



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

FOOTPRINTS

August 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



School Supply Drive

With the school year about to start back up, it's also time for our annual school supply drive. Pencils, paper, crayons, markers—whatever supplies you've got, we want them! You can drop your donations off in the FLC or in the narthex on Sunday mornings. Plus, have your kids bring their backpacks to church on the 10th for a special blessing during the service!

SERMON SERIES August 2025

08.03.2025

I AM

John 11:17-27



08.10.2025

Wherever

Joshua 1:1-9



08.17.2025

All Things

Philippians 4:10-13



08.24.2025

Wages

Romans 6:20-23



08.31.2025

You are Close

Mark 12:28-34

Mirror Image

The Mirror Image closet reopens soon! This ministry provides hygiene supplies to local students in need, and as it runs all school year long, it's always in need of more donations. While you're out shopping, please consider picking up individual size soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, etc. You can drop donations off with Lisa Miller or at the church office.



Meals for Youth



This year our middle and high school youth groups will both meet on Sundays, with a meal time in between, and we need your help! If you'd like to cook just one or two meals this next school year please contact Nicole Walker at family@meridianumc.com.

Fall Kickoff

Join us for our Fall Kickoff Picnic! September 7th at 12:30 p.m., across the street from the Sanctuary in Centennial Park. We'll provide the entrée, you provide a chair and a side dish or dessert to share. We'll celebrate the start of our new year of programming with food, fellowship, and a bounce house for the kids. We hope to see you there!



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July

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
Jeanette Schick

BAPTISMS:

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU!

We want to take a moment to give a big thank you to the folks who worked in the heat to stain the exterior of the Family Life Center last month. It's only with the commitment of your time that this church keeps running!



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
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Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

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Dave Scarpellini maintenance@meridianumc.com (M - Th)
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, Don Brister, Lynda Cavanagh, Sherry Clark, Faye Gabriel, Ben Madsen, Donna Melville, Lisa Miller, Mary Rich, Eloise Stemple, Cyndi Trimmel
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
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:

This is just a heads up.

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church allows pastors to request a formational and spiritual growth leave of up to six months while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church.

At the pressing of our District Superintendent, I will be requesting a short renewal leave next summer, 2026. I will not be taking six months, or even 3 months as our DS wanted. But I will take a leave for 9 weeks beginning Monday, May 25th and returning to the office on Monday, July 27th. This summer time leave will have the least amount of impact on the local church, compared to other times in the calendar year.

While it is allowable to take several months of leave every six to seven years of ministry, I have never taken a leave or a Sabbatical in what will be 28 years of continual full-time ministry over six church appointments.

Over these nine weeks next summer, our church will have the opportunity to hear other speakers and foster church leadership. The Conference may assist in pulpit supply and other areas of need. I know there will be a lot of questions about how ministry will get done - but we have a year to plan and prepare. We are also blessed with several retired clergy in our midst.

My plans are yet to be made for the renewal leave, but I do know it will start with a week in Hawaii for a multi-family vacation, and a probable week in Washington DC to tour our nation's sites. I also plan to visit as many churches as I can on these adventures.

Thank you to our Staff Parish team and Administrative Council for approving this leave. You truly are the Church of the Warm Heart!

See you in church this Sunday,

Pastor Mike

P.S. If you've been attending the Church of the Warm Heart for a while and are interested in becoming a member, I have great news! We will be having a new members class on August 24th after second service (about 12:30 p.m.). If the word "class" sounds intimidating, don't worry! It's a very casual gathering (with pizza!) where we'll get to know each other and I'll share with you the history of our church family, both locally and around the world. We'll also take a look at the membership vows of the United Methodist Church. If you're interested in participating, contact Lisa Miller at care@meridianumc.com.

But what if you're already a member of the church? You have a role in this process too! In the coming months, you can expect one or more of our services to include a liturgical time when new members are introduced and they affirm their vows (fear not prospective new members, I do almost all the talking). And one of my favorite parts of this liturgy is that it includes vows that currently members make to those joining our fold. Here's that promise:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness;
that in everything, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

This winter, we'll also be holding a Confirmation class for our 7-9th grade students, where they will learn in depth about the Christian faith, church history, and Methodist theology. At the end of their class, these students will also have the opportunity to join the church, and we'll make our congregational vows to them as well.

What does it mean to YOU to participate in the ministries of the church by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, so that God may be glorified in everything we do? How can you live out your promise to participate along with our new members and build them up in love along the way? Every time someone is baptized or joins the church, we have a wonderful opportunity to re-examine our own vows and step up in the way we live them. I hope you'll take that opportunity many times this year.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

If you're not knee-deep in school supplies, is it even August? I'm enjoying managing donations to our School Supply Drive and packing supplies up for various kids and families as part of my new role of Family Minister. It's always wonderful to be able to support families in the church and community as their children gear up for a new school year, and the relief on people's faces is palpable when we are able to step in and ease the financial burden of that start-up. Thank you to everyone who has been moved to contribute to this ministry!

CHILDREN

Our awesome **Sunday School** teachers are continuing to teach all summer long! Join us during first service for engaging lessons, snacks, and activities. Starting in August, students will officially move up in church classes to align with their new grades. Unsure where you're supposed to be? Here's a quick breakdown:

- Sunday School 1
4 years old through kindergarten
Downstairs in the nursery
- Sunday School 2
First through fifth grades
Upstairs in the children's worship center
- Youth Sunday School
Sixth through twelfth grades
Downstairs in Classroom 9

...

In the Treasure Valley, most kids start school in the middle of August, so on August 10 we will have a special **Backpack Blessing** in both services. Bring your backpack to service! The church will pray over students of all ages and it's highly likely that Miss Nicole will have a treat for grade-schoolers' backpacks.

...

Save the date for **Bible Builders' return**: September 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Room!

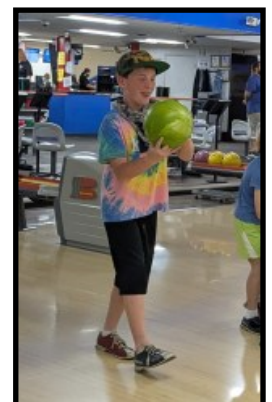


With joy,

Nicole Walker
family@meridianumc.com



WHK Bowling!



YOUTH

During the summer, all youth events are combined for grades 6-12. In August, we welcome our new sixth graders to officially join us!

Regular youth group programming begins after our annual Church Kick-Off (September 7 this year), so even though school begins in August, Youth Group in August is still on a summer schedule. That means all grades are combined, and we do not have events every week. Here are the things we DO have going on:

Back to School Game Night

Sunday, August 10, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Let's combine quick competition with back-to-school excitement. This round of Uno goes your way? You could win some cute highlighters or a \$5 gift card to Dutch Bros. Your paper airplane flies the furthest? Get an extra pack of filler paper for math homework or a bag of Haribo gummies to get you through that first day back. ETC. Bring a friend!

August Art Night

Sunday, August 24, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Bring your own art supplies or see what Nicole's pulled together. Paint, color, experiment with scratch art, and/or play some art-themed Jackbox games. It'll be colorful.

(See page 6 for photos of the youth bowling event)

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Lord is close to the broken hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
~ Psalm 34:18

Church Family,

As we enter the month of August, we turn our hearts towards those among us who carry grief quietly. Grief touches us all, whether it's through the loss of a loved one, a life transition, or even dreams that haven't come to pass. This month, we acknowledge grief and sorrow and provide space for healing. Let's take the opportunity to reflect on the ways that we can support one another through difficult seasons of life. It's not about fixing, but rather sitting in it, holding space, and allowing God's comfort to work within and through you.

If you know someone who is journeying through grief, consider sending a card or a simple "thinking of you" note. We are generally quite good at surrounding folks with extra love when a heartbreak first occurs, but grief lingers as life goes on, and when someone acknowledges your continued journey with grief months or even years later, it can be very touching and encouraging.

If you or someone you know is struggling with grief, remember you don't have to walk this journey alone. Our church family is here to support you. Each of us will walk this path many times in our lives, for grief is the result of love, and we will always need folks to walk alongside us. Please know that Faye Gabriel and I have grief support groups and resources available to help when it feels like too much to carry.

Blessings and Good Health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



Ladies Night Out

Our monthly Ladies Night Out will be flower picking at Lovely Hollow Farm. Join us at 6 p.m. on August 20th for flowers, food, and live music! Contact Lisa Miller to RSVP.

Speaking of Ladies Night Out, if you have any ideas for future fellowship outings, please share! I have a long history of organizing these gatherings, but it's always great to hear of new ideas or new places people love. I make no promises about being able to use your idea, but I'd love to hear it!

Men, do you feel left out by Ladies Night Out? If you feel called to help organize a Men's Fellowship Night once a month or once a quarter, I'd be happy to help you advertise! Please come talk with me.

FINANCE

| For General Operations: | May 2025 | 2025 YTD |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Given | \$52,177 | \$340,187 |
| Need | \$53,533 | \$362,629 |
| Outcome | (\$1,356) | (\$22,442) |

Not a bad start as we head into the summer vacation period. June was almost a break-even situation as we were only \$1,356 behind. For the year, we find ourselves down \$22,442 which is much better than the last two years (deficits of \$73,096 in 2023 and \$40,048 in 2024). So, a really positive start as we begin August! But please remain faithful in your giving. For whatever reason, August has historically been a tough month regarding our finances. In 2024, we were short a whopping \$26,599 in August, and it was at that time that I started losing sleep with worry. I am afraid we could be seeing a similar situation this summer, as August is a three-payroll month. I am praying that this August will be a better month for giving as the expenses are a constant. Please pray with me for positive results regarding our finances.

Of course there are many reasons to be full of hope for our church. We continue to grow in attendance as prospective members are evident every Sunday. Our encompassing friendly nature and welcoming attitude is the main reason that new members give for becoming a regular at the Church of the Warm Heart. I always believe if we can continue to expose prospects to our services with our outstanding music, great preaching, and our welcoming attitude, they will come back. So keep up the good work.

When was the last time you considered all the things our giving to the general fund supports? Here are just a few to get you thinking:

- Keeps the building lights and AC on so we can have comfortable services
- Our pastor and staff are paid so they can focus on their ministry rather than how to make rent
- Dozens of small groups are supported and empowered
- Families are blessed by our children and youth programs

It is almost time for schools to reopen. An exciting time to say the least. The choir will be back to inspire us each Sunday, new sermon series will be in place, and football season is here. (Of course I could not pass up a chance to highlight my favorite time of the year). As always, please continue to pray for our church staff, our standing committees, our elected officials, those who may be in trying times all over our planet, and our church finances.

If you have any questions regarding our church finances, please feel free to contact me, your stewardship chairman (Don Brister, maroontycoon63@gmail.com), or Lori Jones (Ihjones2021@gmail.com), your Finance chair.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

WORSHIP ARTS

Summer Congregational Anthems Aug 3 & 31: Join us in service or watch online these Sundays to enjoy our recently created congregational videos. These videos highlight our new members, youth, families, current church members, staff, online worshippers, and our shut-ins. What a great opportunity to involve more folks in worship and to see our church family! You can check out the previous Congregational anthems on our church website. Thanks to all of you who participated, and special thanks to Landon Perry (photographer), Charlie Jones (vocals and video assembler), and Emma Jean Bedsole (scheduler) for your help putting these videos together!

Kick Off Sunday is Sept 7, when we will welcome the return of our **Celebration Choir** back in service! There is always room for YOU to join the choir! Rehearsals start back up on Thursday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See me for more details (contact info below). Everyone is welcome to come join this musical family to sing and praise our Lord!



Koinonia Handbell Choir will also be resuming rehearsals in the sanctuary on Thursday, August 28, at 5:30 p.m. We will be offering music in the worship services each month, September through May. If you can ring, but aren't available for a nine-month commitment, we'd love to have some substitutes who can fill in on Thursdays and/or Sundays for our regular ringers. Contact me for more details!

Learn to Ring Handbell Ensemble: A few of us have been gathering on Wednesday mornings to learn how to ring handbells together. We would love to have another ringer or two join us! If you have an interest in learning how to ring, how to read music, and getting connected with some folks to make music together, let me know.

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com



Youth Group Bowling!



MINISTRIES & NEWS

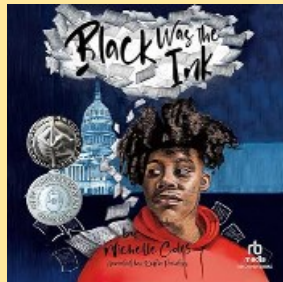
THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

Black Was the Ink, by Michelle Coles, has it all — a coming of age story, a history lesson, time travel, family bonds, and an attic with a ghost!

City boy Malcolm, born and raised in Washington D.C., goes to Mississippi to spend the summer with his great aunt and uncle on their farm. While trying to cope with outdoor chores, no internet, no shopping malls, and a surly Uncle Leroy, Malcolm also discovers cousins he's never met, the joys of large, Southern-family gatherings, an attic hideaway perfect for drawing, and a cute neighbor girl.

The farm, which has been in Malcolm's family for generations, is soon to be taken by the highway department for a road-widening project. This fact casts a pall over Aunt Carol's summer, but she is determined to make the most of their last few months of country living, particularly with the addition of Malcolm from "up north." Malcolm, who knows little about family history or history in general, is drawn into a series of time-travel adventures, orchestrated by the ghost of Cedric Johnson, the ancestor who originally purchased the farm. Through his time travels, inspired curiosity in the current age, and the people he meets along the way, Malcolm discovers the power of working together, taking risks, and stepping up to support the people he loves and a goal worth fighting for.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

"You are saved by God's grace because of your faith.
This salvation is God's gift.
It is not something you possessed."
Ephesians 2:8

From UWFaith Daily Prayer Guide 2025, Althea Belton, Church and Community Worker, Waveland, Mississippi:

"As part of an interactive life skills training workshop on conflict resolution at Gulfside Assembly in Waveland, Mississippi, participants in grades 6-8 were tasked with drawing a picture that describes what they learned. This multi-ethnic, multi-generational exchange of wisdom provided a transformative experience.

"Engaging with children broadens my understanding of the meaning of grace and the characteristics of grace. There is never a dull moment when working with children. They are so amazing. The joy they bring is indescribable.

"The workshop stirred quite a conversation, a necessary, important, and enlightening conversation, that evolved into discussions of love and forgiveness. I am grateful for the lessons learned and the wisdom imparted across generations. It resonates on so many levels—a lesson of filtering our thoughts so we are not overcome by our emotions. Scripture also reminds us to 'guard our hearts above all else, for it determines the course of your life' (Proverbs 4-23). I count it all joy that every participant did a great job in showcasing their understanding of the importance of expending grace."

Where our Mission Giving gifts are at work this month:

- Teachers' salaries at Universite Methodiste Katanga Women's School in Likasi, Democratic Republic of The Congo
- Tacoma Community House in Tacoma, Washington, immigration service program
- United Methodist Women Association of Cameroon to train women on how to make and sell liquid soap and start a small business

This past month, several of our members attended Mission U in person and online. We will be taking a break from activities for the month of August, but will be back at it in the fall.

In the meantime, we have a couple of continuing ministries that are always in need of support. The NU2U thrift store is looking for volunteers, so if you think you could dedicate a couple of hours, even just once or twice a month, contact Cheryl Mulvihill. And of course, the Mirror Image closet is always in need of donations of individually packaged hygiene products. This is a great chance to help the program stock up before the school year begins!

A Prayer for Our Teachers

Lord, we pray that teachers everywhere will make a lasting impact on our students, families, and communities. You have given us stewardship over your amazing world, and teachers have the wonderful opportunity to teach the next generation not only about the world we live in, but how to function in that world in ways that bless others. May the lasting impact of teachers greatly improve this world, for your honor and glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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

August Events to Celebrate!

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

August 10 – Backpack Blessing
August 15-17 – All Church Camp
August 20 – *Ladies Night Out*
August 24 – *New Members Class*
September 1 – *Labor Day (Office Closed)*

September

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Monday
August 25th**

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