meeting 	9	10	11	12
13 10:00 Worship	14 9-12 Finance-LIB	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:00 Worship	21 9-12 Finance-LIB	22	23	24	25 Christmas 	26
27 10:00 Worship	28 9-12 Finance-LIB	29	30	31		



**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE
FOR DECEMBER 2020**

December 6, 2020 — 10:00 AM
Serving Team —Team 1 Carol Vann
 Michelle Land
 Emily Hooker
 Jackie Watts

Liturgist

December 13, 2020 — 10:00 AM
Serving Team —Team 2 Carole Prentice
 Pam Boyd
 Jan Pankey

Liturgist

December 20, 2020 — 10:00 AM
Serving Team —Team 3 Jim Walker
 Bob Pape
 David Roebuck
 Jennifer Spiegel

Liturgist

December 27, 2020 — 10:00 AM
Serving Team —Team 4 Jon Beaver
 Pat Reed
 Emily Hooker
 Joyce Luke

Liturgist



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Mark Willis	December 4
Emily Hooker	December 5
Anita Collins	December 6
Paul Jorgensen	December 9
Gary Ruffin	December 25
Marilyn Near	December 27
Tim Arnold	December 31



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Rick & Nanette Ferguson	December 12
Scott & Christina Stokes	December 17

