

FOOTPRINTS

September 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 September 2022

09.04.2022

Don't Lose

Mark 8:34-35



09.11.2022

Go Ahead, Make Plans

Jeremiah 29:4-14



09.18.2022

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12



09.25.2022

And it Was Good!

Genesis 1

FALL KICK OFF



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

DIAPERS, WIPES, & ONESIES

From Aug 21 through Sept 11, we will collect the following items (donation bin in FLC) to benefit local charities:

- Diapers sizes 3mo-6mo and 2T – 5T
- Baby Wipes
- Gently used baby clothes, infant to age 3



If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Jen.

OCTOBER BLOOD DRIVE



Our next blood drive will be held on October 3rd, from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Did you know that in the U.S. alone, a blood transfusion is needed approximately every two seconds? To keep up with that demand, we need over 38,000 donations each day. To do your part and schedule a donation, contact Lisa Miller.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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August

NEW MEMBERS:

James & Melissa Bovet
Tim & Tammee Fackelman
Jamie & Angel Rettinger

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

Dick Jones
Ruth Ann Hutson

BAPTISMS:



Gift Card Scam Alert

We have received a number of reports recently from members of the congregation about suspicious emails that *appear* to be from ministry staff. While we are certainly not above asking for gift card donations, we will always ask that they be donated in person, and never by sending us the gift card numbers by email. If in doubt, please call 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



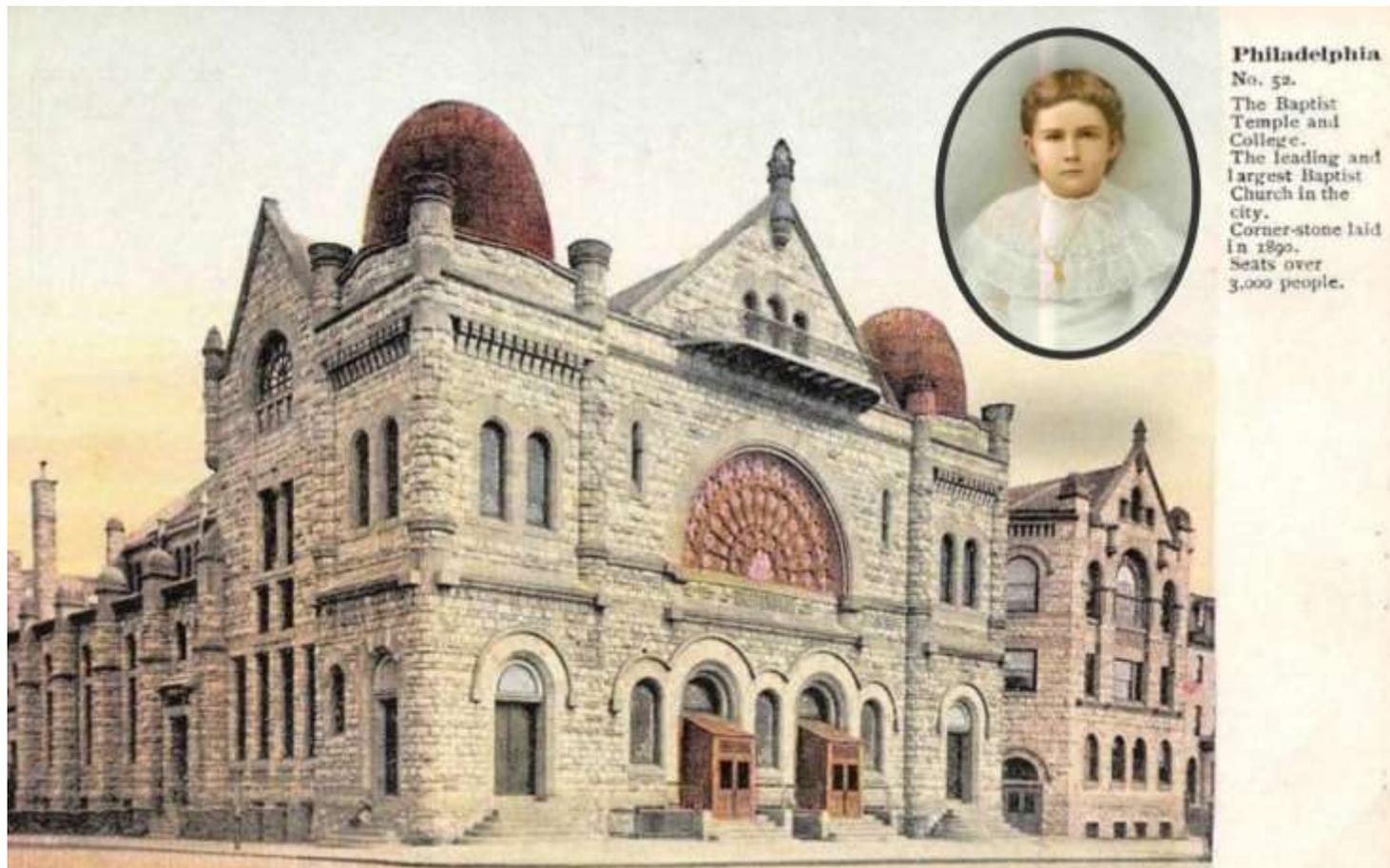
Dear Warm Heart Family and Friends,

What is the power of fifty-seven pennies?

Fifty-seven pennies that were found under a little girl's pillow when she died left their mark on Philadelphia. The girl wanted to attend a little Sunday school in Philadelphia, and was told that there was not enough room. She began saving her pennies to "help the Sunday school have more room."

Two years later, she became ill and died, and her family found a small pocket book under her pillow with fifty-seven pennies and a piece of paper that had the following note written very neatly: "To build the Little Temple bigger, so more children can go to Sunday school." Hattie Wiatt was only six when she died of diphtheria. Her younger sister died five days later of the same.

The pastor received the pennies from the family, as they shared how Hattie hoped more kids could go to Sunday school. The pastor later told the story to his congregation, and a newspaper took the story across the country. Soon the pile of pennies grew, and the outcome can still be seen in Philadelphia today. There is a church which seats 3,300 persons, a Temple University which accommodates thousands of students, a Temple Hospital, and a large Temple Sunday school. And it all began with a beautiful, dedicated spirit—and her 57 pennies.



Temple University (now at 35,000 students) began with the idea that everyone should have the ability to go to Sunday School. We give thanks for our staff and teachers here at the Church of the Warm Heart who help our kids on their faith journeys. We are also thankful for those who teach in the school system. And for all of you, who in your own way, help our children and youth build their relationships with God through your teaching, worship, and care.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Mike
pastormike@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Greetings Warm Heart Families,

It's hard to believe that summer is over and we are back to school already! It was a great break, but now it's time to get into the rhythms of a new school year. Here at the Church of the Warm Heart, we have lots of activities and events to keep our kids connected to Jesus and each other.

We'll kick off the month with Church Camp in McCall. If you were unable to make it this year, we hope you'll be able to join us next year! Please note that there will be no Sunday school on September 4, but there will be goodie bags for attending kids to enjoy during the service.

September 11 is our Fall Kick-Off, and we'll resume second service Sunday school that day. Make sure to join us after second service for a picnic at the park across the street. We'll have hamburgers and hotdogs, but bring your chairs or blankets if you want a comfy place to sit. We will also have a bounce house!

On Wednesday, **September 14**, we will resume Pioneer Club. Class is from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and is a fun time with friends playing games, singing, and learning about God's word and Jesus' love. To celebrate our first night back, we'll be having an ice cream social, and everyone is welcome to bring a friend or two!

Lastly, on **September 16**, we will have Parent's Night Out from 6 - 8:30 p.m.. This is an event that will be available to families on the third Friday of the month throughout the school year. If you have questions about any of these events or any children's programming at MUMC, please email me or come by my office, I'd love to chat with you!

In His Service,

Cassie Collins
children@meridianumc.com



Thank you for your generous school supply donations!
(this is just a fraction of what you gave)

YOUTH MINISTRIES

The start of a new school year brings so much! Excitement, anxiety, flurries of new activity, the comfort of predictable routines...it also brings a renewed commitment to things going on at church!

Rolling Tones and Middle School Youth Group are coming back on Wednesday nights, and it's going to be a blast! What tunes will we learn to play together on the chimes? What games will we play in Middle School Youth Group? Come find out and be a part of the madness. It all starts September 7.

For most of this fall, the high school youth group will be doing the Alpha Youth series, a nine-week course of faith exploration centered around some of life's deep questions. We'll begin on September 25 and go through December 4, with two Sundays off in there and one weekend away in Garden Valley! If you haven't already committed to this course, sign up with Nicole as soon as possible – dinner will be provided on Alpha weeks, so we need to have a good estimate of our group size.

Rolling Tones Chime Choir (All Grades)
Wednesday nights, 6 – 6:30 p.m.

Middle School Youth Group
Wednesday nights, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Outdoor Movie Night (All Grades)
Saturday, September 10, 8:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Mind Games (High School)
Sunday, September 18, 6 – 8 p.m.

Alpha Youth (High School)
Sunday, September 25, 6 – 8 p.m.

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com

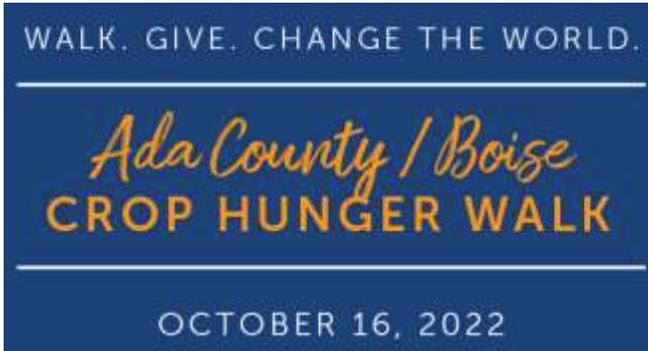


End of summer pool party!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

We have a couple of events coming up that I want to highlight!



Crop Walks are community events that raise funds to end hunger locally (25% of funds stay here with our Idaho food banks) and around the world. Everyone is welcome to join. Your participation impacts families in more than 35 countries. In many developing countries, people walk up to six miles a day to get food and water. One in nine people lacks access to clean water and a healthy diet. We walk to bring awareness. The Crop Hunger Walk is the only nationwide walk that addresses hunger both locally and globally. I hope you'll join me on October 16th to exercise for a good cause.



Calling all ladies! It's retreat time! In a world full of change, sometimes it's hard to see the blessings. Come join us at Pilgrim Cove Camp. Our very own Pastor Jen will lead us on a wild adventure of scriptures, devotionals, and open discussions. We need other women in our lives to lean on. We need each other. We need you!

Join us on October 21-23 at Pilgrim Cove Camp in McCall on the beautiful Payette Lake. The cost is \$80 for two nights' lodging and meals. Scholarships are available.

You can register on the church website - please contact me if you have any questions.

Blessings and good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

ADULT MINISTRIES

Greetings Warm Heart family!

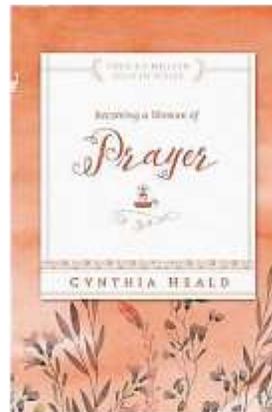
I want to highlight two upcoming opportunities.

First, we will be hosting an Alpha class starting this month. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe; online, in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it! No two Alphas look the same, but they generally have three key things in common: hospitality, a talk, and good conversation.



The class will meet from 9 - 11 a.m. on Mondays, Sep 12 through Nov 14, and breakfast will be provided! We will also meet for a special weekend session on Oct 19. We hope you can join us, but space is limited, so contact me to sign up. Come enjoy breakfast at the church and explore your faith (or doubt) in an open and safe environment.

We are also starting a new ladies' study of the book *Becoming a Woman of Prayer* by Cynthia Heald.



So often we think of prayer as something we do to break through to God—to get his attention and to get him to listen to us. But intimacy with God is his idea. He has taken the initiative, and prayer is his gift to us. It is an opportunity for us to respond to his invitation to intimacy by calling, crying, and singing to him. Prayer is our response to the One who has called out to us and desires to be in a relationship with us.

In *Becoming a Woman of Prayer*, Cynthia Heald will encourage you to respond to God's invitation to deeper intimacy with him.

Interested? Join us! We will meet on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. on Zoom, beginning September 12. You can register by calling the church office.

I hope that you can join us for one of these classes.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jen
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com

NEWS & MORE

MUSIC MINISTRY

It's time to kick off the new music season at the Church of the Warm Heart! Check out these opportunities for you and your family!

The Celebration Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday, September 1st, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Anyone who loves singing (9th grade-99 yrs!) is welcome to join us! We will be working on weekly anthems and our musical offering for the 150th Anniversary concert at the Cathedral of the Rockies on October 15.

The Koinonia Handbell Choir, our 4-octave handbell choir for adults, also resumes rehearsals on Thursday, September 1st. This group meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We are always on the lookout for more ringers! Look for our first offering on Sunday, September 18, at both services!

The Rolling Tones Chime Choir welcomes any youth grades 6-12 to come ring tone chimes and make some music together. No experience necessary! Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 7, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The Angels Alive Choir will resume meeting as part of Wednesday night Pioneer Club on September 14. These children engage and learn through singing, ringing bells, and skits. They also share music during worship services and special events.

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.

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

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

| For General Operations: | July 2022 | Year to Date 2022 |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Given | \$36,416 | \$394,275 |
| Need | \$52,033 | \$416,691 |
| Outcome | (\$15,617) | (\$22,416) |

| | Giving | Expenses | Outcome |
|------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 2020 | \$365,875 | \$431,042 | (\$65,167) |
| 2021 | \$370,031 | \$433,109 | (\$62,738) |
| 2022 | \$394,275 | \$416,691 | (\$22,416) |

Though our deficit has grown to \$22,416, this is the lowest end-of-July deficit in the last three years. Note the closeness of the expenditures when comparing the last three years. We are in a better than usual financial position, but we must continue to show improvement as we head into the last quarter of 2022. Based on 2021 figures, we will need to average monthly giving of \$66,292 to break even for the year. This is my goal.

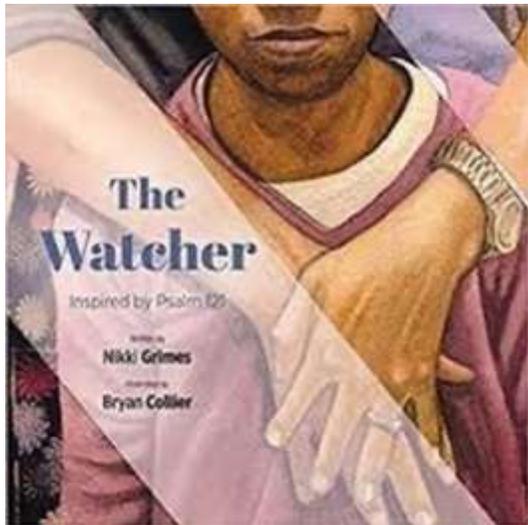
The Church of the Warm Heart is blessed to have many volunteers, and the Finance Committee is no exception. I attended the memorial service for Mary Ann Porter last month. I don't know if anyone ever thanked her and Alice Jerome, who faithfully counted money every Sunday for over 10 years. That allowed Carol Ravine to then keep track of individual giving for tax purposes. Currently, we have a great volunteer team that collects the offering plates and locks them up until Monday when the money is counted and deposited and an accounting is recorded for tax purposes. A special thank you to Lori Jones, Dixie Jacky, Nancy Rountree, Diana Rolig, Mike McKinnis, Maria Akers, and my wife, Diane, for all they do to keep an accurate record of our giving that is in keeping with sound accounting principles and all applicable laws.

Overall, we are in a healthy financial position, but let's not get lazy. As always, I 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



Have you noticed that the best children's books also have important messages for adults? *The Watcher*, by Nikki Grimes and Bryan Collier, is one of these. The organizing structure for this series of poems is Psalm 121, which begins, "I lift up my eyes to the hills." Through clever incorporation of this psalm, Nikki Grimes creates a collection of short poems that bring two characters, Jordan and Tanya, to life, letting us in on their fears, hopes, and journeys to be the people God created them to be. The unlikely friendship between these two is a warm, heartening story of overcoming differences and seeing God in the people around us.

Each year, the United Women in Faith Reading List includes books suitable for children, and this book comes from the Spiritual Growth section of the list. It is available through the public library or your favorite book store. It is a quick little read, but I think you'll find, as I did, that you return again and again to reread it, finding new insights, nuances, and joy every time through.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH By Dixie Jacky, UWFaith President

**Sage District Annual Celebration,
September 10, Nampa UMC
(In-person or Virtual)**

The Sage District United Women in Faith will be holding their annual celebration on September 10, and this year you can attend in person (bring a mask!) or virtually. The theme will be "Gratitude Is Just Not an Attitude", and the guest speaker is Meridian UWFaith's own Linda Murphy.

Advanced registration (for in-person or virtual) is required by calling Evelyn Battema at **208-695-5261** or emailing her at ebattema3@msn.com. For more specifics about the annual celebration, visit our website!

National Day of Service

In honor of the National Day of Service, we have joined forces with another church to collect baby supplies. Starting Sunday, August 21, 2022, through Sunday, September 11, 2022, we will be collecting the following items to support Idaho Diaper Bank and Birthright:

- Diapers, sizes 3mo-6mo and 2T – 5T
- Baby Wipes
- Gently used baby clothes, infant to age 3

The United Women in Faith will be bundling diapers and other items on Tuesday, September 13, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at a local warehouse. We still need a few volunteers to work that night. Please call Dixie Jacky at **208-680-5112** to volunteer.

Don't forget to go to our website...

<https://www.meridianumc.com/UWFaith>

...to read the September devotion and learn about other opportunities for serving and growing in faith.

Dixie Jacky
United Women in Faith President

QUILTERS' CORNER

Request For Veterans - The Warm Hearted Quilters would like to present a few quilts to our older veterans, and are asking for names of veterans who are members of Meridian United Methodist Church. Please send a nomination to a quilter or the church office by October 1st.

Quilts for Sale - And don't forget that our Quilters have quilts for sale, on display in the FLC (current options pictured left). Proceeds are used to buy materials for future quilts so we can continue our mission of provided warmth and love to those in need in our area.



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

September Events to Celebrate!

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

September 2-5 – *Warm Heart Church Camp in McCall*

September 11 – *Fall Kick Off Picnic, 12:30 p.m.*

September 16 – *Parent's Night Out, 6 – 8:30 p.m.*

September 18 – *Celebration Choir Returns to first service*

October

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Monday,

September 26th

Submissions may be
emailed to Jacob Walker at

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!