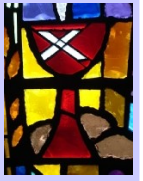


# MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



Dear  
Friends,

Have you ever had someone get one over on you? Or someone do something to you that was mean-spirited? Calloused? Hurtful? Sure, we all have from one time to another. Often when we are hurt or wounded like this, our thoughts turn to paying that person back for what they did to us. We think we owe them one. We plot and scheme for a chance to pay them back in revenge, in anger, or in equal pain. An eye for an eye!

But Romans 13:8, says "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." Well that takes the wind out of our sails a bit. When someone hurts me,

I am supposed to pay them back in love? When someone wrongs me, I am supposed to pay them back in love? When someone is mean and uncaring to me, I am supposed to pay them back in love? In a word, God says "yes".

That is a tall order! It is in our nature to want to hurt someone back when they hurt us, to cause them equal pain. But that is not God's way. It is not Jesus' way. It is not the Disciple's way. We are called to a higher response. We are called to live in the light of Christ and shine that light to everyone, even those who hurt us. And that will not be easy, but it will be Christ-like. Remember, even on the cross, Jesus asked forgiveness for those hurting him most deeply.

Give it a try today - live today in complete love for one another, and see what might happen.

God Bless and Stay Safe,  
Mark

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

### E-mail

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



## Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Minutes recorded by Donna Rankin  
Board Secretary

**Present in Person:** Pastor Mark Willis, Jackie Watts, Allen Watts, Joel Beaver, Donna Rankin, Pat Reed, Dave Roebuck, Dixie Wheaton, Bob Pape, Carole Prentice, Michele Land, Pam Boyd, Joyce Luke, Emily Hooker, Jon Beaver

**Present by Zoom:** Barry Davis, Anita Collins, Joan Tarwater, Greg Spiegel

**Devotions:** Emily Hooker – Labor Day Prayers  
**Jackie** handed out Minutes from 8/11/20 Newsletter  
**Mark reported on those needing prayers.**  
Floy Smith is in apartment on Pflumm.  
Alpha's daughter is scheduled for sinus surgery on 9/09.

### Committee Chair Reports:

**Clerk:** Jackie-153 members, no change

**CDW/DWM:** Joyce-Regional Evening DWM Meeting at First Christian Church in Olathe on 9/24 at 6:30 pm with NASA Aerospace Engineer as speaker. Please make reservations by 9/21.

**Elders:** Bob-No Report

**Finance:** Dixie-handed out 2021 Budget. Lower utility cost. Increases in insurance, Workers Compensation and Easy Tithes. Request every Chairman review and advise of any changes by 10/01. Cost of sign received.

**H&G:** Joel-New AED battery installed. Jim Owens Family banner and plaque hung in stairwell going to sanctuary. McCarty made repairs (broken wire & furnace motor) to correct A/C flow to sanctuary. A huge THANKS to Bob for his time working on these problems. Church sign assembly expected to be completed by 9/18 with installation during week of 9/21. A dedication for the new sign will possibly be scheduled in October. Bids for exterior painting have been received. Matthew M. Stieg Painting was selected with a start date of 9/23. Still in process of reviewing siding bids. Barry advised the door onto the roof is rusted. Joel will add this to list. Funding for the church structure projects was received as a donation by MCC Member. This is a huge BLESSING and we are very THANKFUL for this donation!

**Outreach:** Carol-School supplies and meal boxes were delivered to Merriam Park Elementary children. Any extra school supplies will be delivered to the school. MCC will serve JoCo Food Ministry on 10/29.

**Membership:** Allen-Shrimp Boil will be held 9/12 at 5:30 pm with outdoor table service. In the event of inclement weather, it will be curbside pick-up only. \$15 (cash or check) per person. To date 26 people had signed up. Newsletter will be published this week. Previous newsletter received 100 views online. A different camera has been used in recording online Sunday service. Sound improvement has been reported.

**Pastoral:** Pastor Mark-Worship services and activities

were closed on 3/12. Weekly leadership meetings were held by Zoom conference calls online. Videos to church YouTube and Facebook were posted with links emailed to members. In-person worship began 6/21 with one worship service at 10 am, including live streaming and emailing the YouTube link out on Mondays. There has been an average of 33 people in attendance in-person. Due to the number attending, the one worship service at 10 am will continue through 2020 and the first part of 2021.

**Personnel:** Pam-Our nursery attendant, Maria, is experiencing confusion and tiredness from COVID, and asked for prayers.

**Trustees:** Jon-No report.

**Worship:** Pat-There are several past issues of the Secret Place devotionals available. If anyone would like her to order new issues, please advise. The past issues will be placed outside the church office and sanctuary. Another blood drive will be held 11/30. Please plan to donate.

**Memorial:** Emily-A banner depicting the sun burst used at Easter time, a living memorial from the Jim Owens family, has been hung over the stairwell to the sanctuary. A total of \$9,085.91 from the Memorial account has been used toward the new church sign. Pages for the Memorial Books will be added for each person when the date of the dedication is known. The Memorial account remaining balance of \$1,857.63 has been designated for either music or camp use.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Pastor Mark-Several outside groups inquiring about using space in church building for meetings. Rev. Bill Rose-Heim said we work well with other groups and our location is accessible. The groups are: Johnson County Water Board, Alcoholics Anonymous, Bus Company and Chukese Disciples Congregation. It was suggested that Pastor Mark, Jackie, Joel and Bob should meet to discuss further and address questions.

**Open Forum:** Jackie-Nominating Committee Chairman Jim Owen has a question with regard to Emeritus recognition for some of our members who previously served as deacon/elder at another DOC church. After discussion, Mark will consult Rev. Bill Rose-Heim.

Pastor Mark-please keep cars locked in parking lot.  
Bob-Merriam old Community Center being torn down this week.

Joyce-Rex and Irene attended Memorial for Rex's older brother who was killed in Pearl Harbor.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Michelle Land moved to adjourn; seconded by Bob Pape



## Rex Heavin's brother Hadley Heavin, Pearl Harbor Veteran, finally laid to rest in Baxter Springs after 79 years.

by: Deja Bickham of FourStatehomepage.com Updated: Sep 6, 2020

BAXTER SPRINGS, Kan. — A local family knows all too well about the nearly 100,000 service men and women who are missing or unidentified.

Navy Fireman First Class Hadley Heavin was 23-years-old when he left Kansas and was sent to Pearl Harbor during World War II.

His ship was bombed—his family would never see him again—until now.

**Honored Saturday by the Kansas Governor, fellow service men and women, and the community as he's laid to rest, some 80 years later.**

**It was a service—fit for a hero.**

“Hadley, he was a great man, he loved everyone of us.”, says brother Rex Heavin.

From the time he put on his first pair of boxing gloves, everyone knew Hadley Heavin was a fighter.

“He was a prize fighter. You had to be pretty fast to beat him. I know he hit me a couple of times, not hard.” says Hadley's brother Charles “Frog” Heavin.

Fighting for his family and his country is what made Heavin who he was.

“They quit school in the 8th grade to help support the family. He also enlisted in the Navy because of his allegiance to the United States.” said Linda Price, Heavin's niece. He was killed at Pearl Harbor and he was on the USS West Virginia.

It's been 79 years since Navy Fireman First Class Hadley Heavin was killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Janet Carr, Heavin's niece says “It's kind of like it's kind of real, kind of surreal.”

In November, we met his nieces shortly after they learned he'd be returning home after his remains were identified through DNA in 2017.

“We never met him and so we didn't miss him until actually all of this started”, says Linda.

“We listened to their stories for all these years as if we did know him”, added Janet. But now he's back home, in Baxter Springs Kansas.

Where he's being laid to rest in a ceremony—fit for a hero.

**“It is truly my honor, to be here in Baxter Springs to pay respects to Fireman First Class Hadley Irvin Heavin a brave member of the United States Navy, who made the ultimate sacrifice.”** said Kansas Governor Laura Kelly, who attended the service.

**Hadley's memory has been kept alive for over 78 years, by his brothers and sisters, and families.**

And with one final salute, his family hopes his legacy continues.

“And we got him back and it was a miracle but we got him back. God does miracles.”



Click the picture above to hear more about Hadley Heavin

Pastor Mark's  
**Prayerful Meditation**  
mid-week video (9/9)

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 44



**Our teams are delivering Meals On Wheels again!**

“THANK YOU” to all of our dedicated drivers!

Carole Prentice



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

**Write a check.** You can mail your check to the church or DROP-IT in our 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



**Terrence Bryant's football team won first place** over the weekend in the “**Border Wars**” tournament. **Terrance felt like they had won the super bowl!** They played three games, one on Saturday and two on Sunday (back to back). **Terrance played every play over the weekend. He scored 14 points: 1 interception, 1 reception for a TD and one safety.** He mostly played middle linebacker and

tight end. This picture is after back to back games, three hours of playing non-stop, with his dad Kevin (Jeanne Bryant's son).

## Summer Snackpacks

We continue our annual summer program of providing food for 6 families, with 19 children and 34 people overall at Merriam Park Elementary.

***This week we are in need of***

- ◆ **Spaghetti and sauce**
- ◆ **Canned fruit**
- ◆ **Canned vegetables**
- ◆ **Hygiene Kits**



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.

**THANK YOU for Your Support of this VITAL Ministry!**



Click the image to learn more on how to get involved in the community

## 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!*

Aug. 30, 2020 "You are What You Eat"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-rikVSjWdA&t=3296s>

Sept. 6, 2020 "Live in the Light"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVDLCZC1mMk>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



Aug. 30, 2020 "Joseph and His Dreams"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ve1i5fjxtKg&t=2s>

Sept. 6, 2020 "Moses & the Burning Bush"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6meole6d0A&t=2s>



Watch for our next Newsletter on September 25, 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 this button

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



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.

Click on the Facebook logo to be taken to the church's FB page.



Connect

Click the image to get involved in the life of the church

Calling ALL Members and Friends of the Greater Kansas City Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!

We are so very EXCITED to invite you to participate in the 2020 Virtual Regional Assembly. The theme is RENEW. The theme scripture is: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Though we may not gather in person, we are creating multiple opportunities for us to connect online via Zoom and Facebook LIVE. We are going to have a four part Regional Assembly in order to reach as many people as possible across the life of the region and beyond.

Please register TODAY! There is no registration fee; however, we invite you to make a donation to the region to support the ministry of our region as we support congregations across the region. We also ask you to purchase a RENEW T-Shirt to wear during the Regional Assembly Worship on Saturday, October 3. A portion of the proceeds from your T-Shirt purchase will go to an outreach ministry of the region. **THANK YOU** in advance for your participation, sharing, and gifts!



## REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

### SAT, SEPT 19TH - RENEW THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

#### Option 1- Disciple Women- 10AM

Disciple Women from congregations across the region will gather online for fellowship and inspiration

#### Option 2- Disciple Men-10AM

Disciple Men from congregations across the region will gather online for fellowship and inspiration

#### Option 3 - YOUTH-10AM

YOUTH from congregations across the region will gather online for fellowship and inspiration

### SAT, SEPT 26TH - RENEW THROUGH EQUIPPING

#### EQUIP- EVANGELISM-10AM

Prepare to be equipped for Evangelism in the 21st Century

#### EQUIP- Theology of Digital Ministry-11AM

Prepare to be equipped to discuss Theology of Digital Ministry

Community Organization Panel-12PM

We will hear from community organization leaders from across Greater Kansas City

#### EQUIP-Building an Inclusive Community-1PM

Prepare to engage in conversation about Building an Inclusive Community

#### EQUIP-The Green Life-2PM

Prepare to learn ways your congregation can live the Green Life

### FRIDAY OCT 2 -RENEW THROUGH CREATIVITY

#### The Authors Round Table-6PM

Come hear the stories of our authors of the Greater Kansas City Region

### SATURDAY OCT 3 - REGIONAL ASSEMBLY WORSHIP

#### WORSHIP CELEBRATION -10:00 AM

Join us for an exciting worshipping experience!

We will also prayerfully discern and vote on the business of the region!

[Virtual Regional Assembly Registration](#)

[Support the GKC Region with your T-Shirt Order](#)

[KCDISIPLES.ORG](http://KCDISIPLES.ORG)  
[WEBSITE](#)

[DONATE](#)

[PRINTABLE FLYER TO SPREAD THE WORD](#)

**Important Note:**  
**Link to order T-Shirts will expire on September 13th.**



## September Regional Evening DWM Meeting

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
200 E. Loula, Olathe, KS 66061

Thursday, September 24, 2020  
NO MEAL—MASKS REQUIRED

Registration and Meeting 6:30 PM  
Reservations 913-764-3555 or by email to  
pastorsherryfcc@gmail.com  
By Monday September 21

Program  
Speaker Alicia Dwyer Cianciolo  
NASA Aerospace Engineer

For those who can not attend  
in person **JOIN US ONLINE**

*Here are 3 ways you can access the  
streaming video*

1. If you are sending it out by email or  
publishing it on paper the link is:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
UCQMEBfmWnelkn9P7wgHNbKQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQMEBfmWnelkn9P7wgHNbKQ)

2. Visit our church website  
[firstchristianolathe.org](http://firstchristianolathe.org)

and click on the watch live button on  
the front page. Even though it is set for  
our worship service on Sunday, it will  
still take you to the same place

3. You can search YouTube for **First  
Christian Church youtube channel** - it  
will be a big **green button** with the  
letter **F**

## Calendar

Sunday- September 13th  
10:00 Worship, Serving Team 2  
Liturgist Carole Prentice

Sunday - September 20th  
10:00 Worship, Serving Team 3  
Liturgist Susan Neil

Friday- September 25th  
12:00 noon Newsletter Deadline

Sunday - September 27th  
10:00 Worship, Serving Team 4  
Liturgist Michelle Land

Sunday - October 4  
10:00 Worship, Serving Team 1  
Liturgist

---

## **Safety Reminder!**

We had a member who recently left their  
car unlocked in the church parking lot and  
someone went through it. Luckily nothing  
was taken, but it is a good reminder,  
**PLEASE lock your car when at the  
church.** **Keep an eye out for each other  
and report any suspicious activity to  
Mark or Board leadership, thanks!**



SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm



Back by Popular  
Demand,  
MCC  
ANNUAL  
SHRIMP BOIL

hosted by MEMBERSHIP

CURBSIDE or  
TABLE SERVICE (in the  
church parking lot with appro-  
priate social distancing)

**\$15 per person**

**RESERVATIONS ARE  
REQUIRED by NOON 9/12/20**

Call Allen Watts

913-634-8437



***THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!***





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

- **Patti Beaver** broke her finger! Pray for healing.
- **Katie and Bruce Roach** could use prayers. Katie's extended family is going through some stressful, difficult times.
- We have been praying for **Heather Waite's** job as she awaited news of lay-offs. She found out this past week her company laid off several hundred employees, BUT she was NOT laid off. She was happy for this blessing but asked for prayers for her many co-workers now out-of-work.
- **Betty Cline** continues to rehab at Lakeview for her broken leg.

## Requests for Family and Friends:

- **David and Katie Schwenck's niece Taylor** lost a dear friend, Daniel Carpenter, in an auto accident. Please keep the Carpenter family and Taylor in your prayer.
- **Rex and Irene Heavin's niece Jennifer Baldwin**, had to have two surgeries, the second one due to complications from the first. But she is out of ICU now and continuing to recover.
- **Alpha Wickham's daughter Linda's** surgery was Wednesday. Please keep Linda and Alpha in your prayers as she is home recovering.
- **Pam Boyd's nephew Jeff Cruce** has contracted Covid-19. Pam also has a friend whose son, **Evan Cline**, has contracted Covid, and now his wife has fallen ill as well. They have three children. Please keep them all in your prayers.
- **Bruce Roach's friend and fellow soldier Nathan Muntz** has contracted Covid-19.
- **Maria Vega, our nursery attendant**, and her children were diagnosed with COVID. Her children are doing better but Maria continues to struggle.
- **Wendy Manthe's daughter Jennifer Florez**, is having some health concerns necessitating her being on oxygen full time. Wendy Manthe's other daughter Tiffany Bush was in the hospital recently and is now working with a pulmonologist and cardiologist on some concerns.

- **Linda Railsback's sister, Ann**, has been suffering with shingles for seven weeks now and is in a lot of pain. Please keep Ann in your prayers.
- **Javaughn and Gabbi Ragsdale**, a couple for whom I performed a wedding this past weekend, as they begin their life together as husband and wife.
- **Ruth Capp's daughter Debbie** passed away. Please keep the Capp family in your prayers.
- **We pray for all those impacted and affected by the sin of racism.** May God heal our land of this divisive issue that destroys communities and damages lives. 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.
- **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** as they navigate this new normal. Help us to find our way forward to be the serving living embodiment of the Body of Christ.

## **PRAISE**

- **Nick Hennigh is coming in off the road** after twenty+ years of over-the-road truck driving. He has taken a new job which will allow him to be home each night. What a blessing!
- **Beverly McDonald's daughter, Dr. Aubry McDonald** is pregnant with her first child! Congrats to the new grandmother and mother!

++++

**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.**

