



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

FOOTPRINTS

July 2024

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.

Family Movie Night

Bring your friends and family to the FLC on Thursday, July 18, at 6 p.m. to munch on popcorn and watch a family favorite!



“Can Do” Food Drive



Month two of our food drive is complete, and it's looking like June will be a tough act to follow. If your last name begins with N, O, P, Q, R, or S, it's your turn! Donation bins are in the FLC, and you can find a list of needed items at:

meridianfoodbank.org/food-lists

SERMON SERIES

July 2024

07.07.2024

Hymn Sing Sunday



07.14.2024

The Doxology

Ephesians 1:1-10



07.21.2024

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Psalms 56:10-13



07.28.2024

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Deuteronomy 31:1-3, 7-8

July Blood Drive

Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, July 29th, from 12 - 5 p.m. in the FLC. Did you know that in the U.S. alone, a blood transfusion is needed approximately every two seconds? To do your part and schedule a donation, contact Lisa Miller at...

care@meridianumc.com



Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. For details on how to register your children or volunteer, see the Children's Ministries column on page 5.

Boise Hawks Game

There's still time to join us at the Boise Hawks game on Thursday, July 11, at 7 p.m. Tickets are just \$10. Talk to Lisa Miller to get yours!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 July Sermon Series, Highlighted Happenings
- 2 Inside Page
Membership Info, Tech Team Opportunity
- 3 Ministries & News
Pastor Mike's Musings
- 4 Ministries & News
Youth Ministries, incl. Mission Trip Report
- 5 Ministries & News
Congregational Care, Children's Ministries
- 6 Ministries & News
Worship Arts, Finance
- 7 Ministries & News
Book Nook, UWFaith
- 8 Back Page July Events Calendar

June

NEW MEMBERS:

Kevin & Mary Conroy
Carl & Dotty Harden
Joe Buckles
& Jan Shaughnessy

DEATHS:

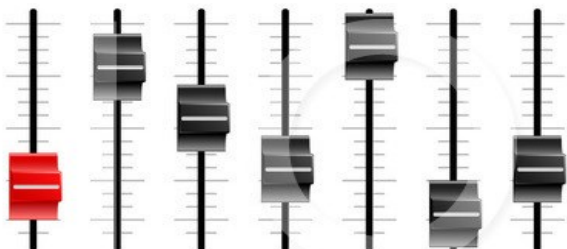
Please pray for the families of...

BAPTISMS:

JOIN THE TECH TEAM!

The tech team is looking for help running sound and video during Sunday services. No experience necessary – we'll train you! Recent volunteers have described it as "way easier than I thought". For more info, contact Debbie Jones:

worshiparts@meridianumc.com



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)
Malia Paz 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

Nursery Coordinator

Jessie Layton nursery@meridianumc.com

Organist

Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

Facility Personnel

Don Woods dandvwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

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

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

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.*

~ from Isaiah 43

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family,

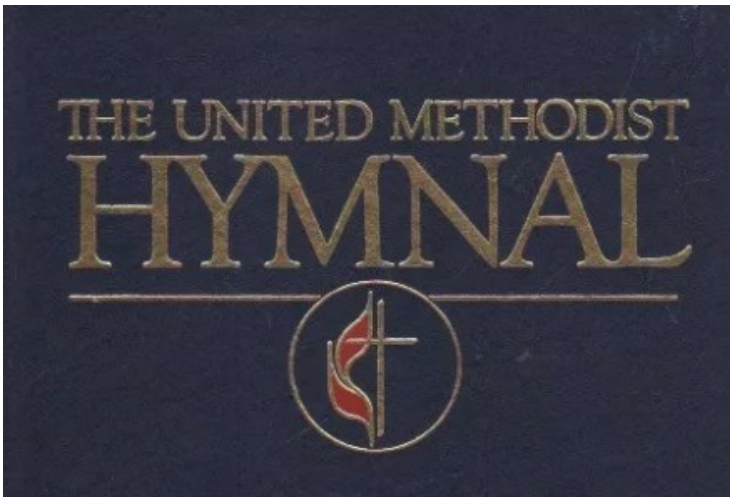
I once told my wife before we were married that I'd climb the highest mountain, swim across the deepest ocean, and walk across the farthest desert for her. I was probably lying. At the very least, I was hoping to never need to prove such things. After all, these are impossible things. Trust me, I did a lot of crazy things to win her love, but I didn't have to face lions, or go on a quest to prove anything — I just had to dodge an angry ex-boyfriend of hers. Some of us believe that in order for God to love us, we need to be perfect. We need to have impossible purity. Impossible thoughts. Impossible righteousness. If I can have impossible faith, God will then take notice, and love me.

At the change of seasons, we were going through some old clothes that we have in storage in our shed, and I came across some old pajamas that our boys used to wear, back when they were smaller than they are now. I am not an emotional man, but in looking at the patterns on their pj's, I was reminded of earlier days, of them running around in the living room as little toddlers. I had a hard time parting with those clothes that we no longer needed, and tears ran down my cheeks. But the kids are getting older - and there is nothing I can do to stop it. I don't have that kind of power. There is a time for everything under the sun; there is a time to be born, a time to die. A time for nursery rhymes and a time for learner's permits. Time moves on and I can't stop it. There are a lot of things that I cannot do. I can't successfully grow a garden. I can plant a garden, but by August, I have to mow it down and put it out of its misery because I can't get things to grow. I can't follow the lives of the Kardashians — for I know not what a Kardashian is, why they are important, and most of what they do I believe would torque me off. So I don't bother. I can't load a dishwasher. I try, but then my lovely wife comes right behind me and reconfigures it, suggesting I don't have the spatial intelligence to put things into a dishwasher. I can't run five miles anymore, let alone a marathon, nor can I stay up as late as I used to. I can't remember names. There are a lot of things I cannot do.

There are a lot of things I cannot do, but God can do all things. He even says that if I try to pass through the waters, he is with me. If I try to swim across the deepest depths, he is with me. If I walk through the fires of life, I do not go alone. Whatever fear or despair I might carry, whatever griefs or burdens I carry, whatever pain or guilt I carry, I carry that in vain, for if death cannot keep God's mercies and grace from me, than there is nothing I can't face. We believe that the saints keep singing on the other side, and that we will someday join them. And by the grace of God, who redeems us all, we are alive forevermore.

See you in church this Sunday!

Pastor Mike



P.S.

This July, let's get to know the hymns of the United Methodist Church a bit better. On July 7, we'll have a hymn sing, with song selections made by the congregation last month. Then in the rest of July, I'll provide the history and context of a few beloved hymns in my sermons. How well do you know your hymnal? Test yourself this month.

P.P.S.

If you suggested a hymn for the hymn sing but it didn't make the cut, please look out for it in the worship lineup over the next few months. If I'd included everyone's suggestions in the hymn sing service, we would have been singing all day long!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Last month, our 2024 Youth Mission Team headed to the Shoshone Mountain Retreat in Wallace, Idaho, to participate in the Idaho Servant Adventures (ISA) program. This combination of camp and mission trip was a great new experience for us!



On Sunday, June 16, we met at the church at 6:45 a.m. to load up the vehicles and head out. It was super cold—and it continued to be cold for the next several days!

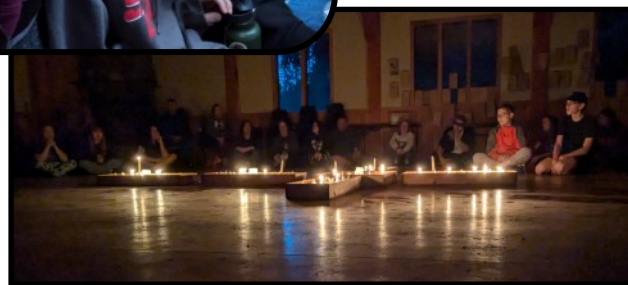
Our theme verse for the week: *And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it.*



Theme verse is Philemon 6 from The Message translation.



The bulk of our days were spent in service. About half of us headed off-site to help local families with projects like cutting wood for winter, replacing old fences, and tackling overwhelming cleaning projects. The other half of us stayed on-site to help run a free day camp for local kids. Every day at the end of day camp, anyone who was available would line the road and wave the bus away!



For more information about our youth program, please contact me and I'd be happy to share! You might not see a lot of teenagers in church each Sunday, but we are an active, awesome group exploring life and faith together.

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com

JULY YOUTH EVENTS

Sunday, July 7 – Board Game Night
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., FLC

Sunday, July 14 – Movie Night
6:00 – 8:30 p.m., FLC

Wednesday, July 17 – Youth Night
6:00 – 8:30 p.m., FLC

Sunday, July 28 – Olympic Watch Party
time TBD, at the Millers' house

Wednesday, July 31 – Youth Night
6:00 – 8:30 p.m., FLC

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Happy July!

It's Healthy Vision month! Vision loss can have a major impact on every part of life, making it difficult to complete everyday tasks, and the stigma around losing vision can be isolating, causing feelings of fear, anxiety, and/or grief. And while vision loss and impairment can be the result of disease, it's also a natural part of aging, so all of us have to deal with these issues eventually.

This year, the National Eye Institute (NEI) is shining a light on the connection between vision loss and mental health. The theme for 2024 is *Reframe Your Future*, highlighting steps people with a visual impairment can take to live well with vision loss.

Check out the bulletin board outside of my office or these helpful websites...

National Eye Institute
nei.nih.gov

Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind
iesdb.org

...to explore NEI's Healthy Vision Month resources and get involved in Healthy Vision Month 2024. Let's reframe our future by helping those with a visual impairment live their best lives with vision loss.

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

Grief Support Group

Grief is a wilderness; we need to reach out to discover comfort and support. We will be starting a support group in the near future, so if you would be interested in joining a small group to help one another through a very difficult time, please contact me.



Let's Go Hiking!

One of the great things about living in the Treasure Valley is having access to so much beautiful nature (and Starbucks, too, when nature gets to be too much). I'm looking to organize a group hike in the coming months, so if you're interested, and have any suggestions on which trail we should tackle, let me know!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Hello Warm Heart Families!

I hope you're having an amazing summer so far, filled with sunshine, laughter, and adventure! As we enjoy the long days and warm weather, let's not forget to nourish our spirits and grow in our faith—and our church friendships! I'm excited to share two events with you this July, one new and one a classic.

First up, **Movie Night!** We will be having a family movie night in the FLC on Thursday, July 18 at 6 p.m. Bring your family and friends to munch on some popcorn and watch a family favorite. Kiddos of all ages can bring blankets and pillows and spread out in the FLC to watch on the big screen. This is like Movie in the Park nights, but it's indoors and we don't have to wait for the sun to go down for the movie to start!

And then, **Vacation Bible School!**

If you haven't already, don't forget to register now to secure your spot for VBS. It will be held July 22 – 26, from 9:30 a.m. – noon each day (you can find a registration link on our website). We'll have games, crafts, music, snacks, and Bible stories that will take the kids back to Jesus' hometown of Nazareth. And if you want to help make the our kids' summer complete, you can sign up to help! Contact me as soon as possible if you want in on the fun as a volunteer.



Our **Sunday School** program continues in July, with fun and interactive lessons that explore the Bible and our faith. Join us every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and follow the teachers out to class after Children's Time. (There will be no Sunday School on July 7, as it's the 4th of July weekend.)

I hope you continue to have a blessed and fun-filled summer!

Take care,

Malia Paz
children@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

MUSIC MINISTRY

Summer Special Music – Can you help? We are looking for instrumental and vocal solos and ensembles to enhance our worship services this summer. If you're interested, let me know!

Don't Miss Our Congregational Anthem on Sunday, July 21 – Thanks to everyone who participated in this anthem and especially to Emma Jean and Jim Bedsole for their organizational skills and phone calls to get everyone scheduled. We began putting together these "poster videos" during the pandemic, but they quickly became a favorite and have stuck around. If you are interested in being part of the next one (not yet scheduled), please let me know.



Warm Heart Worship Team – We are always looking for additional instrumentalists and vocalists to join the team! It's a joy to bring our gifts together for the benefit of the congregation. If you are interested in making music with us, please contact me and we can set you up with a time to try it out!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

As you can see, our expenses for the first 5 months of 2024 exceeded what was given. A sizable portion of this is due to the necessary repairs needed on our buildings — the sanctuary building is 50 years old, the education wing is 70 years old, and the Family Life Center is 30 years old! We also had trees removed that were fast becoming hazards.

The people of the Church of the Warm Heart continue to provide additional endowments and donations that are not reflected in our General Operations. These include:

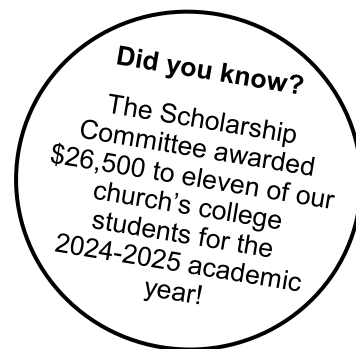
- Education Scholarships
- Youth Mission Trip
- Camp Scholarships
- Meridian Food Bank
- Cardmakers
- Quilters
- Joseph's Closet
- Good Samaritan Fund
- Veteran's Footlocker Drive
- Boy Scouts
- Nu2U Thrift Store
- Mirror Image
- UMCOR
- and more!

These are all phenomenal ministries, and if you want to learn more about any of them, feel free to ask a staff member. They can give you information or direct you to the best person to tell you more.

We never want to lose sight of the important mission that God has laid out for us by doing outreach. However, God ALSO wants us to be good stewards of our staff, local ministries, conference ministries, and our property. Please remember that our church's need for funding still goes on over the summer months, even if people are on vacation.

If you have questions about the church's finances, please contact Lori Jones lhjones2021@gmail.com or Don Brister maroontycoon63@gmail.com.

| For General Operations: | May 2024 | Year to Date 2024 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Given | \$44,857 | \$279,094 |
| Need | \$54,541 | \$314,593 |
| Outcome | (\$9,684) | (\$35,499) |



MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? by Jennifer Grant, was an intriguing title to me. As I started to read, I realized that the target audience is much younger than I am, but her insights still resonated with me. Grant is at a point in life when her children are teens in high school or heading off to college, she is in the period known as “middle aged,” and she knows life will have significant changes for her very soon. (For starters, “Miss” has become “ma’am”!)



When parenting has taken up so much of your time and energy, how do you re-emerge as a person with your own interests and goals? Which friends will continue the journey with you, and which ones will fall away with changing priorities? How do you navigate the changes, finding joy in new circumstances and new beginnings? What new stirrings will God instill in your heart?

If you are in the middle of raising your family, this book is a comforting companion, or maybe a preview of coming attractions. If that time of your life is behind you, Grant conjures warm memories of past times. Her candor, her humor, and her self-awareness add sparkle to the serious truths she confronts and shares with her readers. This is a great summertime read — refreshing, fun, and thought-provoking without being heavy.

This book is from the Nurturing for Community area of the United Women in Faith Reading List, and I truly felt “community” with the author!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Join us at **Mission U** as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another. Meridian women can gather via Zoom for opening worship on Thursday, July 11, at 7 p.m. Then, we can meet in person at Hillview UMC for the Friday session (10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.); and Saturday session (10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)

MISSION U 2024

July 11-13
or July 26-28



Jesus told his followers the kin-dom was among them (*Luke 17:21*). What does that mean? Who does Jesus say will inherit the kin-dom? How do we transform ourselves and our communities in ways that bring us closer to the kin-dom? Dive into these questions and more at MISSION U 2024 as we examine scripture together and join in worship, fellowship, and action.

Please register at: umoi.org/mission

For more information, please call Dixie at **208-680-5112**.

Blessings,

Dixie Jacky
United Women in Faith President

DID YOU KNOW?

Our United Women in Faith were featured in the national organization's *Response* magazine for their work with the Story Link program! You may recall the book drive they held this past winter? With your help, they collected about 200 new and gently used books (*you can see some of those books in the picture to the left*).

The Story Link program provides the children of incarcerated parents with books and an audio recording of their parent reading it to them.

Way to go, ladies!





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

July Events to Celebrate!

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

July 4 – Happy Independence Day

July 7 – Hymn Sing Sunday

July 11 – Boise Hawks Game

July 18 – Family Movie Night, 6 p.m., FLC

July 29 – Blood Drive, FLC, 12 - 5 p.m.

August

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

**Thursday,
July 25th**

Submissions may be
emailed to Jacob Walker at
cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!