



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

FOOTPRINTS

January 2025

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

Fearless

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. in the Pastor's Parlor, beginning Jan 21st



Imagine your life, wholly untouched by angst. What if faith, not fear, was your default reaction to threats? Join us in the Pastor's Parlor for our study of Max Lucado's Fearless. Books are available for \$10 through the church office or can be purchased through Amazon. RSVP with the church office.

Making Sense of the Bible

Mondays, 10 a.m. in FLC Classroom #2, beginning Jan 20th

The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing. In Making Sense of the Bible, Adam Hamilton answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. Books are available for \$12 through the church office or can be purchased through Amazon. RSVP with the church office.



Ladies Study

Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom, beginning Jan 13th



When our lives are filled with joy, the symptoms are unmistakable. Joy is the birthright of every believer, but rainy days have a way of distracting us from that fact. The Monday night Women's Bible Study group will be studying "Experiencing Contagious Joy". If you are interested in joining us, please let Lisa Miller, Sharon Rohnert, or Bonnie Raper know. The book may be purchased on Amazon.

Groundhog Feed

The United Methodist Men invite you to join us for our annual Groundhog Dinner. Stop by the FLC on February 3rd from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. for a sausage dinner (it's ground hog, get it?). More details to come!



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

January 2025

01.05.2025

Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12



01.12.2025

Time to Get Started

Psalm 29:3-11; Luke 3:15-18, 21-23a



01.19.2025

Go Big Red!

Matt 7:13-14; Prov 16:18-20; Rom 6:23



01.26.2025

Kissing Frogs!

Matthew 5:33-37; Psalm 15:1-4

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STAFF

- Senior Pastor** (ext. 104)
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- Minister of Congregational Care** (ext. 105)
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- Minister of Worship Arts** 208-608-2520
Debbie Jones worshiparts@meridianumc.com
- Youth Minister** 734-316-9517
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- Organist**
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com
- Facility Personnel**
Dave Scarpellini maintenance@meridianumc.com (M - Th)
Don Woods dandwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

December

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...

Ron Robins
Gerda Larsen
Virginia Taylor

BAPTISMS:

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

CARD MAKERS



Have you ever received a textured ribbon card from the church? Have you ever wondered how those beautiful cards are made? The Card Makers meet on the 2nd (and sometimes the 4th) Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in FLC #2, and they would LOVE to teach you their ways. If you can cut, fold, and tape, you can be part of this awesome little ministry!

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
Email: 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,

I remember watching the Wizard of Oz for the first time at the age of 8 or 9. I was at my grandfather's farm, laying on the floor eating popcorn into the evening with the whole family. There was a message about the movie right at the beginning, saying how this film has entertained families for 40 years. I remember thinking, 'Wow 40 years is a long time! Were people even alive 40 years ago?' Well, this memory I'm recounting happened over 40 years ago. The film is 86 years old this year! And the book by L. Frank Baum is 125 now years old.

The Wizard of Oz is a whimsical look at how to deal with the realities of life. I know—you thought it was just a children's film, but it's not. The plot begins with a nasty neighbor who tries to put Dorothy's dog, Toto, to sleep. As Dorothy runs away with Toto, a cyclone carries them to the magical Land of Oz. However, Dorothy quickly longs to return home. The locals tell her to follow the yellow brick road to the Emerald City where she will meet the Wizard, the only one in the kingdom who can help her. Along the way, she meets a Scarecrow who needs a brain, a Tin Man who wants a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who desperately needs courage. Traveling and adventuring together, they help each other realize that what they each need is already within them.



Now you may be wondering what this story has to do with the Christian life. It's an allegory of our Christian experience. What we need to live abundant lives and to serve God isn't found somewhere over the rainbow, but right here under the rainbow in the "Kansas" of everyday life. Dorothy's friends each needed something different...and we have needs and longings, too. Whatever we face in life, we can serve others. Whatever challenges are before us, we can persevere. Whatever doubt we carry, we can still find faith. As King David shared at the end of his life, "Acknowledge God, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind.... Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged." (1 Chronicles 28:9, 20)

Here's a little prayer for the new year...

May God make this year a happy one!

Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,

but by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making our path easy,

but by making us sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from us,

but by taking fear from our heart;

Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,

but by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making our life always pleasant,

but by showing us when people and their causes need us most,

and by making us anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope, and joy to us for the year ahead.

See you in church this Sunday!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Happy New Year! Can you believe it's finally here? As we flip the calendar to a new year, we're reminded that each day brings a fresh start, a clean slate, and a new chance to shine God's light. It's a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate our accomplishments, and look forward to the exciting things to come. I urge your families to continue the acts of kindness from the Advent calendars I sent home. Every small act can bring a smile to someone's face.

Important Dates in January:

January 5 – Stuffie Sleepover pickup! After a long, fun week at the church, your stuffies are ready to go home! Pick yours up at church and enjoy the scrapbook of all their adventures. Here's a sneak peak at the fun they're getting up to:



January 8 – Bible Builders resumes for the New Year
January 15 – No Bible Builders

In Bible Builders this month we'll be learning about God's Promise to Abraham, Joseph and his Coat of Many Colors, and the Power of Prayer. We meet on Wednesday evenings 6-7:30 p.m.

Take care,

Malia Paz
children@meridianumc.com



From our 2024 Christmas pageant

YOUTH MINISTRIES

The youth group is kicking off the new year with a lock-in! Games, food, movies, fun, and a couple hours of sleep can all be yours before school starts back up.

Along with our lock-in, we're also going to Urban Air this month and starting to plan for our eighth annual Youth Sunday experience. Rain or snow, we'll spend time together this January, both goofing around and diving into the Bible to see what we might share with the congregation in February.

Events for **812 Youth Group and Inbetweeners**:

Sundays, Jan 19 and 26 – 812 Youth Group
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Youth Room

Wednesdays, Jan 8, 15, 22, and 29 – Inbetweeners
6:00 – 7:45 p.m., Sanctuary and Youth Room

Events for **all youth**:

Friday - Saturday, Jan 3-4 – Winter Break Sleepover
6:00 p.m. on Friday to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, FLC+

Sunday, Jan 12 – Evening at Urban Air
5:30 – 8:00 p.m., Urban Air Meridian, \$10

Service opportunities for all youth:

Tuesday, January 10 – Backpack Program
3:30 – 4:30ish p.m., Meridian Food Bank

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



Oh Christmas Tree!
some festive decorating from our 2024 Christmas party

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- Jeremiah 29:11

Happy New Year! This verse always gives me courage in times of change and new beginning, and I hope it will speak to your heart as well. We are headed into a new year with many things ahead, but through it all, we can trust that the Lord plans to give us hope and a future.

2024 was a wonderful year for Congregational Care. It's a joy for me to be able to facilitate fellowship among our church family through the weekly coffee hours, the baseball outing over the summer, the annual Kick-Off picnic in September, the Women's Retreat in October, Ladies Nights Out almost every month, and more. It's also an honor to help coordinate some of our giving efforts—please see the Blessings Report to the right for some amazing numbers on how we were able to bless our community this year! Of course I also made many home and hospital visits with the help of our Lay Chaplain team, and I reached out to many, many families in times of medical issues, grief, and other hardship. Did you know that Congregational Care encompassed such a wide range of activity? It's a privilege to serve as your Minister of Congregational Care.

With 2025 upon us, please consider how you might serve your church family over the next twelve months. Might you be able to step up and take on a new project? Has life shifted and you're finding yourself needing to let go of responsibilities for now? A church is a family, and we function best when each of our members is serving as they are able. "As you're able" doesn't look the same from season to season, so use this fresh start to take a new look at your role(s) in our community.

Blessings,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



BLESSINGS REPORT

Congratulations, Church! We were able to be a huge blessing to our community during this past holiday season. Ready for some fun numbers? Read on!

Thanksgiving Food Box Program

We filled 50 boxes with food and contributed them to the St. Vincent de Paul program. With our help, they were able to serve 16,548 people (2,750 families) with food for Thanksgiving!

Christmas Adopt-a-Family

Each year we collect money to help families with Christmas gifts. This year we gathered over \$1600 for this ministry and were able to bless two families in our church as well as several more families in our community. It's great to have a partnership with the school district and social services so we can be a blessing beyond our own walls!



Veterans Foot Locker Drive

It was a record-setting year for our Veterans Foot Locker Drive! We donated over one hundred fifty items to the Idaho State Veterans Home, including lots of large-print word search books and many pairs of gripper socks. Due to space constraints related to construction, ISVH asked for most of our donations in the form of gift cards, and we DELIVERED! That's \$3860 in gift cards in that little box. These gift cards will be a huge blessing to veterans at the Home all year long.



MINISTRIES & NEWS

MUSIC MINISTRY

What a season it was here at Church of the Warm Heart! During Advent, the sanctuary was filled with LOVELY music provided by **The Celebration Choir** (including our actors & actresses in the cantata!), **The Koinonia Handbell Choir**, **The Rolling Tones Chime Choir**, **Kimberly Dunford**, **Cadence Etheridge**, **Jenna Perry**, **The Syringa Strings**, **The Triple Trio**, and **The Warm Heart Worship Team**. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all our many talented musicians!

On Wednesday, December 4, many people helped decorate the church for the season with our "Hanging of the Greens" evening: Mary Rich, Pastor Mike, The Perry family, The Walker family, Larry & Margo Smith, Zab & Ann Bason, Russhell French & Aubrey Knight, Pete & Cathy Nelson, Jim & Pat Rasmussen, The Gillespie family, Leanna Alexander, Barbara, Charlie, Marta & Chris Bidondo, and Kathy Newland. I am so grateful for the many hands that make light work!



The handbells went on the road in December! Our (adult) Koinonia Handbell Choir shared some music of the season with our friends at Grace Assisted Living, while the Rolling Tones Youth Chime Choir shared music with the residents of Spring Gardens Senior Living. I wish the picture of the Koinonia Handbell Choir turned out, but I hope you can at least enjoy this picture of the kids.

I go on and on with the thanks and the photos, but alas, there are space constraints to a newsletter. Enjoy these few more snapshots, and if you have any interest in joining one of our musical groups in the coming year, please let me know! I'd love to help you figure out where you fit into our music ministry.



January rehearsals:

Rolling Tones and Angels Alive resume on January 8.

The Koinonia Handbell Choir and Celebration Choir resume on January 9 at their respective times.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

Happy New Year, Everyone! It's a new year, United Women in Faith has a new book cart, and the new 2025 Book Club selections are ready for check out! Why not make a New Year's Resolution to find a good book on the shelf and check it out? You won't be disappointed.



Our 2025 Book Club selections include history, memoir, fiction, and Bible study. All of the books are available to anyone interested in reading them; you don't have to be part of the Book Club or United Women in Faith to enjoy a rewarding book! All our books are managed via self-checkout; simply add your name to the card in the book, and file the card in the recipe box under the title. Take as much time to read as you need, and then return for others to enjoy! You will even find a selection of children's books on the cart that you can share with your children or grandchildren.



2025 Book Club Picks

The book cart sits outside the NU2U shop, inside the FLC. While you're there, you can also read about other opportunities from UW Faith, posted on the bulletin board above the book cart. Wishing you a wonderful 2025 filled with great books!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

With the new year upon us, I think of these words from Kelly Marciales, Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, Alaska Pacific University, Palmer, Alaska:

"I am yon-sei, fourth generation Japanese American. My family has a tradition of making and sharing food with our neighbors every New Year's Eve, as a gesture of cultural knowledge exchange and fellowship. Each year, we invite community members who have never made sushi, or eaten sushi, to come to our home, and learn about the recipes our family brought over from Wakayama Prefecture in Japan at the turn of the 20th century. They learn how Japanese Americans adapted their recipes, like many immigrants do, to include vegetables they could find locally; how these recipes survived war, imprisonment, and relocation; and how these recipes were resurrected and given new life by the next generation. Through generational trauma, we heal through stories and food and community. In the Spirit of the One who ate first, then blessed the meal, we make food together and are blessed afterwards by the time we spend building relationships with our neighbors."

We may not all have the same kind of cultural knowledge to share that Marciales has, but we can still actively work towards building relationships with our neighbors. And we may have missed New Year's Eve, but every day is a great day to relate to others!

This year the United Women in Faith plan to build our programs around Micah 6:8 —

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Congratulations to Judy Green, the recipient of our Special Mission Recognition Award! We give this award annually to someone who exemplifies the spirit of being in mission with women, children, and youth.

Please try to join us as we invite speakers, create hygiene kits, sew quilts, attend Mission U, participate in the Idaho Legislative Advocacy Event, read books, serve funerals dinners, work at NU2U, donate hygiene items for youth, and come together in fellowship. There are so many different ways we can act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God! We hope you'll be part of it.





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

January Events to Celebrate!

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

January 3-4 – *Youth Winter Sleepover*

January 7 – *Tuesday Bible Study Resumes*

January 8 – *Wed Night Bible Builders Resumes*

January 13 – *Ladies Study*

January 20 – *Making Sense Study*

January 21 – *Fearless Study*

February 1 – *Groundhog Feed, FLC, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.*

**See front page
for details!**

February

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

**Friday,
January 24th**

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

Thank you!