

FOOTPRINTS

May 2023

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 May 2023

05.07.2023

Doubting Thomas
Luke 24:13-35



05.14.2023

Wonderfully Made
1 John 4:7-19; Psalm 139: 7-14



05.21.2023

Ascension Sunday
Acts 1:1-11



05.28.2023

Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21

Pilgrim Cove Work Weekend

On May 26 - 29, the Pilgrim Cove leadership invite you out to help prepare for the upcoming season. There are projects for all skill levels, and when we've finished working, the rest of the weekend is yours to relax and play. Plus, food and lodging are provided! Please RSVP with the camp office:

Jeremy Force, 208-634-5555
manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org



Graduation Sunday



We will be celebrating our graduates on Sunday, May 21. High school, college, technical school, etc. — wherever program you're graduating from, we want to recognize your achievement! Submit your name, photo, and the name of your school and/or program to cc@meridianumc.com to be included!

Sawtooth Camp

Kids! As you finalize your summer plans, don't forget about Sawtooth Camp. If you have completed third-twelfth grade this year, you can register for an awesome week away. Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High camps are all happening in July this year, and you can learn more about the specific dates and programs at gocamping.org. Intimidated by the price tag? Don't worry! The Church of the Warm Heart has many generous donors committed to making sure that anyone who wants to attend camp will be able to go. Ask Cassie Collins or Nicole Walker for a copy of the scholarship application.



Join the Tech Team



The tech team is looking for help running sound (and more) during Sunday services. No experience necessary – we'll train you! For more info, contact Debbie Jones:

worshiparts@meridianumc.com

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April

NEW MEMBERS:

BAPTISMS:

Barrett Gillespie

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
Ernie Weatherspoon

Meet Our New Facilities Manager

We'd like to extend a big welcome to Richard Stolle, who has taken on the role of Facilities Manager. You can find Richard running around the building during the week making repairs, mowing the lawn, and doing a lot of heavy lifting. Richard joined us at the start of April and got put to work in short order. If you see him around, be sure to say hello, and if you're lucky, you'll get to see his dog Sis, too.



STAFF

Senior Pastor Rev. Mike Benischek	(ext. 104) pastormike@meridianumc.com
Adult Discipleship/Asst. Pastor Jennifer Hunkovic	(ext. 109) adult.ministry@meridianumc.com
Minister of Congregational Care Lisa Miller	(ext. 105) care@meridianumc.com
Minister of Worship Arts Debbie Jones	208-608-2520 worshiparts@meridianumc.com
Youth Minister Nicole Walker	734-316-9517 youth@meridianumc.com
Children's Minister Cassie Collins	(ext. 108) children@meridianumc.com
Office Manager Angela Perry	(ext. 102) office@meridianumc.com
Receptionist Lucinda Dyer	(ext. 101) receptionist@meridianumc.com
Bookkeeper Maria Akers	bookkeeper@meridianumc.com
Communications Coordinator Video Production Jacob Walker	(ext. 103) cc@meridianumc.com production@meridianumc.com

Nursery Coordinator

Christine Jayne nursery@meridianumc.com

Organist

Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

Facility Personnel

Richard Stolle maintenance@meridianumc.com (M - Th)
Don Woods dandwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

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 Women in Faith 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:

At the end of last year, the world's population surpassed 8 billion people. China and India remain the two most populous countries in the world, each with more than 1 billion people. The United States' population is almost 332 million people, making up a mere 4% of the world's population.

All of these people live across God's creation, which now includes 195 countries. Currently, there are more than 6,500 languages spoken, with over 300 used to communicate in the United States. While there are thousands of dialects, the overwhelming majority of the world fluently uses less than two dozen of them. English is spoken in 58 countries, serves as the official language for 39 of those countries, and ranks as 4th on the list of fluent speakers. Hindi and Spanish rank second and third respectively, while Mandarin Chinese is the most spoken, as it is used fluently by more than 17% of people in the world.

In light of all this, I can't help but feel like a speck of dust in the grand scheme of things. And yet, God knows each of us by name. God created all of the people in the world and everything that has ever existed within it. God desires for us to be in relationship with Him, with creation, and with all of the people in it, united as one family. But with so much diversity and the vastness of the globe, how is that possible? Answer: The Holy Spirit.

Fifty days after the Resurrection (on the Day of Pentecost), God sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, and then to 3,000 more people that day (Acts 2). "And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability." People from different regions and locations were amazed that they received the gift of being able to communicate in different languages (this was not incoherent "speaking in tongues"). The Holy Spirit gifted them the ability to talk – to communicate – with one another so that they could bond as one in the family of God.

Pentecost is on May 28th this year, and it continues to be a celebration of God's gift to us in the form of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit continues to play an integral role in our faith, as it inspires us, encourages us, and guides us to live out God's commandment to love one another. With so much beautiful diversity that God created in the world with His people, He unites us in the love of Christ with his language of love, given to us by the Holy Spirit. While we are many and diverse, we are one in God's family. This is my prayer.

And don't forget to wear RED on Pentecost Sunday!

Pastor Mike
pastormike@meridianumc.com

P.S. I want to give a big thank you to everyone who helped make our FLC renovations a reality. There are a few small steps to go (bulletin boards, artwork, etc.) but the bulk of the work is complete! An extra big thank you is due to Chris and Charlie Bidondo for the hard work they put into our projector enclosure. Chris designed the enclosure, and his employers graciously donated time on their production line to cut it out for us.

Charlie and Chris even made sure to have the projector ready for last month's Trivia Night fundraiser, which was a huge success; we had 80 competitors and raised over \$1100! We look forward to making more use of the space now that it's ready to go, so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events. Movie Nights? BSU Tailgate Parties?

(You know, it feels like there's a real obvious joke in this photo. How many Methodists does it take...)



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Greetings Warm Heart Families!

What a whirlwind April was! The Warm Heart Kids had so much fun with Palm Sunday and Easter and the Egg Hunt and Parent's Night Out. We also have three new acolytes, (as pictured) Olivia Perry, Vera Wolsborn, and Laila Albertson. Two of these girls blessed us with their service on Easter, and we look forward to seeing more of them!



And of course, April also saw the wonderful musical the kids performed, King of the Jungle! What a blessing to see the kids work together on this project and watch their friendships grow. I would like to give a special thanks for all of the hard work Debbie Jones put into this and to everyone who was involved in putting it together. I'd also like to thank all of the parents for their diligence in making sure the kids were there for practices and rehearsals. It takes a village to put on a production like this, and I love our village!

Things will be a little calmer in May, but there is still a lot of fun to be had! We will have Sunday School during both services, except for the 28th. There will be no Sunday School on Memorial Day weekend, but there will be goody bags for kids attending service that day. We will also be wrapping up Pioneer Club with our final class for the year on Wednesday, May 10. Our monthly Parent's Night Out will be on Friday, May 12, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. Please let me know by Wednesday, May 10, if your child would like to join us for a fun night of pizza, popcorn, a movie, and playing! It is such a joy to watch these kids grow in Christ's love, and I'm so grateful to be part of it. I hope you all have a blessed May.

Peace & Blessings,

Cassie Collins
children@meridianumc.com

MAY EVENTS

WEDNESDAYS NIGHTS 5/3 & 5/10
Pioneer Club & Angels Alive Choir
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY 5/12
Parent's Night Out
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

May, in the life of a teen, can often feel like a whirlwind. Classes are wrapping up, spring sports have us out in whatever-the-weather, music and dance groups are squeezing in final concerts and performances... And then there's graduation! What an exciting and nerve-wracking month.

This year, the Warm Heart Youth graduates THIRTEEN young adults who found a home here for some part(s) of their middle/high school journeys. Benny, Brennan, Cadence, Elizabeth, Ella, Hailey, Jessica, Julius, Kai, Kelly, Maverick, McKenna, and Taylor have all left their marks on the Warm Heart Youth program, and now we get to send them on with love and celebration. If you haven't seen all of these folks lately, it's because many of them are working jobs and living up their last year of high school with other activities. But the memories they made here will stick with both us and them!

Over the next few weeks, we'll wrap up our school-year youth program with outings to Meridian Lanes...

HS YG - Sunday, May 7, 6 – 8:00 p.m.
MS YG – Wednesday, May 17, 6 – 8 p.m.

...a middle school movie night, and a few other activities. Stay tuned for details, and if you're not already getting the WHY monthly calendars, email me to get on the list.

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Older Americans Month is celebrated every May. Be sure to take some time to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of older citizens in our church and community. We even have a few in our church who are close to becoming Centenarians! Here are a few ways we can all participate in healthy aging:

- Embrace the opportunity to change: Find a new passion, go on adventures, and try some new activities in your community...
<https://www.meridianseniorcenter.org/coming-events>
- Continue to grow in knowledge through reading, listening, classes, and creative activities.
- Stayed engaged in your community, which includes our church! Stay active and connected by volunteering and engaging in social activities.
- Form new relationships. Invest time in people to discover deeper connections with family and friends.
- Want to get more physical activity but not sure how to start? Try walking! Walking for just a few minutes a day can go a long way towards helping you stay healthy. Plus, you could make a new friend! We walk on Wednesdays here at the church - come join us!

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



Thank you for your donations towards our young adult care packages. The packages are on their way!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Our May Ladies Night Out will be Held at *Coffee, Plant, Repeat* plant boutique, just down the road from the church on Idaho Ave. Watch the church e-blast for more details coming soon!



ADULT MINISTRIES

Greetings!



Our Ladies Study group will spend our summer practicing Lectio Divina. We will meet Monday evenings on Zoom at 6:30 p.m., beginning June 5th. This is an ancient practice from Christian tradition, dating back to the early medieval era. Based on the image of Jacob's ladder, it has four steps: reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation. Through these four steps, we hope that God's word will sink deeper into our hearts and imaginations. RSVP with the church office.

The Lunch Bunch is going strong and will meet at Idaho Pizza Company on Sunday, May 21st, at 12:30 p.m. Please let the church office know by May 18th if you plan to attend.

Men, don't miss out on our upcoming retreat to Luther Heights Camp in the beautiful Sawtooth Mountains. Enjoy a weekend full of hiking, fishing, horseshoes, and more - or just relax and enjoy God's creation and good company! We have 2 cabins reserved for Aug 4-6. Each cabin has a bathroom, showers, electricity, and a limited number of spaces, so please let us know right away if you would like to join us. The cost is \$60, meals included. RSVP by contacting Dan Pruet (208-890-3384) or Dean Kubena (208-870-8967).

Blessings,

Pastor Jen
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com



Thanks for joining us for bowling this month!

NEWS & MORE

MUSIC MINISTRY

I want to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with April's children's musical:

- For corralling kiddos and making costumes — Cassie Collins, Nicole Walker, Malia Paz, Brandi Wolsborn, and Kathryn Gillespie
- Our Warm Heart Media Team — Jacob Walker, Jeff McClees, Ian Perry, Jenna Perry, Christian Benischek, Daniel Ciulla, and James Bovet
- Our bulletin and slide designer — Angela Perry
- Set designers — Brad and Elaine Carlson (and set helper, Bryce Keck!)
- Our official Warm Heart photographers — Thom and Sue Juul
- Our dear musicians — Kristine Ciulla, Trina Moore, Bill Manning, Stephanie Benischek, and Bonnie Jow
- All of our parents and grandparents who faithfully listened to the music, worked with the children on their lines, and brought them to our rehearsals
- The Celebration Choir who donated coffee hour snacks
- And especially the Church of the Warm Heart congregation who so lovingly supported these children with their presence and prayers. This would not have been possible without all of you!

Check out a few photos from the musical below!

The Celebration Choir and Koinonia Handbell Choirs are winding down their seasons. However, there may still be a summer anthem, opportunities for small ensembles or solos throughout the summer, and possibly an opportunity to provide some music for Annual Conference, June 8 -11. If you would like to participate, there is always room for you! Just contact me for more details.

Don't miss the Rolling Tones, our Youth Tone Chime Choir, who are offering the prelude at both services on Sunday, May 7. This has been one of our most talented chime groups yet! Be sure to encourage them and thank them for their awesome music this year. Rehearsals will begin again in the fall, and there is always room for more students!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones

worshiparts@meridianumc.com

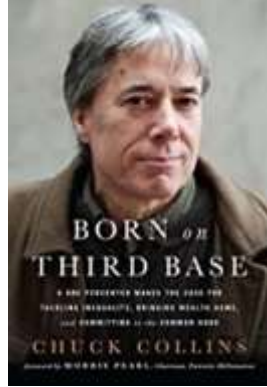


NEWS & MORE

THE BOOK NOOK

By Claudia Moberly

America's growing wealth divide is creating economic tensions, limiting the American dream of upward mobility, and stifling our ability to solve the serious challenges facing our towns, our cities, and our world. In his book *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good*, author Chuck Collins tackles these stubborn problems head on. He asks us to look at how this growing economic apartheid is creating a system that is not sustainable for anyone.



In recent years, America's wealth has been pooling at the very top of the wealth ladder. For example, CEO salaries at the largest publicly-traded corporations are now nearly 400 times more than their average employees' salaries. By comparison, that ratio in 1965 was 20:1, and in 1989 was 44:1. In 1953, the highest tax rate on income over \$400,000 (roughly \$3.5 million today) was 92%. Today it is 39%. The very wealthy are becoming more wealthy, while lower and middle income families struggle to keep up.

At age 26, Chuck Collins (heir to the Oscar Mayer fortune) gave away his inheritance, and he has spent the last thirty years working against this growing inequality in our country. By engaging people on both sides of the wealth divide, he works to break down stereotypes, energize local solutions to issues, and build alliances among all stakeholders to create strong, livable communities designed for all residents.

America can be a nation that offers real opportunities to everyone, that fosters a sense of community among all citizens, and that creates a sustainable future. To do that, we must all engage our leaders and our communities in seeking fairness and equity, strengthening an economic system that benefits workers as well as management, and rekindle the American dream of home ownership and a growing middle class.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

By Dixie Jacky, UWFaith President

Did you know there is an annual World Water Day? According to the United Nations website, it is held annually on March 22. We will be celebrating a little late, but at our May 13 luncheon, "water" will be our topic. We will focus on the next installment of our year's scripture:

"Lord, when did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' "

Over 1 billion people suffer each day from scarce and contaminated water, and 3.4 million people die each year from waterborne illnesses. These problems are not limited to foreign nations; as Idahoans, we are all familiar with issues of water scarcity and distribution. We are blessed to welcome Rochelle Killeth of Nampa United Women in Faith, to talk with us about water and thirst. Let's respond to God's call to satisfy thirst by bringing donations of shelf stable milk (individual serving sizes) for the Meridian Food Bank's Backpack Program.

We will have a salad bar luncheon at 12 p.m. provided by several members of the UWFaith. Please invite friends to come with you, but as always, make sure to contact the church office at **(208) 888-2245** so we know how many servings to prepare.

You can visit meridianumc.com/UWFaith to read our May devotional and receive more insight into World Water Day and why water issues have been around for a long time. Come prepared to introduce yourself to your table mates with a water story!

As usual, we continue to support the youth of our area with hygiene supplies for the Mirror Image project. The collection bin is outside Lisa's office in the FLC. Checks made out to Meridian UMC/Mirror image project are also welcome.



We're looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, May 13, at 12 p.m.





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

May Events to Celebrate!

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

May 13 – *UW Faith Luncheon*

May 14 – *Mothers Day*

May 21 – *Graduation Sunday*

May 28 – *Pentecost Sunday - Wear Red!*

May 29 – *Memorial Day*

June

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday,
May 25th**

Submissions may be
emailed to Jacob Walker at
cc@meridianumc.com
or brought by the
church office.
Thank you!