



Meridian United Methodist
Church of the
Warm Heart

FOOTPRINTS

September 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 September 2024

09.01.2024

Be Still

Psalm 46



09.08.2024

Moses in the Nile

Exodus 2:1-10



09.15.2024

Moses and the Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-10, 13-14



09.22.2024

Moses and Pharaoh

Exodus 5:1-5, 22 - 6:1



09.29.2024

Moses and the Red Sea

Exodus: 14:13-18, 21-28



Fall Kickoff

Join us for our Fall Kickoff Picnic! September 8th at 12:30 p.m., across the street in Centennial Park. We'll provide the entrée, you provide a chair and a side dish or dessert to share. We hope to see you there!

Show Us Your Talents!

Do you paint? Do you cross-stitch? Take photos? Write poems? Whatever your talent, we want to put it on display! We're scheduling the Art Wall for next year and spots are still available — you can sign up just outside the sanctuary doors.



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.

Spiritual Gifts

A new spiritual gifts class will meet on Monday mornings in the FLC at 10 a.m. starting on Sept 16th. This class is designed to introduce us to the spiritual gifts God handpicks for each of us. Contact the church office for more information.



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STAFF

- Senior Pastor** (ext. 104)
Rev. Mike Benischek pastormike@meridianumc.com
- Minister of Congregational Care** (ext. 105)
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- Minister of Worship Arts** 208-608-2520
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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)

August

NEW MEMBERS:

John & Kim Cooney

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
John Stave

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

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**

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com

SEPTEMBER BLOOD DRIVE



Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, Sept 30, 12 - 5 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

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

*Jesus turned and saw her.
"Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you."
And the woman was healed at that moment.
- Matthew 9:22*

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family,

Jesus healed a lot of people in his ministry. I believe he still heals today. So how do I answer the question, "Pastor Mike, do you believe in miracles?" This question came to me recently from a concerned parishioner dealing with a loved one's terminal illness. I've been asked this before, and each time, it sends me down a road of reflection. I think about those valiant souls I've had the privilege to know, who've suffered from cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and heart disease, just to name a few of the many ailments that afflict us as human beings. Many were pillars of faith, displaying Christ-like virtues, enduring pain, and adversity while "fighting the good fight." Despite their unwavering faith and prayers for miracles, many didn't receive the miracle of healing they'd hoped for.

So, do I believe in miracles? Unequivocally, yes.

But let's clear something up: I don't see God as a divine magician, waving a wand to fulfill our specific desires. The reality is more nuanced, more profound. God does answer prayers, but sometimes the miracles we receive aren't what we expected or even realized we needed. In these instances, it's our faith that bridges the gap between our limited human understanding and the divine.

Sometimes, the miracles are subtle. They don't come in a lightning bolt of clarity, but rather like a sunrise, gradually illuminating the landscape of our lives. It could be the new-found courage you discover when facing a daunting diagnosis, or the inexplicable peace that envelops you amid a storm of personal hardship. That peace — what Jesus called the peace "that passes all understanding" — is in itself miraculous.

If there's anything that my years of ministry have taught me, it's that God doesn't always color within the lines of our expectations. A miraculous healing that extends earthly life does occur, and it's awe-inspiring when it happens. But sometimes the miracle is something less tangible but no less powerful — a renewal of spirit, the comforting presence of God when we need it most, or an unanticipated reconciliation with a long-estranged loved one.

So, yes, I do believe in miracles. But more importantly, I believe in the miracle-maker — our loving God, who hears our prayers, knows our needs, and responds in ways that, sooner or later, make us wonder why we ever doubted in the first place.

May you experience a miracle or two in your lifetime, for the miracle-maker is still out there!

See you in church on Sunday,

Pastor Mike

FINANCIAL NEWS

Take a moment to review the table. July was a great month as we almost had a breakeven situation! But with that being said, we are still behind for the year. August will be another month of falling behind, as gifts are down and we have one of those months with three payroll days. I know you are tired of reading the same statement, but it is a reality, and we must address the possibility of being in a negative position at the end of the year unless we reverse this trend of not meeting our needs monthly. I would expect our giving to increase as we leave the summer months and return to school year status.

For General Operations:	July 2024	Year to Date 2024
Given	\$51,479	\$379,609
Need	\$51,675	\$419,853
Outcome	(\$195)	(\$40,244)

Times are tough. Families are struggling with increased inflation and rising prices for basic needs. This is an election year which only adds to the angst and frustrations of all of us. Changes are something that we all hate, but the one thing that will not change is our obligation to meet the needs of the Church of the Warm Heart. We need to continue to support our church with our prayers, our continued service, and our financial support.

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.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Hello Warm Heart families!

It's hard to believe that summer is over, and the kiddos are back in school. Hopefully, your families have had a chance to get into a routine for the new school year. Last month we held a blessing of the backpacks during both our services. Along with the blessings from Pastor Mike, the children also received little goodie bags for each of them. If your child was unable to attend, please reach out so I can make sure everyone gets a bag.

Sunday, September 8, we will be having our fall kick off. Please join us after second service for a picnic in the park across the street. Bring your chairs and something yummy to share. There will also be a bounce house!

I am thrilled to start back up our weekly Wednesday evening program! **Bible Builders** (formally known as Pioneer Club) will meet weekly from 6 - 7:30 p.m. for a fun time with friends as we explore the stories of the Bible. Please join us Wednesday, September 11, for our first meeting of the year. To celebrate, we will be having a sweet treat! Bring your friends!

I am excited to see what the new school year brings!

Take care,

Malia Paz
children@meridianumc.com



Warm Heart Kids Pool Party

YOUTH MINISTRIES

September usually includes lots of football, cooler weather, and the kick-off of fall programming here at the Church of the Warm Heart! This school year, we'll be meeting regularly in two sections — 812 Youth Group for kids in grades 8-12, and Inbetweeners for kids in grades 5-7. We'll also join forces at least once a month for some epic adventures and serving at the Backpack Program! This year we're also inviting other UMC youth from around the Treasure Valley to join our big events. What a great opportunity for collaboration, new relationships, and fun!

Events for 812 Youth Group and Inbetweeners:

Saturday, September 7 – 812 Youth Group Hangout
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Nicole's House

Sunday, September 22 – 812 Youth Group
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Youth Room

Sunday, September 29 – 812 Youth Group
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Youth Room

Wednesdays, September 11, 18, and 25 – Inbetweeners
6:00 – 7:45 p.m., Sanctuary and Youth Room

Events for all youth:

Sunday, September 8 – All-Church Kick-Off Picnic
12:15 p.m., park across the street

Tuesday, September 10 – Backpack Program
3:30 p.m., Meridian Food Bank

Sunday, September 15 – Photo Scavenger Hunt
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., start and end at the church

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



Warm Heart Youth Bowling Night

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Crop walks are community events that raise funds to end hunger both locally (25% of funds stay here with Idaho food banks) and around the world.

Our 2024 Ada County CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 13, at 3:00 p.m., starting at Julia Davis Park. Put it on your calendar!



CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The **Women's Retreat** is back for another year of connection, growth, and fun! This retreat is not just an event; it's meant to be an opportunity to build lasting relationships with other women in our community while deepening your faith. It can be easy to feel isolated and lonely, so let's fight that! We need each other. We need you!

Date: October 18th-20th
Location: Pilgrim Cove Camp in McCall on Payette Lake
Registration will be coming soon on the church website.
Please contact Lisa Miller with any questions



Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

WORSHIP ARTS

Your Celebration Choir and Koinonia Handbell Choir will be back in service on Sunday, Sept. 8! There is always room for YOU! Rehearsals have started back up on Thursday evenings in the sanctuary: 6:30 p.m. for choir and 5:30 p.m. for handbells. We welcome singers and ringers of all levels and experience; it's never too late to join!



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 scripture and message of the day. Second service is live streamed as well! Be sure to check us out! If you are interested in making music with us, let me know!

Rolling Tones Youth Chime Choir will be back in action, rehearsing on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary beginning on Sept. 11! All youth are welcome to come join in the fun, ringing together and enhancing worship throughout the year.

Angels Alive Choir will resume along with our Wednesday evening children's programming on September 11. Children ages 4-5th grade will learn songs that support their Bible stories and lessons. We incorporate singing, skits, handbells, and more! This group participates in worship September through May. Questions? Just shoot me an email.

Fall Special Music – We welcome instrumental and/or vocal solos and ensembles to enhance our worship services throughout the year. If you can help, contact Debbie Jones: worshiparts@meridianumc.com.

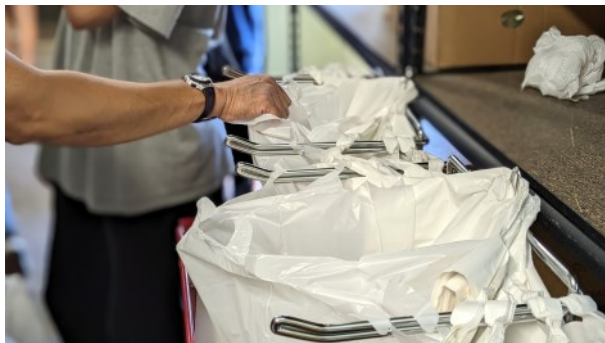
Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

BACKPACK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Free and reduced price meals in schools are a big deal. They have done so much to help kids and families in need. But several years ago, a local youth group noticed that some kids were still coming to school on Monday morning and eating breakfast—as the first meal they'd had since last Friday's lunch. That didn't sit right with them. And so they worked with the Meridian Food Bank to make a change.



The Backpack Program provides students in West Ada with food for two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and two snacks each week school is in session. School counselors identify kids who need the bags, and they provide the Food Bank with numbers. Then comes the action and the horde of volunteers!

On **Mondays**, the first volunteers prep the packing area, making sure the place is filled with boxes of fruit cups, packages of ramen, and more.



On **Tuesdays**, up to thirty people at once descend on the center and get packing bags! One circuit around the food room = one full bag of food. The last thing to go in each bag is two cartons of milk; then it's time to tie the bag tightly, add it to the count, and find it a spot on the shelves.



Wednesdays and **Thursdays** see the bags picked up by still more volunteers! These folks each have a "route" with several schools where they deliver bags. The numbers vary from week to week, so volunteers carefully collect the correct number of bags for their schools before driving their drop routes on **Friday** mornings.

The Warm Heart Youth are proud to help with the Backpack Program (the packing part) one Tues. a month. This year, we helped with the very first week—when the count of requested bags was just 335. As the school year goes on, this count will grow and grow. By the end of last school year, we had weeks where the requests numbered over nine hundred!

The Backpack Program is meeting a powerful need in our community. Feeding others is the work of the kingdom.



N, O, P, Q, R, and S showed up with an incredible 562 pounds of donations for the Meridian Food Bank in July. Great work, church!



MINISTRIES & NEWS

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

“At Atlantic Street Center, we know food is one way to bring people together. However, those we serve must focus on basic survival with limited resources. This means that traditional foods and even regular healthy meals are often omitted. Over the last few years, we have been incorporating gift cards to places like grocery stores to give families the opportunity to find ingredients that can make a difference in their day-to-day lives. We also provide culturally relevant and healthy snacks at community events, after-school programs, and support groups, and include meals at no cost to our program participants. By being able to incorporate more food into their daily lives, adults can teach more recipes to children to pass down traditions and keep young people healthy and energized in school and after-school activities.”

Atlantic Street Center is a UWFaith National Mission Institution in Seattle, Washington. Since 1910, Atlantic Street Center’s mission has been to support families and communities with raising healthy, successful children and youth through direct services and advocacy for social justice and equity. They provide wrap-around services including early education, family support, and behavioral health services to families in need within King County, Seattle, and North Pierce County.

This National Mission Institution, one of 99 in the United States, is supported by OUR Pledge to Mission. Each quarter, we support this and other national and international ministries by our giving. Aren’t you proud to be part of an organization that is doing so much for so many?

September is always back to school, back to church, and back to UWFaith. We have several things coming up after a relaxing summer:

September 6-8: Soul Care Retreat is being put on by the Conference UWFaith at Suttle Lake UMC Church camp on September 6-8. If you are interested in attending, talk to me as it may not be too late to get registered. (“An empty lantern provides no light”—come be filled. Rest, Rejuvenate, Reconnect.)

September 19: The book club will be reading: “They Call Us Enemy,” by George Takie. We’ll meet at 12:00 noon in the FLC for a sack lunch meal with book discussing to begin at 12:30 p.m.

September 28: “Faith, Hope, and Love In Action,” Sage District Annual Celebration. Guest speaker is Amanda Hutchinson Weaver, a staff person of the National UWFaith. Attend in person at Hillview UMC, or via zoom. Please register with Judy Halverson by emailing judybhalverson@gmail.com.

October 5: We’ve been invited to join Boise 1st UWFaith to learn how ranked choice voting works and then participate in a mock vote, all in preparation for the November election. Watch for a flyer in an upcoming E-Blast and newsletter.

School is starting up again and we support the youth of the West Ada School district with all sorts of hygiene items through the Mirror Image project. Please pick up and donate an item or two when you are at the store, or give a cash donation to the church, marking your check, Mirror Image. For a specific list of items most needed, please contact Lisa Miller.

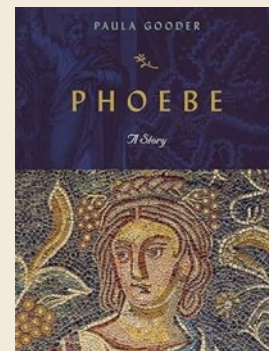
Blessings,

Dixie Jacky
United Women in Faith President

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

In Paul’s letter to the Romans, we read in 16:1-2, “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help in whatever she may need from you, for she has been patron of many and of myself as well.”



From that single mention of Phoebe in Paul’s letter, author Paula Gooder has built the story of the woman Paul trusted to deliver his letter to Rome. Gooder did extensive research into what scholars have learned about Paul, the early church, life in the first century A.D., the culture of early Jewish Christians, and the context of Paul’s letters to add context and drama to this bare-bones reference.

Imagine what it must have been like to hear this personal letter of correspondence for the first time, to puzzle over every detail of what Paul was telling the fledgling church in Rome, and to hear the words read aloud by this unknown woman traveler sent as Paul’s messenger!

There is much that Bible scholars know, and more that a colorful imagination can fill in. In *Phoebe: A Story*, Gooder uses her scholarship and her own thoughts to create realistic details about the people close to Paul. She recreates the feelings and motivations of early believers, and sets before the reader a rich world of faith and doubt, understanding and questions, Jew and Gentile, slave and free. Their stories pull you in and make those early, heady days of church expansion feel as compelling and exciting as current events



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

September Events to Celebrate!

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

September 8 – *Kick-Off Sunday*

September 11 – *Wednesday Evening Children’s Programming Resumes*

September 15 – *Youth Photo Scavenger Hunt*

September 30 – *Blood Drive*

October

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Thursday,
September 26th**

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

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!