

FOOTPRINTS

January 2021

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

Online - 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible

Study Online: 2 p.m.

Red Cross **Blood** Drive

Monday, February 1, 2021

12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Family Life Center

Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person — the gift of life. A decision to donate your blood can save a life.

If you would like to schedule a time to give blood, please click on the link below or email Lisa Miller at care@meridianumc.com.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=MeridianUMC>

GIVE BLOOD

You can make a difference.



SUNDAY SERMON SERIES JANUARY 2021

1.03.2021

“Pay Attention!”

Matthew 2:1-12



1.10.2021

“There was a Beginning and an Ending”

Genesis 1:1-5



1.17.2021

“I’m Listening Now”

1 Samuel 3:1-11



1.24.2021

“A Fish Tail”

Jonah 3:1-10



1.31.2021

“Do No Harm”

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Blessings to You in the New Year
May peace fill your world,
May love fill your home
With contentment and happiness, Too—
In wonderful ways
May This year of new days
Be filled with sweet blessings for you.
Happy New Year

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 January Sermon Series, Events
- 2 Inside Page
Office Hours, Membership Info.
- 3 A Message from Mars
- 4 Ministries & News
Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries
- 5 Ministries & News
Congregational Care, Adult Ministries
- 6 Ministries & News
Financial News, Music Ministry
- 7 News & More
Book Nook, UMW News, Mirror Image
- 8 Back Page
January Events Calendar

December



Current Church Office Hours

The Church office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 3 p.m.

If you come to the Family Life Center during business hours, a face mask is required to be worn in the building.

You may also reach us at 208-888-2245 or email us at office@meridianumc.com.

You can also contact Pastor John at home. His phone number is 208-895-9855.



Cloth Face Masks Available

If you would like a cloth face mask, please email your request and mailing address to CommunityGrace@meridianumc.com.

The face masks will be mailed to you and are available on a first come, first serve basis. One mask per person, please.

STAFF

- Senior Pastor** (ext. 104)
Rev. John Mars pastorjohn@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
Brian Palmer - Worship Team Leader
- Minister of Youth** 734-316-9517
Nicole Walker youth@meridianumc.com
- Minister of Children** (ext. 108)
Sharon Allison children@meridianumc.com
- Office Manager** (ext. 102)
Denise McClung office@meridianumc.com
- Receptionist** (ext. 101)
Lucinda Dyer receptionist@meridianumc.com
- Communications Coordinator** (ext. 103)
Elaine Carlson cc@meridianumc.com
- Bookkeeper**
Maria Akers bookkeeper@meridianumc.com
- Nursery Coordinator**
JoAnn Pruett nursery@meridianumc.com
- Organist**
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com
- Facility Personnel** (ext. 110)
maintenance@meridianumc.com (M-Th)
Don Woods dandvwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- Administrative Council Chair** David Ray
Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair Jill Ray
Trustees Chair Bill Ball
Systems Administrator Integrity Computer Consultants
Finance Co-Chairs Brian Sauer & Lori Jones
Treasurer Lori Jones
Financial Secretary Diane Brister
Futures Team Chair Sam Pile
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, Artie & Ruth Ann Hutson, Dixie Jacky, Jeannine Mars, 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: meridianumc.com
Facebook: Meridian United Methodist Church

Office Hours: For January

Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
To contact Pastor John: 208-895-9855

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com



A Message from Mars

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ... ⁵ No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ..."

Joshua 1:1-2, 5 (New International Version)

As we head into the new year, I would like to be able to say that 2021 has got to be better than 2020 – but that would be arrogant of me. The reality is that we never know what a new year – any new year – will bring. This year, though, we are more aware of the uncertainties ahead.

When the church closed to in-person services in March to help keep our congregation and our community safe from the coronavirus, we had no clue we would be apart this long. Now in the tenth month of online services only, we know we are not done yet with this new reality. When we will be back together in person, I do not know. When reopening does finally happen, there's a very good chance it will occur gradually, beginning with small groups and remote groups and growing from there.

When we do get back together, it will be different. That's a certainty. When we can once again gather in person, some people will remain hesitant to participate in large groups. Some will have fallen in love with their small groups and will prefer to congregate in that way to worship. Some will have grown to prefer the online services that allow them to worship on a different schedule. And finally, some who join us from other parts of the country – whether singly or in small groups – will continue to do so. To continue to grow our ministry, we will have to be flexible and adaptable. We will do some of what we used to do but do it better, incorporating all the improvements we have made and adding in new elements as well.

What we will be has not yet been revealed, but we are excited about the possibilities and dedicated to being better. We know that we will not be taking that journey alone. In the passage of Scripture above, Moses has died; the Israelites' world has been turned upside down as a result. God's statement to Joshua is: "Moses is dead, but your mission is the same. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you." When we gather in the future, we will be different, but at least three things will remain the same:

- God will still be God.
- God will still be with us.
- We will still be loving all, changing hearts, and transforming lives.

Let's make 2021 one of the best years in the long history of the Church of the Warm Heart.

Grace and Peace and Calm and Wisdom and Hope,

Pastor John

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Happy New Year!

I pray you had a wonderful Christmas filled with love and laughter.

As we bring in the new year, I am also praying for our church, our ministries, and our children. May this year be filled with many opportunities and change.

The Warm Heart Kids wrapped up the Advent study and continue to attend weekly classes online. They are still participating in the lessons and watching videos.

This month I'd like the children to donate canned food items to the Meridian Food Bank. If you would like to join in this service project, please let me know.

If you have a 3rd Grader this year, please contact me. Emails regarding 3rd Grade Bible study will go out this month.

January calendar:

Wednesday nights 6 - 6:30 p.m., Pioneer Clubs for ages 4-7
Wednesday nights 6:30 - 7 p.m., Pioneer Clubs for ages 8-11

Blessings,

Sharon Allison
children@meridianumc.com



Veterans Foot Locker Drive Report

In our eleventh year of participating in the Veterans Foot Locker Drive, we did an AMAZING job rising to the challenge of the pandemic. The Idaho State Veterans Home (ISVH) asked for gift cards, and we delivered! Thanks to your incredible generosity, our Drive resulted in **191 gift cards** totaling **\$3,905**. WOW! These cards will be used by staff to buy gifts and needed items for the vets at the Home, as well as for local veterans and their families served by the Home's Outreach Program. In addition to the gift cards, the middle school youth group donated **100 handmade Christmas cards** that will be given to the vets. Special thanks to Aiden Hunkovic, who made 72 of these cards!

With some representatives of Hillview UMC, our partner in the Foot Locker Drive, and Ken Jenkins, Foot Locker Drive Coordinator, Nicole Walker presented our gifts to the Home on December 14. Jo Ann Daron, ISVH Volunteer Coordinator, accepted the gifts and expressed her sincere thanks to The Church of the Warm Heart and its members. **Thank you for helping make the Foot Locker Drive such a success!**



YOUTH MINISTRIES

It's a new year! I can't remember ever being quite so excited to see the calendar change. And while most of me is eager to rush into the future and leave 2020 behind, I think it's worthwhile to take a few minutes to look back. Because while 2020 was largely a dumpster fire, it also brought out a lot of creativity in us as we refused to give up on the things that matter most.

Since the beginning of the pandemic shutdown in March, we as a youth group have participated in two service projects, making cards for orphans in South Korea and the veterans at the Idaho State Veterans Home. We've hosted a Mini Youth Sunday online. And we've kept meeting, studying the Bible, laughing, and praying together over Zoom. These are pretty amazing accomplishments!

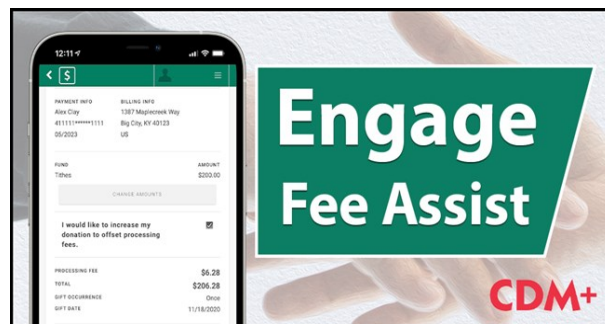
Knowing what we've achieved so far can encourage us as we move into 2021. This year still holds lots of unknowns, but we've learned and adapted and we'll continue to do so! If you're not receiving updates, email me to get on the list. This year, you're invited to more youth group adventures!

With the joy of Jesus,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



ANNOUNCING FEE ASSIST



Engage Fee Assist Now Available

Engage Fee Assist is here to cover processing fees on your generous gifts, so the church receives 100% of the intended donation. How does Fee Assist work? You simply check a box when making a gift and Engage does the rest!

Don't have a Engage Account? Please contact:

Dan Pruett at 208-890-3384 or
dan@meridianumc.com

Maria Akers at 208-949-1196
bookkeeper@meridianumc.com at any time.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

May You Shine the Light of Christ in the New Year

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19

January is National Blood Donor month. Blood donations typically drop off during and after the winter holidays. Compound that with fewer blood drive sites during the pandemic and you can see that this will be a critical time to help the American Red Cross. Our next blood drive is February 1 from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. in the FLC. You can register on the link below.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=MeridianUMC>

Health & Vaccine Basics

A vaccine trains the immune system to recognize viruses and bacteria. The body produces proteins called antibodies to fight against this, which helps protect you and others. Please utilize the below links for more information.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s1213-covid-vaccine.html>
- <https://youtu.be/F-NDIiPKxms>
- <https://youtu.be/KF8Uf4E-vPg>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/mental-health/General-Public-Care-for-Yourself.pdf>
- <https://combatcovid.hhs.gov/>

If you have questions and would like to have more information from reputable websites, I am here to help: Just email Lisa Miller at care@meridianumc.com.

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



Print Copies Available

January Newsletters, January Scripture Readings and the January/ February Upper Room are all available to pick up in the yellow box outside the office entrance located at 235 E. Pine Avenue.

Copies of the NW Conference reopening plan, *Reimagining Life Together* are also available.

ADULT MINISTRIES

Greetings, Church!!

I pray you are doing well and had a blessed Christmas. During our Advent study, we shared stories about being a good neighbor, welcoming "the stranger" and being the light of the world. As I look back on 2020, I am filled with so much gratitude for our church. You truly are the light of our world. Even during this time of pandemic, you found a way to be a good neighbor by reaching out to one another by phone and by sending thoughtful notes of encouragement.

Our quilters responded by sewing masks for everyone and we had many Community Grace volunteers over the last several months that have helped drop off care packages for those in need. You also donated \$4,260 for the Turkey Box Ministry and our church donated an additional \$2,000 to The Meridian Food Bank. God is at work through us! God is good and I feel hopeful as we begin a new year.

Grace and peace,

Jen Hunkovic
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com



If you are interested in joining our zoom Ladies study on Monday evenings or our zoom Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, please contact Jen Hunkovic at adult.ministry@meridianumc.com



Thanksgiving Food Box Project Thank You



Thank you Meridian United Methodist Church congregation for participating in the 2020 St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Box Project! Together, we distributed 1,958 food boxes/turkeys/potatoes that served nearly 11,000 adults and children in our community. Thank you for the monetary contributions that were used to purchase food. Thanks to the more than 550 project volunteers. Thank you everyone for sharing in this family-to-family charity event.

Thank you so much!
Melanie McLenna
St. Vincent de Paul Society
2020 Thanksgiving Food Box Chairperson



Happy New Year!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	Nov. 2020	Year-to-Date
Given	\$67,780	\$608,381
Need	62,262	652,772
Outcome	\$5,518	-\$44,391

The figures above are for the first eleven months of 2020 (through November). As you can see, our giving exceeded our expenditures in November, and we were able to reduce our year-to-date deficit to \$44,391. Is it possible that we might have doubled our giving in December to reach our goal and break even? Writing this article is difficult due to the time lapse required; I am writing this on December 17, before the year is completed. As we are still at a deficit as I write this, I encourage each of you to pray about our financial situation.

When I recorded a finance update that was broadcast the first Sunday in December, I talked about how we as a church had learned to worship and give in a different manner, due to not being able to meet together. We are now giving online or mailing checks to the church office. Our committees are still meeting and functioning via ZOOM. Our staff is still working, and we have been blessed by innovative and inspiring services online. Our church family has grown due to our online outreach! What a joyous day it will be when the restrictions are lifted and we can meet in person again. Please pray for a successful vaccine rollout and implementation so that we can once again greet one another in worship. Until that time comes, I encourage you to worship online with our staff, and I will say it again: "Keep those tithes and offerings coming."

After the first of the year, I will be issuing a year-end financial report to bring everyone up to date. I can report that the finance committee is in the process of adopting the 2021 budget. Please join me and my family as we continue to support the ministry of our church. To make a gift online, please visit [meridianumc.com](https://www.meridianumc.com), click the link for GIVING, and follow the prompts. You may also mail your check to the church office at 235 E. Pine, Meridian, ID 83642.

As we approach year end, we recognize that all of us will need to see an accounting of our 2020 giving. If you normally receive a paper statement in the FLC, please give Diane a call (208-995-1677) or email her at diane57@cableone.net and she will be glad to send you a statement electronically or by mail.

By the time you receive this edition of Footprints, it will be 2021. I can only pray that the new year will bring happiness and prosperity to every member and friend of the Church of the Warm Heart!

If you have questions regarding our church finances, please contact Lori Jones, Finance Co-Chair, at ljones1234@cableone.net, 208-484-6076, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chairman, at aggiedon@cableone.net, 208-871-5221.

Respectfully,

Don Brister
Stewardship Chairman

MUSIC MINISTRY

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who has participated in the on-line worship services since March! We are so blessed to have folks willing to lead the Affirmation of Faith, read scripture, offer music and media help. We could not provide these services without YOU! Thank you Church of the Warm Heart and our friends at the Middleton United Methodist Church. Be sure to contact Debbie Jones at worshiparts@meridianumc.com if you would like to help!

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Meridian Community "Sing of Him" food drive! We are hopeful that next year our Celebration Choir will once again be singing with other churches in the valley to spread Christmas cheer and worship together.

Did you know? You can access our "All Church Videos" and some of our recent "Special Music" on our church website: Click on "Ministries" and then "All Church Videos" or "Special Music." Feel free to share this link with your family and friends: <https://www.meridianumc.com/all-church-musical-videos>; If you haven't participated in one of these "All Church Videos" we would LOVE to have YOU! Please email Emma Jean Bedsole jgb3frnz@cableone.net or Debbie Jones at worshiparts@meridianumc.com.

The Warm Heart Media Team continues to work hard to bring you our worship service every Sunday and our Tuesday Bible Study online. Our members include: Thom Juul, Dan Pruett, Dennis Moberly, Denise McClung, Bryce Keck, Jacob & Nicole Walker, Jack Akers, Jacob Rarick, Charlie and Debbie Jones, Len Anderson, Dean Kubena and Dave Murphy! If you are interested in helping with recordings or segment editing (using Premier Pro), contact Debbie Jones: worshiparts@meridianumc.com. If you are having issues watching the service, please contact Dan Pruett at: dan@anywhereusa.org.

Celebration Choir – Sunday Zoom get-together at 4:30 p.m. on Jan 3.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87919277345?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87919277345?pwd=aU5SSkR2dGVmQmVhODh4bERzN3huUT09)
[pwd=aU5SSkR2dGVmQmVhODh4bERzN3huUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87919277345?pwd=aU5SSkR2dGVmQmVhODh4bERzN3huUT09)
Meeting ID: 879 1927 7345
Passcode: HdrL1R

Koinonia Handbell Choir - Sunday Zoom get-together at 11 a.m. on Jan 3.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201291697?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201291697?pwd=bjRuY0owK0hhY2FvMkRrbGgrb0NMQT09)
[pwd=bjRuY0owK0hhY2FvMkRrbGgrb0NMQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201291697?pwd=bjRuY0owK0hhY2FvMkRrbGgrb0NMQT09)
Meeting ID: 882 0129 1697
Passcode: psWyd6

Coming soon: Angels Alive and Rolling Tones – We will be working on some more music for our online worship services. Watch for emails and posts from Debbie Jones.

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com
208-608-2520

NEWS & MORE

THE BOOK NOOK

by Claudia Moberly

A new year begins; we say goodbye to a trying and troubled 2020, and we look forward with anticipation and hope to a new year. The UMW Reading Program is a wonderful way to become inspired, to learn something new, and to see the world through different eyes. In this time of New Year Resolutions, why not resolve to pick up a book or two from the Reading List and see what wisdom or challenges you might find in the pages of one of these remarkable books. Lists for 2021 and prior years can be found on the UMW website, www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Each year, the list includes a number of books suitable for young readers (or listeners), and starting with a picture book seems like a gentle way to ease out of the Holiday Hub-bub. *The Water Walker*, by Joanne Robertson, is the true story of a Canadian woman passionate about God's creation and our stewardship of the waterways that nourish the earth. From her home near the Great Lakes she has watched pollution damage God's good gift of water and advocated for renewing the lakes and the rivers that feed them. To draw attention to the urgency of preservation, she walks. She walks alone, she walks with friends, and she walks with strangers who become friends. This simple text, interspersed with Ojibwe words, shows the power of a single person committed to carrying out God's call on her life. You, as well as the children in your life, will be drawn in by the colorful illustrations and inspired by the commitment of this "kwewok" working with her friends to ensure crystal clear drinking water for all the generations to come.

Mirror Image Needs Your Help!!

There are many ways you can help. When you are making your weekly grocery order, just add a few of these items to your list. **You can drop off items in the FLC on Tuesday, between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** or email Lisa at care@meridianumc.com and we can arrange for pick-up of the donated items. Or, if you do not wish to shop for products, you can make out a check to Meridian UMC and earmark Mirror Image in the memo line. We will use your donation to order products that are most needed.

Items needed:

Toothbrush/Toothpaste	Lip Balm
Shampoo/Conditioner or 2-in-1	Hair Brush
Deodorant Male/Female	Fem. Hygiene
Comb	Razors Male/Female
Body Wash	

Let's help our area adolescents in the Boise and West Ada Schools. Thank you.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

By Dixie Jacky, UMW President

Our second opportunity to study *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, begins January 4 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Jen Hunkovic will be leading this session. We will meet each of the four Monday evenings in January and cover the four topics of the Serenity Prayer: Serenity, Acceptance, Courage, and Wisdom. We still have a few copies of the text available for purchase, or they can be ordered online as a hard copy or in an e-reader edition. Please email me at dixiejacky@gmail.com if you wish to join, so you will receive the link.

The final chapter of, our first time through *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* (Wisdom) will be January 14, at 1 p.m. via Zoom.

Please continue to support our local mission project, Mirror Image. Our area youth need our help more than ever and they so appreciate our donations of such items as full-sized shampoos and conditioner, hair spray, lip balm, sanitary pads, razors, acne wash – anything our youth need for their personal hygiene. Bring items to the church office on Tuesdays, between 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. and place in the bin outside of Lisa Miller's office. Or, drop a check made out to Meridian UMC into the mail and designate the money for Mirror Image.

The Warm-Hearted Quilters have been surrounding children and youth this winter with quilts and blankets. Thirty baby quilts were delivered to the **Linus Project** and 10 twin quilts to **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**. In addition, we just gave 13 quilts to **CASA** (Court Appointed Special Advocates)/ Hayes House for teenagers transitioning to foster care.

Please continue your support for our Pledge to Mission for local and national projects. Please make your check out to **United Methodist Women** and send to the church



Thank You Notes

Thank you for all that you do to support our students by giving them dignity. You make a difference!

Your Friends,

Desert Sage Elementary

Thank you for supporting Mirror Image. Your donations make a difference in the lives of West Ada youth.



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

JANUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

January Events to celebrate!
Please watch the E-Blast and Facebook
for studies being offered online.

January 1 - **Happy New Year 2021!**

February
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Monday
February 15

Submissions may be
e-mailed to Elaine Carlson:

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!

Winter Moon • 1993

W. B. King 1993