

FOOTPRINTS

January 2022

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

Both services are broadcast online.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

2:00 p.m.

SERMON SERIES

January 2022

01.01.2022

Still, We Follow

Matthew 2: 1-12



01.08.2022

The Salvage Yard

Is 43:16-19; Romans 10: 1, 9-10



01.15.2022

What's On Your Wall?

Genesis 1:1-2; 6-10



01.22.2022

Daniel in the Den of the Lions

Dan 6:13-21; Mark 15:42-46



01.29.2022

Blessed Are

Matthew 5:1-12

NOTES OF THANKS

For 25 years, the Veterans Foot Locker Drive (VFLD) has been a source of warmth and blessing for the veterans at the Idaho State Veterans Home (ISVH). This was the 13th year Meridian UMC was involved, and the Warm Heart people showed up in force.

On December 19, Nicole Walker and Dave Miller took our 190 items and 87 gift cards to the donation event at the Home. Our donated items included many shirts, hats, and (highly coveted) gripper socks, as well as greeting cards, activity books, and too many things to list. With three Amazon gift cards and 84 Walmart gift cards, we amazed the Home with a total amount of \$2,020 for veterans to use as needed throughout the year. An anecdote shared by volunteer coordinator Jo Ann Daron: in early December, one of the nurses noticed a resident's sweatpants looking threadbare and shabby, and asked if there was money to help him get a new pair. Knowing the faithfulness of the VFLD community, Jo Ann assured her staff that the gifts would be coming in just a week or so, and that this veteran would have new sweats in no time.

Thank you for blessing the 88 veterans at the ISVH this Christmas season and beyond. Once again, YOU helped make the 25th Annual Veterans Foot Locker Drive a resounding success!

Ken Jenkins



Thank you Meridian United Methodist for participating in the 2022 St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Box Project! Together, we distributed over 2500 food boxes/turkeys/potatoes that served nearly 12,000 adults and children in our community. Thank you for the monetary contributions that were used to purchase food. Thanks to more than 600 project volunteers. Thank you everyone for sharing in this family-to-family charity event.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 January Sermon Series, Notes of Thanks
- 2 Inside Page
Membership Info
- 3 Pastor Mike's Musings
- 4 Ministries & News
Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries
- 5 Ministries & News
Congregational Care, Adult Ministries
- 6 News & More
Financial News, Music Ministries
- 7 News & More
Book Nook, UWFaith News, Quilters Corner
- 8 Back Page January Events Calendar

STAFF

- Senior Pastor** (ext. 104)
Rev. Mike Benischek pastormike@meridianumc.com
- Adult Discipleship/Asst. Pastor** (ext. 109)
Jennifer Hunkovic adult.ministry@meridianumc.com
- Minister of Congregational Care** (ext. 105)
Lisa Miller care@meridianumc.com
- Minister of Worship Arts** 208-608-2520
Debbie Jones worshiparts@meridianumc.com
- Youth Minister** 734-316-9517
Nicole Walker youth@meridianumc.com
- Children's Minister** (ext. 108)
Cassie Collins children@meridianumc.com
- Office Manager** (ext. 102)
Angela Perry office@meridianumc.com
- Receptionist** (ext. 101)
Lucinda Dyer receptionist@meridianumc.com
- Bookkeeper**
Maria Akers bookkeeper@meridianumc.com
- Communications Coordinator** (ext. 103)
Video Production
Jacob Walker cc@meridianumc.com
production@meridianumc.com
- Sound Technician**
Jacob Rarick sound@meridianumc.com
- Nursery Coordinator**
Christine Jayne nursery@meridianumc.com
- Organist**
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com
- Facility Personnel** (ext. 110)
Morgen McClung maintenance@meridianumc.com (M-Th)
Don Woods dandvwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

December

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS: *Please pray for the families of...*
Sandi Lodge

BAPTISMS:



If your New Year's resolutions include volunteering, we have plenty of opportunities to get more involved at the church. Whether you are passing the plates, serving coffee, or greeting visitors, every little bit helps. Check the signup sheets in the Narthex for opportunities to show that Warm Heart spirit. Additionally, our ministry staff are always on the lookout for more help; don't be afraid to corner them between services to ask how you can get involved (or send a friendly email).

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- Administrative Council Chair** Dennis Moberly
Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair Margaret Pridmore
Trustees Chair Ron Pridmore
Systems Administrator Integrity Computer Consultants
Finance Chair Lori Jones
Treasurer Lori Jones
Financial Secretary Diane Brister
Futures Team Chair Lori Jones
United Methodist Men President Ed Emmel
United Methodist Women President Dixie Jacky
Lay Chaplain Coordinator Faye Gabriel
Lay Chaplains Emma Jean Bedsole, Phyllis & Gordon Bouza, Don Brister, Faye Gabriel, Ruth Hayes, Gary Himes, Dixie Jacky, Donna Melville, Lisa Miller, Shirley O'Neal, Carole Ravine, Mary Rich, Carol Rounds, Eloise Stemple
Health and Wellness Co-Coordinators
Lisa Miller, Sue Mattison

CHURCH INFORMATION

MERIDIAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

240 E. Idaho Ave. Meridian, ID 83642
235 E. Pine Ave. Meridian, ID 83642 - Mailing Address
Phone: 208.888.2245 Fax: 208.888.5741
E-mail: office@meridianumc.com
Website: www.meridianumc.com
Facebook: [Meridian United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianUnitedMethodistChurch)

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

Dear Warm Heart friends and family:

A few years ago, I watched two trucks pulled up to my former church and stop out front. It was heavily raining. Twelve men jumped out of the vehicles and began to undress and change clothes under our portico. Naturally, we inside the building popped out to ask their intent and purpose - why are you undressing in front of our church?! Turns out, they were a railroad work detail off to get a derailed train back onto the tracks. In the rains of the past days, a section of the track gave way and toppled a slow moving freight train. No one was hurt, thank God. Driving by, these workers noticed our covered porch and decided it was better to change into their heavy duty work clothes under our roof than out in the downpour by the river. We were happy to oblige.

A train out of control is a scary prospect. The movie "Silver Streak" with Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor came out when I was a small child. The ending scene (spoilers, but the movie is 45 years old) has the train crashing through the train station. For whatever reason, the stage where the train went through reminded that three-year-old child of his local Piggly-Wiggly Grocery store. I wouldn't go in there for a month without freaking out and flaying about — much to the dismay of my mother, who was just trying to get groceries.

A train out of control can cause a lot of damage...



...and when it hops the rails, it's time to set things straight.

Do you ever feel like we've hopped the rails?

We've gone off the rails in our public discourse.

We've gone off the rails in caring about each other.

We've gone off the rails in what really matters.

And it's time to put things right. Maybe that will be my new year's resolution. To do what I can to ease the sufferings of others. To do what I can to brighten someone's day. To do what I can to not be hateful or say a bad word. To look at others as Christ looks at them.

And I'm happy to help those who are working to make things right.

See you in church this Sunday!

Pastor Mike
pastormike@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Happy New Year Warm Heart Families!

Can you believe it's already 2023? I'm so grateful to be starting 2023 at the Church of the Warm Heart with you and your kiddos!

We ended 2022 with a wonderful month full of family fun events, our children's nativity story, Advent and Christmas Eve services, Adopt-a-Family giving, and to top it off - Christmas on a Sunday! Thank you to all of the families and children who participated in the events and everyone who helped make them happen. You are all such a blessing and I am so thankful for each and every one of you.

This month we will get back into the swing of things with Sunday School resuming on January 8th and Pioneer Club and Angels Alive Choir back on Wednesday, January 11. Our Parent's Night Out, a fun night where kids have dinner and a movie and parents get some time away, will be on January 20, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. If you have questions about any of the children's programs at MUMC, please reach out to me. I hope you have a blessed New Year!

In His Service,

Cassie Collins
children@meridianumc.com

JANUARY EVENTS

WEDNESDAYS 1/11, 1/18, 1/25
Pioneer Club & Angels Alive Choir
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY 1/20
Parent's Night Out
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Happy January and Festive New Year!

The Warm Heart Youth are wrapping up winter break by packing food bags for the Meridian Food Bank's Backpack Program on Tuesday, January 3. Classes resume in West Ada on January 4, so we'll get to help feed kids all across the district for that first weekend back at school.

In an attempt to embrace the cold and snowy weather, we plan to go ice skating at Indian Creek Plaza on Saturday, January 14. This event is for all grades, and we'll carpool to and from the ice ribbon like we did last year. Who will get the most bruises this time around? Who will discover that they have a natural talent on the ice?

Also this month, we'll start planning worship services! Youth Sunday is slated for February 12, so we'll start the planning process as part of our HS YG meetings on Sunday nights. EVERYONE can help with Youth Sunday, so start thinking about what you would like to read, sing, play, or preach about in February!

- Tuesday, January 3, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**
Backpack Program at the Meridian Food Bank
- Sunday, January 8, time TBD**
HS YG Movie Outing
- Wednesdays, January 11-25, 6 - 8 p.m.**
Chime Choir and MS YG
- Saturday, January 14, 2 - 4 p.m.**
Ice Skating in Caldwell; meet at the church
- Sundays, January 22 and 29, 6 - 8 p.m.**
HS YG with Youth Sunday planning

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.

~ Job 2:11

Are you overwhelmed with the chaos of life? Work, family responsibilities, and no time for yourself to connect with others? Do you look at the newsletter and think, "Oh that looks like fun; I would like to attend that" — but when the day actually comes, life gets in the way and you are too exhausted to do things that make you happy?

One tip that might help is to schedule your priorities. Make a calendar each month; read the newsletter and highlight the things that pertain to you. Then, each week, revisit your schedule and *make yourself a priority*. This January, I plan to attend Pastor Jen's book study of *Love is The Way*, as well as our Ladies Day Out (details below).

Connecting with others is actually self-care: we are meant to be a community. If you have questions about how you can connect with others, do not hesitate to call me. See y'all there!

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief is a wilderness; we need to reach out to discover comfort and support.

A grief support group will be starting on Monday, Jan 23rd, at 2 p.m. in the Pastor's Parlor. It will be a small group to help one another through a very difficult time. If interested, please contact Faye Gabriel or Lisa Miller.



LADIES NIGHT DAY OUT



This month we will be teaming up with the United Women in Faith and helping with their Days for Girls event on Saturday, January 28th, at 10 a.m. No sewing experience is necessary.

It will only take a little bit of our time to make a difference in the lives of young women in Rwanda, and we'll even eat when we're finished!

ADULT MINISTRIES

Happy New Year!

I pray that you had a blessed Advent Season and that your Christmas was full of wonder and joy. As we prepare for 2023, I just wanted to take a quick look back at 2022. It was a busy year! Here are a few highlights from our Adult Discipleship Ministries:

- **Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study:** We completed studies of Revelation, Ruth, Judges, and Mark .
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study:** We completed an overview of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and an in-depth study of Daniel, as well as a three- part Spiritual Formation class.
- **Annual Studies:** We "graduated" a new Alpha class, held an Advent study of the book *Incarnation*, and hosted a Lenten study of the book *Pure Religion*.
- **Ladies Study:** Our ladies group met weekly on Zoom, completing the following studies: *Becoming a Woman of Freedom*, *Becoming a Woman of Simplicity*, *Becoming a Woman of Prayer*, and a Lectio Divina Study. Our ladies group also enjoyed a luncheon and a community theater production of *The Little Mermaid*.
- **Outreach:**
 - ◇ We participated in a Habitat for Humanity framing project in June.
 - ◇ We partnered with another local church to collect baby items to support 2 local charities. We collected and bundled 5,633 diapers and donated \$170 for the Idaho Diaper Bank in September.
 - ◇ We participated in the Thanksgiving Food Box Ministry by feeding 50 families in our community.
 - ◇ We donated 20 Bibles to a local behavioral health hospital.
- **Groups:** The Card Makers, Quilters, and Merry Methodists met regularly throughout the year. We also formed a new small group, Friends, Fellowship, and Games, that met in the community.

If you haven't been a part of our studies, groups, or outreach but would like to try something new, I invite you to get involved! There's a lot of opportunity at our church for fun and fellowship as we learn and grow together in our faith.

Friends, thank you so much for another year of blessings and for providing me this opportunity to serve you. God is so good and 2023 looks bright!

Peace, Love, and Grace,

Pastor Jen
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com

NEWS & MORE

MUSIC MINISTRY

First of all, I want to express a huge, heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the many folks who assisted with music for the Advent and Christmas season! We were deeply blessed last month by our singers, ringers, instrumentalists, soloists, Susan Russell (flautist), Kimberly Dunford (harpist), the Syringa String Quartet, and the Riverside Brass. Thank you for enhancing our worship services during this blessed season.

The Celebration Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Do you enjoy singing? Come join us as we work on Sunday anthems and our next cantata offering. Contact Debbie Jones for more information.

The Koinonia Handbell Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday, January 5, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will be preparing music for Sunday worship services as well as music for the Snake River Handbell Conference in February. We are always looking for folks to substitute for ringers when they are gone. If you'd like to be a part of this fun group, contact Debbie Jones to get connected!

The Rolling Tones Chime Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday, January 4, at 6:00 p.m. Come join in the fun! Middle and high school youth are invited to join us for rehearsals in the sanctuary before middle school youth group. No experience is necessary, and there is always room for more ringers!

Angels Alive Choir - Children age four through fifth grade are welcome to join us at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, in conjunction with Pioneer Club. These children engage and learn through singing, ringing bells, and acting out skits. They also share music during worship services and special events.

I'm always happy to answer any questions you might have!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

If you took the time to read the December 2022 Footprints, you will likely have noticed that it contained the longest financial news article I have ever written. In contrast, the article you are now reading will be the shortest one I've written - for one very important reason. Timing is everything, and the news is so good that I could not wait to share it with you.

At the end of November, we found ourselves in the red over \$81,000. A year-end appeal letter was sent to all members of the church. I made an announcement from the pulpit outlining the obvious — we needed to rally during December. We have received more than \$150,000 in gifts in the last 30 days. These gifts will be more than enough to cover December expenses, wipe out the \$81,000 deficit we faced at the end of November, and allow us to begin 2023 with a surplus. Now we can finalize the budget for the new year and look to the future.

Words cannot express the gratitude I feel for the faithful members of our congregation who continue to amaze me with their generosity. Once again, as a group, we were able to overcome a huge deficit and begin a new year in a positive position. I know that soul searching, household budget juggling, and prayer were instrumental in this remarkable outcome. "Thank You" is not enough, but I truly do thank you.

Next month, this article will be much longer with final figures for 2022 and a glimpse of the 2023 budget. I will probably ask that we not wait until December to rally as we always seem to do. I'm not sure my heart can take too many more years of stressing over our finances at MUMC!

Continue to pray for our church staff, those among us who have special circumstances that need to be addressed, our Finance Committee as we set the budget, and other situations that arise from time to time. And again, THANK YOU for always being there when needed.

If you have questions regarding our church finances, please contact Lori Jones, Finance Committee Chair, at lhjones2021@gmail.com, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chair, at maroontycoon63@gmail.com.

NEWS & MORE

THE BOOK NOOK

By Claudia Moberly

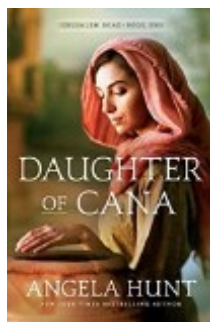
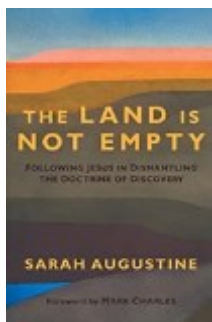
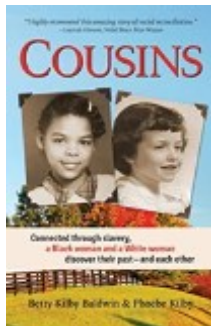
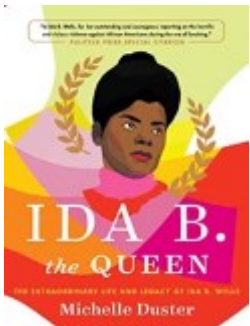
It's 2023! A new year, new plans, new goals, new adventures, and, maybe, new resolutions? Here's a suggestion: "I resolve to read a meaningful book." If that sounds like a good idea to you, I have suggestions!

The United Women In Faith book kiosk, just outside the kitchen in the Family Life Center, is an easy place to find just such a book. There are so many great titles to choose from, and they are available to everyone in the church. Each section holds books from one of the five areas of the United Women In Faith Reading Program: Leadership Development, Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Plus the bottom shelf contains children's books, so you can find something for the whole family.

The process for borrowing books is easy and totally self-service. 1) Find your book. 2) Write your name on the library card on the inside cover. 3) File the card under the book's title in the recipe box on the top shelf. That's it! Three easy steps to reading a book to develop your leadership skills, learn about a part of the world you are curious about, become a more-connected neighbor, find a social cause to help make the world a better place, or grow your faith.

Once you've read the book, return it to the shelf and find another. You'll be challenged, inspired, and very happy about your New Year's Resolution.

New books for 2023 include: Ida B., the Queen, Cousins, The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek, The Land Is Not Empty, and Daughter of Cana.

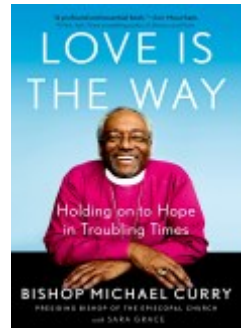


UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

By Dixie Jacky, UWFaith President

We have 2 opportunities in January to fulfill the purpose as United Women in Faith.

First, "...to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ." What better way than to join our six-week book study, *Love is the Way: Holding On to Hope in Troubled Times*. Contact Pastor Jen to register and buy the book. This 6-week study begins Monday, January 9, at 6:30 p.m. and will be in person at the FLC or on-line for those that wish to stay in their cozy homes. For those participating in the UWFaith Reading Program, this book satisfies the Spiritual Growth category.



Second, "...to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." Days for Girls, Meridian Chapter, will be bringing their sewing machines and supplies to the FLC on Saturday, January 28, beginning at 10 a.m.

Days for Girls is an organization that helps provide access to menstrual care and education around the world. More than 500 million people worldwide do not have the education and supplies necessary to manage their periods, leading to stigmatization, long-term health issues, and extended absenteeism from school and work.

Bring your sewing machines or not, no sewing skills required, as there will be work for everyone, even your daughters or granddaughters. We will finish up and enjoy lunch at 12:30 p.m. Donations are being solicited, either cash or colored flannel fabric (no white). Dixie's daughter-in-law and granddaughter will be going to Rwanda on a mission trip in June and our contributions will be delivered in person to the school where they will be working. Please call the church office to let us know you are coming.

And finally, I'd like to once more say congratulations to Lisa Miller for being the recipient of our annual Special Mission Reconciliation award. Lisa was recognized for her tireless work with the Mirror Image project for West Ada schools, providing personal hygiene products to needful students in our community. Please keep bringing your supplies to her office to aid this important mission work.



Blessings,

Dixie Jacky



Meridian United Methodist Church
235 E. Pine Avenue
Meridian, ID 83642

January Events to Celebrate!

Please watch the E-Blast and Facebook for additional church events.

January 6 – *Epiphany*

January 10 – *Tuesday Bible Study Resumes (Ezra)*

January 16 – *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

January 20 – *Parents Night Out, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.*

February 4 – *75th Annual Groundhog Dinner*

February

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Wednesday,

January 25th

Submissions may be
emailed to Jacob Walker at

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!