



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

FOOTPRINTS

August 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.

SERMON SERIES August 2024

08.04.2024

Bad Company

Luke 5:27-32



08.11.2024

Trick or Treat, Smell My Feet

Luke 7:36-50



08.18.2024

Be Prepared

Mark 6:30-44



08.25.2024

Clean House

Luke 10:38-42



“Can Do” Food Drive

It's the final month of our food drive and though the final tally for July isn't available, they may have a tough time beating out June participants, who donated over 500 lbs. of food! If your last name begins with T, U, V, W, X, Y, or Z, it's your time to shine! Donation bins are in the FLC, and you can find a list of needed items at:

meridianfoodbank.org/food-lists

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. Plus, have your kids bring their backpacks to church on the 11th for a special blessing during the service.



Mirror Image



The Mirror Image closet has also reopened! 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.

Alpha Class

We will be holding an Alpha class on Wednesday evenings beginning Sept 11. Not sure what Alpha is? Check page 6 for more information on this wonderful opportunity!



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July

NEW MEMBERS:

Donna Prewoznik
Murphy Adle
John Johnson
Sherry Clark
Heather Calkins

DEATHS:

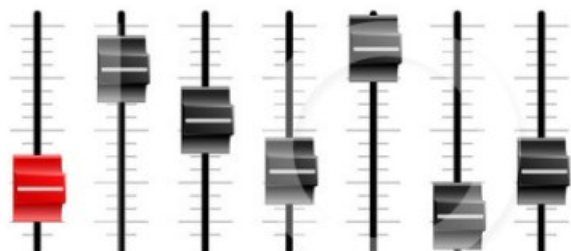
Please pray for the families of...

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

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
Dave Scarpellini maintenance@meridianumc.com (M - Th)
Don Woods dandwoods@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

*I am not saying this because I am in need,
for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*
– Philippians 4:11

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family,

As I write this, it is hot outside. And smokey. I need to remind myself that I wanted a day or two like this back in February!

Reminds me of a man who had decided to sell his house. He listed it with a realtor, who came out to take some photos and write an ad. When the realtor was finished, he read the ad to the man. The man listened quietly, and then said, "I've changed my mind. I don't want to sell the house anymore."

The realtor was confused. "But you just said you were going to sell it," he said.

"I know," the man said. "But after hearing that ad, I realized this is exactly the kind of home I've always wanted."

It is so easy to take things for granted, especially when we've had them for a long time. But when we take the time to appreciate the good things in our lives, we realize how blessed we really are.

In his book *Walden*, the renowned author Henry David Thoreau shared a practice he incorporated into his daily routine. He wrote that he liked to lie in bed for a few minutes every morning before getting up and think about all the good things in his life. He said that this practice of gratitude helped him live a more joyful and fulfilling life.

I've been trying to do the same thing lately, and I've found that it really does make a difference. When I start my day by focusing on the good things, it sets a positive tone for the rest of the day. I'm more likely to be patient and kind, and I'm more likely to see the good in others.

It's not always easy to find things to be grateful for, especially when things are tough. But it's important to remember that even in the midst of difficulty, there's always something to be grateful for. Maybe it's a roof over your head, or food on your table, or a loving family and friends. Maybe it's your spouse, or your health, or your job, or your hobby, or your faith. Whatever it is, take a moment to appreciate it.

Praising God is a great way to start your day. It's a way of acknowledging God's goodness and love. It's a way of expressing your gratitude for all that God has done for you. And it's a way of setting a positive tone for the rest of the day.



So, here's a challenge for you: start your day by praising God. Take a few minutes to think about all the good things in your life and thank God for them. You'll be surprised at how much of a difference it makes.

See you in worship on Sunday — in person or online!

Pastor Mike

P.S. Kickoff Sunday is coming up on Sunday, September 8th! Join us across the street in Centennial Park for a picnic after 2nd service. We'll provide chicken for everyone, and we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share, and a lawn chair or two unless you're comfortable sitting on the grass. Let's celebrate the start of a new year of ministry!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Our Hometown Nazareth VBS was a great success! We packed the FLC with 38 kids and more than two dozen volunteers in four "tribes" and five main activity stations. How awesome to see our Warm Heart Kids—plus some of their friends and lots of kids from the community—come together to sing, play, laugh, and learn about Jesus. A huge thank you to all who helped make this awesome week a reality; we couldn't have done it without you! Please enjoy a few photos of the fun.



It's never too early to get excited about volunteering for VBS next year! And we look forward to making great memories with the kids all through the school year with our Wednesday night program, Bible Builders.

Take care,

Malia Paz
children@meridianumc.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 11 – Backpack Blessing
both morning church services

Wednesday, September 11 – first week of Bible Builders (formerly Pioneer Club)
6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Upper Room

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

It's been a busy summer! We had a great night at the ball field despite the heat. We were smaller in numbers than usual, but we cheered the Hawks on to victory!



The Warm Heart Ladies and United Women in Faith were blessed that Celest Mergens, the founder of Days for Girls and author of the book *The Power of Days*, graciously shared a reading at the Meridian Library. What an inspiration and an agent of love for others!



Summer's not over just yet, so there's still time to enjoy a little bit more fun in the sun (but maybe just a little less sun would be nice)...



Save the date! This fall, October 18-20, our Warm Heart Ladies will return to Pilgrim Cove in beautiful McCall. We hope you can join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Registration will open at the end of August. If you have questions, contact me!

It's time for another Ladies Night Out! We'll meet on August 21 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Blue Sky Flower Farm to pick flowers and have a picnic dinner together. For prices and information, visit...

www.blueskyfarmidaho.com



Make sure you get outside and enjoy some sunshine (but don't forget sunscreen and watch out for smoke!)

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

YOUTH MINISTRIES

August is here, and with it comes the weird mix of back to school and lingering summer. Band camps are in full swing and first days of classes are on the horizon, but Roaring Springs still has open hours every day this month!

Fall programming here at Church of the Warm Heart kicks off in early September, so we still have some summer-feel youth events this month. But we're also marking major milestones as we wave goodbye to the 2024 grads and welcome our new middle schoolers into the youth group!

Sunday, August 4 – Pool Party
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Settler's Bridge Neighborhood

Wednesday, August 7 – Middle School Welcome
6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Youth Room

Sunday, August 18 – Bowling
5:45 – 8:00 p.m., Meridian Lanes

Wednesday, August 21 – Youth Night
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Youth Room

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



Olympics Party & Youth Night



MINISTRIES & NEWS

MUSIC MINISTRY

Thank you to Cadence Etheridge for offering free violin lessons this summer for our Warm Heart youth and children! She has provided a wonderful opportunity for budding musicians and has been well received by all!

Calling ALL Men! We are putting together an ensemble of men of all ages — whether you're still in school or long since retired — to sing for our August 18 worship service. Come share a powerful message through music. Music and rehearsal tracks are available for all! Contact Debbie Jones for more information and a rehearsal schedule.

Kick Off Sunday on September 8 will see your Celebration Choir and Koinonia Handbell Choir back in service! There is always room for YOU (and despite the photo, it doesn't have to be front and center)! Rehearsals start back up on Thursday, August 29, in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. for the choir and 5:30 p.m. for the handbell choir.



Contemporary Worship – Have you checked out the Warm Heart Worship Team lately? We are GROWING and continue to bring contemporary worship songs to enhance our service and support the message. This service is live streamed, so you can always catch it at home, or watch it later in the week! Be sure to check us out! If you are interested in making music with us, we're always happy for more musicians. Just let me know!

Fall Special Music – We welcome instrumental and/or vocal solos and ensembles to enhance our worship services throughout the year. If you have something you would like to offer, please let me know!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

ALPHA CLASS

We will be holding an Alpha class on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. (with one special weekend gathering) beginning on September 11. If you are interested in participating, please let the church office know!

But what exactly is Alpha? Alpha is a class for those new to the church or those interested in exploring the fundamentals of our faith and how to have a relationship with Christ. Each week we will gather to enjoy a meal together, then watch a video on a new topic, which we will discuss together in a safe and open environment. No wrong answers, only curiosity and grace.

Alpha is not specific to the United Methodist Church — in fact, it has been designed to emphasize the essentials that all denominations agree on. Even if you're new to the Methodist church, you'll learn things in this class that will help you find commonality with all of Christianity. Whether you're new to the faith, or you've been sitting in pews your whole life, we hope you'll consider joining us.



MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

As summer heads toward “back to school,” you might be looking for a book to catch the attention of your late elementary school child, or maybe you want something easy to read while you avoid the heat. Maybe *Miosotis Flores Never Forgets*, written by Hilda Eunice Bergos, is just what you need.



Miosotis is excited about three things: one day getting a dog of her own, her sister’s upcoming wedding, and watching goofy horror movies with her friends. She is not excited about waiting for a dog, losing her confidante and former roommate (her sister) to her fiancé, and school work.

The youngest child in a family of bright, overachieving siblings and the daughter of a school teacher, Miosotis feels she can never measure up academically, so she throws herself into volunteer work with foster dogs. The best thing she can imagine is owning her very own dog. Finally, her father makes a deal with her — bring up her grades, and she can have her dog! She will do anything to earn her own pet, including getting help from well-meaning friends and family on homework and posing as her father to fill out her pet adoption papers.

As Miosotis finds herself acting in increasingly shady ways, her conscience begins to weigh on her. What is more important: honesty or getting her heart’s desire? The trust of her sister or keeping promises that feel too heavy to carry on her own?

This young-adult novel from the Leadership Development section of the United Women in Faith reading program is a heartfelt story of family, love (both human and canine), integrity, and facing up to what is right.

UWF SOUL CARE RETREAT

*“An empty lantern provide no light.
Come be filled.
Rest, rejuvenate, reconnect.”*

The Oregon Idaho United Women in faith will be hosting a Soul Care Retreat, September 6-8 at Suttle Lake Camp United Methodist in Oregon. The cost is \$175. You can find a registration form at...

www.umi.org/uwf



FINANCIAL NEWS

I find it hard to believe that we are half-way through 2024! The first table below shows our situation at the end of June, with deficits of \$4,550 for the month and \$40,048 for the year. We always wish we were at positives, but compared to 2023, we show an improvement of more than \$33,000. The second table shows comparisons for the last three years.

For General Operations:	June 2024	Year to Date 2024
Given	\$49,035	\$328,130
Need	\$53,585	\$368,178
Outcome	(\$4,550)	(\$40,048)

	2022	2023	2024
Given	\$357,859	\$311,386	\$328,130
Needed	\$364,658	\$384,482	\$368,178
Outcome	(\$6,799)	(\$73,096)	(\$40,048)

This year we had to raise funds for some unexpected repairs to the roof, landscaping issues, and some FLC needs. We were able to complete these repairs with extra donations that allowed us to not see a larger deficit in our general operating budget. You were called to meet this need, and you rose to the challenge; thank you! Hopefully, we will not have any more unexpected emergencies this year.

So where do we go from here? Using known figures from previous years, we can forecast the expenses for the remainder of 2024. Using the current budget, allowing for Personnel expense changes, and factoring in current inflation predictions, it is estimated that we will incur expenses of \$410,000 in the next six months. This figure also includes the current deficit of \$40,048. Last year, we had tithes and offerings of \$422,002 in the second half of 2023. Since I am a GLASS HALF-FULL kind of guy, I think we can break even by the end of the year. I hope you agree!

Many great things are happening in our church. We completed a successful Youth Mission Trip, our VBS was the largest in many years, we continue to add new members, our attendance is growing, our worship services continue to be outstanding, our online presence is attracting more new participants, and we even have recognizable streets in the neighborhood! God is good.

I ask that you continue to pray about our finances. If you have questions about the church’s finances, please contact Lori Jones lhjones2021@gmail.com or Don Brister maroontycoon63@gmail.com. We will always take the time to visit with you and discuss our finances.



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 7 – Middle School Youth Group Welcome

August 11 – Backpack Blessings in both services

August 21 – Ladies Night Out at the flower farm

***August 29 – Celebration and Koinonia Handbell Choirs
resume rehearsals***

September

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Monday,
August 26th**

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

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!