

# FOOTPRINTS

June 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 June 2022

**06.05.2022**  
**Shall We Gather at the River**  
Revelation 22:1-5



**06.12.2022**  
**Be Thou My Vision**  
Jeremiah 9:23-24



**06.19.2022**  
**I Need Thee Every Hour**  
John 15:4-5



**06.26.2022**  
**It is Well**  
Isa 66:12; Ps 42:7; Jas 1:2-4; Phil 4:6-7

## 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.



## DAYS FOR GIRLS DONATIONS

Even if you are not planning on participating in the Days for Girls event on June 9, we would greatly appreciate donations of:

- Bright, colored (no white if at all possible), brief-cut, 100% cotton underwear (women's size 5-8). No patterns or other symbols, just plain fabric.
- Bright, plain, colored (as little white as possible) washcloths. Walmart Mainstay brand are ideal.
- New hotel size bars of soap
- Feminine Hygiene products (tampons, pads, etc.)



## SAVE THE DATE: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

We will be participating in a Habitat for Humanity build on June 25, at the Cathedral of the Rockies Amity Campus. We need people of all skill levels to join our Church of the Warm Heart team, no experience needed. If framing a house doesn't sound like your skill set, there are other opportunities to serve at this event. We need individuals to help pass out refreshments and we also need help with writing messages of hope and love for the recipients of the Habitat home. This is a great opportunity for the kids to get involved – all are welcome!

What will you need to bring? Water bottle, sunscreen, gloves, and a willingness to serve.

Email Jen Hunkovic at [adult.ministry@meridianumc.com](mailto:adult.ministry@meridianumc.com) if you would like to join our team.

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## May

### NEW MEMBERS:

Samantha Benishcek  
Landyn Ayers  
John & Marsha Brekke

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

Nancy Laughlin

### BAPTISMS:

Landyn Ayers



It won't surprise you to learn that we are always on the lookout for helping hands, but we especially need your help in the summer months (when many of our regular helpers disappear on these strange things called vacations). Whether you are passing the plates, serving coffee, or greeting visitors, every little bit helps. Check the signup sheets in the Narthex for opportunities to show that Warm Heart spirit.

## 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

**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

**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 dandvwoods@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

**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 friends and family of Meridian UMC:

No, your pastor didn't email you.

I know that sounds negative, but summer is the season of scammers and tricksters.

In the past few months, there has been an uptick in my colleagues reporting that their churches have been hit by scammers. When it comes to churches and other non-profits, fraudsters are most eager to take advantage of the benevolence and trusting nature of those involved. One friend in a former church lost over \$100K in these types of scams!

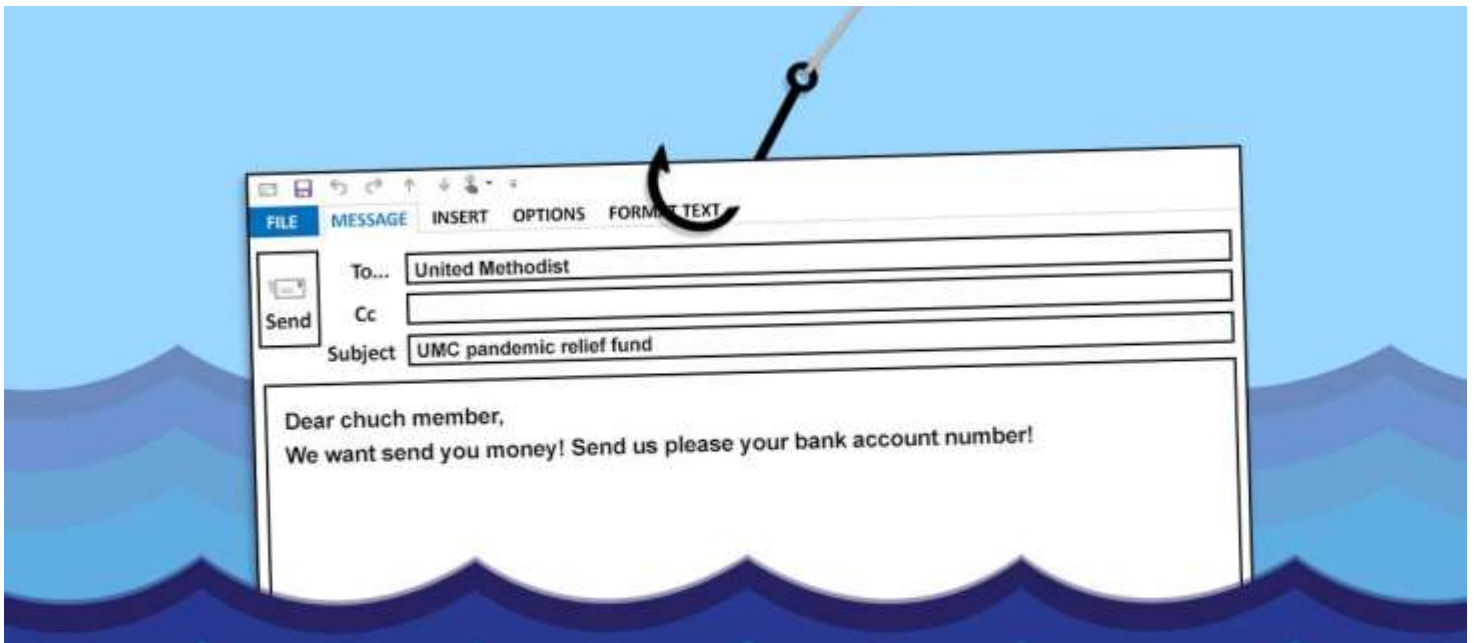
Unfortunately, a lot of our contact information is online. Fraudsters can hack into our accounts (or create like-named accounts) and solicit from our congregations.

**YOUR PASTOR WILL NOT ASK YOU TO BUY GIFT CARDS AND EMAIL BACK THE CODES AND PIN.** We might ask for gift cards (in the newsletter or announcements) to give out for help or for the holidays - but we will not covertly send you a message asking for you to buy a \$100 Target gift card and send back the numbers.

Also, **your pastor was not abducted, and is not stranded in a foreign country** in desperate need of your bail money to get back into the states. I also won't send random texts asking "Are you available right now for a confidential conversation?"

A year ago, I had a wedding couple (whom I had only conversed with online) send me a check for \$2,000 (by mistake, they said). They asked me to send back a check for \$1,900 to refund their check. Of course it was a scam - I didn't even try to cash the \$2,000 or send them \$1,900. Funny, there was no wedding...

Please be careful out there. Be very skeptical of any giving requests you receive online through email or social media. While the request may look like it is coming from an official source, it may not be real, as it may be the result of a hacked or spoofed account. Your best defense against fraudulent email is a healthy amount of skepticism - and if in doubt, contact the church office (don't respond back on the email link).



Online fraud is a frustrating and disappointing part of life today. It is pervasive in part because of its success in capitalizing on good and generous people. Let's do what we can to protect our flock from these cyber-threats.

No, your pastor didn't email you - although I see the irony in sending this out in a newsletter. And if I am stuck in a foreign country asking for bail money, could someone please inform my wife? I might have a lot of explaining to do!

Pastor Mike  
[pastormike@meridianumc.com](mailto:pastormike@meridianumc.com)



# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Summer greetings!

Our kids are finishing the last days of school and now we have more time (and the appropriate weather) to get out and enjoy God's creation! The third graders (pictured below) just completed their Bible Study, so make sure to congratulate the following kids on their hard work and dedication: Laila Albertson, A.J. Paz, Olivia Perry, Kenzie Schippmann and Kimbra Schippmann.



The first Sunday of the month we will be meeting at Kleiner Park for church. The service is Sunday, June 5th, at 10 a.m. at the bandshell. We will have communion, water in case you get thirsty, and goodie bags for the kids. Make sure to wear red for Pentecost and lather up with sunscreen!

Vacation Bible School is set for June 13 - 17 and will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You can sign up now at [vbspro.events/p/events/mumc2022](https://vbspro.events/p/events/mumc2022). VBS is free for everyone, so invite your friends, family, kids in your neighborhood; the only requirement is that they are 4 years to entering sixth grade! If you or your older kids are interested in volunteering, we are looking for help with all positions! Just let me know if you are interested and I can give you more details.

It's not too late to sign your child up for church camp at Sawtooth. Elementary Camp will be July 10 - 16. And don't forget about our Warm Heart Church Camp at the end of the summer, over Labor Day weekend. If you haven't made plans yet, I hope you'll join us at the beautiful Pilgrim's Cove on Payette Lake in McCall. Email me if you're interested, and there will be more information coming soon. Everyone is welcome! If you need a scholarship for camp this summer, please fill out an application (on the table under the Warm Heart Kids bulletin board in the FLC) and return it to me.

I hope you all have a wonderful month!

In His Service,

Cassie Collins  
[children@meridianumc.com](mailto:children@meridianumc.com)

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

This summer, we are going to try out a twice-monthly **Youth Night** in the FLC, with art supplies, snacks, board games, and music. This is a safe space to be yourself and enjoy some time with others. Come alone or bring your friends. Create some art or build with dominos. Paint your nails or round up some people to play Telephone Pictionary. Keep balloons in the air or chill on the couches. Choose your own adventure, if you will. I hope you'll give a whirl and let me know what you think.

Also, keep your eyes peeled for details to come on a summer service project! Plans are being crafted for a day (or two or three?) when you can roll up your sleeves and get some work done to benefit someone else. We aren't able to go on a 2022 mission trip, so we're bringing the work local. I hope you can be a part of it!

- June 8** – Youth Night, FLC, 6-9 p.m.
- June 22** – Youth Night, FLC, 6-9 p.m.
- June 26** – Body Body, Sanctuary Building, 6-8 p.m.

With joy,

Nicole Walker  
[youth@meridianumc.com](mailto:youth@meridianumc.com)



**Above:** A few snapshots from last month's "Where's Waldo?" event. Pastor Mike didn't wear the suggested costume, so we've added it in post.

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

- Isaiah 40:31

Let's step it up! Regular physical activity is one of the most important ways that people of all ages can improve their health. Walking or jogging 30+ minutes a day on most days of the week is a great way to improve or maintain your overall health. If you can't manage 30 minutes all at once, try breaking it up into small 10 minute walks 3 times a day and gradually build up to longer sessions. Make walking and exercise part of your weekly routine; write it down on your daily schedule so you can check it off your list.

Another great idea is to exercise with others, and we'd love to be your exercise buddies! Join us on Wednesday mornings for a walk near the church from 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. On Tuesday evenings we are starting a 5K training group called **Run for God**. Contact me if you're interested in joining us. Plus, save the date, because this will be a great way to get ready for St. Luke's Fit One 5k on September 24th (registration now open).



For more resources on how to get started, or the benefits of walking, visit [everybodywalk.org](http://everybodywalk.org).

Lisa Miller  
[care@meridianumc.com](mailto:care@meridianumc.com)

## Ladies Night Out



Our ladies study group has organized a night at the theatre for all the ladies of the church. We are headed to the Starlight Theatre in Garden Valley on Thursday, June 23rd, to see *The Little Mermaid*. The cost is \$20.00. Please RSVP to Lisa at [care@meridianumc.com](mailto:care@meridianumc.com) by Friday, June 10th.

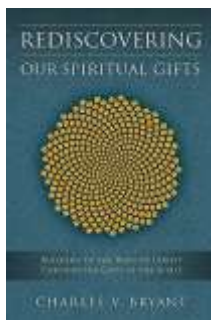
## CARE BASKET DONATIONS

I am currently looking for donations of the following items for our senior care baskets:

- Cheese or peanut butter crackers
- Individually wrapped snacks or candy (no chocolate please)

## ADULT MINISTRIES

**Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Our Wednesday night study of the major and minor prophets will resume on June 8. This group meets weekly from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Please let me or the office know if you are interested in joining.



**Lunch and Learn:** We're offering a special session of the spiritual gifts class this summer. This six-week class is designed to introduce us to the spiritual gifts God handpicks for each of us. It is designed to help us learn who we are in God's eyes, understand ourselves better, and refine our interactions with others. Each session will last around 90 minutes, and lunch will be provided. We will meet each week at noon starting on Thursday, June 16, and going thru Thursday, July 21.

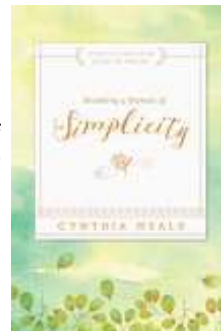
The class size is limited to 8 participants, so if you would like to join, please let me know by June 9.

**Ladies Book Study:** Our next book study begins June 6, but there's still time to join in! We are discussing *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 on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m., beginning **June 6**. Please contact the church office to register.

Blessings,

Pastor Jen  
[adult.ministry@meridianumc.com](mailto:adult.ministry@meridianumc.com)

P.S. I hope to see you at the Habitat for Humanity build on June 25th!

# NEWS & MORE

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**Bass Player Needed!** Do you play the electric bass? Do you know someone who plays? The Warm Heart Worship Team is looking for someone to play bass a few Sundays each month. Contact me for more details!

**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 we welcome you to share a special offering during our services. We are now scheduling summer months. Please contact Debbie Jones if you can help.

**Missed a service? Want to hear a special offering again?** Be sure to check out the church website to review past services, special music pieces, and offerings from the choir, worship team, and handbell choir.

**Summer Break!** The Rolling Tones Chime Choir, Angels Alive Children’s Choir, Celebration Choir, and Koinonia Handbell Choir are all on pause for the summer. However, we are still organizing small ensembles, and would love your help leading hymns up on the platform!

**Choir Potluck.** Anyone interested in singing with our Celebration Choir is welcome to join us for a social gathering and dinner on Friday, June 10, beginning at 6 p.m. in Celebration Park (right across Idaho Street from the church). Contact Debbie Jones or Judy Lolley ([jlolley@gmail.com](mailto:jlolley@gmail.com)) for more details.

Please contact me with any questions!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones  
[worshiparts@meridianumc.com](mailto:worshiparts@meridianumc.com)

## FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	Apr. 2022	Year to Date 2022
Given	\$51,410	\$220,025
Need	\$77,832	\$249,877
Outcome	(\$26,422)	(\$29,852)

	Giving	Expenses	Outcome
2020	\$223,734	\$246,613	(\$22,879)
2021	\$227,989	\$234,206	(\$15,217)
2022	\$220,025	\$249,877	(\$29,852)

After the books were closed for April, we found ourselves in a negative position of \$29,852. Giving has been consistent this year, but expenses continue to increase. Please do not be discouraged by the above figures. To streamline our payroll system, we changed to paying our staff every two weeks instead of twice monthly. During the month of April, we had three paydays, which increased our payroll by \$19,000. This should even out over the course of the year. I have been told that listing the last three years’ figures was helpful, so I have included the figures for the first four months of the last three years.

We are beginning to reestablish a “normal” Sunday morning worship service. It is encouraging to see an almost full sanctuary, plates being passed, and masks optional. We can only hope our numbers continue to increase in attendance and giving. I do feel that expenses will continue to rise due to inflation. About this time of the year, as we head into the summer months and the travel season, I begin to worry about falling behind each month. Even though we have lost more than one hundred givers since 2020, we are gaining new members who are giving on a consistent basis. Families will have tough decisions on vacations with the ever-increasing inflation. I would remind you that you can still stay connected to your church family by watching our services and Bible study online, even if you are out of town.

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 for the correct address for old-fashioned snail mail check writing.

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

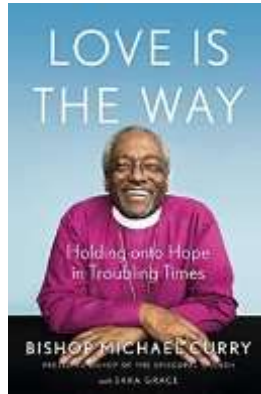


# NEWS & MORE

## THE BOOK NOOK

By Claudia Moberly

Sometimes you come across a book that fills you with hope, calms your troubled soul, and points you to a higher way of living. Bishop Michael Curry's book, *Love Is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times*, is that kind of book. He reminds us that love is an action verb, not a sentiment; love is a firm commitment to act for the well-being of someone other than yourself; love moves us from "me" to "we". Though it may be hard work at times, it is the one and only hope for making this world a better place.



The "love chapter" of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13, has been read at countless weddings to dewy-eyed brides and grooms, but Paul was not writing to two people committed to sharing life together. He was writing to a church whose members were fighting tooth and nail with each other! He was reminding them of Jesus' example of selfless living and his admonition that others would be able to identify his followers by the love that they showed to each other and the world. The opposite of love isn't hate, but selfishness.

Bishop Curry has spent a lifetime advocating, practicing, living, and preaching love. He isn't naive about living with love as your driving force. He knows changing ourselves and our communities for the better may not be easy, or quick, or comfortable, or even popular, but he knows it is worth every ounce of effort. "The struggle is worth waging because it is for the good. And the good is born of God. And in the end, nothing can stop God." This is just one of dozens of passages I underlined while reading this book.

The book does more than simply talk about living a life of love. The final few pages offer a process we can each use to grow closer to God, the source of all love. As we grow into the loving people God intends us to be, our relationships, our communities, and our churches will all benefit from the "love that will not let me go."

## UWFAITH LIBRARY

If you are interested in reading this month's Book Nook title, a copy is available in the UWFaith Kiosk in the FLC. I encourage you to take a look at the many wonderful titles available to borrow. You're sure to find your next inspiring read!



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

By Dixie Jacky, UWFaith President

We have opportunities to put hope and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth this summer, and you can make a tangible difference. Come be part of United Women in Faith in one or all these activities!

The **Days for Girls Sewing Project** is on June 9, at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided, along with an overview of the Days For Girls mission; construction of hygiene kits is to start by 12:30 p.m. Please register with the office if you can come. All skill levels wanted (tracing, cutting, folding, applying snaps, ironing, etc.). If you can, bring your sewing machine loaded with dark thread (black, blue, brown, or gray).



Donations are needed, so please see the announcement on the front page of the newsletter for needed items. Contact Dixie Jacky at [208-680-5112](tel:208-680-5112) or [dixiejacky@gmail.com](mailto:dixiejacky@gmail.com) for more information.

**United Women in Faith Book Study:** Our planned book club meeting on June 16th has been cancelled. We were hoping to discuss this month's Book Nook title (see left), but have decided it's simply too much for a single session, and would like to host a six week book study instead! Details to follow soon. If you haven't found the book yet, we have one book at the UW Faith kiosk in the FLC, or you might check to see if other book club members can share their copies. We are in the process of selecting a title for August's book club meeting. Let us know if you have suggestions!

**Mission U** will be virtual again this year, but for those of us living in the Treasure Valley area, we can gather in person at Hillview UMC, July 30-31. (The same study will also be taught virtually on July 15-16 if the later, in person date doesn't work for you.)



This year's theme is *WHO CAN WE BE TOGETHER? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13*. We find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia.



Don't forget to tune in to this month's Faith Talks, June 2 and 16 at 12:00 p.m., or watch the recorded podcasts at anytime by going to [uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts](http://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts).

Dixie Jacky  
United Women in Faith President



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

## June Events to Celebrate!

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

**June 5 – *Church in the Park***

**June 9 – *Days for Girls***

**June 13 – *Vacation Bible School begins***

**June 25 – *Habitat for Humanity Framing Project***

July

NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:

**Friday,**

**June 24th**

Submissions may be

emailed to Jacob Walker at

[cc@meridianumc.com](mailto:cc@meridianumc.com)

or brought by the

church office.

**Thank you!**