

FOOTPRINTS

May 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

May 2021

5.02.2021

Abiding in Jesus

1John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8



5.09.2021

Trust & Obey

John 15:9-17



5.16.2021

What Kind of a Witness Are You?

Acts 1:1-11



5.23.2021

We Are Filled...But Not With Wine!

Acts 2:1-21



5.30.2021

Born Again!

John 3:1-17



Coffee Fellowship

Don't forget to join us each Sunday at **10:30 a.m.** for a time of fellowship following our services. You can join in using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5122395982>



Help is available!



Are you having trouble making an appointment for your COVID vaccination? A team from the Church of the Warm Heart (Meridian United Methodist Church) stands ready to help!

Check the Central District Health website for when you are eligible for the vaccine:

<https://www.cdhd.idaho.gov/covid-vaccine.php>

If you need help making an appointment or know of someone else who does, please reach out to one of the team coordinators:

Lisa Miller at **(912) 604-8536**

Bea Okamoto at **(208) 576-4859**

If no one answers your call immediately, please leave your name and number and wait for a return call. Please do NOT call both Lisa and Bea; they work together closely to share information, and multiple voicemail messages from the same person will slow them down.

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April

NEW MEMBERS: *Welcome!*

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of:

Helen Boesiger
Neva Farnsworth

BAPTISMS:

Church Office Hours

Reminder: As of April 1, the church office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 3 p.m.

If you come to the Family Life Center during business hours, face masks are required 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)
Jacob Walker cc@meridianumc.com
- Bookkeeper**
Maria Akers bookkeeper@meridianumc.com
- Nursery Coordinator**
JoAnn Pruet nursery@meridianumc.com
- Organist**
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com
- Facility Personnel** (ext. 110)
maintenance@meridianumc.com (M-Th)
Don Woods dandwoods@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 Co-Chairs David Ray & 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, 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: May
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
To contact Pastor John: 208-895-9855

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com

A Message from Mars

¹⁹ 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 43:19 (New International Version)

God is most definitely doing a new thing here at the Church of the Warm Heart.

The past 14 months have been crazy – filled with all kinds of events we did not expect. It feels like we have adapted and adjusted, settling into a new normal just in time to adapt and adjust all over again to create yet another new normal. Through it all, God is challenging us to keep our eyes on Him!

Online church has been a huge blessing thanks to the many, many, many of you who have participated. Special thanks go to Debbie Jones, our Minister of Worship Arts, and her marvelous team that keeps evolving and getting better. Can you imagine how things would feel if we had neither in-person worship nor online church?

Things are beginning to get better. While the pandemic is not over, it feels like it is making the first moves toward beginning to wind down, at least in our country. Many of us have gotten our coronavirus vaccinations, and we are looking forward to being together again in person. What we will be, once we return to in-person worship, has not yet been revealed.

We are gearing up for in-person worship. As I write this, we are planning to worship in person at Kleiner Park on April 25, but the weather forecasts for that day look a little daunting. (We all know that we plan and God laughs!) No matter what has happened with that service by the time you read this, we have two more outdoor services tentatively planned – if we are not back to in-person worship at the church building.

Things at the Church of the Warm Heart are changing; in the city of Meridian, they are booming. According to the newest population estimates from the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), Meridian gained more than 8,500 people between April 2020 and April 2021. That lifts the population of our fair city to an estimated 127,890. Think of the outreach opportunities those figures provide as we continue to strive to be a beacon of light to our community!

Pastor Mike Benischek is excited to begin embracing those and other opportunities. I believe that Pastor Mike will be a great fit for us, bringing new gifts and graces that will be a great blessing during these changing times. God is doing a new thing at the Church of the Warm Heart. Embrace it, relish it, and participate in it as we move forward for the Kingdom.

Grace and Peace and Calm and Wisdom and Hope,

Pastor John



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Happy May!

I am surely enjoying this warmer weather and pray you are as well.

It's hard to believe it has been over a year since we have met in person, but I have hope for the future. Just as I have hope for new seasons and new life in the trees and flowers, I have hope for a new season and new life in our children's ministries. We are gearing up for the summer in hopes of getting together for fun activities and classes.

The Pioneer Clubs started back up last month and the children are excited to meet in person and learn together in a safe classroom environment. Thank you to our maintenance team for cleaning and sanitizing our classrooms. You are appreciated.

This month, we are continuing our lessons on the Miracles of Jesus. The children are learning how Jesus healed and loved so many people. The children are also learning how they can be like Jesus.

"We may not be able to heal them, but we are able to send love and prayers" - Landon Perry

Blessings,

Sharon Allison
children@meridianumc.com



May Activities

Events could change according to the CDC and Covid-19 guidelines.

Wednesdays - Pioneer Clubs, 6-7pm, Upper Room and Children's Center.

Weekly Sunday School Lesson Plans - please email to get on the list at children@meridianumc.com.

May 9 - Happy Mother's Day to all the moms in our lives!

May 17 - Tax Day. Make sure to get your taxes done! If you had a baby this past year, Congratulations!!!!



Congratulations to the following families who had babies during the pandemic:

- The Gillespie Family - Granger
- The Clark Family - Harper
- The Kirby Family - Luella



YOUTH MINISTRIES

It's almost graduation season! This May, we'll be confirming the Confirmation class of 2020 (better late than never, right?) and celebrating our 2021 graduates. May also includes Mother's Day and Memorial Day, so we'll have a few weekends off of youth group to prioritize time with our families.

I'm excited to be migrating back to in-person youth group! It almost feels surreal after nearly fourteen months of meeting online, but I hope you're ready to embrace the change with me. Here's the youth schedule for the month:

Special! – All Youth Family-and-Friends Event

Photo Scavenger Hunt

May 2, 6:00 – 8:00 pm



Start and end in the church parking lot. The people you arrive with will be your team!

Middle School Youth Group will be alternating meeting online and in-person through May. Please pay careful attention to the different times:

May 5 and **May 19**: meeting on Zoom, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

May 12 and **May 26**: meeting in the FLC, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

High School Youth Group will have our last two school-year meetings at the church from 6:30 – 8:30 pm on **May 16** and **May 23**.

With the joy of Jesus,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



May 23 is Graduate Sunday!

Be sure to tune in to celebrate all of our high school and college graduates.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

May is National Stroke Awareness Month. The Church of the Warm Heart wants to do its part to promote awareness. The good news is that quick treatment for a stroke can save lives! That's why recognizing the signs is so important. With your help we can save lives!



F - FACE ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A - ARMS ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S - SPEECH ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is the speech slurred or strange?

T - TIME if you see any of these signs, call **9-1-1** right away!

*Note the time when the symptoms first appear.

*DO NOT drive or have someone else drive you to the hospital. **CALL 9-1-1**

You can visit the following links for more information:

https://www.cdc.gov/stroke/communications_kit.htm

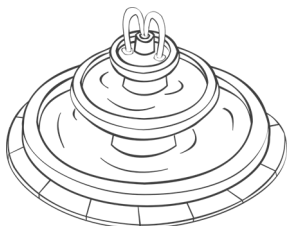
<https://www.stroke.org/en/life-after-stroke/preventing-another-stroke>

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



Ladies' Night Out



Ladies please join me for a night of fellowship and fun.

Tuesday, May 11th, 4-6 at The vVillage fountain.

RSVP with Lisa at:

care@meridianumc.com

ADULT MINISTRIES

Save the Date: Habitat for Humanity

June 19, 2021

Check-In: 8:00 am

What do we need?

We will be participating in a Habitat for Humanity Build on June 19, 2021 at the Cathedral of the Rockies Amity Campus. We need people of all skill levels to join our Church of the Warm Heart team. We also need Crew Leaders with experience to help lead our team.

What will we do?

In about three hours, we will frame a house. Habitat will provide all the instruction we need. So, don't worry if you don't have experience. There will be plenty of helping hands.

What will I need to bring?

You will need your own hammer, safety glasses, water bottle, sunscreen and gloves.

What precautions will be in place for Covid-19?

Statement from the organizers: "Please do not come to the event if you are sick. **Everyone on site must wear Masks.** Hand sanitizer will be on site. Spacing for groups will be larger than normal with groups of 5-8. At check in your temp will be taken and if it is above CDC guidelines, you will be asked not to stay."

Are you in?

Email Jen Hunkovic at adult.ministry@meridianumc.com if you would like to join our team.

Grace and peace,

Jen Hunkovic
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	Mar. 2021	Year to Date 2021
Given	\$48,646	\$270,372
Need	61,061	178,065
Outcome	\$ -12,415	\$92,307

The figures above are for the first quarter of the year. As in February, our March giving did not meet the expenditures for March, but due to the outstanding giving in January, we are still in the black \$92,037. An interesting comparison for the last three years reveals that our giving has been pretty consistent – within \$1450, if you take out the PPP loan forgiveness of \$98,243. Our expenses have decreased during the pandemic shutdown, which is understandable. Despite the good news of a current surplus, we still need to be aware when our monthly tithes and offerings do not match our expenditures.

I think it goes without saying that 2021 will be a year of transition for our church. We are still dealing with the pandemic and the vaccination rollout. We will be welcoming a new pastor and saying goodbye to Pastor John and Jeannine. We still have no timetable for meeting in person. Due to the construction changes in downtown Meridian, we wonder: will there be enough parking when we open our doors again? What will our attendance be like at that time? There are lots of questions right now, and unfortunately not many answers.

However, one thing will remain, and that is our obligation to meet the needs of The Church of the Warm Heart with our prayers, our service, and our gifts. What a joyous day it will be when we can gather together again for worship! Until that time comes, I encourage you to continue worshiping online with our staff, and of course I will continue to say, “Keep those tithes and offerings coming.”

P.S. I wish to thank Elaine Carlson, who has faithfully assisted me in getting the financial message out each month. Deadlines were not always met, but she was patient and willing to help. I will miss her as she will no longer be responsible for the newsletter. Now Jacob Walker gets to deal with me. Good luck, Jacob!!!

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

Respectfully,

Don Brister
Stewardship Chairman

MUSIC MINISTRY

Online Worship AND Tuesday Bible Study - We are continuing to provide online worship services and the Tuesday Bible Study on our three platforms:

- The church website (<https://www.meridianumc.com>)
- YouTube channel (search for Meridian United Methodist Church)
- Our Facebook page

Services are posted on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and re-broadcast at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Tuesday Bible Study is re-broadcast on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. and also posted on our three platforms.

Angels Alive (children 4 yrs of age - 5th grade) - We get to meet to ring and have fun on Wednesday evenings during Pioneer Club! Rehearsals will take place in the sanctuary. As online worship continues, we will learn and record some songs and Bible verses for Sunday worship.

Koinonia Handbell Choir - Our adults are continuing to rehearse and record individually to bring our Sunday offerings to Church of the Warm Heart. We meet twice a month via Zoom to stay connected. Contact Debbie Jones (worshiparts@meridianumc.com) for more information!

Celebration Choir - As with the Koinonia Handbell Choir, we are rehearsing and recording individually to bring musical offerings to the Church of the Warm Heart in our online worship services. We meet over Zoom at 4:30PM every other Sunday to stay connected. Contact Debbie Jones to get connected!

Media Help? - The media team is always looking for folks to help run a camera and direct or operate our video recording system. If you are available and interested in helping with online worship OR if you'd like to jump in to help with our live recordings when we return to in person worship, contact Jacob Walker (production@meridianumc.com) or Debbie Jones to help!

Sharing Talents - We are always looking for folks to lead the Affirmation of Faith, read Scripture or offer musical selections (vocal OR instrumental) to enhance our online worship services. If you have something you would like to offer, please contact Debbie Jones.

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
Minister of Worship Arts
worshiparts@meridianumc.com
208-608-2520

NEWS & MORE

THE BOOK NOOK

By Claudia Moberly

Year after year, poll after poll, the number one fear people express is public speaking. My book recommendation this month may help with that! Speaking Well, by Adam Hamilton, is a short “pocket guide” to essential skills for speakers. Each brief chapter (usually two to three pages) tackles a suggestion for more effective delivery and audience connection.



Some of you may recognize the author’s name as the Senior Pastor from the Church of the Resurrection and author of a number of Bible studies. But this book is applicable to speeches in a wide arena, not just within a church setting. The tips are simple (though maybe not easy), and they make sense if you think back on talks that have been meaningful to you. Here are a few chapter titles to demonstrate. “Humor Me” touches on the appropriate use of humor in a presentation. “Ask Three Questions” says it is essential to know WHY you were asked to speak; WHO is your audience, and WHAT you want to say. “Answer the ‘So What?’” which asks the speaker to consider what change in behavior you want as a result of the speech.

So whether you have been asked to keynote a national convention or emcee the next school talent show, this book offers sound advice in bite-sized pieces. It may even encourage you to say “yes” the next time you are asked to give a talk and never thought you could.

You can find this book on the Leadership Development shelf of the UMW book kiosk in the Family Life Center. Just sign your name to the check out card and file it in the box on the top shelf. There are no membership requirements, due dates, or fines in this library — it is a resource for anyone interested in learning, growing, and considering new ideas.



Editor’s Note

By Jacob Walker

I’ve got a little space to fill, so I’d like to take a moment to extend innumerable thanks to Elaine Carlson and Dan Prueett, who have been incredibly gracious and helpful during this time of transition. Both of you will be missed greatly, but unfortunately for each of you, you’re probably going to end up fielding my questions for months to come.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

By Dixie Jacky, UMW President



Meridian United Methodist Women will be starting a new series of studies on Climate Justice. Five agencies of the United Methodist Church (including United Methodist Women), in conjunction with the Council of Bishops, will be releasing a statement of commitment across all ministries, facilities, operations, and investments of the UMC to work towards Net-Zero Emissions by the year 2050. Sounds overwhelming, but if we can start by studying and learning, maybe we too can make a difference. Watch for a zoom link to be sent to your email address and we will gather on **May 13** at **1pm**.



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>

We will be taking a break from supporting Mirror Image through the summer. But expect that I will be back asking in August, asking you to resume helping with this local mission project. If you are so inclined, however, checks are welcome throughout the year. Please make your check out to Meridian UMC, and designate Mirror Image in the memo line.

The Reading Program kiosk is available for you to check out books. Additional titles are available by going to:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogramcatalog2021.pdf>

Looking forward to seeing you on May 13 at 1 p.m. on Zoom,

Dixie Jacky
UMW President



Print Copies Available

May Footprints, May Scripture Readings, and the May/June Upper Room are all available for 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.





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

MAY EVENTS CALENDAR

May Events to Celebrate!

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

Sunday, May 2 - Communion Sunday

Sunday, May 9 - Mother's Day

Sunday, May 23 - Graduate Sunday

June
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Thursday
May 20

Submissions may be
e-mailed to Denise McClung:

office@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!