



Meridian United Methodist
**Church of the
 Warm Heart**

FOOTPRINTS

June 2024

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.



“Can Do” Food Drive

The first month of our food drive is complete, and our first group donated 250 lbs. of food! If your last name begins with H, I, J, K, L, or M, it's your turn! Donation bins are in the FLC, and you can find a list of needed items at:

meridianfoodbank.org/food-lists

SERMON SERIES

June 2024

06.02.2024

The Fruit We Bear

John 15:1-8



06.09.2024

Loving All

Jonah 1:17 - 2:3; 2:10 - 3:2



06.16.2024

Changing Hearts

Ezekiel 36:24-32



06.23.2024

Transforming Lives

Ephesians 4:17-24, 29



06.30.2024

Called for a Purpose

John 4:7-15, 28-30, 39-42

Family Camp

We are teaming up with Pilgrim Cove staff this year and joining in their Family Camp on August 2-4. This weekend is open to lots of churches, so it won't JUST be Warm Heart people on the lake, but there's always room for new friends at camp! Early bird registration is \$110/person for two nights' lodging and four meals; there are also a few RV spots available. Please talk with Malia Paz or Nicole Walker as soon as possible if you're interested in attending! And see page 7 for information about scholarships.



VBS

Vacation Bible School is coming up in July, and we need YOU to volunteer! For more details, see the Children's Ministries column on page 4.

Boise Hawks Game

Let's go out to the ballpark! Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 11, when the Church of the Warm Heart will take to the stands and cheer on the Boise Hawks. The game starts at 7:00 p.m., and you can talk to Lisa Miller about securing your tickets.



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May

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
LaVon DuVall
Donna Moore
Barbara Moncarr

BAPTISMS:



Whether you are passing the plates, serving coffee, or greeting visitors, every little bit helps. Our ministry staff are always on the lookout for more help, so don't be afraid to corner them between services to ask how you can get involved (or maybe just send a friendly email).

STAFF

Senior Pastor Rev. Mike Benischek	pastormike@meridianumc.com	(ext. 104)
Adult Discipleship/Asst. Pastor Jennifer Hunkovic	adult.ministry@meridianumc.com	(ext. 109)
Minister of Congregational Care Lisa Miller	care@meridianumc.com	(ext. 105)
Minister of Worship Arts Debbie Jones	worshiparts@meridianumc.com	208-608-2520
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Jessie Layton nursery@meridianumc.com

Organist

Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

Facility Personnel

Richard Stolle maintenance@meridianumc.com (M - Th)
Don Woods dandvwoods@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, 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

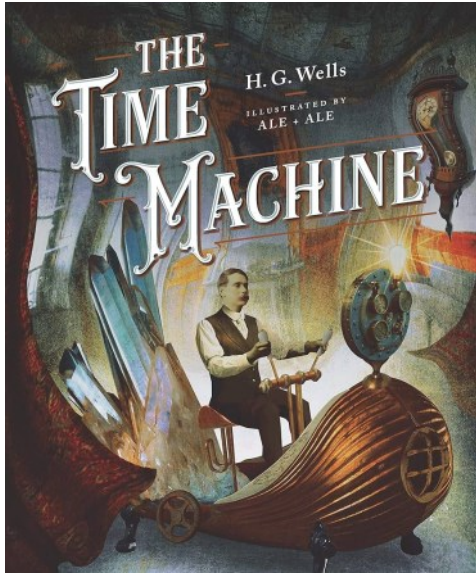
Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

Dear Warm Heart Family and Friends,



Recently, this question was posted on Facebook: "You've been teleported back to your high school graduation. What's the first thing you would do?" For some of us, that was not too long ago. For others, it might mean jumping back quite a few presidential administrations! Congrats to our graduates this year... (I know this is the June newsletter, but I'm writing this before the Memorial Day holiday.)

Given the opportunity to go back to 1991, I would first and foremost tell my dad how much I love him and give hugs to him, my living grandparents, and friends who have passed. I would ask the questions I didn't realize I should have asked nearly 30 years ago before illnesses take people away from us. I would learn how to cook some of the dishes my family made. I would travel more without fear and soak in as many memories as possible.

Even though I may have made missteps along the way, ultimately, though, I wouldn't want to make different decisions. Everything that has happened has brought me to this very spot. I wrestled with life's challenges, gained wisdom through life's lessons, and found my authentic self through the journey. In the past decades, I connected with many people, and I feel blessed by many of these relationships. I wouldn't want to change any of that as the various paths I've taken have led to this particular time and space.

We know that making one little change along the way would impact the time-space continuum — or we know that's how it is in movies like *Back to the Future*. I wouldn't have met Steph or had my children if one of the little paths were different. For all of these reasons, I wouldn't tell myself to change one thing — except to better recognize my worth as a child of God sooner than I did.

One thing I've wrestled with when it comes to my faith is how much impact God's intentions have on our lives. I don't necessarily believe that God planned each and every one of those moves. I don't think the disasters were "God's plan." But along the way God was calling me down a path - maybe like my Google Maps GPS directions. And sometimes I would listen. When I didn't hear God clearly, I probably needed to take a few extra turns to get back to the direction I needed to take. On the scenic path, I had the chance to gain wisdom and meet a few wonderful people. God uses each road and each experience to enrich our lives. And for God's presence on each path, I give thanks.

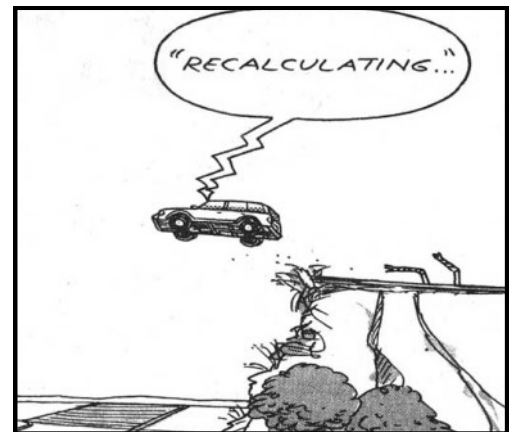
Thank you for letting the Church of the Warm Heart be a part of your journey! I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Pastor Mike

P.S. Have you ever felt a call to ministry? I have great news! On Monday, July 22, Oregon-Idaho's board of Ordained Ministry is hosting an all-day event for individuals interested in exploring their candidacy for ministry, as well as those interested in mentoring others through the candidacy process and members of Staff-Parish Relations committees. It's called a Candidacy Summit, and it's being held in Portland.

At the summit, Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth will help attendees dive deeper into what it means to be called to ordained or licensed ministry, how to help others discern that call, what resources are available for the discernment and candidacy journey, and how to create networks of support for candidacy and beyond.

If a "Candidacy Summit" feels a little intimidating, just remember that my door is always open. I've been through this process myself, and I'd love to talk with you about how you could pursue a future in ministry.



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Hello Warm Heart Families!

It's officially Summer and the kids are out of school!! We celebrated the end of the school year with a special Pioneer Club; we enjoyed the beautiful weather with fun in the sun and—of course—made yummy ice cream sundaes. I asked the kiddos what their favorite part of Pioneer Club was this year, and these are some of the answers I received: crafts, snack time, and the musical. I look forward to starting up our Wednesday meetings again in September and making more great memories with all the kids.

As a parent, I know how hard it can be to keep your kids busy in the summer! So I looked around and found some great resources in our area. From movies at the Cherry Lane Library to events at the Idaho State Museum and the classic Meridian Dairy Days, there are lots of things going on in our community in June that you can take part in. Contact me for a full list if you're interested!

Vacation Bible School is coming up next month! It will run July 22 — July 26, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. each day. Did you know that last year we had twenty-seven kids participate in VBS? How many will we have this year?

Volunteers are critical to making **VBS** a safe, welcoming, and awesome space for our kids. We need group leaders, craft people, game leaders, and more! If you would like to get involved, please contact me sooner rather than later. I look forward to making "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid" a wonderful reality with your help!

Take care,

Malia Paz
children@meridianumc.com



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Welcome to summer break! We've hit the season of sunscreen and swimming and eating popsicles to stay cool. We've closed the book on another school year, and even if we need to take some classes this summer, the pace is different and the rhythm has changed. Congratulations, everyone!

Youth Night is back this year for a third summer. These Wednesday evenings are open-ended hodge-podge choose-your-own-adventure times. Everyone from new seventh graders to recent high school grads can drop by to hang out, paint masterpieces, play games, and eat snacks. I hope you'll join us!

We're also having a Jackbox game night this month, sending our 2024 Mission Team to northern Idaho, and trying out the Meridian Speedway as a youth group! Lots of fun things to break up the "dreadful monotony" of summer camping and hanging out with friends.

Sunday, June 2 – Mission Team Meeting
4:00 p.m., FLC

Wednesday, June 5 – Youth Night
6:00 – 8:30 p.m., FLC

Sunday, June 9 – Jackbox Game Night
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Youth Room

Sunday, June 16, thru Saturday, June 22 – Mission Trip
Idaho Servant Adventures in Wallace, ID

Wednesday, June 26 – Youth Night
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Youth Room

Saturday, June 29 – Meridian Speedway
5:30 p.m. – ???, meet at the church

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Happy May Day!

The tulips are up, the trees are budding, and the sheep are out. June is **Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month**. The Alzheimer's Association Greater Idaho is here to help with great resources:

www.alz.org/idaho/

Early Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's / Dementia:

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble with vision and spatial relationships
- Problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and difficulty retracing steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood and personality

Learn more through the Alzheimer's Association website!

Did you know June 14th is **World Blood Donor Day**? Give Blood; Give Plasma, Share Life, and Share Often. Our next blood drive at the church is on Monday, July 29. That might feel far away, but summer fills up fast! Contact Lisa to get signed up and plan to be a hero.

Blessings and good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



Ladies' Night Out at Angry Easel

ADULT MINISTRIES

"From his fullness,
we have all received grace upon grace"
~ John 1:16

Greetings Church!

I've been reflecting on the time we've shared together. Serving alongside you has been an incredible journey filled with much joy. I've been blessed by each worship service, Bible study, service opportunity, potluck, picnic, coffee hour, camp experience, retreat, visitation, and social event (this is a very vibrant and active church!). I'm reminded of John Wesley's words, "There is no holiness but social holiness". I think this means that our love of God is reflected in how we love one another—one relationship at a time. Your commitment to one another is evident in how you live into the call of being the Church of the Warm Heart. I know this because I have been blessed to be on the receiving end of this relationship! I have received far more than I could ever give to you. I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your love, support, and friendship. You have helped shape, mold, transform, and prepare me for this call into ministry, and I am truly grateful for the time that we've shared together.

As I begin this next chapter at Nampa Southside, please know that I will always carry the Church of the Warm Heart with me. You are a part of my heart and I will continue to pray for you and the ministries of this church. God is doing new and incredible things each and every day! My prayer for you is that God's presence will be made visible to you in small but miraculous and meaningful ways and that you will be transformed by God's grace — to reference the earlier Scripture, "we have all received grace upon grace."

Thank you once again for allowing me to be a part of your lives, and for the memories we have shared together. May God continue to bless the Church of the Warm Heart!

Grace, peace, and love,

Pastor Jen
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

MUSIC MINISTRY

Summer Special Music – Can you help? We are looking for instrumental and vocal solos and ensembles to enhance our worship services this summer. If you're interested, let me know!

Poster Video – Coming this summer will be another congregational poster video anthem celebrating our new members, shut ins, and anyone who would like to jump in on the fun! No musical training or skills required! We will be recording in mid-late June at the church, with 10 minute slots available for scheduling. Skills required: being able to flip or hold a poster. If you'd like to participate, contact Debbie Jones to get scheduled. It's THAT easy!

Violin Lessons – Cadence Etheridge, our Worship Team violinist, is offering free violin lessons for beginners, 4th - 12th grades. Join her this summer at 6 p.m. on Thursdays, May 30 - August 2. Practice instruments are available for use during lessons. Contact Debbie Jones for more details and to sign up.

The Celebration Choir, Koinonia Handbell Choir, Angels Alive Choir, and Rolling Tones Chime Choir have all wrapped up their seasons. We are grateful to all these volunteers who offer their time and talents enhancing our worship services with their lovely music. We will resume again in August and September. Please pray about joining in the fun next fall! All are welcome!



Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

Unfortunately, after closing the books for April, we are seeing red figures for the second straight month. Our giving was up slightly from March, but the expenses went down. Why did the expenses go down? Twice a year we are faced with three payrolls coming in the same month; March was one of those months. April had only two payrolls, so we are back to a more "normal" situation. The good news is that we are in a much better position than 2023. Last year at this time we were in the red by more than \$54,000, so this smaller deficit is encouraging.

For General Operations:	Apr 2024	Year to Date 2024
Given	\$48,622	\$234,238
Need	\$65,076	\$260,052
Outcome	(\$16,454)	(\$25,814)

I am proud to announce that we have surpassed the goal of \$54,000 in the "FIX THE ROOF" campaign. We have received more than \$56,000, and there are still donations coming in! This congregation has a strong CAN-DO attitude. I know that some members donated over an extended period; they could not donate all at once but wanted to participate. This is wonderful! Because we exceeded our goal, we'll be able to put some of these donations toward the tree removal, which will help our bottom line. Repairs are still ongoing and should be completed during the summer, hopefully about the same time as the street and sewer projects are finally finished. Kudos to all for walking extra steps each Sunday due to the lack of parking near the church!

Recently, we had a seminar presented by Julia Frisbie, Executive Director of Faith Foundation Northwest, titled, "WAYS TO GIVE WORKSHOP." A great number of our members are at the point in their life when they need to make decisions about their legacy. If you have questions regarding gifts of stock, qualified charitable distributions, gifts of insurance, or charitable gift annuities, please free to contact Julia at julia@faith.foundation. Our own Lori Jones is also a particularly good resource.

I remain optimistic about our church in general and our finances in particular. We're growing, we're being good stewards of our facilities, the youth are preparing for a mission trip, and more folks are becoming givers. Of course I would ask that you continue to pray about our finances. If you have any questions about our budget or anything relating to our finances, please don't hesitate to contact Lori Jones, Finance Committee Chair, at lhjones2021@gmail.com, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chair, at maroontycoon63@gmail.com. We will always take the time to visit with you and discuss our finances. Also continue to keep our industrious staff in your prayers as well. May God continue to bless the Church of the Warm Heart.

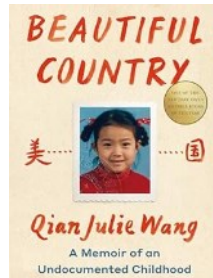
MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

“Mei Guo.” Beautiful Country. America!

Qian Julie Wang and her mother land at JFK Airport in 1994 with visitor visas that will soon expire. She is seven years old, and is reuniting with her father, who had made this journey two years earlier. At last they would be together again in this Beautiful Country, and life could return to normal. Or so she thought.



For the next few years, this family would live in the shadows, avoiding the attention of anyone in authority, including doctors, policemen, work supervisors, and even land lords. They would work hard to stay under the radar, never making waves, never asserting their wishes, never complaining. Qian's parents had been professors in China; now they would work in sweatshops, scraping by on pitiful wages. The effects of extreme poverty would overwhelm the family — tension, illness, hunger, and insecurity.

This memoir tells the story of constant immigrant fears, family stress, language difficulties, inadequate housing, and a lonely girl growing up much too quickly, determined to carry the weight of her parents' difficulties and smooth over the tension that has taken up residence in their lives. It is also a story of love, devotion, and perseverance.

As a bright, determined girl, Qian ignores her parents' mantra not to draw attention to herself. She finds ways to succeed, to prove her intelligence to doubting school personnel, to exceed everyone's expectations, and to make a way in this strange new country that isn't at all what she expected.

This book is available on the United Women in Faith book kiosk in the Family Life Center.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Does your child or family want to attend a church camp this summer but finances are making it difficult? We have scholarships available! Scholarship forms may be requested from Malia Paz or Nicole Walker, and are due back to the church office no later than June 7.

Unsure about what church camps are out there? Check out the offerings at Sawtooth Camp, our most-local UMC camp, at <https://sawtooth.gocamping.org/>, or check out the front page of this newsletter for information on our (church-wide) Family Camp in August.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

In May, I completed a 4-year term as Program Advisory Group member to the Board of Directors of the National United Women in Faith. Part of my final days on that board were spent in Anchorage, Alaska, visiting one of the National Mission Institutions (NMI) of UWFaith. I was able to tour and support a project at AK Child and Family Service, an NMI since 1890. It was originally founded under the name Jesse Lee Home, a Methodist Mission in Unalaska. In 1925 it was moved to Seward, Alaska, and in 1964, following the devastating earthquake, the United Methodist Women purchased 25 acres in Anchorage where the home now resides.

This organization acknowledges the historical damage caused to the native cultures and is striving to make amends. Our United Women in Faith Pledge to Mission monies support this amazing institution that provides multiple programs for youth diagnosed with emotional and behavioral problem. And this is just one of 89 National Mission Institutions doing amazing work!

www.akchild.org/

Thank you for your generosity to our Pledge to Mission fund!

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Our next **unit meeting** will be June 13 and will be a field trip. We'll meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. and carpool to the Idaho Historical Museum. The exhibit we're going to see is called "Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience." This field trip will go hand in hand with our book in the fall, "They Call Us Enemy." Please call me if you can attend so we can start planning a carpool. My number is (208) 680-5112.

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Mission U is coming up July 11-13. This year's theme is "The Kin-dom Is Among You: Drawing Closer to God and One Another." We can attend virtually in our own homes; or better, we can gather at Hillview UMC with other UWFaith members from around the area. See our website for information on how to register.

www.meridianumc.com/UWFaith

Blessings,

Dixie Jacky
United Women in Faith President



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

June Events to Celebrate!

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

June 7 – *National Donut Day*

June 16 – *Father's Day*

June 16 to 22 – *Youth Mission Trip*

June 20 to 23 – *Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference*

July

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday,
June 25th**

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

Thank you!