

FOOTPRINTS

May 2022

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 May 2022

05.01.2022

Brand Plucked From the Burning

Romans 5:7-10



05.08.2022

Susanna Wesley

I Thessalonians 2:1-8



05.15.2022

Conversion!

Galatians 2:20-21



05.22.2022

Social Holiness

Matt 22:36-40; I John 4:19-21; John 13:34-35



05.29.2022

Circuit riders

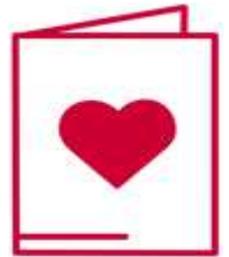
Luke 14:15-24

PUBLIC MEETING

What is being planned for the Civic Block across Idaho Ave. from the sanctuary? A proposal to replace the park, the City Activities building, and the Valley Ride parking lot with a mixed-use development will be presented at the second of three public workshops. **Monday, May 9**, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at **unBound** (722 E. 2nd St., Meridian).

CARD MAKERS

Our card makers are back in action! They meet at 2:00 p.m. in the Upper Room on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, and they would love for you to join them. No experience necessary!



FRIENDS AND FELLOWSHIP GAME NIGHT



Join us at the home of Ann Smith at 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month for a night of food, fun, and fellowship. Please bring a snack to share for supper (5:30 p.m.) and a beverage for yourself. RSVP with Ann at aws1950@msn.com or (208) 891-3291 and she will share her address.

SAVE THE DATE: CHURCH IN THE PARK

Be sure to join us on **Sunday, June 5th**, for worship in the park! This will be a blend of our traditional and contemporary services. There will be no services in the sanctuary that morning, but the service will be recorded and posted for online viewing as soon as possible. We'll start the service at 10:00 a.m. at the Kleiner Park band shell.



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April

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS: *Please pray for the families of...*

Beverly Estes

BAPTISMS:



If you can't make it on Sunday morning, you're in luck! Both our traditional and contemporary services (as well as special events like our recent Good Friday service) are broadcast live on Facebook, YouTube, and our website.

Slept in too late to catch us live? We've still got you covered! All our services (and our weekly Tuesday Bible Study) are posted online for later viewing.

We'd love to know who's watching! You can send an email to attendance@meridianumc.com to let us know if you joined us online.

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)
Cassie Collins children@meridianumc.com

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Receptionist (ext. 101)
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Jacob Walker cc@meridianumc.com
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Sound Technician
Jacob Rarick sound@meridianumc.com

Nursery Coordinator
Christine Jayne nursery@meridianumc.com

Organist
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

Facility Personnel (ext. 110)
Morgen McClung maintenance@meridianumc.com (M-Th)
Don Woods dandwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Administrative Council Chair Dean Kubena
Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair Chuck Davis
Trustees Chair Ron Pridmore
Systems Administrator Integrity Computer Consultants
Finance Co-Chairs Brian Sauer & Lori Jones
Treasurer Lori Jones
Financial Secretary Diane Brister
Futures Team Chair Lori Jones
United Methodist Men President Ed Emmel
United Methodist Women 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, Shirley O'Neal, 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



Dear Warm Heart friends and family,

"Be Still, and know that I am God."
Psalm 46:10

In my ordaining "interviews" by the team assigned to vote on me being a pastor 24 years ago, I was asked a simple question. I had told them all of the activities and programs I was a part of in church work, church camping, youth, and worship. It was a busy, busy time. And the question posed to me was simply: "Could you just sit for a day, watch the sun rise up in the morning, and stay there till the sun goes down and still feel God's presence?"



I thought, what a crazy question! Why would you waste a day like that and not DO anything? I had a lot to learn. Many times, relationships are built on just being present with each other, and this is also true with God.

We are in times where we have been limited in our activities and "doing". The past two years have been a trying time for many. For me, some of the harder days were when not much was open and there was little to do. Our sanctuary was quiet. The malls were quiet. Even the interstate seemed a little easier to navigate (just a little). I had to find the Holy in these quiet times. Maybe you did too.

Reminds me of the first temple built by the people of God: "In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel, or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built." (1 Kings 6:7). Even the temple, as it was built, was a quiet place!

I am happy that our church is "open for business" once again. We have responded with caution and prudence. Maybe too much at some times, maybe not enough at others, but we're trying. And our hope is that we are on the tail end of the pandemic! Stay vigilant and stay safe.

And as we go back into normalcy, may we keep with us the still and quiet voice of God - and find those times to reflect and be at peace. Even on the interstate...

See you in church!

Pastor Mike
pastormike@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Happy Spring, Families!

We are finally getting the spring weather we have been hoping for since March! It will be another busy but fun month for the Warm Heart Kids!

We will kick off the month with a special Native American presentation by the Rasmussen family on **May 1st** during Children's Time. The following Sunday is Mother's Day, and the kids will have a special treat for the congregation during both services. Pioneer Club will be wrapping up this month with an end of the year celebration on **May 11th**.

Our 3rd Graders were presented with their Bibles on the last Sunday in April and will be finishing up their Bible study class this month. The children that received Bibles are Laila, A.J., Olivia, Kenzie, and Kimbra, all of whom are taking the Bible class! If you run into any of these kiddos, make sure to congratulate them on their commitment and dedication to learning God's word.

Our last Parents' Night Out for the school year will be **Friday, May 13th**. Fear not! We will have fun kids' events throughout the summer, too! The kids will have the opportunity to participate in VBS, summer camp, and our own Church Camp at the end of the summer. If you haven't made plans yet, I hope you'll join us at Pilgrim's Cove Camp on Payette Lake in McCall over Labor Day weekend. If you need a camp scholarship this summer, please fill out an application (on the table under the Warm Heart Kids bulletin in the FLC) and turn it in by **May 10th** to Cassie Collins or the office.

I hope you and your family have a blessed month!

In His Service,

Cassie Collins
children@meridianumc.com

APRIL EVENTS

Wednesdays 5/4 & 5/11

Pioneer Club & Angels Alive Choir
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
(May 11 End of Year Party!)

Friday 5/13

Parent's Night Out
6:00-8:30 p.m.

Sundays 5/1, 5/15, 5/22

Third Grade Bible Study & Lunch
12:30-1:45 p.m.
(No Bible Study on Mother's Day)

Sunday 5/29

Memorial Day - Kids in Worship

YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Warm Heart Youth are set to have some fun during this last full month of school. Time outdoors, games of bowling, and an adventure at The Village are all on the calendar! I hope you'll be able to join us for laughter and fellowship between last-minute homework projects and papers.

Rolling Tones Chime Choir practices on **Wednesday nights, May 4 and 11**, from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. *After playing in church on **May 15**, this group will disband for the summer.*

Middle School Youth Group continues on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the FLC. *But please note that we're starting early on **May 18** (6:00 p.m.) so we can get in two good games of bowling at Meridian Lanes!*

High School Youth Group has a Picnic at Settler's Park on **May 1** and a night of bowling at Meridian Lanes on **May 18**, both from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. *We will NOT meet on either Mother's Day (**May 8**) or Memorial Day Weekend (**May 29**).*

Two special events for youth in all grades:

Saturday, May 7 – Body Body Night in the Sanctuary building, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 22 – Where's Waldo at The Village in Meridian, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Sign up for bowling and Where's Waldo as soon as you know you can attend! Let's make some "May Memories" together.

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Summer is on its way and we have lots of opportunities for fellowship on the horizon!

Ladies Night Out

Our ladies had a wonderful evening painting together in April, and we'd love to have you join us this month for food and fellowship. Let's meet for some outside dining at Bardenay restaurant in Eagle on **Tuesday, May 17th** at 5 p.m.



Please RSVP with Lisa Miller so we can have the correct seating count.



Walking Group

Starting **May 4th**, we will meet at the church each Wednesday, say a quick prayer, and walk through the neighborhoods near the church from approximately 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for some low-impact exercise!

Play Ball!

Let's play ball! We have not had a church softball team for several years due to COVID, and we have been missing out on all the fun and fellowship. We would like to know if we have enough interest to form a team this year. The plan is to play on the City of Meridian Coed Fall League. The season starts around **July 11th** and ends in September. Games are played on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. If you are interested in playing, please contact Lisa Miller **before June 1st** to be added to the list.



Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

ADULT MINISTRIES

Things are busy as ever at the Church of the Warm Heart! Here are a few important updates:

Wednesday Night Bible Study: Our Wednesday night study of the major and minor prophets is being put on hold for the month of May. We will resume the study on **June 8**.



Lectio Divina: While our Wednesday study is on hold, our Ladies Study Group will spend the month of May practicing Lectio Divina. This is an ancient practice from Christian tradition, dating back to the early medieval era. Based on the image of Jacob's ladder, the 12th century Carthusian monk Guigo II described four steps: reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation.

Through these four steps, we hope that God's word will sink deeper into our hearts and imaginations.

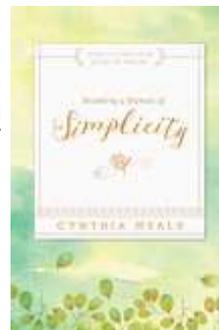
Sharon Rohnert will be facilitating our Lectio Divina group, which will meet on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on **May 9, 16, and 23**. Please contact the church office if you'd like to participate.

Ladies Book Study: After our May of Lectio Divina, we will begin an 11-week study on the book *Becoming a Woman of Simplicity* by Cynthia Heald...

God Invites You to Be at Rest.

Can life in this multitasking world be tamed? In a culture that pulls women in multiple directions at once, is it possible to declutter the calendar, reduce energy-draining distractions, and exchange some of those urgencies for what is truly important?

This timely Bible study from bestselling author Cynthia Heald shows you that, yes, a simpler life is not only possible, but also vital.



Becoming a Woman of Simplicity delves into Scripture and offers practical, real-life counsel so you can experience the freedom necessary to live with the quiet confidence God intended.

This study will be held over Zoom, Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m., beginning **June 6**. Please contact the church office to register.

Blessings,

Pastor Jen
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com

NEWS & MORE

MUSIC MINISTRY

Do you play an instrument or sing? We would love to get you plugged into music ministry here at the Church of the Warm Heart. We have various vocal or instrumental groups to join, and welcome you to share a special offering during our services. We are now scheduling summer months. Please contact Debbie Jones if you can help.

Music Opportunities for Children and Youth:

The **Rolling Tones Chime Choir** will be offering selections on **May 15** at both services. This group welcomes any youth, grades 6-12, to come ring tone chimes and make some music together. No experience necessary! Consider joining in the fun!

The **Angels Alive Choir** will be offering a short skit during Children’s Time at both services on **May 8**. Any children (ages 4 – 5th grade) are welcome to join us. We rehearse at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary.

Music Opportunities for Adults:

Our **Celebration Choir** will conclude this season with one final pre-recorded anthem. If this is something you would like to participate in, please contact Debbie Jones for more information. Stay posted for updates on the in-person return of our beloved Celebration Choir!

Our **Koinonia Handbell Choir** will resume regular rehearsals in August. In the meantime, if you are interested in ringing solos or in ensembles (especially during the summer months), please contact Debbie Jones. Don’t miss our final music offering at both services on **May 8**.

Please contact me with any questions! Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	Mar. 2022	Year to Date 2022
Given	\$52,496	\$168,615
Need	\$60,982	\$172,045
Outcome	(\$8,486)	(\$3,430)

	1st Qtr. Giving	1st Qtr. Expenses	Outcome
2020	\$171,796	\$189,332	(\$17,535)
2021	\$172,129	\$178,065	(\$5,936)
2022	\$168,615	\$172,045	(\$3,430)

The figures above-left are for the first quarter of 2022. Expenses rose about \$4,000, which means we are now in a negative position of \$3,430 after the first quarter of 2022. Please do not be discouraged by the above figures. If you look back for three years (above-right), we are in a better position than 2020 or 2021.

Please be aware that our expenses may well continue to increase. We are still getting back into the full “swing of things.” Generally around this time of the year, I begin to worry about falling behind each month and I start to pray for a ninth inning rally so we can finish in the black. However, even though we have lost over one hundred givers since 2020, we are gaining new members who are giving on a consistent basis. We can hope and pray this trend continues as we head into the summer months. As your family travels and enjoys the warm weather, please remember that you can still stay connected to your church family by watching our services and Bible Study online!

There are many ways to make a gift to the Church of the Warm Heart. Please check the website for instructions to make an online gift or the correct address for old-fashioned snail mail check writing.

I encourage you to continue to pray about our church finances, our staff and volunteers, and those who may be suffering in our community and worldwide.

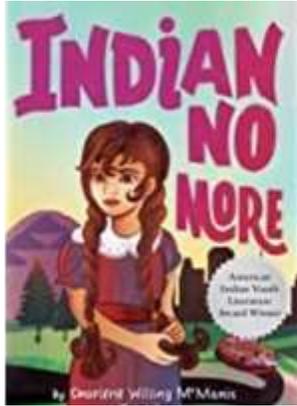
If you have questions regarding our church finances, please contact Lori Jones, Finance Committee Co-Chair, at lhjones2021@gmail.com, 208-484-6076, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chair, at maroontycoon63@gmail.com, 208-871-5221.

NEWS & MORE

THE BOOK NOOK

By Claudia Moberly

If you're Irish, you're Irish; if you're Greek, you're Greek; if you're Indian, you're Indian. Right? Well, not exactly. *Indian No More*, by Charlene Willing McManis, weaves a novel based on the experience of a family from central Oregon who lived on the Umpqua Reservation in the 1950's. In 1953, Congress passed a resolution that began delisting Native American tribes, thereby granting permission to sell reservation land and relocate the inhabitants to cities.



Regina and her extended family lived in the central Oregon mountains. Her father and uncles were loggers, and she and her cousins loved playing outdoors. Then, in 1957 through the Indian Relocation Program, they moved to Los Angeles — paved streets, sidewalks, heat, and multi-racial neighbors. Uprooted from family and familiar surroundings, coping with a new job, a new school, and a new neighborhood, Regina and her family struggle to establish themselves in big-city life at the beginning of the Civil Rights Era. Can they still be “Indian”, or must they now be simply “American”? Can they be both?

In this young-adult novel, the author draws upon her own Umpqua heritage to explore what it means to belong, to be a family, and to be resilient.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

By Dixie Jacky, UWFaith President

What a blessing to gather in person as United Women in Faith. We shared a wonderful afternoon of learning about Amelia Bloomer, a woman who used her God-given skills to change women's lives, by working to give women the right to vote, which had been denied to them for generations.



All women of the church are invited to participate in United Women in Faith. For information about Mirror Image, the United Women in Faith Book Club, the Reading Program, Faith Talks, or any of our other activities, please visit our webpage: meridianumc.com/UWFaith. You can also find our monthly devotion, which includes information on how our Mission giving is making a difference to women, children, and youth here and around the world.

Please mark your calendars for June 9, when we can make a difference in the lives of women and girls as we once again sew for the Meridian Days for Girls organization. Due to Covid, we haven't been able to gather and create these much-needed hygiene kits for girls and young women that are distributed here and in other countries around the world. For more information on Days for Girls, you can go to their website:



<https://www.daysforgirls.org/our-mission/>

All women and girls of the church are invited to come participate. Sewing skills are helpful, but there are jobs for anyone who can iron, use scissors, or trace a pattern. Lunch will be provided, as will all supplies. Cash donations will be gladly accepted, but supplies are always appreciated, too. Watch for more information on meeting time and supplies that can be donated.

As women of the Church striving to make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth, we continue to ask for donations for Mirror Image. Please check the United Women in Faith Website for a list of needed items, or cash donations are always welcome. Just make your check out to Meridian UMC, marking “Mirror Image” in the memo line.



Please hold Claudia Moberly and Dixie Jacky in your prayers as they travel to Orlando, Florida, for the General Assembly of United Women in Faith.

Dixie Jacky
United Women in Faith President



Pictured Above: Most of the attendees at a recent online UWFaith spiritual retreat. Apologies to Dixie and Judy for the editor's poor photography skills.



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

May Events to Celebrate!

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

May 1 - *Native American Ministries Sunday*

May 8 - *Mothers Day*

May 11 - *Pioneers Club End-of-Year Party*

May 13 - *Parents' Night Out*

May 30 - *Memorial Day*

June

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Wednesday,

May 25th

Submissions may be
emailed to Jacob Walker at

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!