

FOOTPRINTS

August 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 August 2022

08.07.2022

I Don't Want to Be a Sheep

Psalms 23



08.14.2022

The Love Chapter

I Corinthians 13



08.21.2022

Stop Following Me!

Ruth 1:1-18



08.28.2022

Walk Humbly

Micah 6:6-8



MERRY METHODISTS

Come join our M&M's on August 21st for a potluck dinner in the FLC! This group meets every third Sunday, and all are welcome! For more information, contact Cheryl Mulvihill at [208-995-7177](tel:208-995-7177)

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 are available in the FLC, and the deadline to register is August 15.



FALL KICK OFF

Let's get everyone together again to celebrate a new year of programming and fellowship at Church of the Warm Heart! Join us on September 11th for a picnic across the street in Centennial Park. Bring a side dish to share and chairs or blankets to make yourself comfortable.



JOIN THE MEDIA TEAM

We are always on the lookout for more helping hands in the balcony on Sunday mornings. No experience necessary! If you know how to aim a camera, move a mouse, or use an iPad, you're qualified. Donut bribes are available. If interested, contact Jacob Walker at



production@meridianumc.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 August Sermon Series, Highlighted Happenings
- 2 Inside Page
Membership Info, Art Wall
- 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
- 8 Back Page August Events Calendar

July

NEW MEMBERS:

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

Mary Ann Porter
Steve Johnson

BAPTISMS:



ART WANTED

Have you seen the art wall outside our sanctuary? Did you notice that all of the art comes from members and friends of our congregation? We would love to showcase your talent, too! Painting, photography, cross stitching—if you made it, we want to see it. If interested, contact the church office.

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,

Just a word of thanks.

Three thousand years ago, King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel. In his heart, he wanted to build a temple to God. However, that job would be left to his son Solomon. But we read in I Chronicles that:

“David prepared large quantities of iron to make the nails for the doors of the gates and for the clamps, and more bronze than could be weighed; and timbers of cedar logs beyond number.”

Later on, it says, they “prepared for the house of the Lord 100,000 talents of gold and 1,000,000 talents of silver and bronze and iron beyond weight, for they are in great quantity; also timber and stone I have prepared.” David provided in one generation for the spiritual work of the next generation. He laid the groundwork for his son to begin his work.



Likewise, here at Meridian UMC, we have an endowment that provides for future ministry - for the next year, the next decade, the next generations to come. Funds set aside for the future work of our church. Believe it or not, we have seven different funds in what we call our "Legacy Funds":

General Endowment - To be used for projects and budget as directed by the Church Council.

Capital Improvement Endowment - To be used for building and property needs.

Bushby-Judd Scholarship Endowment - Scholarship funds as directed by our Scholarship Committee

Childs-Luscombe Scholarship Endowment - Also directed by our Scholarship Committee, this supports students in school, especially the arts.

Hoalst Camp Scholarship Endowment - Set up to help kids and youth attend church camp.

Pridmore Youth Missions Endowment - Created to help our youth attend the yearly mission trip.

Special Fund - Our long-term savings that will be used in times of stress or opportunity.

Beginning this year, these funds will be professionally managed by Faith Foundation Northwest.

Thank you to our Foundation team, led by Chair Gerry Mattison, and the generous members who make the Legacy Fund a part of their giving. Blessings to those whom these funds help and serve.

For more information about the Legacy Fund, how to give or even create a new fund, its committee and/or how to serve, please ask Gerry or myself. We don't have 1,000,000 talents of gold - but we certainly can change lives with what we have been blessed with!

See you in worship!

Pastor Mike
pastormike@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Greetings Warm Heart Families,

We are down to one last month of summer. Sigh! The good news is there is still time to check off any remaining items on your summer bucket list! If one of those items are to get together with the kids and families from church, I've got some options for you! We will be meeting at Settler's Park on **Friday, August 5th** for to watch Aladdin at Meridian's Sparklight Movie Night. Let me know by Wednesday, August 3rd, if you'll be attending, so I will have plenty of treats for your family to enjoy during the movie. We had so much fun last month playing in the water that we are going to do it again this month. This time we'll meet at my community pool that has a splash pad and a shallow kiddie play area. The pool party and ice cream social will be on **Thursday, August 11**, at 10 a.m. Please let me know by Tuesday, August 9th, if you'll be able to make it.

It's only one month until our Warm Heart Family 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! Please let me know ASAP if you would like to join us. The deadline to sign up is **August 15**. The cost is \$75 for adults, \$25 for kids 4-12 years, and no charge for kids 3 and younger. Scholarships are available and scholarship forms are in the FLC under the Warm Heart Kids bulletin board. Sign up forms can be found in the FLC and the narthex.

Have a great month and I hope to see you soon!

In His Service,

Cassie Collins
children@meridianumc.com



Pictured: Splash pad fun!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

We've got one more month of Youth Nights before we settle into a new school-year routine. With art supplies, snacks, board games, 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 form an alliance with others to petition for Body Body. Choose your own adventure, if you will!

It's time for that summer tradition of pool parties! Bring your towel and a snack to share on Sunday evening, August 7, as we meet up at the Collins' neighborhood pool for some splashy water fun.

Body Body Night also returns on August 28. Who will draw the jack? Who will end up on the floor? It's a youth group classic, and you should be part of it.

- Wednesday, August 3** – Youth Night, FLC, 6-9 pm
- Sunday, August 7** – Pool Party, Collins' neighborhood pool, 6-8 pm
- Wednesday, August 17** – Youth Night, FLC, 6-9 pm
- Sunday, August 28** – Body Body, Sanctuary Building, 6-8 pm

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



Pictured: A group of victorious teenagers, shortly after crushing their youth leader at bowling.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Sadly, in Ada County our community COVID level is high once again. That's why self-tests along with vaccination, wearing a well-fitted mask, and physical distancing are important steps to protect yourself and others. Don't forget you can get free at-home COVID tests! Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order a 3rd round of free at-home tests. You can order yours by visiting...

www.covid.gov/tests



Save the date! Our Warm Heart women will return to Pilgrim's Cove on October 21-23 for a Ladies Retreat. We hope that you can join us!

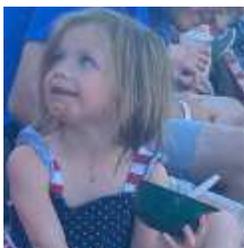
Let's meet for fun and fellowship at Coyne's restaurant in Eagle on Wednesday, August 17th at 4 p.m. Please RSVP with Lisa Miller so we can have the correct seating count.



Finally, I just wanted to share some photos from our church outing to the Hawks game last month. It was so much fun. Thank you to all 44 people who joined us!!!

Blessings and good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



ADULT MINISTRIES

"For he is the living God
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will not be destroyed,
his dominion will never end.
He rescues and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.
He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions."

- Daniel 6: 26-27

Greetings Church Family!!

Did you know that we have a Bible study on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.? It's true!! We are small but mighty, and we would love for you to join us. We are currently studying the book of Daniel. You may remember learning about the fiery furnace or the story of Daniel and the lion's den in Sunday School when you were little. Our group is taking a deeper dive into the symbology and historical context of the apocalyptic literature of Daniel while adding a light touch of daily application to the messages of hope that are unveiled throughout the book.

Here's a small sample of the types of things we've discussed:

The Book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature. The word apocalypse often conjures scary images of the end of days, but in reality, it simply means an "unveiling" of something that was not known.

Also, the Book of Daniel is categorized as one of the Major Prophets in the Bible and it takes place right after the Babylonian Empire conquered the lower kingdom of Judah, when the people of Judah were taken into exile. Daniel was one of the exiles.

It was a period of uncertainty and great despair. With this in mind, Daniel was written for a specific audience at a specific time for a specific purpose to unveil lessons that are still relevant today such as:

- God has not abandoned us
- God is always with us
- We will experience times of struggle but they are temporary
- God will see us through our troubles

If any of this sounds interesting and you enjoy study, discussion, and fellowship in a small group setting, this is perfect for you! There's no need to sign up – just show up in FLC classroom #2 on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. I hope to see you there!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jen
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com

NEWS & MORE

MUSIC MINISTRY

Did you know there are actually emotional and physical benefits from singing in a choir or participating in a music ensemble? Science has shown that folks who participate in such musical groups experience a greater feeling of togetherness, regulated heart rates, reduced levels of stress and depression, improved feelings of social well-being, and have improved working memory and lung capacity. Come experience the joy of making music while engaging in fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ at Church of the Warm Heart! Here are some opportunities for you:

The Celebration Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday, September 1st. Anyone who loves singing (9th grade-99 yrs!) is welcome to join us! We rehearse and sing in our weekly worship services, offer cantatas for high holidays, and more!

The Koinonia Handbell Choir, our 4-octave handbell choir for adults, also resumes rehearsals on Thursday, September 1st. We are always on the lookout for more ringers!

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 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 me with any questions!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	May 2022	Year to Date 2022
Given	\$91,139	\$357,859
Need	\$56,676	\$364,658
Outcome	\$34,463	(\$6,799)

	Giving	Expenses	Outcome
2020	\$314,151	\$365,708	(\$51,557)
2021	\$322,657	\$369,855	(\$47,198)
2022	\$357,859	\$364,658	(\$6,799)

I can sleep better since closing the books for June, as we have cut our deficit from \$41,262 to only \$6,799. Although we are still in the red, this is the lowest negative position for this time of the year since I have been your Stewardship Chairman.

I have been involved in some sort of philanthropic position for the last 40+years. I am always interested in trends and how any of my charities of interest stack up against other like organizations. Here are some facts from the 2021 Giving USA report.

- Overall giving increased by 4% between 2020 and 2021. By comparison, the increase between 2019 and 2020 was 9.4%. But let us be happy that giving continues to be on the increase.
- Religion still reigns in the #1 spot for charitable giving at 27%. Hooray! That is the good news. But overall levels of religious giving have fallen over time. In 1982, religious giving made up 58% of all donations. This is a concerning trend.
- Religious giving in 2021 grew by 5.4%, but given inflation, stayed flat from 2021. Even if people were not able to worship in person, they were still faithfully giving.

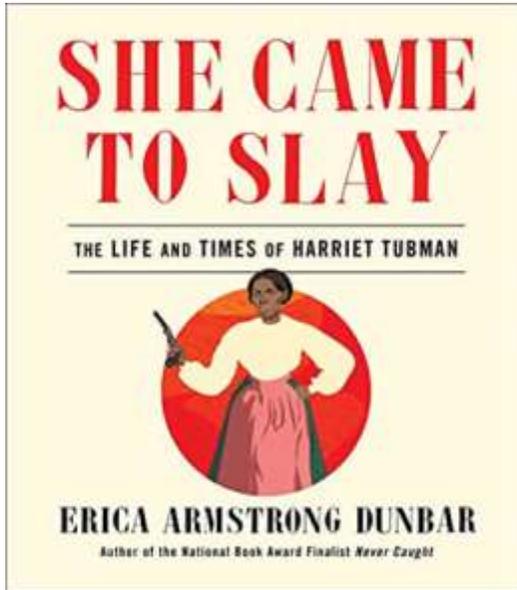
I would say that we are at or even above the norm based on these statistics. We did maintain a steady giving rate from our members and those unable to attend did continue to give by various means. Bottom line - our members are faithful, loyal, and will make sacrifices if needed to empower the mission of the Church of the Warm Heart: *loving all, changing hearts, and transforming lives*. 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, or worldwide. 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



Harriet Tubman is widely known as a conductor on the Underground Railroad in the years before the American Civil War. But this woman did so much more in her long life! Erica Armstrong Dunbar, in her book *She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman*, introduces readers to many more aspects of this remarkable woman.

After her own harrowing escape from slavery in Maryland, Tubman made thirteen trips back into slave states, with a price on her head, to free more than sixty people from their bondage. She served as a nurse for the Union Army, operated as a commissioned spy during the Civil War, used her visions to guide her trips south, crossed eight states and into Canada to get her family to safety, became a suffragist, and made friends with powerful contemporary personalities such as Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth. She eventually became a home owner and supported her large extended family through gardening, raising chickens, and, after a long, relentless fight with the United States government, with payment for her services in the Civil War.

Tubman's deep and unwavering faith strengthened her throughout her life. She always believed the visions she had following a traumatic head injury were God's guiding voice, keeping her, and the people she was caring for, safe.

This book was the United Women in Faith Book Club selection for April. Our next book, to be discussed in August, will be *Finding Jesus At the Border*, by Julia Lambert Fogg, and is available on the kiosk outside the Family Life Center kitchen. Everyone is welcome to join us! The books are outstanding, the discussions are lively, and gathering together is a wonderful gift after so much time apart.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

By Dixie Jacky, UWFaith President



Did you know the UWFaith has a monthly devotion posted on the on UMC website? The devotion is taken from the UWFaith Daily Prayer Guide and shares a scripture, reflection, and highlighted mission projects that are recipients of our Pledge to Mission. I encourage you to read this monthly and consider a donation to our Pledge to Mission.

<https://meridianumc.com/UWFaith>

Our Sage District Annual Meeting will be **Saturday, September 10**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (MST). It will be an in-person meeting at Nampa First UMC. This meeting's theme is "Gratitude is not just an Attitude," and the guest speaker is our own Linda Murphy. Please save the date for this time of gathering, sharing, and worship. More information will follow, and registration will be handled by contacting Dixie (**208-680-5112**) or Evelyn (**208-695-5261**).

The Warm-Hearted Book Club will meet August 18 in FLC #2 at 12:30 p.m. Please bring your brown bag lunch. After lunch, we'll discuss the book, "Finding Jesus at the Border," by Rev. Dr. Julia Fogg. Paula Young will be leading this month's discussion.



In the wake of the Uvalde school shooting, communities around the country are rushing to "harden" schools with increased police presence. But will these efforts really make schools safe for students of color, or will it strengthen the school-to-prison pipeline? The UWFaith will be holding a special Faith Talks on **Aug 4th** at 2 p.m. EST for this important discussion. Check our website to register!



Other upcoming events for you to have on your radar:

- Winter Book Study: *Love is the Way*, by Bishop Michael Currey, a 6-week study led by Jen Hunkovic, starting date TBA
- December 10: Christmas Brunch, with Boise Choristers
- Jan 21, 2023: Joining with Ladies Night Out for Days for Girls Sewing Event; call Dixie or Lisa to sign up.

Blessing to you all,

Dixie Jacky
United Women in Faith President



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

August Events to Celebrate!

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

August 5 – Family Movie Night at Settlers Park

August 15 – All Church Camp Registration Deadline

August 17 – First Day of School (Boise)

August 23 – First Day of School (West Ada)

Keep all of our students in your prayers!

September

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Thursday,

August 25th

Submissions may be
emailed to Jacob Walker at

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!