



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

# FOOTPRINTS

March 2025

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.

## HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

### Ash Wednesday



Join Pastor Mike in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, March 5, for a short devotional, followed by the imposition of ashes. We have two identical services available to accommodate your schedule:

12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

## SERMON SERIES

March 2025

03.02.2025

### Stop Floundering

Eph 4:29-30a; Prov 21:9; Col 3:21



03.09.2025

### Transfiguration

Luke 9:28-36



03.16.2025

### Roman Centurion

Luke 7:1-10



03.23.2025

### Withered Hand Man

Luke 6:1-11



03.30.2025

### The Evil One

Luke 4:1-13

## Directory Update

It's time to refresh our church directory! If you'd like your photo updated, you can send one to the office or stop by and have Nicole snap your picture Monday-Thursday.



This is also a great time to verify that the church has your correct contact information!



## Scholarships Available

The Church of the Warm Heart Education Scholarship is now being offered through Meridian UMC to all students entering or returning to college for the fall of 2025. Applications will be emailed to those who are interested. The application for this scholarship is available by contacting Claudia Moberly at [clmoberly@gmail.com](mailto:clmoberly@gmail.com).

All applications and required attachments must be completed and turned in to the church office or electronically to Claudia Moberly by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

## Bible Study: Movie Day

The Tuesday afternoon Bible Study group has spent many months studying Genesis, chapter by chapter! On Tuesday, March 18, we'll celebrate the end of the book by watching Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat together. We will be finished by 3:30 p.m. that day.



# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 March Sermon Series, Highlighted Happenings
- 2 **Inside Page**  
Membership Info
- 3 **Ministries & News**  
Pastor Mike's Musings
- 4 **Ministries & News**  
Family Ministries
- 5 **Ministries & News**  
Congregational Care, Worship Arts
- 6 **Ministries & News**  
Financial News, Trivia Night
- 7 **Ministries & News**  
Book Nook, UWFaith
- 8 **Back Page** March Events Calendar

## STAFF

- Senior Pastor** (ext. 104)  
Rev. Mike Benischek pastormike@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
- Family Minister (Children and Youth)** 734-316-9517  
Nicole Walker family@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
- Nursery Coordinator**  
Jessie Layton nursery@meridianumc.com
- Organist**  
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com
- Facility Personnel**  
Dave Scarpellini maintenance@meridianumc.com (M - Th)  
Don Woods dandwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

## February

### NEW MEMBERS:

### DEATHS:

*Please pray for the families of...*

Jo Bolen  
Wanda Baskett  
Chris Mitchell

### 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

## APRIL BLOOD DRIVE



Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, April 7, from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the FLC. A single blood donation can save up to 3 lives! And every two seconds in the U.S. someone needs blood. To do your part and schedule a donation, contact Lisa Miller at...

[care@meridianumc.com](mailto:care@meridianumc.com)

## 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](mailto:office@meridianumc.com)  
Website: [www.meridianumc.com](http://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](mailto:prayer@meridianumc.com)**

# PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

Dear Warm Heart friends and family:

Every now and then, it's nice to just hear a good story about good people. So here's a story about Shirley Bachelder, borrowed largely from one that UMC Communications published in 2016. If you would like to see their video featuring Shirley at 95 years old, you can do so at this link:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/95-year-old-billboard-stars-message-love>

Shirley Bachelder is pictured here in her late 90's. She was a leader in her United Methodist Sunday School class. A helper to those in need. She once took in a homeless man her daughter brought home from the park.



"When I got to the back room with the couch in it, the Lord tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'Have him sleep there.' So, Ahmad was with me for two years. I had been praying for an angel and he certainly was."

Prayer was an important part of each day. Shirley's signature flower headbands were a gratitude tradition she started way back on her 80th birthday. "I was kind of nostalgic and thinking about all the wonderful things that God had given me...the three beautiful children, the wonderful husband, the nice house, the garden, two wonderful cats, and you know, all my friends and all the church. And I thought, 'I should do something.' And I said, I will put flowers in my hair. And in the morning when I put 'em on I will say, 'Thank you, Lord, for all the good things that you have supplied me with. Thank you.'"

Shirley was a bit of a local celebrity around her town in Tennessee for convincing an ad agency to put up billboards—for free!—reminding people to "love one another." It was something God asked her to do. Her daughter took her photograph, they took it to Lamar (the billboard company) and they said they would put up 21 of them.

When asked what she might say to someone who felt lost, Shirley answered, "Lost? Oh, I would love to meet that person because I would say, 'You know, You're one of the lambs that are lost. And somebody's looking for you. And I know who's looking for you. It's the Lord.'"

Shirley said one of God's greatest gifts in her many years had been the friends God sent to walk with her every single day. "The more we love, the more we find that life is good and friends are kind. For only what we give away, enriches us from day to day."

I share this with you just in case you needed a happy story.

See you in church on Sunday!  
Pastor Mike

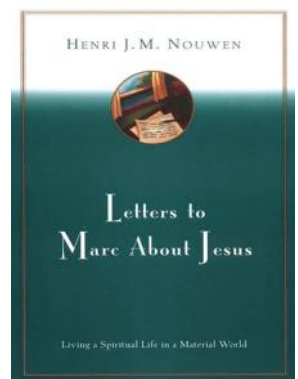
P.S. I had picked out (and advertised!) a Lenten study, but then Pastor Laurie approached me and asked if she could lead this one. I'll save the one I picked out for next year, but I know this one will be a blessing:

## LENTEN STUDY

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
6 Weeks, March 12-April 16th, in the Sanctuary

Henry J.M. Nouwen's *Letters to Marc About Jesus* recalls the author's correspondences with his teenage nephew, a boy struggling with issues of faith and spirituality in an apathetic age. Pastor Laurie will lead us in a study of Nouwen's heartfelt letters as he imparts a powerful wisdom born of an unassailable faith.

Sign up with the church office by Wednesday March 5th.





# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

March has arrived! This is one of my favorite months, because it heralds the beginning of spring. As soon as March hits, though, I start to get impatient for all the warmth and new growth that I know is coming. Perhaps this is why we have the season of Lent before the celebration of Easter? We must wait, check our impatience, and examine ourselves before we burst forth with the joy of the resurrection.

### CHILDREN

March is a bit of a funny month for the Warm Heart Kids program, because we do not have Bible Builders on Ash Wednesday or during spring break. We're on-again-off-again with Bible Builders, but we still have some Sunday afternoon musical rehearsals and two Friday night events this month! We hope your family will join in the fun.

**Bible Builders and Angels Alive**  
Wednesdays, March 12 and 26  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Upper Room

**Sunday afternoon Musical Rehearsals**  
Sundays, March 9 and 30  
12:15 – 1:00 p.m., FLC

**Parents' Night Out**  
Friday, March 14  
6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Children's Worship Center  
Dinner provided; RSVP no later than March 13

### Family Camp-In

Does your family love camping? Does your family do everything possible to avoid the bugs and dirt that come with camping? Either way, we've got an event for you!

This Family Ministries event is for all our church families, both those with kids and those with teens. Bring your tents (if you have them) and sleeping bags and come "camp out" in the FLC for a night. Or if an overnight is too daunting, come for the activities and sneak out early to go home and sleep in your own beds.

**Friday to Saturday, March 21-22**  
6:00 p.m. on Friday through 9:00 a.m. on Saturday

The festivities will include:

- hot dogs, chips, and fruit for dinner
- "camp" activities like an animal scavenger hunt and crafts
- singing around a "campfire"
- fun photo ops
- a light breakfast in the morning

Please RSVP with Nicole by March 14.

### YOUTH

During Lent, the Inbetweeners group on Wednesday nights will be on pause and ALL YOUTH are invited to Youth Group on Sunday nights, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. We will also be serving dinner every Sunday night during Lent! If you would like to volunteer to bring a meal for us, please sign up as soon as possible.

\*Inbetweeners will return for five more Wednesdays after Easter: April 23 – May 21.

#### Lent Youth Group with dinner for all grades 6-12:

Sundays, March 9, 16, and 30, and April 6 and 13  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., FLC/Youth Room

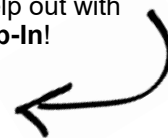
(please note that we are taking off March 23 at the end of spring break)

#### Additional events and service opportunities for all youth:

Saturday, March 1 – Snow Tubing at Gateway Parks  
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Eagle Island State Park

Tuesday, March 8 – Backpack Program  
3:30 – 4:30ish p.m., Meridian Food Bank

And either attend or help out with the **Family Camp-In!**



Winter Youth Retreat fun!



With joy,

Nicole Walker  
[family@meridianumc.com](mailto:family@meridianumc.com)

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

March is National Nutrition Month! This year's theme is "food connects us." The goal is to encourage us to explore how food ties us together; making mindful eating choices is a powerful way to nurture both others and ourselves.

One of my favorite things to do is look for verses in the Bible where Jesus ate with others. I looked it up, and Jesus shared meals with others over ten times just in the gospel of Luke. And then there's all the fellowship over food in the Old Testament! For example, in Genesis 19:3, "But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate." Methodist love to eat and share food with one another. If Jesus and angels made a point to share meals with others, I think we should too. Let us make it a point to share a meal with someone new this month. Here are a few tips to get us started:

- Try new recipes
- Eat colorful foods
- Find a local farmers market and visit
- Eat with intention (plan ahead)
- Share meals with loved ones and engage in conversations, PUT THE DEVICES AWAY!

The Ladies Night Out group will be joining the United Women in Faith for the Days for Girls event on Saturday, March 8th, at 10 a.m. This is a sewing event to assemble hygiene kits for young women around the globe without access to basic feminine care products. If you cannot sew, do not worry! There is a job for everyone. Please let me know if you have any questions and make sure to RSVP with the office.



*Last month's Ladies Night Out crew showing off their creations!*

Blessings and good health,

Lisa Miller  
[care@meridianumc.com](mailto:care@meridianumc.com)

## WORSHIP ARTS

**Join the Cantata** - Come join the Celebration Choir as we prepare our Good Friday cantata "Who is Jesus?" for the April 18th evening worship. If you are interested in singing with the choir, but would prefer a short-term commitment – this is just what you're looking for! Rehearsals will begin in late February during our regularly scheduled choir practice times.

**Palm Sunday** - Palm Sunday is just around the corner! Here at the Church of the Warm Heart, our children lead us in a Palm parade with live palms at both services! The Angels Alive choir will be singing WITH the Celebration Choir (9:30AM) that morning (April 13) too! Make plans to attend.



*Children singing with the choir on Palm Sunday 2024*



**Children's Musical** - The Warm Heart Kids will be offering their spring musical, "Sermon on the Mount", on Sunday, April 27th, at the 11:15 a.m. service. If you have a child (4 yrs - 5th grade) who would like to participate, just contact me for more info. We are doing our best to accommodate all kids who wish to participate, and we will be having both Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon rehearsals to do that. ALL are welcome!



*Children's Musical rehearsal, February 2025*

Blessings,

Debbie Jones  
[worshiparts@meridianumc.com](mailto:worshiparts@meridianumc.com)



# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## FINANCIAL NEWS

I am still grateful for the outstanding effort by all in finishing 2024 in a positive position. Our finishing surplus of \$68,543 bodes well for a stress-free first quarter as the new year begins. I have had some members come up to me on Sundays and ask, "We did so well and now we are in the hole again. How could that happen?" The simplest explanation is to say that we failed to receive enough gifts to cover the expenses for January. One reason is that four times in the year we have three payroll periods instead of two. January was one of those months. February will see us return to only two payroll periods. We also had some above normal trustee expenses and we increased our Shared Ministries giving. Nothing to be alarmed about, as February is looking much better. I will update the Stewardship slide you see each Sunday as soon as the figures are available. Keep watching; you will soon be pleased!

For General Operations:	Jan 2025	2025 Final
Given	\$52,672	\$52,672
Need	\$74,562	\$74,562
Outcome	(\$21,890)	(\$21,890)

I hope each of you has had a chance to review the 2025 Budget that was published in the January Newsletter. If not, then please take the time to look it over and feel free to ask any questions you may have. A tremendous amount of effort is expended by a large number of people to create a realistic and attainable budget. They all deserve our thanks. Please let the staff, members of the SPPRC, Trustees, and Finance—as well as the Administrative Council—know you appreciate their efforts.

I am always amazed at the generosity of so many in our congregation. Last Sunday we dedicated our new organ. New choir robes are ordered and we eagerly await their arrival. Additional equipment to improve sound quality in the sanctuary and more chairs will be purchased in the near future. All of these upgrades or additions were made possible by a number of our families' dedicated giving and did not come from general operating funds. What a great church we're part of! Again, thanks to those generous members of our congregation.

Our youth are getting geared up for their mission trip to South Dakota. They are raising funds to ensure a successful journey. Of course I have to plug their annual Trivia Night. Since I am asking the questions again this year, I promise to make them easy as usual. See you on April 5 at 6:00pm!

That's all for this month. Please continue to pray for our staff, the volunteers, our elected officials, any members who may be experiencing illness or grief, and our world in general. If you have any questions or concerns about the church finances, please contact me or Lori Jones.

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Mark your calendars for our annual Trivia Night on Saturday, April 5, at 6:00 p.m.! This fun event pits teams of six against each other and the Trivia Master (Don Brister) in a fun game of 50 questions. The prizes are small, but the experience is enormous.

This event is a fundraiser for the youth mission team, so there's always a bake sale in conjunction with the event—you can fuel your brain with sugar while supporting the kids! What's not to love?

Tickets are just \$10/person. You can form your own team of six or come as a free agent and be assigned to a team when you walk in the door. Register through the church office, and please let them know if you already have a team or if you're flying solo.

Past Trivia Night winning teams have included such illustrious persons as Jacob Walker (our Communications and Production guy), Maria Akers (our bookkeeper), and Pastor Mike (our senior pastor). Will this year's winning team include YOU?



snapshots from our Wednesday evening Bible Builders program

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

The “working poor” is a term most of us have heard, but we may not know exactly what it means or even believe the phrase is accurate. In her book, *Maid*, Stephanie Land introduces us to someone trapped in the world of the working poor, putting flesh and bones and even a name to the term — herself. As a single mother, Stephanie found herself needing to provide food, housing, medical care, and transportation for herself and her daughter without any support from family.



She describes the relentless tension of holding a low-paying job with no benefits, coupled with caring for a young child with on-going medical issues due to the sub-standard housing she can afford. She shows us the complicated procedures for obtaining various kinds of state financial aid, which generally has to be done during working hours, meaning she is unable to perform her hourly job, losing pay and threatening the retention of her job. She says, “I worked through illnesses and brought my daughter to day care when she should have been at home. My job offered no sick pay, no vacation days, no foreseeable increase in wage, yet through it all, still I begged to work more. My car’s reliability was vital since a broken hose, a faulty thermostat, or even a flat tire could throw us off, knock us backward, send us teetering, falling back, toward homelessness. We lived, we survived, in careful imbalance.”

Yet through ear infections, lost work for snow days, days spent drinking only coffee so her daughter could eat, working through exhaustion, and endless government requirements, Stephanie never loses sight that a home is made, not from bricks and mortar, but from love. THAT she has in abundance, and little Mia keeps her going when the road ahead looks impossible.

Spoiler alert: Stephanie is at last able to make it out of this fraught existence, but seeing what poverty can look like in this wealthy country of ours was sobering. Those of us who can look back on our first few thrifty years of marriage or those challenging days with young children, yet can also see parents or grandparents who offered a hand or a safety net for things that kept Stephanie on the knife edge of “making it,” can be thankful for a benefit many of us thought of as natural, or even, unfortunately, took for granted.

This book comes from the Nurturing for Community section of the United Women in Faith Reading Program. It reminds us of the power of community and the emptiness of life without it.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

March 23 is the 156th anniversary of United Women in Faith. There is going to be a big on-line Day of Mission Giving to celebrate where we’ve been and what the future will be bringing. For more information go to

[uwfaith.org/dayofgiving](http://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving)

So, what have we accomplished in the past 156 years as the official women’s organization of the United Methodist Church? Here are some highlights of each of the 50 years.

**1869-1909:** Women organized for mission and laid the foundation for mission both nationally and globally; we started schools for women and freed slaves; sent lay women into the mission field

**1909-1949:** Developed programs that mobilized women to lead (particularly lay women in churches): to grow spiritually, to be educated, and to expand their worldview and act for justice

**1950-1989:** The focus was on ecumenism and racial justice by building the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City and writing the Charter for Racial Justice (that has been re-adopted at every General Conference of the United Methodist Church ever since)

**1990-Present:** We became a General Agency of the United Methodist Church; initiated a \$60 million Legacy Endowment Fund; we changed our name to United Women in Faith to better reflect our inclusion; and developed new branding, a new website, and new pathways to membership and giving.

Each month in this space, I have been sharing ways in which our Mission Giving dollars answer God’s call to inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities and make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth. So where are our Mission Giving dollars at work this month?

- Crossroads Urban Center, Salt Lake City, UT
- Production of grains and proteins for youth at Kamina Children’s Home, Kamina, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Scholarships for students at Bennet College, Greensboro, NC
- Scholarships for Bengali Girls School in Asansol, India

Please remember to sign up to attend our annual Days For Girls sewing event, yet no sewing experience is required. Call the church office to register your plans to attend. In addition to volunteers, donations are also appreciated; for a full list of needed items, visit:

[www.meridianumc.com/uwfaith](http://www.meridianumc.com/uwfaith)



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

## March Events to Celebrate!

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

- March 5 – *Ash Wednesday*
- March 8 – *Days for Girls*
- March 14 – *Parents' Night Out*
- March 18 – *Bible Study: Movie Day*
- March 21 – *Family Camp-In*

**April**

NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:

**Tuesday,  
March 25th**

Submissions may be  
emailed to Jacob Walker at  
[cc@meridianumc.com](mailto:cc@meridianumc.com)  
or brought by the  
church office.  
Thank you!