

FOOTPRINTS

October 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 October 2022

10.02.2022

What to Think About
Philippians 4:4-9



10.09.2022

No Powers

Romans 8:35-39



10.16.2022

What Time is It?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14, 22



10.23.2022

The Greatest Verse

John 3:16



10.30.2022

Our Father, Who Art in Heaven

Psalms 115:1-9; Matthew 6:9-13

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our annual charge conference will be held on October 16th at 1:15 p.m., over Zoom. Links will be sent to participants.

BIG CHANGES IN MERIDIAN

Meridian's "Civic Block" project is now approved and will begin construction early next year across the street from the church—replacing Centennial Park, the Valley Ride Transit parking lot, and the City Community Center. It will include commercial space on the first floor, two floors of parking, four floors of apartments (200 units), and a floor with amenities including a courtyard for the tenants—a total of eight floors. Also, the space on East 2nd Street from Broadway to Pine will convert into a festival street and open space for community events. On-street parking will be available when events are not being held.

However, there is a major project to take place first—relocation and replacement of the Hunter Lateral underground canal pipe. Starting in mid-October (when the water is out of the canal) the relocation of the pipe that runs diagonally across the park site will be dug up and replaced with new piping—from the Idaho Ave. irrigation box east to E. 3rd St. and south on E. 3rd St. Also, the pipe that runs underground on the west side of the church property from Pine to Idaho Avenue will be dug up and replaced at a future date.

The first phase of this canal project will temporarily take away parking on Idaho Ave. in front of the church. However, when building construction begins, the angled parking on the north side and east side of the park, along with the Valley Ride parking lot, will no longer exist.

The church's Board of Trustees and Administrative Council are working on parking alternatives and will communicate this information to you as soon as possible.

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, October 9th, and help us show Pastor Mike how much he means to us! A basket will be available to collect thank you cards, and the SPPRC kindly requests a one-week moratorium on sermon complaints.

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September

NEW MEMBERS:

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

BAPTISMS:



It won't surprise you to learn that we are always on the lookout for helping hands. Whether you are passing the plates, serving coffee, or greeting visitors, every little bit helps. Check the signup sheets in the Narthex for opportunities to show that Warm Heart spirit.

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](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

Warm Heart Family,

Back in 1933, the world was as fractured as it had been in a great while. The world had not healed the divisions of the Great War. That year saw Adolf Hitler's rise and consolidation of power in Nazi Germany, and a second great war in Europe was becoming more and more inevitable. It was also the worst year of the Great Depression, with over a quarter of able Americans out of work and people around the world in financial despair. Racial tensions caused rifts across the country. Sunday morning was one of the most segregated times of the week. During this time, even people of faith didn't interact with other denominations.

One lone Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh had an idea. Dr. Kerr, pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church, wanted to bring various churches in the area together for a service focused on unity. He felt that one thing that unites us all in the Christian faith is the celebration of Holy Communion. Kerr wanted the service to be a celebration of Christian unity with Communion as the primary exhibition of this united nature. So he began inviting congregations to celebrate Communion on the same day to emphasize unity and solidarity. By 1940, when the day was approved by the Federal Council of Churches, the war had begun in Europe. World Wide Communion Sunday, as it was originally called, attempted to bring churches together in a service of Christian togetherness in an extremely turbulent time.

Almost 90 years later, we still participate in World Communion Sunday. Churches across the world come together and share the ancient meal. The world seems divided again. Anything we can do to restore unity and purpose is a blessing.

On the first Sunday of October, join us in worship as we continue the tradition of receiving the bread and the cup - knowing that the Lord's Table is wider and greater than we can imagine or believe. We will actually have baskets of bread and cups of juice! To highlight the unity we find in our diversity, you will have a choice of breads from around the world. Thanks to Elaine and Debbie - who are decorating our altar and worship space - you will definitely notice a harvest theme. And for the old-school Methodists who may remember the formal language of Communion, I will also lead us in the traditional liturgy of Communion, commonly referred to as The Great Thanksgiving.

See you in worship!

Pastor Mike
pastormike@meridianumc.com

P.S. Our nominations team is preparing our slate of church leaders for 2023. Usually, this means that our team asks individuals to consider serving for a term on one of our committees. However, we might miss someone who is qualified and/or interested. If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself) for one of our teams, please let Pastor Mike or Lay Leader Dean Kubena know. We will work on nominations over September and October.

Here are our current openings:

Administrative Council:

- Two spots for terms ending in 2025
- United Methodist Rep
- Youth Rep
- Young Adult Rep

(Meets once a month)

Staff Pastor-Parish relations Team:

- One spot for a term that ends in 2024
- Two spots for terms ending in 2025

(Meets once a month)

Finance Team

- Two spots for terms ending in 2025

(Meets once a month)

Trustees Team

- Two spots for a term that ends in 2024
- Two spots for terms ending in 2025

(Meets once a month)

Nominations Team

- Two spots for terms ending in 2025

(Meets as needed)

Scholarship Team

- Two spots

(Meets as needed)

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Greetings Warm Heart Families,

What a fun September we had! Church Camp, the kickoff picnic, getting back to Sunday school during both services, Pioneer Club on Wednesdays, and Parent's Night Out. The fun continues in October! This month, besides our regularly scheduled activities, we will also have our Family Fall Festival on **Saturday, October 29, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** We hope you can join us in the FLC for some fun, fellowship, a hot dog dinner, bounce house, and games!

Do you have a desire to make a difference in God's kingdom? Our kids are the future of the church, and they need you! We need caring, Christ-loving adults to lead Sunday School, help out occasionally with events, and assist some Wednesday nights. Can you commit to one Sunday a month? We make teaching Sunday School painless and fun; everything is ready for you, so you just need to show up with a loving heart. If you feel God calling you, please let me know. I'd love to have a conversation with you. I hope you all have a blessed month!

In His Service,

Cassie Collins
children@meridianumc.com

OCTOBER EVENTS

WEDNESDAYS 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26
Pioneer Club & Angel's Alive Choir
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY 10/21
Parent's Night Out
6:00-8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 10/29
Family Fall Festival
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Church Camp!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

October is an eventful month in the life of the Warm Heart Youth. In addition to our regular Alpha Youth meetings and MS YG nights, there are several opportunities for serving and volunteering, both inside and outside the church buildings.

October 9 – Empty Bowls
12:30 p.m., FLC

Bring a lunch and paint a bowl for the Idaho Foodbank's annual fundraiser! A suggested donation of \$10/bowl will help offset the youth group's costs and further the fundraising mission.

October 16 – CROP Walk
3:00 p.m., Julia Davis Shelter #2

Walker with others from our church and community to raise awareness of the food and water insecurities faced by so many. **Give** to make tangible differences in people's access.

October 27 – City of Meridian's Trunk or Treat
5:00 – 9:00 p.m., downtown Meridian

Our church is going to have a trunk in the city's event! Volunteer with Nicole and Pastor Mike to hand out candy and bring our neighbors joy.

October 29 – Family Fall Festival
4:00 – 6:00 p.m., FLC

Volunteer in-house to run carnival-type games for the Warm Heart Kids and their friends.

Looking for a complete calendar of youth events and happenings? Email me! It's always a good sign when the full schedule can't fit in the newsletter, right?

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



Alpha Youth, week one!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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



The annual Ada County CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 16th, and after several years of completing our walks alone, we once more get to gather in-person. Join us at Julia Davis Park, Shelter #2, at 3:00 p.m. (registration at 2:30 p.m.) for a (very manageable) 3.4 mile walk. Your participation impacts families in more than 35 countries, as well as local Idaho foodbanks. 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

Check our website for registration and donation information!



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 in McCall on the beautiful Payette Lake. 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 you!

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.

Finally, stay tuned for details on an Empty Bowls painting fundraiser in early November!

Blessings and good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

P.S. Congratulations to our Run for God participants, who completed their 5k (and one 10k) at the end of September.



ADULT MINISTRIES

Greetings Warm Heart family!

I pray that you are doing well. This last month has been full of activity. We started a new book in our Ladies Study and we kicked off an Alpha class. We also partnered with another church to host a baby supply drive to support two local charities. In all, we collected and bundled 5,633 diapers and then collected funds to purchase an addition 1,062 diapers for our community.



I just wanted to share a special thank you to the United Women in Faith for making this happen. It was a great experience all around, and I believe that we will help support these efforts again in the future. God is so good!

In November we will be holding a three week spiritual formation class on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- 11/2 - Lectio Divina (Divine Reading)**
- 11/9 - Walking Labyrinth**
- 11/16 - Visio Divina (Divine Seeing)**

Contact myself or the office to RSVP.

Finally, strange as it may seem, the winter holidays are fast approaching! Keep your eyes peeled for details on our Thanksgiving food box drive, our Advent book study, and more!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jen
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com

NEWS & MORE

MUSIC MINISTRY

Free Concert! Let's join the Cathedral of the Rockies as they celebrate 150 years! On October 15th at 6:00 p.m., the Cathedral will host a concert featuring music of the past and present, with a variety of instruments and voices (including our own Celebration Choir). This is a free event, so please invite your friends and family! Light refreshments will be served following the concert.

Our Annual Hanging of the Greens Service will be held on Wednesday, November 30th, at 6:30 p.m. Our children and youth will help decorate our sanctuary while we gather and sing some beloved seasonal music. We hope you can join us.

The Celebration Choir has resumed rehearsals and is thrilled to be helping lead Sunday worship. It's never too late to join; anyone who loves singing (9th grade-99 yrs!) is welcome! We are working on weekly anthems and our musical offering for the 150th Anniversary concert at the Cathedral of the Rockies, as well as...

Our Christmas Cantata has been purchased, printed, and scheduled for December 18th at both services. Even if you aren't a regular participant in the choir you can still join us for this special offering. Contact Debbie Jones to get the scoop!

The Koinonia Handbell Choir, our 4-octave handbell choir for adults, is always looking for a substitute player or two that can help at rehearsals (5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary on Thursdays) and with a Sunday offering. Contact Debbie Jones if interested.

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:	August 2022	Year to Date 2022
Given	\$49,096	\$443,371
Need	\$59,703	\$476,394
Outcome	(\$10,607)	(\$33,023)

August of:	Giving	Expenses	Outcome
2020	\$436,453	\$490,872	(\$54,419)
2021	\$430,529	\$501,229	(\$70,700)
2022	\$443,371	\$476,394	(\$33,023)

After the books were closed at the end of August, we find ourselves in a deficit position of \$33,023. Although we are still in the red, this is the lowest deficit at the end of August for the last three years. This is common at this juncture of the calendar year as we head toward the end of 2022. I stated in last month's newsletter that we would need to average \$66,292 for the last five months this year to break even if expenses were to remain the same. We fell short by \$6,589. A revised goal for the last four months would be to average monthly income of \$66,061. This goal is based on keeping expenses at the same level as 2021. Not easy based on inflation, but we will try. We are still in a better financial position than the last three years, but we must continue to show improvement as we head into the last quarter of 2022.

Overall, we are in a healthy financial position. Attendance is holding steady for this time of year with an increase in new attendees, on-line giving is increasing, and no new Covid restrictions have been started. Please be reminded that even if you are away, our church expenses do not go away, so it is imperative that your gifts to the church continue. I would also remind you that you can still stay connected to your church family 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, 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

The very first Bible story, our origin story, includes the often-repeated phrase “God said...” Thus begins the most profound story ever told. God speaks the world into existence. “God said, . . . and God saw that it was good.”

Since we are created in God’s image, we are storytellers as well. Stories help us make sense of our lives and the world around us. Stories convey our traditions and our beliefs. Storytelling is one of the most ancient arts, and it is the method for sharing knowledge from generation to generation. In his book, *Spoken Into Being: Divine Encounters Through Story*, Michael Williams recounts stories from his own life and from the Bible, and invites readers to do the same: to tell their own stories to those they love, passing along family traditions, family history, and divine encounters.



In four short chapters, Dr. Williams defines what stories are and why they are important. He offers ideas and suggestions for creating your own compelling stories. He explains how stories shape us and connect us, and he delights the reader with stories of his own.

This engaging book from the United Women in Faith’s Reading List will entertain you, encourage you, and show you how to continue the timeless tradition of storytelling.

UWFAITH READING PROGRAM LIBRARY



If you are interested in reading this month’s Book Nook title, a copy is available in the UWFaith kiosk by Lisa’s office. Additionally, there are a variety of titles from throughout the UWFaith Reading Program list, and a few more to boot. I encourage you to take a look at the many wonderful titles available to borrow. You’re sure to find your next inspiring read!

For more details on the UWFaith Reading Program, visit...

uwfaith.org/resources

...where the 2023 Reading Catalog is now available!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

By Dixie Jacky, UWFaith President

We are invited to attend the United Women in Faith Oregon–Idaho Conference’s **ALL-MEMBER Leadership Training and Annual Celebration**.

Theme: Draw the Circle Wide

Location: Cathedral of the Rockies (there will be a virtual option also.)

Date: Friday October 21, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 22, 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Activities include visiting the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights and the Ann Frank Memorial, and an optional Ubuntu service project on site. The guest speakers will be the National United Women in Faith President 'Ainise 'Isama'u and District Superintendent Karen Hernandez.

For full details, visit our Meridian UWFaith webpage. Registration details will follow, and our unit will reimburse you your registration fee. Questions? Please contact Dixie.

Our unit has been asked to provide lunch on Friday, so we will need volunteers to help prepare the food to take to the Cathedral as well as volunteers to help serve. If you can assist, please call Dixie Jacky at 208-680-5112.



The Warm-Heart Book club will be meeting on October 20 in the FLC at 12:30 p.m. for a brown bag lunch, with book discussion to follow at 1 p.m. We will be reading Melinda Gates book, *The Moment of Lift, How Empowering Women Changes the World*. You will need to find your own copy of the book.

The shelves of our local mission project, Mirror Image, are looking a little bare. Please purchase items such as acne wash, ChapStick, sanitary pads, tooth paste and brushes, hair care (shampoo and conditioner), soap, mouthwash, etc. and place them in the bin outside of Lisa’s office in the FLC. Or you can make cash donations online or to the church – just memo Mirror Image.



Be sure to check our web page for this month’s devotional!

Dixie Jacky
United Women in Faith President



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

October Events to Celebrate!

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

October 2 – *World Communion Sunday*

October 9 – *Pastor Appreciation Sunday*

October 16 – *CROP Walk, Julia Davis Park, 3:00 p.m.*

October 29 – *Family Fall Festival, FLC, 4 – 6 p.m.*

November

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Tuesday,

October 25th

Submissions may be

emailed to Jacob Walker at

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!