

FOOTPRINTS

March 2021

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online - 9:30 a.m.

**Tuesday Afternoon Bible
Study Online: 2 p.m.**

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES March 2021

3.07.2021

God is Right!
Psalm 19



3.14.2021

**By Grace, Through Faith
(For Good Works)**
Ephesians 2:1-10



3.21.2021

God's Word, In Our Hearts
Jeremiah 31:31-34



3.28.2021

Hosannahs & Tears
Mark 11:1-11; Mark 14:1-26

Need help making
a vaccine appointment?



For people who are computer literate, the process of scheduling an appointment for a COVID vaccination can be frustrating. For those who are not computer literate, it can seem impossible. In response to that situation, the Church of the Warm Heart has formed a small team to help make appointments for people. The team has already successfully scheduled dozens of folks for appointments and stands ready to help others -- particularly those who do not use a computer, are 80 and older, or are 65 and older with additional health challenges.

If you need help with this process or know of another member of our church family who does, please reach out to the team coordinators:

Lisa Miller at (912) 604-8536

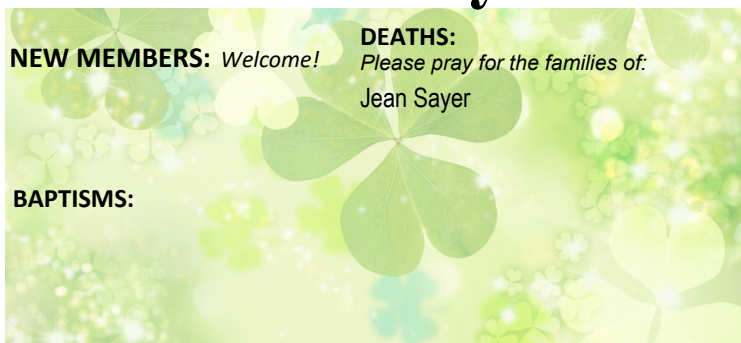
Bea Okomoto at (208) 576-4859



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February



NEW MEMBERS: *Welcome!*

DEATHS:
Please pray for the families of:
Jean Sayer

BAPTISMS:

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
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, DonBrister, Faye Gabriel, Ruth Hayes, Gary Himes, 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](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianUnitedMethodistChurch)

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

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com

A Message from Mars

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

--Romans 8:35-39 (New International Version)

It's hard to believe that it has been almost a year since we closed our doors to in-person worship to protect our congregation and community from the coronavirus. (Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky issued her order to close the United Methodist churches across our region – initially for just two weeks – on March 13, 2020.) I remember anxiously thinking that we might not be able to worship together for Easter 2020. Little did I know what was ahead of us!

At this one-year mark, I am reminded of a song that we used to sing at the open of our Annual Conference session each year: *And Are We Yet Alive*. In the case of the Church of the Warm Heart, the answer is a resounding “Yes!” We have learned that Romans 8 is true, that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amid pandemic restrictions, we have done some amazing things. Through the extraordinary efforts of church staff and volunteers, we have:

- Provided weekly Sunday school lessons and challenges for children and youth and held an online vacation Bible school.
- Sent hundreds of cards to remind people that we care.
- Continued our Tuesday afternoon Bible study online and offered other online weekly Bible studies, seasonal studies, specialty studies, spiritual gifts classes – and even a “coffee hour” to foster fellowship on Sunday mornings.
- Expanded our media team to handle the new challenges, involved many more church members (from both the Meridian and Middleton churches) in worship services, recorded handbell and choir pieces while socially distanced, and produced phenomenal online worship services through which we are reaching more people than we did before the pandemic began.
- Set up a calling tree to ensure our church family stays connected, provided hygiene items to an average of 40 students a month through Mirror Image, made thousands of calls, delivered care packages, and conducted blood drives so popular we had to turn away potential donors.
- Maintained office operations, continued to send out weekly and monthly communications, and developed a new website that will be up and running soon.
- Built a new sound stage with volunteer help, renovated the sanctuary, removed snow, delivered Holy Cow ground beef, made masks and quilts, collected and delivered necessities through our Community Grace program, held drive-through events for kickoff Sunday and Ash Wednesday, conducted United Methodist Women studies, donated Thanksgiving food boxes, contributed record amounts to the Veterans' Foot Locker drive at Christmas, and helped people from throughout the Treasure Valley get appointments for COVID vaccines.

We did all this and more while not being able to get together in person. We have learned that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. No matter the circumstances, we are God's hands, feet, and voice. And if we can do all this while we are separated, what shall we be able to accomplish when we get together? I can only imagine!

As more and more people get vaccinated, things are beginning to look up. We are slowly moving toward reopening – although probably not by Easter. While our church doors are still closed, my heart is wide open. I am so proud of the Church of the Warm Heart! I am honored to be your pastor and cannot wait to gather again – but we will wait until it's safe, because we now know that we can be church, no matter the circumstances!

Grace and Peace and Calm and Wisdom and Hope,

Pastor John

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Happy March!



This month is focusing on internet safety. With the increase of online schooling, internet usage, and games, it is important for our children to be informed.

Here are some safety tips to remember when you are using the internet:

1. Don't give anyone your password, name, address, the name of your school or any information about your family
2. Don't talk to strangers on the internet
3. Don't agree to meet anyone in person that you've met online
4. Don't fill in a profile that asks for your name and address
5. Don't visit a chat room without an adult's / parent's permission
6. Don't stay online if you see something you think your parents won't like
7. Don't post pictures of yourself without your parents' permission
8. Do not download or install anything on your computer without your parents' permission.

If you have any questions about something you read, ask your parent or guardian.

If you are talking to someone online and they make you uncomfortable, remember you don't have to talk back to them.

Congratulations to our 3rd Graders who received their Bibles:

Olivia Laughlin & Maxwell Hoffmann

March Events

Pioneer Clubs—Wednesday Evenings 6 - 7 p.m. via Zoom
Weekly Lesson plans and Bible Study Videos
Weekly Challenges

Blessings,

Sharon Allison
children@meridianumc.com

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Last month, the Warm Heart Youth had fun with our Late Night Extravanzas! We also started our Lenten study and prayer journals based on Adam Hamilton's *The Walk*.

This month, Lent continues, and so does online youth group! We meet weekly on Zoom for games, laughter, and Bible Study.

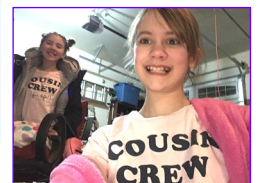
MS YG – Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

HS YG – Sunday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

March will mark a full year of church being online, and while we all long to get back together as soon as possible, we've found ways to have lots of fun online. If you haven't connected with us virtually yet, email or call me and we'll find a way to get you plugged in!

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



Middle School
Late Night Extravaganza



Church of the Warm Heart Education Scholarship

The Church of the Warm Heart Education Scholarship is now being offered through Meridian United Methodist Church to all new or returning college students for the fall of 2021. Applications will be emailed to interested applicants. The application for this scholarship is available by contacting Claudia Moberly at clmoberly@gmail.com or (208) 284-8675.

All applications and required attachments must be completed and turned in to the Church Office or electronically to Claudia Moberly by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

There is little doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every aspect of our lives. With all our energies going towards social distancing, handwashing and mask wearing, perhaps healthy eating is the last thing you have been concentrating on. Maybe comfort food and time spent in front of the computer and TV has left you feeling as round as a snowman. March is the perfect time to GO GREEN! Eating a healthy diet is especially important during the pandemic. What we eat and drink can affect our body's ability to prevent and recover from infections and is particularly important for supporting our immune systems. Here are some key recommendations for adults:

- Limit added sugar to less than 10% of calories per day
- Limit saturated fats to less than 10% of calories per day
- Limit sodium to less than 2,300mg per day
- Limit alcoholic beverages (2 per day for men and 1 drink or less a day for women)

Add greens and vegetables or 100% veggie juice. Every little bit counts. The goal should be 2-3 cups per day depending on your activity level. For more information on nutrition and healthy eating please visit these websites.

<https://www.myplate.gov/eat-healthy/healthy-eating-budget/covid-19>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus>

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



ADULT MINISTRIES

Greetings Church! I pray that you are well. It's hard to believe we are already in the Lenten season. This is a time of self-examination and repentance-- a time to lean in, listen and grow closer to God. In our Advent Study, *The Walk*, Hamilton invites us to engage in the following spiritual practices:

- pray five times a day
- read at least five verses of Scripture a day
- extend five acts of kindness a week
- practice generosity five times a month invite five people to church each year.

I challenge you to start using these practices as identified by Hamilton. We distributed prayer journals on Ash Wednesday to help individuals get started. I encourage you to use your journal. Write down your prayers and your insights. Even if you did not sign up for the Lenten study, please feel free to join us. We are all invited to walk with Christ and grow deeper in our faith. I hope to see you there!

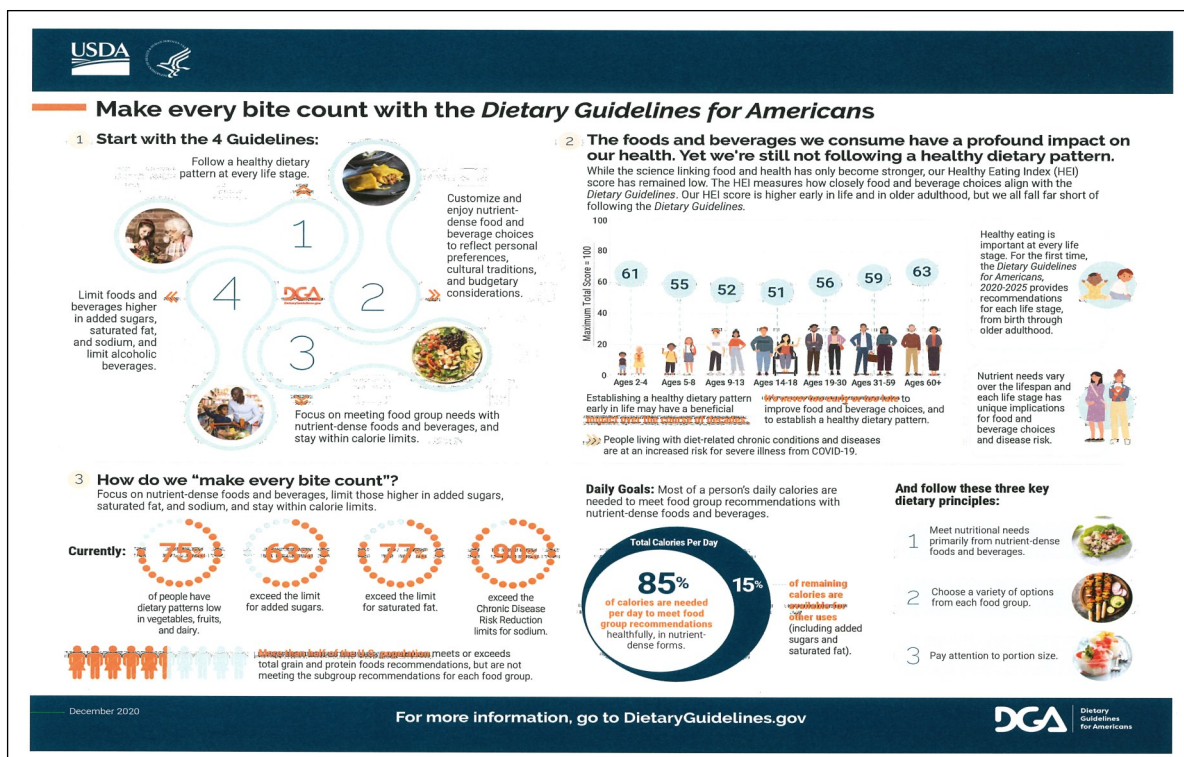
If you have not received a prayer journal but would like to have one, they are available in the yellow box located at the Pine St. entrance of the FLC. To join the Lenten study, email Jen Hunkovic at adult.ministry@meridianumc.com.

Grace and peace,
Jen Hunkovic
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com



To read more about the
USDA Dietary Guidelines

www.dietaryguidelines.gov



MINISTRIES & NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

For General

Operations:	Jan. 2021	Year to Date
Given	\$75,929	\$75,929
Misc. Income	98,327	98,327
Need	(55,874)	(55,874)
Outcome	\$118,382	\$118,382

To say that after one month of 2021 our Church financial position is healthy would be an understatement. A word of explanation is needed here to clarify the figures listed above:

- The "Given" figure reflects giving by those in our church who make their tithe every January. The last three years we have averaged almost \$75,000 of Faith Based Giving in the month of January. History tells us that the monthly giving amount generally drops some in February.
- The "Misc. Income" figure of \$98,327 was received through the SBA-sponsored COVID-19 relief program called the "Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)" to maintain employment of our staff during the pandemic. The church applied last April, and we were approved for this loan. In December we applied for "forgiveness", and the SBA granted the church these funds to keep.

I received an inquiry regarding how we spent \$718,123 in 2020 and then established a budget of \$859,928 for 2021. Good question that deserves an explanation. Our actual approved budget for 2020 was \$870,228. Budget figures are established by the submission of needs by staff and standing committees. The shared giving totals are dictated by the Conference. The needs are submitted to the Finance Committee for approval. Final figures are then submitted to the Ad Council for final approval. We spent \$150,000 less than budgeted due to several factors such as not having a full-time Facilities Director, no staff training, no Pastor continuing education, Trustees spending less on budgeted needs and withheld the General Conference amount in our apportionment. However, we have continued to pay 100% of our Oregon/Idaho Conference apportionments.

Our 2021 budget is based on a small increase for salaries, the hiring of a Production Coordinator to continue to upgrade our online services, and some increases in insurance and utilities. We have never exceeded our budget in the 15 years I have served as a member of any of the standing committees and I would expect 2021 to be the same. If we need extra funds, we have only to heed the words of our wonderful and wise Pastor. "The needed funds are in the pockets of those sitting in the pews. All you have to do is ask and God will see fit to meet the need". WE have used this system of faith based giving for a long time and it seems to be working. I am a firm believer in the old saying that if it ain't broke don't fix it. Makes sense to me.

I would encourage each of you to continue to support our church ministries, view services and bible studies online, continue to pray for those in our membership who are hurting, have lost loved ones and are still uneasy about the pandemic. Please pray about our church finances and pray that we will be able to meet together once again. May God bless you all and the Church of the Warm Heart.

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

Respectfully,

Don Brister
Stewardship Chairman



MUSIC MINISTRY

ROLLING TONES

Calling all YOUTH 6-12 Graders: We will be recording a musical tone chime offering for one of the online worship services. If you can help, contact Debbie Jones worshiparts@meridianumc.com. Looking forward to each of you participating!

Can you help? It takes all sorts of talents to put together our services each Sunday. If you are interested in reading a scripture or leading the Affirmation of Faith, participating in a musical ensemble or helping behind the scenes to record, PLEASE contact Debbie Jones, Minister of Worship Arts, at worshiparts@meridianumc.com to help.

Celebration Choir Zoom We'll be "zooming" this month on March 14 and 28 at 4:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83791165429?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83791165429?pwd=aFFkaGt6MHFzU3lVczFPT01CRUxQZz09)

[pwd=aFFkaGt6MHFzU3lVczFPT01CRUxQZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83791165429?pwd=aFFkaGt6MHFzU3lVczFPT01CRUxQZz09)

Meeting ID: 837 9116 5429

Passcode: dh1ahT

Koinonia Hand Bell Choir Zoom As with the choir, adult ringers zoom together on March 14 and 28 at 11:00 a.m. to reconnect & visit.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609568733?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609568733?pwd=ZysZUm1lL05XWSt6ZDFMOXhHZFF5dz09)

[pwd=ZysZUm1lL05XWSt6ZDFMOXhHZFF5dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609568733?pwd=ZysZUm1lL05XWSt6ZDFMOXhHZFF5dz09)

Meeting ID: 826 0956 8733

Passcode: 277580

Another All Church Poster Anthem! We're planning another "All Church" poster anthem for this spring. We'd love to have you and your family participate! If you would like to join in the fun, contact Debbie Jones at worshiparts@meridianumc.com or Emma Jean Bedsole at jgb3frnz@cableone.net to help.

Blessings,

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



NEWS & MORE

THE BOOK NOOK

by Claudia Moberly

Kristen Welch and her family have created a lifestyle of radical generosity — their time, their materials goods, their money, their talents, and even their hospitality. Raising generous, Christ-centered children was the goal of Kristen and her husband, and teaching by example has impacted every aspect of their lives. They have learned, together as a family, that lasting personal joy doesn't come the way the world says it does — through more, newer, bigger, better possessions — but through holding possessions loosely and, often, by letting them go to others who have less.

Through powerful personal stories and stories from scripture, she takes us on their journey of open-handed generosity, fully trusting in God's promise to provide, sharing ways God blessed and enlarged their gifts, listening to God's guiding, inspiring others to join in their giving, and expressing gratitude through generosity.

Raising World-Changers In A Changing World will challenge your thinking about giving and open your eyes to new ways, large and small, to raise your children to be world changers and become one yourself. Though the Welch family has made an impact on the global stage, generosity is judged by the heart of the giver, not the size of the gift. I will close with my favorite quote from the book, a quote from Mother Teresa, "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family."

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

by Dixie Jacky, UMW President



We just wrapped up our final session of Finding Peace in an Anxious World. We are so thankful to Claudia Moberly and Jen Hunkovic, our two leaders who conducted this study.

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. Please bring your items to the church office on Tuesdays, between 9-3, and place in the bin outside of Lisa Miller's office. Even easier, drop into the mail a check made out to Meridian UMC and designate the money for Mirror Image.

Please continue your support for our Pledge to Mission for local and national projects by mailing your check, made out to United Methodist Women to the church at 235 E. Pine Avenue, Meridian, ID 83642.

There is no United Methodist Women meeting planned for March. Please continue to explore the United Methodist Women's webpage for other programming and to register for events.

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women hosted by Jennifer R Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>



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 items off in the FLC on Tuesdays, 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
Shampoo/Conditioner or 2-in-1
Deodorant Male/Female
Comb
Body Wash
Acne Wash
Lotion

Lip Balm
Hair Brush
Fem. Hygiene
(No Poise Pads)
Razors Male/Female

Print Copies Available

March Newsletters, March Scripture Readings and the March/April 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.



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



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

MARCH EVENTS CALENDAR

March Events to celebrate!

Please watch the E-Blast and Facebook
for studies being offered online.

March 5 - World Day of Prayer

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 28 - Palm/Passion Sunday

April

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

**Monday
March 15**

Submissions may be
e-mailed to Elaine Carlson:

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!