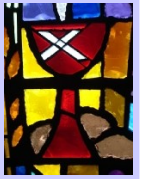


MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

E-mail
merriamchristian@gmail.com
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,

In Genesis 32 Jacob finds himself alone one night and he begins wrestling with a stranger. They wrestle all night until the dawn begins to break. They find themselves in a stalemate, even after the stranger dislocated Jacob's hip. Jacob is dogged in his determination, and refuses to yield. Finally the stranger demands he be let go, but Jacob refuses unless the stranger "blesses" him. The stranger relents, and says "you shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." The stranger was an angel from God. Jacobs willingness to wrestle and refusal to give up impresses the angel.

Many of us spend all night, or all week, or all the time, wrestling with issues. We toss them around, roll around with them, try to get a grip on them. Sometimes our issues get the best of us. Sometimes we come out on top. But what is important is the struggle. A willingness to wrestle, struggle, engage with issues.

Far too often today, people want to avoid conflict. We run from issues and remain quiet

and simply accept things as they come. But some things need to be wrestled with; like faith. Faith is not easy. Faith is a choice that does not ensure smooth sailing, but instead promises we won't be alone in our boat. Most studies show the vast majority of Christians have a faith that exists on a third-grade level, and they are fine with that. They don't want to ask hard questions. They don't wish to ponder difficult concepts. But wrestling with our faith causes us to understand it better. It causes us to examine our faith and pull out those pieces that don't sit well. Wrestling with our faith makes our faith stronger. Wrestling with your faith makes your faith deeper.

What part of your faith needs to be engaged this week. What part of your faith needs to be wrestled with, rolled around on the floor with, dissected and understood better? Where could your faith be strengthened by grabbing hold of it and grappling with what you believe and why? Don't take your faith lying down. Be willing to crawl into the ring with your beliefs and toss them around a little. You might be amazed at what you discover.

God Bless and Stay Safe
Mark

Monument Sign Replacement Fund Drive

On Sunday July 5th, a congregational meeting was held after worship to discuss and decide on a replacement church sign.

After much discussion, the congregation voted to replace the sign with a new sign with an LED message board. **We need to collect \$11,609 in donations or commitments to donate by August 1st to complete this project successfully.** If the money cannot be raised through donations, it will have to come from our Church Savings. House and Grounds mentioned several other projects in need of attention, so getting donations for the sign helps us to accomplish these other projects as well.

Please prayerfully consider donating to this project. Simply put "Sign" in the memo line of your check, or on the envelope of cash donations. You can also give through easytithe, go to <http://www.easytithe.com/merriamcc>, there is a drop down list you can choose from, select "other" for this donation. You can also text your donation at 913-444-6397. Please make sure to notify Dixie Wheaton, Church Treasurer if you text the donation so the money is applied correctly.



Mid-Week Prayerful Mediation

Have you seen Pastor Mark's *Prayerful Meditation* mid-week video emails?

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 2



DWM NEWS

Good news.

Several generous ladies have turned in \$120.00 income, bringing our balance to \$2,924.15. Thank you ladies.

Also, schools won't start until after Labor Day, so we, I mean you, have more time to shop for school supplies. I will just donate money to Carole Prentice.

Not sure when Sarah and Esther will start up again. Both leaders are working the election and are busy, busy, busy. Will keep you posted.

Stay safe.

Joyce Luke
Treas/Service

Merriam Park Elementary School Supplies



Type of Supplies Needed:

- Box of 24 crayons
- Wide line paper
- Spiral notebooks, wide lined, assorted colors
- Facial tissues
- Highlighters
- Pencil boxes
- 10 washable markers
- Dry erase markers
- Pink erasers

Please drop off your donations to the church by Sunday August 9th

If you have any questions please call Carole Prentice 913-485-6950



MEALS ON WHEELS

We began delivering Meals On Wheels again on Tuesday, July 21.

If you are a driver for this program, you will receive a schedule.
Carole Prentice

BLOOD DRIVE

I will be chairing our semi-annual Blood Drive on Monday, August 10th, from 3:00-7:00. The Community Blood Center is in dire need of blood donations.

Please donate if at all possible.

They will take every precaution for your safety. Several other churches have already participated in the Drives.

Please let me know if you are available on that date so I can make an appointment for you.

Thank you and God Bless,
Pat Reed, Chairman
Phone: 913-631-0699 or
913-375-3628

Church Building Re-Open

Merriam Christian Church is open 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.

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. We started delivering food the first weekend in June. And we need your help!

This week we are in need of

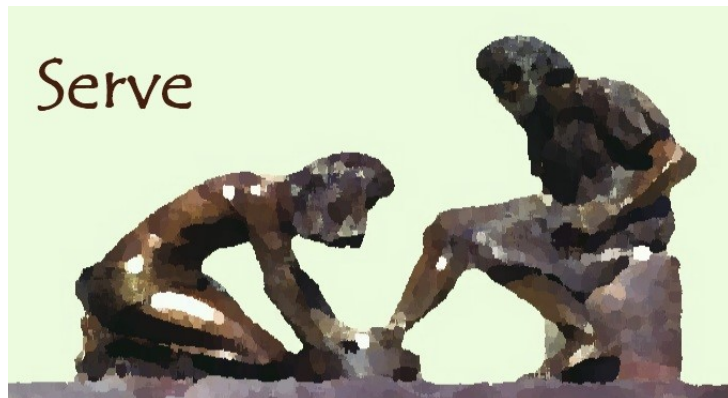
- ♦ Canned fruit
- ♦ Canned vegetables
- ♦ Peanut butter and jelly
- ♦ Spaghetti and sauce
- ♦ Soups
- ♦ Capri Suns or other fruit drinks

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**



Serve



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!

July 19, 2020 "Sacred Space"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utJoXPGTJgY&t=1923s>

July 26, 2020 "It's the Little Things"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tOJ35NRL2A>

Children's Worship and Wonder by Christina Stokes



July 19, 2020 "The Ark of the Covenant and the Holy of Holies"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fn2AHkgFKA&t=7s>

July 26, 2020 "Entering the Promised land"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpRe_VO3VY0&t=6s

Watch for our next Newsletter on August 15, 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.



Connect

ONE WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2020

Aug 2 - 10:00 am
Aug 9 - 10:00 am
Aug 16 - 10:00 am
Aug 23 - 10:00 am
September 6 – Labor day Weekend
October 18 or 25 for Congregational Meeting
November 29 – Thanksgiving Weekend/
Hanging of the Greens
December 27 – Christmas weekend

Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings



Write a check. 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.easytithe.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

Calendar

Sunday - August 2nd

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 1
Liturgist Jim Walker

Sunday - August 9th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 2
Liturgist Jim Owens

Friday- August 14th

12:00 noon Newsletter Deadline

Sunday- August 16th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 3
Liturgist Anita Collins

Sunday - August 23rd

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 4
Liturgist Bob Pape

Sunday - August 30th

10:00 Worship, Serving Team 3
Liturgist Jackie Watts

Directory Update

**Jackie Watts
has a new email
address:**

jackie5085@gmail.com



**Betty Cline is celebrating her 96th birthday on
August 5th! Let's all send her cards for this
momentous occasion.**

**Her address is:
6105 Slater St., Merriam, KS 66202**

*Happy
96th
Birthday!*



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 but has returned to her room at Garden Terrace where she lives.
- **Betty Cline** fell at her home and broke her leg. She is at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission.
- **Barry Davis** has had a resurgence of COVID19 symptoms from his bout with it in March. He is in self-quarantine at home
- **Heather Waite** was told she may have to be laid off at the end of August. Her company is going Month-to-month and this is obviously a stressful time. Please keep Heather in your prayers.

Requests for Family and Friends:

- **Alpha Wickham's daughter Linda's** surgery has been delayed. Please keep Linda and Alpha in your prayers.
- **Katie and Bruce Roach** and their families as they work through stressful times.
- **Anita Minshew's son Todd** is having severe back issues. Please keep Todd in your prayers.
- **Joyce Luke's sister, Linda**, has been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep Linda and Joyce's family in your prayers.
- **Maria Vega, our nursery attendant, and her two children** have been diagnosed with COVID. Maria has been in & out of the hospital. This is a tremendously difficult situation for them, please keep her and her children in your prayers.
- **Wendy Manthe's nephew Joshua** has been

diagnosed with cancer. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

- **Tim & Susie Arnold's godson Chris**, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Doctors believe they got all the cancer but he is recovering from 2 surgeries in the last 2 months.
- **Adam & Nicole Kramer and Palome & Collin MacDonald**, couples for whom I performed weddings this past weekend, as they begin their life together as husband and wife.
- **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. And for all those who have lost work, lost jobs, and are struggling, we pray God will guide them during this difficult time.
- **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.

Praise

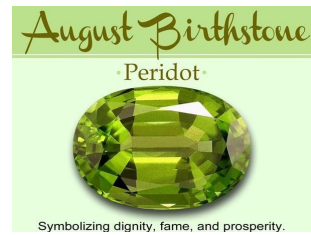
- **Jim & Lucy Walker thought they had been exposed to COVID but both their test came back negative!**

++++

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.



AUGUST 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Room Codes:</i> <i>C-Chapel</i> <i>S-Sanctuary</i> <i>CH-Campbell</i> <i>Hall</i> <i>DP-Disciple</i> <i>Place</i>	<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
4 <i>10:00 Worship</i>	5 <i>9-12 Finance-LIB</i>	6 <i>6:00a-8:00p CH</i> <i>Election</i> <i>TBD Committee</i> <i>Meetings</i>	7	8	9	8
11 <i>10:00 Worship</i>	12 <i>9-12 Finance-LIB</i>	13 <i>7:00 Board</i> <i>Meeting</i> <i>ZOOM - On-Line</i>	14	15	16	15
18 <i>10:00 Worship</i>	19 <i>9-12 Finance-LIB</i> <i>6:30 Sarah</i>	20	21	22	23	22
25 <i>10:00 Worship</i>	26 <i>9-12 Finance-LIB</i>	27	28	29	30	29
30 <i>10:00 Worship</i>	31 <i>9-12 Finance-LIB</i>					

**SERVING TEAM SCHEDULE
FOR AUGUST 2020**

August 2, 2020 — 10:00 AM

Serving Team —Team 1 Carol Vann
Michelle Land
Emily Hooker
Jim Walker

Liturgist

August 9, 2020 — 10:00 AM

Serving Team —Team 2 Carole Prentice
Pam Boyd
Jim Owens

Liturgist

August 16, 2020 — 10:00 AM

Serving Team —Team 3 Jim Walker
Bob Pape
Anita Collins

Liturgist

August 23, 2020 — 10:00 AM

Serving Team —Team 4 Jon Beaver
Pat Reed
Emily Hooker
Bob Pape

Liturgist

August 30, 2020 — 10:00 AM

Serving Team —Team 3 Jim Walker
Pam Boyd
Jackie Watts

Liturgist



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:

Nancy Hines	August 4
Lucy Walker	August 4
Betty Cline	August 5
Alpha Wickham	August 5
Nona Davis	August 11
Bruce Roach	August 18
Dave Ramsey	August 23
Greg Spiegel	August 27



Celebrating Anniversaries This Month:

Jennifer & Gregory Spiegel	August 2
Don & Jo Rudkin	August 3
Leroy & Mary Wisner	August 3
Rex & Irene Heavin	August 21
Glen & Dixie Wheaton	August 23