

FOOTPRINTS

July 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

July 2022

07.03.2022

Small Things

2 Kings 5:1-14



07.10.2022

Baggage Restrictions

Psalms 62:1-2, 11-12; Matthew 11:28-30



07.17.2022

Set Your Course

Psalms 103:1-18; Matthew 10:27-28



07.24.2022

Expect Turbulence

Psalms 121; John 16:31-33



07.31.2022

Lift Up on Wings Like Eagles

Isaiah 40:3-8, 28-31

JOSEPH'S CLOSET

It's yard sale season, so this is a great time to hunt down some winter clothing for Joseph's Closet. Keep your eyes peeled for washable coats, hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, socks, blankets, and sleeping bags. You can drop off your thrifting spoils in the donation bin by the church office.



AUGUST BLOOD DRIVE



Did you know that one in seven people entering a hospital will need a blood transfusion? And just one donation can help save three lives! Do your part at our next church blood drive will take place on Monday, August 1st, from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the FLC.

Contact Lisa Miller at care@meridianumc.com to sign up.

SAVE THE DATE: CHURCH CAMP

Our all-church camp will be held over labor day weekend at Pilgrim's Cove Camp in McCall. We hope you will all join us for a weekend of worship, fellowship, rest, and recreation. Sign up forms will be available in the FLC beginning July 15th.



SAVE THE DATE: LADIES RETREAT

Our Warm Heart women will return to Pilgrim's Cove on October 21-23 for a Ladies Retreat.



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June

NEW MEMBERS:

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

Fern Goodman
William "Bill" McClung

BAPTISMS:



HELP WANTED

Our thrift store is busy, busy, busy during these summer months, and we'd sure love your help pricing donations and manning the cash register. This is an important ministry of our church, and every little bit helps! If interested, contact Cheryl Mulvihill at [208.887.2267](tel:208.887.2267).

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)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- Administrative Council Chair** Dean Kubena
Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair Chuck Davis
Trustees Chair Ron Pridmore
Systems Administrator Integrity Computer Consultants
Finance Co-Chairs Brian Sauer & 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**

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:

An office worker in a San Francisco company applied for a job with a government agency in Washington. While the office worker waited for a reply, the head of the agency heard about him from a mutual friend and, circumventing the normal hiring channels, offered him the job. A month later, the man was working in Washington in his new job. A month after that, a letter was forwarded to him from his old address in San Francisco. It contained his original application for the job he now had - but it also came with a rejection letter. The letter said the agency regretfully turned him down for the job because of his lack of qualifications. Looking more closely, the man found that he signed the letter himself.

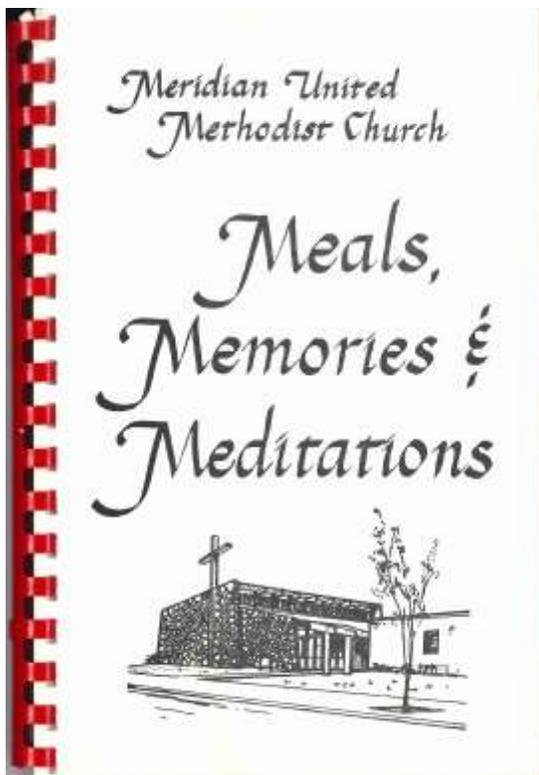
Are you ever surprised by where you are, despite your lack of qualifications or inner doubt? Truth be told, sometimes when I preach on a Sunday, there is a little voice that goes on inside my head. "You're horrible at public speaking." "You just said the stupidest thing." "That didn't work." "That was no good." "Why don't you hang it up?" That kind of thing. At times like these, I am extra thankful that preaching is not just about speaking eloquently; the work of the preacher is to point people to Jesus Christ as the center of life. And when God's spirit is present in worship, my speaking skills are largely irrelevant.

That little voice is a common phenomenon, and it can get after us about every aspect of our lives. Our families, our faith, our job, how we look at ourselves. But through it all, even when we feel unworthy, God still loves us. In Matthew 10:39, Jesus says, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Jesus is unlocking a great mystery. If we get a death grip on our lives—on the things we love and value and want—we will find it all slipping through our fingers. Life is fragile and unpredictable, and we simply do not have enough control to make sure everything goes exactly according to plan. But Jesus flips it (he does that a lot). He says that if we want to hold on to our lives, we have to let go. We have to give up control and let Him be in charge. We have to loosen our grip on our own plans and let Him take the wheel.

The evil one would like nothing better than for us to dwell in our sinful nature, our inadequacies, and our failures, never embracing Christ. He wants us to doubt every step of the way, because he knows that faith sets us free. So if you think you're a nobody - remember that God thinks you're a **SOMEBODY**. And he loves you just the way you are!

See you in worship!

Pastor Mike
pastormike@meridianumc.com



P.S. Did you know the Church of the Warm Heart has a cookbook? One of our members was kind enough to drop off this piece of MUMC history. Looking through it, I see a lot of familiar names, and some tempting recipes. Here's one you could maybe try out for the 4th, if you're tired of apple pie.

ZUCCHINI PIE

1 9-inch double pie crust	½ teaspoon salt
4 cups zucchini cut thin	2 teaspoons cinnamon
¼ cup sugar	1 teaspoon nutmeg
2 tablespoons minute tapioca	2 teaspoons corn starch
4 tablespoons lemon juice	2 teaspoons butter

Line pan with pastry. Combine all ingredients except butter. Pour into pie shell, dot with butter, cover with top crust. Cut slits in top. Bake 55 minutes at 400 degrees, and 10 minutes more at 350 degrees. Don't tell your guests it is zucchini — they'll never guess!

Hazel Ryska

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Greetings Warm Heart Families,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer so far! It's nice when things slow down and the days are longer - but somehow it still goes so fast. I hope you are all able to make some great memories this month with family and friends.

We continue to have Sunday School throughout the summer during first service only. We will have children's bulletins and crayons for kids attending second service. There will be no Sunday School at all on July 3rd, but we have some really fun gift bags for kids attending that day!

In order to keep the kids connected and have a little fun, we will be offering two opportunities to meet up this month. On Thursday, July 7th, we'll be meeting at Kleiner Park at 10 a.m. to play on the splash pad and get wet! I'll bring snacks and a special treat, just make sure to R.S.V.P. to me by 6 p.m. on July 6th. And then mark your calendars; our church will be going to the ball game on Thursday, July 21! The tickets for the Hawks baseball game are \$5 per person and it will be a great night to hang out with your church family and cheer on the local team.

It's only two months until Warm Heart Church Camp! We would love to have your family join us at the beautiful Pilgrim's Cove Camp on Payette Lake in McCall, ID. There will be plenty of opportunities for land and water recreation, time to get to know your church family, time to just relax, and time to spend with God. And did I mention the delicious meals that you don't have to cook? You won't want to miss this special time! Look for sign up forms in the FLC, beginning July 15. God bless you all and have a great month!

In His Service,

Cassie Collins
children@meridianumc.com



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Night continues in July! With art supplies, snacks, board games, play-dough, puzzles, coloring pages, and more, this is a place to be yourself and enjoy some time with others. Come alone or bring your friends. Create some art or build with dominos. Color a picture or pull together a few people to play Ransom Notes. Choose your own adventure, if you will.

We had so much fun at Meridian Lanes in May that we decided to do it all again! Shoe rentals are \$3.49 plus tax, but the lanes are covered and the bowling is sure to be great fun. Sign up as soon as possible if you plan to attend this one.

Body Body Night also returns on July 25. Can you stay alive? Join us for this spooky* youth group favorite.

- Wed, July 6** – Youth Night, FLC, 6-9 p.m.
- Sun, July 10** – Bowling, Meridian Lanes, 6-8 p.m.
- Wed, July 20** – Youth Night, FLC, 6-9 p.m.
- Mon, July 25** – Body Body, Sanctuary Building, 6-8 p.m.

With joy,
Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com

*not really so spooky



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

"Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Matthew 13:32 NIV

Happy Summer! Anyone who knows me or visits with me for even a short time will probably know that I'm crazy about sunshine. I love nature and being outside, and summer is the perfect time to enjoy all that God has given us to rejoice in, free of charge. Summer brings gardens and flower planting too. Don't miss out on the farmers markets we have in the local area:

<https://totallyboise.com/Saturday-Farmers-Markets>

Another tidbit you may not know about me is that I love the color purple, and therefore any plant or flower that grows in that color. And there's no better way to enjoy the color purple than to trek through the nearby lavender farms. Did you know that lavender is believed to have several health benefits? For instance, lavender...

- Supports sleep
- Reduces pain and inflammation (research has shown that essential oil can help reduce headache pain)
- Kills some bacteria and some viruses
- Helps with mood, anxiety, and depression
- And it's delicious in lemonade on a hot summer day

I plan to visit a few of our local lavender farms this month:

www.thelavendermerchant.net/
www.lavenderacres.net/
www.redchairlavender.com/

What comes to mind when you think of summer? Baseball on a warm July evening? Have I got a deal for you! The Church of the Warm Heart is going to see the Boise Hawks play on July 21st at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are only \$5 and all are invited.



Here comes the sun! Don't miss out on this wonderful world! Please contact me if you have questions about any of the activities I mentioned.

Blessings & Good Health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

ADULT MINISTRIES

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"

Matthew 5: 14-16

Greetings Church!!

I just wanted to take a moment to share some picture from the Habitat for Humanity framing project. The Church of the Warm Heart team helped frame a house that will be built in Rupert, Idaho. Affordable housing is becoming quite a challenge for many in our area, but this project was a reminder that God is doing good things. We witnessed a miracle when servants from several local churches came together to serve the family that will receive this home. Ministry comes in many forms, and sometimes it involves a hammer and a nail. Thank you to our team for being the hands and feet of Christ. You are the light of the world!

Blessings,

Pastor Jen
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com



NEWS & MORE

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Celebration Choir will be singing in July!! We'd love to have anyone who loves to sing come out and join us for an anthem this July. We'll be rehearsing on Thursdays, July 7 and 14, at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary, and then singing for the 9:30 a.m. worship service on July 17. Even if you have not participated before and just want to check it out, this would be a great opportunity for you to come see what this fantastic family of musicians is all about! Hope to see you there! Contact Debbie Jones for details.

Join the Worship Team! The Warm Heart Worship Team is looking for someone to play bass with them a few Sundays a month AND looking for a keyboardist. If you or someone you know may be interested in either of these roles, please contact Debbie Jones (worshiparts@meridianumc.com) for more details.

Do you play an instrument or sing? We would love to get you plugged into music ministry here at the Church of the Warm Heart. We have various vocal and instrumental groups to join, and we welcome you to share a special offering during our services. We are now scheduling summer months. Please contact Debbie Jones if you can help.

Missed a service? Want to hear a special offering again? Be sure to check out the church website to review past services, special music pieces, and offerings from the choir, worship team, and handbell choir.

Summer Break! The Rolling Tones Chime Choir, Angels Alive Children's Choir, Celebration Choir, and Koinonia Handbell Choir are all on pause for the summer. However, we are still organizing small ensembles, and would love your help leading hymns up on the platform!

Please contact me with any questions!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	May 2022	Year to Date 2022
Given	\$46,694	\$266,719
Need	\$58,104	\$307,981
Outcome	(\$11,410)	(\$41,262)

	Giving	Expenses	Outcome
2020	\$269,427	\$304,559	(\$35,132)
2021	\$273,775	\$300,742	(\$26,967)
2022	\$266,719	\$307,981	(\$41,262)

After the books were closed for May, we find ourselves in a negative position for the year in the amount of \$41,262. Our giving has been consistent this year, but expenses continue to increase. Last month, I mentioned our new streamlined payroll system; this means that occasionally we will have three payroll periods in a month. In May we only had two payrolls which did even out the inflated expense in April. Because context is helpful, I have included figures for the first five months of the last three years.

As attendance at Sunday worship services continue to increase, we are beginning to look like the old Church of the Warm Heart. It is encouraging to see an almost full sanctuary. Increased attendance means larger offerings. We can only hope our numbers continue to increase in both attendance and giving. I do expect that expenses will continue to rise, due to inflation. About this time of the year as we head into the summer months and the travel season, I begin to worry about an increasing deficit. Please remember that even if you are gone, our church expenses are still here. And you can still stay connected to your church family while you're out of town, by watching our services or Bible study online.

I continue to encourage each of you to pray about our church finances, our staff, and those who may be hurting in our church family, our local community, and worldwide.

There are many ways to make a gift to the Church of the Warm Heart. Please check the website for instructions to make an online gift or the correct address for old-fashioned snail mail check writing.

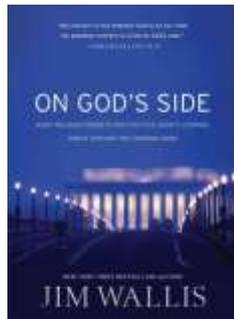
If you have questions regarding our church finances, please contact Lori Jones, Finance Committee Co-Chair, at lhjones2021@gmail.com, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chair, at maroontycoon63@gmail.com.

NEWS & MORE

THE BOOK NOOK

By Claudia Moberly

If you've ever looked around and thought maybe the world could be just a little bit better, the book reviewed this month might give you some ideas on how to accomplish that. Rev. Jim Wallis, Founder and CEO of Sojourners, has written *On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned About Serving the Common Good*.



In this book, Wallis asks a fundamental question: Why did Jesus come? Why? Faith communities have answered that question in different ways at different times in history. Wallis proposes that Jesus' earliest public teachings give insight into the answer. His very first "sermon" was taken from Isaiah, and He says he has come to fulfill this scripture: "to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Shortly after that, He gives his longest recorded teaching, what we now call The Sermon on the Mount, which up-ends common wisdom and proclaims a new social order. Perhaps most revealing is His teaching recorded in Matthew 25, when Jesus is seated on his glorious throne separating the nations before him as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." All those listening asked, "When did I see you hungry or thirsty?" And Jesus response was, "As you did (or didn't) do to one of the least of these, you did (or didn't) do to me." In this passage, Jesus is strong in his condemnation of those who do not respond to "the least".

The idea of the common good is central to Jesus' ministry and foundational to healthy communities, nations, and the world. Jesus lifted up the least of these. The Preamble to our own Constitution speaks of promoting the general welfare. Where we have lost sight of that, we must refocus our vision of leadership and stewardship. Faith communities need to offer tangible hope in times of trouble and comfort to those afflicted. Christians should always be working to bring about the Kingdom of God, creating a better life for everyone, together.

The themes of Jesus' teachings in the New Testament include growing closer to God, personal salvation, and eternal life in heaven. But the heart of the message of Jesus was a new order breaking into history, changing everything about the world, including us.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

By Dixie Jacky, UWFaith President

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Galatians 5: 22-24

Be sure to check www.meridianumc.com/UWFaith for our monthly devotional.

Mission U: This month we can grow in faith with our sisters from around the conference as we attend Mission U. This is going to a hybrid event, meaning you can attend virtually or in person, and we have two opportunities to do just that. Both sessions will be the same. To register and for complete information on schedule and study leaders, go to...

www.umi.org/umwmissionu

Here are some quick details:

WHO CAN WE BE TOGETHER
A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13

1 hour worship first evening,
morning and afternoon classes days 2 & 3

July 14 – 16, Virtual Only
July 29 – 31, Virtual or in person at Hillview UMC

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (No Charge)

Days for Girls: We will try to reschedule the Day for Girls event later in the fall or early winter, so watch for that announcement. Thank you so much for your generous donations! They have been delivered to Days For Girls Meridian for immediate use.

UWFaith Book Club: The United Women in Faith has formed a book club that will loosely follow the UWFaith Reading Program. You will need to obtain your own copy of the book. Consider finding copies at your school or public library, local independent bookstores, bookstore chains, or Amazon.

Despite the name, you do not have to be a UWFaith member to participate! Join us bimonthly in the FLC at 12:30 p.m., and bring a lunch for a brief period of fellowship. A one hour discussion begins at 1:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on August 17th, and we will be discussing the book *Finding Jesus at the Border*, by Julia Lambert Fogg.

Dixie Jacky
United Women in Faith President



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

July Events to Celebrate!

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

July 4 – *Independence Day!*

July 10 – *Youth Bowling Night*

July 21 – *Boise Hawks Game*

August 1 – *Blood Drive*

August

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

**Monday,
July 25th**

Submissions may be
emailed to Jacob Walker at

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!