



Merriam Christian Church Disciples of Christ

Vol. LV
No. 4 2020
February 15, 2020

Minister
Rev. Mark Willis
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(816) 616-9746

Organist and Pianist
Emily Yeh

Secretary
Patty Harper

SERVICES:
SUNDAYS:
8:30 a.m.
10:45 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:30 a.m.
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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,

Well, the hoopla has ended. The celebrations are done. The parade is complete. For the next year we can say, our Chiefs are the reigning Super Bowl champs! What an exciting time. But now that it is all over, and the fanfare has died down. I can't help feeling a little lost. What comes next? We have to wait 7 months before Patrick and the boys take the field again. Baseball is still a couple months away, and there is this...lull that settles over us. It feels like this great big thing has happened, and now we are left with this period of "What is next?".

I often get this feeling after Easter as well. Easter is this huge, liturgical celebration of the resurrection of Christ. It is this morning of faithful rejoicing in the grace and love of God. And then it is over...and we wonder, what is next? As we prepare to enter into the Lenten journey, starting with our Ash Wednesday service February 26th, it is an exciting sojourn with Jesus to Jerusalem. We know what is coming, and we tag along in hopeful anticipation of the coming death, and new life we will see occur. But Easter is not meant to be a finish line. It is not the end of our journey. It is not the final thing. Indeed, it is the beginning; the starter's pistol, the start of a new amazing, wonderful thing. Easter is where we receive God's grace and begin our ministry as disciples.

As we begin Lent this year, as we walk with Jesus to the coming Easter morning, let us do so in anticipation of what God is doing. Let us march forward ready to begin with Easter, to begin with grace, to begin with God's love. Let us not look at Easter as an end, but a great beginning for God's work in our world. Easter is coming! Let's get started!

In Christ,
Mark

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Come join in worship Wednesday, February 26th at 7PM for Ash Wednesday as we start the journey of Lent together.

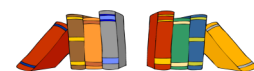
This service will include scripture and song that prepares us for the long road to Jerusalem ahead. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN BOOK FAIR

We have a large library of books at the church *FREE* for the taking.

These came from the pastor's library at South Summit, and are good books on worship, Bible study, leadership, ministry, and all aspects of church and faith.

They are set up on tables in the Fellowship Hall. Please take all you want - **NO COST - FREE** for the taking.



Watch for the next Newsletter the week of February 29, 2020. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*



“THE BREAD OF LIFE”

QUESTION: ONE CHURCH SAYS BAPTISM IS NECESSARY. ANOTHER CHURCH SAYS JUST THE OPPOSITE. HOW CAN I KNOW FOR SURE? ANSWER BY MAX LUCADO:

“Would you feel comfortable marrying someone who wanted to keep the marriage a secret? Neither does God. It’s one thing to say in the privacy of your heart that you are a sinner in need of a Savior, but it’s quite another to walk out of the shadows and stand before family, friends, and colleagues and state publicly that Christ is your Forgiver and Master. This act ups the ante.

Jesus commanded all His followers to prove it, to make the pledge, by public demonstration in baptism. Among His final words was the universal command to “go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

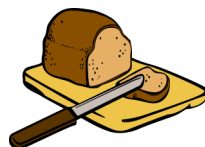
Baptism is the initial and immediate step of obedience by the believer. As far as we know, every single convert in the New Testament Church was baptized. With the exception of the thief on the cross, there is no example of an unbaptized believer.

The thief on the cross, however, is a crucial exception. His conversion drives dogmatists crazy. It is no accident that the first one to accept the invitation of the crucified Christ had no creed, confirmation, christening, or catechism. How disturbing to theologians to ascend the mountain of doctrine only to be greeted by a thief who cast his lot with Christ. Here is a man who never went to a church, never gave an offering, never was baptized, and only said one prayer, but that prayer was enough (Luke 23:33-43). Read it! (JESUS SAID TO HIM IN THE 43rd VERSE: “TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.”

The thief reminds us that, in the end, it is JESUS WHO SAVES. Does the thief’s story negate the importance of baptism? No, it simply puts baptism in proper perspective. Any step taken is a response to a salvation offered, not an effort to earn salvation. In the end Jesus has the right to save any heart, for HE and only HE, SEES THE HEART.”

God loves you and so do we.

Love to all,
Rex & Irene




Next Our Gang
February 20th
1:00-3:00



2020 PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Members: Jan Pankey (co-chair)
Carol Vann (co-chair)
Mike Nichols
Katie Schwenck
Scott Stokes
Alan Watts


The PRC meets with Pastor Mark regularly to discuss the church, and the ups and downs of ministry. This meeting is an opportunity for Pastor Mark to share about successes and failures, to express his gratitude or frustration. It is also a chance for the members to bring ideas, questions, concerns and support. Together we discuss the church and its direction in a productive spirit-led way.



FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR END 2019

Revenues - \$153,271.00
Expenses - \$150,246.00

*However, Taxes and Outreach payments came out of 2020.
So we probably came out even.*



SEND A CARD!

Opal Wylie is celebrated her birthday February 9th. Take a moment to send her a card! She would love to hear from you.

Her address is:
7541 Switzer
Shawnee, KS 66203



DWM NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On March 12, DWM will have their annual Potluck Supper at 5:30. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. After we share our meal, we will have a performance by the *SENSATIONS* Quartet. Sensations are an Acappella quartet who are all proud members of the Sweet Adelines Internationals and members of the Kansas City Chorus and River Song Chorus. In December they performed at the Holiday Luminary Walk at the Overland Park Arboretum and sang the National Anthem on New Years Eve at the Silverstein Eye Center Arena before the Mavericks game. If you're unable to make it for dinner, but would like to see the Sensations perform; they will begin at 7 PM. All members, friends, family & neighbors are invited. EVERYONE is welcome.

We will have a sign-up sheet outside the Church Office for the Potluck.

Pam Boyd
DWM Programs

DWM SPRING RETREAT COMMITTEE

This is part of an email I received this week from the DWM Spring Retreat Committee, Our Service Projects:

1. We are continuing to collect pop top tabs. This is an easy way to generate funds for the Ronald McDonald House.
2. Secondly, we want to collect the following items to be distributed between Scraps KC and Michah Ministry.

These include: Underwear and socks for men – large and x-large, Underwear and socks for women – medium and large (sizes 7, 8, and 9), sanitary napkins and panty liners (no tampons at this time), small bottles of hand sanitizer, travel size tissue packs, toilet paper underwear, socks for all children; and diapers of all sizes.

Hello and thank you for considering donat-

ing to Scraps KC, Kansas City's first organization that does multiple things for the homeless of KC. It is a thrift store offering craft, fabric, office supplies, etc; classes and opportunities for children of all ages to create projects for a nominal fee. Think of us as a thrift store for artists, teachers, families and craftspeople alike. With that in mind, please take note/respect/read through, our NEW donation guidelines. We have a small staff and thanks to Kansas City's HUGE support, we are changing the way we accept items. These new guidelines will allow us to more effectively care for Kansas City's environment, education and homeless.

We accept donations of clean and usable art and craft supplies, school and office supplies, fabric and notions, and miscellaneous creative materials. We greatly appreciate if you organize your materials in advance. For example: fabric folded, small items bagged, similar items grouped together.

Donations are accepted during retail hours. No appointment is needed. Please review our list of materials that we accept, or are not accepting, at this time. If you have questions about your donated items, or your items are not on the list, please contact the store.

TEXTILE DONATIONS WE ACCEPT

- Fabric: Clean, unused and neatly rolled, folded or stacked
- Handiwork Supplies
- Interfacing
- Knitting/Crocheting Supplies
- Notions
- Ribbon
- Sewing Supplies
- Stuffing/Batting
- Yarn and Thread: Neatly wrapped skeins, cakes, spools or balls

We will put a box in Fellowship Hall labeled SCRAPS KC and take it to their workshop. There are several things they do not accept. If you look on the DWM/CWF board in Fellowship Hall, you will see the complete list of what they will NOT take. To find out more about this organization, go to Scraps KC on the internet.

THE BOARD REPORT

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES Feb 4, 2020

6 team members were present with Jackie and Pastor Mark in attendance

- ◆ **Game Night 2/8**
 - ◆ Chili Theme
 - ◆ Best Chili prize - \$20 to winner
 - ◆ **Small Church Directory**
 - ◆ Finalized proof for printing
 - ◆ Allen to print 2/6
 - ◆ Distribute after each service 2/9
 - ◆ Pam—8:45
 - ◆ Jackie & helper—10:45
 - ◆ One per family on 1st distribution, additional copies will be available after that time
 - ◆ **Additional Game Night in Feb – 2/29 with “Leap Year” theme**
 - ◆ Discussion of what activities will take place, food and refreshments
 - ◆ Ideas on how to attract larger attendance were discussed
 - ◆ **Status of Merriam Guide Ad - Allen to verify with contact person**
- September “Sock Hop” initial planning discussed, Maggie to draft a plan for team to review at next meeting. Also will create outline of the to-do list and resources needed**

Members of team:

**Pam Boyd
Alice Goff
Maggie Howard—Co Chair
Anita Minshew—Co-Chair
Donna Rankin
David and Katie Schwenk
Christina Stokes
Jackie Watts
Allen Watts—Chairman**

What does Membership do?

The Membership Committee works closely with Pastor Mark, other committee chairs and the congregation as they seek to share the life of the Church internally AND with the local community and beyond. The committee: creates, coordinates, and hosts Church social and recreational activities that bring the congregation members, non-members, visitors, and guests together in fellowship (example: Pot Lucks, Game Night, Picnics, Special Events like Easter Egg Hunt and Outside Service) Publish annually both the pictorial and condensed Church directories.

In coordination with pastor, church staff and church committees maintain church printed and electronic communications, web site and social media platforms Work to help members and non-participating members to find a place in the ministries of the church. Works with the Pastor and Elders to develop and coordinate constant contact and coordination of resources of church home bound members who are out of direct contact with the church.

If you would like to be a part of the Membership team please contact any team member!!!

BLANKET SUNDAY

Sunday, Feb. 16th, is Blanket Sunday. Watch for special envelopes for your \$10.00 (or more) blanket purchase. People all over the world will benefit from your compassionate response to this need. Your check should be made out to Merriam CC with “blankets” in the memo line. Green paper bills also accepted. We did extremely well last year and hopefully, we will do equally well this year.

Thanks to you all for your support of our programs,
Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service



LENTEN STUDY

Pastor Mark is going to teach a six-week course on the Lord's Prayer during Lent. We will take an in-depth look at this foundational piece of our faith and theology, and examine what Jesus was saying when he taught it to us. This class will be offered during the Sunday school hour (9:30AM on Sunday). There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office. Please sign up if you would like to attend.



Prayer List



Those Needing Prayers: Opal Seals, Wheaton family, Connie Hennigh, Joyce Campbell, Alpha Wickam, Jo & Don Rudkin, Flo Biehl

Requests for Family and Friends:

Susie Arnold's friend, Chris Pieschl
Marge Willard's son, Jewell
Bob Pape's friend, Jane Lang
Anita Minshew's friend, Daniel Kushman
Wayne & Emily Hooker's granddaughters' friend, Ali
Terrence & TyShawn Bryant's mother
Jeanne Bryant's mother
Steve Studyvin's friend, Peter Thies
Alice & Paul Goff's grandson, Adam
Katie Schwenck's friend, Becky
Wendy Manthe's daughter, Jennifer Florez
Steve Studyvin's cousin, Catherine Lideman
Lucy & Jim Walker's daughter, Lucy Cox

Praises:

Carol Vann - new great-niece, Lilly Lowery
Heather Waite - new great-nephew, Wesley James
Echo Reinhard - doing well with move to Arizona
Rev. George Campbell - 90th Birthday
Donna McEndree new great-niece, Emery Marie
Ron & Kasey Hammack on their marriage
Rob & Nikki Walkowiac on their marriage

Those in Grief:

Jim Owens & family in the passing of his brother-in Law, Charles Deane
Family of Vicki Dreutzer on her passing
Family of Shirley Weaver on her passing
Jeanne Bryant's sister-in-law's father on his passing
Alice Goff's sister, Margaret Allen, on her passing
Family of Anna Erisen on her passing
Family of Peggy Layson on her passing
Family of Gene Cornell on his passing
Joyce Campbell and family on the passing of her brother, Louis Schiebel
Jessie's friend Regina Cross on her passing
Family of Betty Thompson on her passing
Family of John Mullens on his passing

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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.

Calendar

Sunday - February 16 - *Blanket Sunday*

8:30 Early Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

Monday - February 17

9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB

2:30-4:00 Regional Immunity GKC Cabinet

6:30 Sarah

Tuesday - February 18

12:30 Esther

6:00 Regional: Jenna Kammite-CH

Wednesday - February 19

5:30 JCCB-Clsm

7:00 JCCB-CH

Thursday - February 20

4:45-5:45 DS Bus Lines-CH

Saturday - February 22

9:00-12:00 Pinewood Derby-CH

Sunday - February 23

8:30 Early Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

Monday - February 24

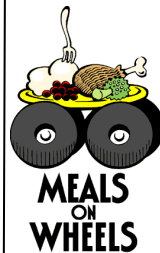
9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB

Friday - February 28

12:00 Newsletter Deadline

Saturday - February 29

5:00-8:00 Game Night-CH



MEALS ON WHEELS

Feb 18th: Pam Boyd

Feb 25th: Carole Prentice & Anita Collins

GOD'S CHILDREN RING!

Got a young heart? Come to join God's Children Ring bell choir. No age limit. No musical note reading is required. You only need to be able to read numbers 1 to 7, and alphabet A to G. Rehearsal will be on Sunday from 10:00-10:30 am. The first rehearsal is on February 16.

If you are interested in coming to ring the bells, please contact Emily Yeh. Emily's email is musicblossom@yahoo.com and phone number 816 -392-8667.





CONNECT THROUGH CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Events:

Month	Special Event	Game Night	Potluck
February		Feb 29th 5pm to 8pm - Leap Year Celebration	
March			March 15th after late service
April	Easter Egg Hunt 4/4 10am to Noon	No Game Night this month	
May	Mother's Day Recognition 5/10	May 2nd 5pm to 8pm	
June	Father's Day Recognition 6/21	June 13th "Picnic in the Park" 5pm to 8pm	
July	Outside Service Merriam Farmers Mkt Date TBD	No Game Night this month	Food Truck after Service
August		August 8th SHRIMP BOIL	
September	Sept. 12th "50's Sock Hop" with surprise event 5pm to 8pm		
October		October 3rd 5pm to 8pm	
November		No Game Night this month	
December	Home Bound Tins Prepared 12/19	No Game Night this month	

HOP TO IT!

We're celebrating Leap Day
With games and fun
for Kids & Adults

Saturday 2/29

From 5pm to 8pm

More details in the coming weeks

Invite family and friends
Bring a guest and the congregation
member who brings the most guests
will be presented with a gift certificate
to a local restaurant!