



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

FOOTPRINTS

October 2024

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 a.m.
11:15 a.m.

Both services are broadcast online.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

2:00 p.m.



World Communion Sunday

Be sure to join us on Oct 6th for World Communion Sunday. Check out Pastor Mike's page to learn a little about the origins of this tradition!

Pink Out Sunday

On Sunday, Oct 27th, help us turn the sanctuary pink! Wear your pink dresses, shirts, ties, ribbons, hair, etc. Let's celebrate life, increase awareness, and raise hope!



SERMON SERIES October 2024

10.06.2024

The Altar of Praise
Genesis 12:1-7



10.13.2024

The Altar of Prayer
Genesis 12:8-20



10.20.2024

The Altar of Peace
Genesis 13



10.27.2024

The Altar of Providence
Genesis 22:1-18

Mirror Image



The Mirror Image closet is up and running! 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.

Lunch Bunch

Do you like to eat? Have we got an opportunity for you! On the first Sunday of the month, the Lunch Bunch gathers at a local restaurant for food and fellowship. This month's gathering is on October 6th after 2nd service, at Ling and Louie's. There's still time to sign up. Just contact the Church Office by October 3rd!



Candy Donations



We would greatly appreciate your donations of individually wrapped candies for and our Fall Festiva. Talk to Malia Paz or Nicole Walker for more details.

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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**
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- Children's Minister** (ext. 108)
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- Office Manager** (ext. 102)
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- Organist**
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com
- Facility Personnel**
Dave Scarpellini maintenance@meridianumc.com (M - Th)
Don Woods dandvwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

September

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
Sarah Thostenen

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

CARD MAKERS



Have you ever received a textured ribbon card from the church? Have you ever wondered how those beautiful cards are made? The Card Makers meet on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in FLC #2, and they would LOVE to teach you their ways. If you can cut, fold, and tape, you can be part of this awesome little ministry!

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 Family and Friends:

Back in 1933, the world was as fractured as it had been in a great while. The world had not healed from the divisions of the Great War. Adolf Hitler was consolidating power in Nazi Germany, and a second great war in Europe was becoming more and more inevitable. It was also the worst year of the Great Depression, with more than one in four able-bodied Americans out of work and people around the world in financial despair. Racial tensions were causing rifts. Sunday morning was one of the most segregated times of the week. Even people of faith were suspicious of outsiders and largely didn't interact with other denominations.

One lone Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh had an idea. Dr. Kerr, pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church, wanted to bring various churches in the area together for a service focused on unity. He felt that one thing that unites us all in the Christian faith is the celebration of Holy Communion. Kerr wanted the service to be a celebration of Christian unity with Communion as the primary exhibition of this united nature. So he began inviting congregations to celebrate communion on the same day to emphasize unity and solidarity. By 1940, when the day was approved by the Federal Council of Churches, the war had begun in Europe. "World Wide Communion Sunday," as it was originally called, was meant to be a service of Christian togetherness in an extremely turbulent and divided time.

Ninety-some years later, we still participate in World Communion Sunday. Churches across the world come together and share the ancient meal. Is it still important? Just take a look around. It's easy to identify the ways we don't agree. Anything we can do to restore unity and purpose is a blessing.

On the first Sunday of October, join us in worship as we continue the tradition of receiving the bread and the cup — knowing that the Lord's Table is wider and greater than we can imagine or believe. We give thanks for Vicki Swanson, Linda Murphy, and Debbie Jones who prepare our communion table each month — but we are especially grateful this month as they share bread from across the world for us to partake. I will also lead us in the formal liturgy of Communion, commonly referred to as The Great Thanksgiving.

See you in worship!

Pastor Mike

P.S. Did you know our sanctuary turns 50 years old next month? We're having a celebration on November 17th, and we want to take the opportunity to also celebrate any members who have been with us for those 50 years. If that includes you and you haven't already heard from us, give the office a call!



Top Left: Our old Sanctuary building. Picture taken shortly after the construction of the Education Wing.

Top Right: Our current sanctuary, picture taken in 1978.

Bottom Left: Bishop Jack Tuell leading the consecration service for the new sanctuary on November 17, 1974. Reverend Tom Whitehead, District Superintendent, is off to the side.

Bottom Right: The dedication of Luscombe Hall on the same day. Notice our own Don Woods on the left?

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Hello Warm Heart families!

As the leaves change and the weather cools, we're excited to share the latest news from our children's ministry!

Our Wednesday evening **Bible Builders** kicked off the year with learning about being a "bucket filler" and reading *A Spot of Kindness*. We will begin to dive into the New Testament starting this month. I'm so excited for our group to explore the Bible! Join us whenever you're able, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.



The Bible Builders spending some time in the park!

Join us on October 26th, 2:00-4:00 p.m., for our annual **Family Fall Festival!** Enjoy games, crafts, food, and fun for all ages. Invite your friends and neighbors! Costumes welcome.

*We also need volunteers for this awesome event!



Our 2023 Fall Festival crowd.

Take care,

Malia Paz
children@meridianumc.com

YOUTH MINISTRIES

October is here, and with it comes an extra helping of service opportunities for the Warm Heart Youth! We have apples to pick for a local who wants to donate to the food bank, our standing Backpack Program date, a station to staff at the City of Meridian's Trunk or Treat, and the WHK's Fall Festival to help with! I hope every youth can choose at least one of these opportunities to give back to our community – and join in the fun events this month, too.

"Regular" meetings:

Sundays, October 6, 13, and 20 – **812 Youth Group**
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Youth Room

Wednesdays, October 9, 16, 23, and 30 – **Inbetweeners**
6:00 – 7:45 p.m., Sanctuary and Youth Room

Events for all youth:

Wednesday, October 2 – Farmstead Night
5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Lowe Family Farmstead

Sunday, October 27 – Live-Action CLUE Night
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., FLC

Service opportunities for all youth:

Early October – pick apples for donation
Exact date/time TBD; let Nicole know if you want to help!

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

Thursday, October 24 – Meridian's Trunk or Treat
6:00 – 9:00 p.m., downtown Meridian

Saturday, October 26 – Family Fall Festival
2:00 – 4:00 p.m., FLC

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



The Inbetweeners play a board game together.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Do you long for connection? Do you feel that lately, even with technology, it's become more difficult to relate, to belong, and to connect with each other?

Well, the **Women's Retreat** is back for another year of connection, growth, and fun! For those of you who wanted more spiritual content at our women's retreat, we are delivering! We all deal with people who are a joy to love and those who are difficult to love. Come join us for a fun-filled weekend as we learn how to love well. We will hear from best-selling author and teacher Beth Moore through video, enjoy fun fellowship with other women, laugh our heads off, shed a few tears, eat, stay up late, rest in nature, make new friends, and enjoy old friends. It is a weekend you do not want to miss! Please contact Lisa Miller for more information.

Women's Retreat
October 18th-20th
Pilgrim Cove Camp in McCall
Cost: \$85

You can register for this awesome weekend on the church website or talk with Lisa if you need more details. There's a place for YOU on this retreat! Come connect, relax, and be renewed.



Women's Retreat 2023

It's time for another **CROP Walk**! Did you know? CROP Walks give you opportunities to...

- put your body in motion
- connect with others in your community in a meaningful way
- do something for our most vulnerable neighbors

...all at one time!

When you walk, give, and raise funds through CROP Hunger Walk, you are saving lives. Join us on **Sunday, October 13**, at **3:00 p.m.** at Julia Davis Park by the Agriculture Pavilion. If you would like more information, please contact Lisa Miller. To sign up or donate, please visit our website.



A few familiar CROP walkers from 2023

Blessings and good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



Ladies Night Out at Blue Sky Flower Farm!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

MUSIC MINISTRY

October Special Music – There are lots of exciting musical offerings scheduled this month. Don't miss music by our youth chime choir, our friend Susan Hohstadt-Voermans on flute, a piano quartet, and violin music from our own Heather Calkins! If you'd like to offer some special music of your own, let me know and we'll get you added to the schedule.

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 of the day. This service is live streamed as well, so even if you can't make it in-person, you can worship with us from home. If you are interested in joining the worship team and making music with us, let me know!

The Rolling Tones Chime Choir is back in action, rehearsing on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.! All youth, grades 6-12 are welcome to come join in the fun ringing together and enhancing worship throughout the year. Look for them to share their music in worship on Sunday, October 6.

Angels Alive Choir meets on Wednesday evenings as part of Bible Builders. Children join together in praise and song, learning music that supports their lessons. We incorporate singing, skits, handbells, and more, plus we participate in Sunday worship! By splitting the kids into two smaller groups each week, we are able to match music to their levels. Contact me if you want to get your child (or grandchild) involved.



Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

It is hard to believe, but we are headed into the last quarter of 2024. Unfortunately, the figures for August are not very encouraging. August was one of those months where we had three payroll periods, but the YTD figures are significant as well as the August figures. I know you are tiring of reading the same message, but it is a reality. We must address the possibility of being in a negative position at the end of the year unless we experience substantial giving here in the final few months of 2024.

For General Operations:	Aug 2024	Year to Date 2024
Given	\$39,535	\$419,144
Need	\$66,134	\$485,987
Outcome	(\$26,599)	(\$66,843)

You might ask, "Don, as Stewardship Chair of Meridian UMC, how do you sleep at night when the financial figures look like this?" I must admit, I worry. I become anxious about our ability to meet our commitments and our viability as a church. But there are reasons to hope, and I want to remind you of those reasons as I remind myself.

First, as a former pastor told me many times, we've got all the money we need! It's just in people's pockets at the moment.

Second, I know that the people of the Church of the Warm Heart are extremely generous. Just look at the enormous response we had to our food drive this summer, or ask Malia if she was able to find her desk under all the donated school supplies in August. We show up and show out for the Thanksgiving Food Box ministry and the Veterans Foot Locker Drive. We flood the ministry office with candy before the Fall Festival and Easter. We supporting our youth on their mission trips year after year. We are an extremely generous people! We just need to remember to keep the church lights on and the pastor's salary paid, too.

The United Methodist membership question is simple: Will you faithfully participate in the church's ministries by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness? Not all of us are members, and not all of us have the resources to give generous financial gifts to the church at this time. But we all love this congregation and the ministries of our church, and we all have something to offer this community. I have faith we can pull together to meet our financial obligations by the end of the year. We will continue to faithfully participate in the ministries of this church.

If you have any questions regarding our finances, please don't hesitate to contact Lori Jones, Finance Committee Chair, at lhjones2021@gmail.com, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chair, at maroontycoon63@gmail.com.

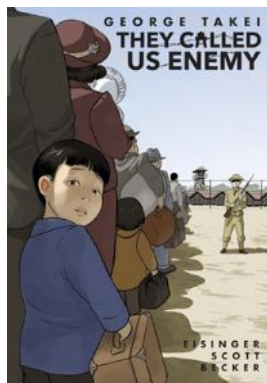
MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

In February, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which established Japanese "exclusion areas" and set the process in motion for the establishment of internment camps for thousands of U.S. citizens of Japanese descent.

Actor, activist, and author George Takei (known to many as Lt. Sulu on the Starship Enterprise), has written a graphic novel, *They Called Us Enemy*. This memoir recounts his family's experience at Camp Rowher in Arkansas and then Camp Tule Lake in California. George, age 4, his younger brother and sister, and his parents, spent four years in these camps during World War II. The trauma of losing his home, having his family uprooted, and experiencing first-hand the strain it placed on his parents helped shape him into the lifelong social activist he has become. He knows the pain of injustice, and he has seen the promise of democracy played out. His optimism about that promise keeps him going.



The United Women in Faith book club selects a variety of books each year; this was our discussion book for September and was our first graphic novel. History can be shared in many formats, and this was an interesting way to present a troubling chapter in America's past. It is informative, personal, and above all, hopeful; and it is engaging for youths through adults. It is available on the United Women in Faith kiosk in the Family Life Center, and anyone is welcome to check it out using the self-checkout system. Please enjoy our thought-provoking books.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

Our theme this year was "Wisdom," using Proverbs 8: Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? We followed (loosely!) that theme and ended up doing our Reading Program books and meetings on the World War II internment camps. In June, several of us visited the Idaho History Museum and explored the exhibit *Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience*. (It's not too late to still visit that traveling exhibit.) In September, the Book Club read *They Called Us Enemy*.

In October, we are excited to welcome Jane Gunther, who was incarcerated as an infant in one of the camps. Please plan to attend our luncheon on Saturday, October 12, at 12 p.m., to hear Jane share her story of her family's experience. Please call the church office by Wednesday, October 9, to register so we can plan to have enough food.

If you would like to learn more about *Proposition One: Open Primaries Act* (also known as a ranked choice voting system), the UWFaith of Boise First have invited us to attend a meeting at their church on Saturday, October 5, at 10 a.m. in their fellowship hall. A ballot review and information about Prop One will be shared and then there will be a mock election to practice how ranked choice voting works.

This month, our Pledge to Mission gift is supporting an Earth Day collaborative resource with Creation Justice Ministries of Indianapolis, Indiana; University United Methodist Church or Irvine, California; and the Myrtle Social Welfare Network in India which helps vulnerable children who are diagnosed with cancer, and their parents, through the Ann Cares Foundation.

ALL CHURCH SOUPER SATURDAY BAZAAR

The All Church Souper Saturday Bazaar has a long and storied history at the Church of the Warm Heart. The Bazaar is a fundraiser for our church, but it's also so much more. It's a warm lunch that fills you from tip to toes. It's handmade crafts and silent auction baskets and homemade baked goods. It's a time of fellowship for the church and community. And we need YOU to help make it happen.

Are you a crafter, a cook, a woodworker, a dish washer, a gardener, a cashier, a quilter, an artist, a baker, a pie maker, a person? You're just who we need! We are looking for silent auction items, crafts, baskets, baked goods, and of course...soup! You can also donate your time in any number of different capacities. Everyone can be a part of this fun event and the proceeds will all benefit the church.

Not sure how to help? Contact Margaret Pridmore at **(208) 249-8580** and she will match your time or talent with our need. We hope you'll mark your calendars for Saturday, November 2, and plan to bring everyone you know.



Souper Saturday Bazaar 2023



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

October Events to Celebrate!

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

October 6 – *World Communion Sunday*

October 12 – *UW Faith Luncheon*

October 13 – *CROP Walk*

October 18-20 – *Women's Retreat*

October 26 – *Family Fall Festival*

October 27 – *Pink Out Sunday*

November

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Friday,

October 26th

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

Thank you!