



Meridian United Methodist  
**Church of the  
 Warm Heart**

# FOOTPRINTS

**April 2024**

**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

**April 2024**

**04.07.2024**

**One in Heart**

Acts 4:32-35



**04.14.2024**

**What do you want?**

John 1:35-42



**04.21.2024**

**Do you have anything to eat?**

Luke 24:36-48



**04.28.2024**

**Didn't you know where to find me?**

Luke 2:41-52

\*the Jailhouse Rock children's musical will be performed during second service\*

## Confirmation Sunday

It's a special time for four of our young people as they step up and confirm the vows made for them at their baptism. We hope you'll join us during either or both services on April 7 to bear witness and lend support as these kids publicly declare their faith. We will confirm three in first service and another one in second service. What a wonderful time!



## Ladies Night Out



Join us on April 10 as we cheer on the Lady Broncos softball team as they take on the Washington Huskies. The game starts at 6PM and tickets are just \$10. Please RSVP to Lisa by Sunday, April 7, to reserve your seat.

## Trivia Night (and Bake Sale!)

Saturday, April 20, 6 p.m.



This summer our Warm Heart Youth will travel to Northern Idaho to work with Idaho Servant Adventures, and you can support their mission trip by showing off your brain and eating cookies! Tickets to this fun night are just \$10. Please RSVP with the church office.

## Newspapers Needed



We're preparing our set for the children's musical that will be performed on April 28 during second service, and we could use some more newspaper for paper mâché. Donations can be left at the children's check-in counter or the church office.

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 April Sermon Series, Highlighted Happenings
- 2 **Inside Page**  
Membership Info
- 3 **Ministries & News**  
Pastor Mike's Musings
- 4 **Ministries & News**  
Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries
- 5 **Ministries & News**  
Congregational Care, Adult Ministries
- 6 **Ministries & News**  
Worship Arts, Finance
- 7 **Ministries & News**  
Book Nook, UWFaith, Quilt Raffle
- 8 **Back Page** April Events Calendar

## March

### NEW MEMBERS:

### DEATHS:

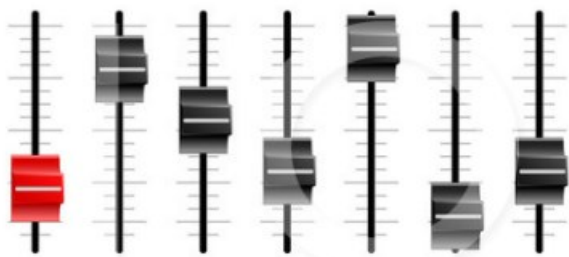
*Please pray for the families of...*

### BAPTISMS:

## JOIN THE TECH TEAM!

The tech team is looking for help running sound and video during Sunday services. No experience necessary – we'll train you! For more info, contact Debbie Jones:

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



## STAFF

- Senior Pastor** (ext. 104)  
Rev. Mike Benischek [pastormike@meridianumc.com](mailto:pastormike@meridianumc.com)
- Adult Discipleship/Asst. Pastor** (ext. 109)  
Jennifer Hunkovic [adult.ministry@meridianumc.com](mailto:adult.ministry@meridianumc.com)
- Minister of Congregational Care** (ext. 105)  
Lisa Miller [care@meridianumc.com](mailto:care@meridianumc.com)
- Minister of Worship Arts** 208-608-2520  
Debbie Jones [worshiparts@meridianumc.com](mailto:worshiparts@meridianumc.com)
- Youth Minister** 734-316-9517  
Nicole Walker [youth@meridianumc.com](mailto:youth@meridianumc.com)
- Children's Minister** (ext. 108)  
Malia Paz [children@meridianumc.com](mailto:children@meridianumc.com)
- Office Manager** (ext. 102)  
Angela Perry [office@meridianumc.com](mailto:office@meridianumc.com)
- Receptionist** (ext. 101)  
Lucinda Dyer [receptionist@meridianumc.com](mailto:receptionist@meridianumc.com)
- Bookkeeper**  
Maria Akers [bookkeeper@meridianumc.com](mailto:bookkeeper@meridianumc.com)
- Communications Coordinator** (ext. 103)  
**Video Production**  
Jacob Walker [cc@meridianumc.com](mailto:cc@meridianumc.com)  
[production@meridianumc.com](mailto:production@meridianumc.com)

### Nursery Coordinator

Jessie Layton [nursery@meridianumc.com](mailto:nursery@meridianumc.com)

### Organist

Kristine Ciulla [organist@meridianumc.com](mailto:organist@meridianumc.com)

### Facility Personnel

Richard Stolle [maintenance@meridianumc.com](mailto:maintenance@meridianumc.com) (M - Th)  
Don Woods [dandwoods@gmail.com](mailto:dandwoods@gmail.com) (F - Sun)

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- Administrative Council Chair** Dennis Moberly  
**Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair** Margaret Pridmore  
**Trustees Chair** Ron Pridmore  
**Systems Administrator** Integrity Computer Consultants  
**Finance Chair** Lori Jones  
**Treasurer** Lori Jones  
**Financial Secretary** Diane Brister  
**Futures Team Chair** Lori Jones  
**United Methodist Men President** Ed Emmel  
**United Women in Faith 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, 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](mailto:office@meridianumc.com)  
Website: [www.meridianumc.com](http://www.meridianumc.com)  
Facebook: [Meridian United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianUnitedMethodistChurch)

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Prayer & Praise Requests - [prayer@meridianumc.com](mailto:prayer@meridianumc.com)**

# PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

Dear Warm Heart Family and Friends:

It's tax time again! I hope you have your 1040's figured out and sent off to Uncle Sam. It took our family a little longer this year due to tax law changes and schedules - but once again, we paid our fair share for roads, police, schools, etc.

Have you ever wondered why churches don't pay taxes? A lot of folks on Facebook have recently asked about (and complained that) churches don't pay their fair share. I'm not a tax expert, but here's my take on the question:

First, churches and religious organizations, like other charities, are supposed to provide a social benefit to society. They minister to the needy and poor in their communities, and they provide an influence on society that helps to reduce crime and encourage good citizenship. We feed the hungry, house the poor, respond to natural disasters, and help the needy.

We are also a 501(c)3 organization, as classified by the IRS. This means that there is no one that profits from our activities - everything we do must be for the public good. At the end of the year, there are no stakeholders that receive profits. We don't pay federal or state taxes on our income just as the Red Cross, YMCA, American Legion, and libraries don't pay on their income.

AND EVEN IF WE DID PAY TAXES - all corporations pay taxes on the profits they make in a year. As a non-profit, our tendency is to not make a profit! In the years I've been here, our expenses matched our income - leaving no profit to tax anyway!

We also believe in the freedom of religion. One of the most entangled ways that a government can influence organizations and industries is with the tax structure. As Chief Justice John Marshall stated back in 1819, "the power to tax involves the power to destroy." Keeping churches tax exempt removes the temptation from government to interfere with the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment. In 1970, the U.S. Supreme Court held that property tax exemptions for churches were in keeping with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

But Christians also pay a lot of tax. Our staff pay their income tax, just like everyone else. Your clergy pay their tax - and even more so, since they have to pay both sides of their social security. No one here is tax-exempt. Churches do pay a UBIT tax (Unrelated Business Income Tax) for income that is not gained for the charter. Think in-house bookstores, or leasing parking spaces to nearby businesses.

So happy tax day everyone! If you want to feel spiritual in this moment, you can sing what I call the "Tax Day" Hymn: #354 "I Surrender All." Or better yet, read this prayer from Tabatha Arnold:

Thank you, God, for everyone who paid their taxes in years gone by. Because of them, my childhood was blessed with:

- mountains to climb and parks to explore
- an education offered by public schools and libraries
- safe drinking water and clean air to breathe
- a home even after my father died, because my mother could get a low-interest FHA mortgage
- Medicare for my grandmother when she got sick
- free vaccinations against polio and other diseases
- the county extension service and its 4-H programs for youth
- and most importantly, the assurance that my country cared for me and my family

Thank you, God, for those who have blessed our lives through their taxes in the past and for the chance to bless the lives of others with ours. Amen.

See you in church on Sunday!

Pastor Mike



# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Hello Warm Heart Families!

March was a wonderful and busy month. We had a blast at our Parent's Night Out with fun movies, silly games, and crafts. And the kiddos did an absolutely fantastic job during our Palm Parade and singing with the choir on Palm Sunday!

The musical **Jailhouse Rock** is coming to the Church of the Warm Heart and the kids have been working very hard learning all the delightful songs. The month of April is going to be full of music. Please join us for all of our April Activities:

**Wednesdays (all) — Pioneer Club & Musical**  
6:00—7:30 p.m., starting in the Upper Room

**Sundays April 7, 21 — Musical Rehearsals**  
We will be meeting in the FLC  
from 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. for lunch and rehearsal

**Saturday, April 13 — Parent's Night Out**  
5:00—7:30 p.m. **\*Note day and time change\***  
Please RSVP by 04/10

**Sunday, April 28 – Jailhouse Rock Musical**  
The kiddos will be showing off all of their hard work during the 11:15 a.m. service.

Take care,

Malia Paz  
[children@meridianumc.com](mailto:children@meridianumc.com)



Top left: Parent's Night Out // Top right: Palm Parade  
Bottom: Performing with the choir

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

I'm so grateful for the longer days and the warming weather as we head into April. This is my favorite time of year!

For April, youth group is going on the road! It's our spring tradition to do a book study paired with dinner and games at various people's houses around town. Stay tuned to your email for updates on where youth group will be held each Sunday night, and make sure to RSVP so we can let the chefs know how much food to prepare. What a delight to be hosted (and fed) by others!

Also this month, the youth group / mission team will be hosting Trivia Night on Saturday, April 20. We'll need people to make baked goods, help with setup, run the bake sale, and grab trivia teams' answer sheets at the end of each round. So plan to attend, either as a helper or as a competitor, and invite everyone you know! Tickets are just \$10.

**Tuesday, April 2 – Backpack Program**  
3:30 – 4:30ish p.m., Meridian Food Bank

**Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, and 28 – Youth Group**  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m., locations TBA

**Saturday, April 20 – Trivia Night and Bake Sale**  
6:00 p.m. in the FLC

**Sunday, April 28 – Jailhouse Rock Musical**  
11:15 a.m., during second service  
(come see your friends perform!)

With joy,

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



Left: Snow tubing action shot  
Right: Teens hunting Easter eggs

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.  
~ Proverbs 11:25

National Volunteer Week is April 21-27, and we want to celebrate your service! We could not be the CHURCH of THE WARM HEART without you. All of our amazing volunteers are a huge blessing to us. Thank you for all you do! We appreciate each one of you. You have given hours and hours of your time to provide music and host online worship. You have donated money to church projects like the roof repair as well as funding our Good Sam program. You've made a difference to our local teens and elderly folks alike by sending in items and funds for Mirror Image and our Care Bag ministry. Many of you bring treats and help run Sunday coffee hour and Tuesday Bible Study fellowship. And so much more!

Volunteering helps people find their purpose and their passion. When each of us listens to that whisper, we make a difference. And we all have something to give. We have many opportunities to use your passion and skills to help the church and beyond. I would love to visit and explore ideas on where you could volunteer and get connected. Maybe with the kiddos or helping with coffee hour? We have a place for you. Who knows? You may even meet some new friends. Please contact Lisa Miller if you would like to volunteer.

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



## ADULT MINISTRIES

Greetings Church Family!

Did you know our Lunch Bunch small group just had their one-year anniversary in March? It's true! Perhaps you didn't know about this small group or haven't been involved before but you're interested in learning more about it. Do you like food? Do you like meeting new people and making new friends? If you answered "Yes," this small group is for you.

We meet for lunch after the second service on the first Sunday of the month. Our next Lunch Bunch gathering will be at DeJa Brew on April 7 at 12:30 p.m. If you plan to be there, let the office know by Thursday, April 4, 2024, so we will have time to confirm the reservation. Hope to see you there!

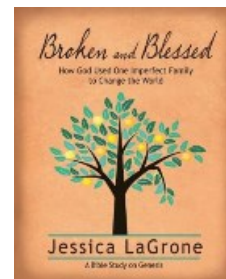
(Selfishly, I only have 3 more opportunities to be a part of this group since my new appointment begins in July and I want to take each opportunity I have until then to see you. So, please consider this a personal invitation and join us!)

Grace and Peace,

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

## Upcoming Ladies Study

*Broken and Blessed*  
April 22 - June 3  
Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom



*Broken and Blessed* is a six-week study that traces the story of the Genesis family from Adam and Eve through the generations to Joseph, bringing blessing from brokenness. We will see that despite both good and bad traits that were passed down, God worked for good in every generation—determined to transform those within and outside the family bloodlines.

Through these stories from Genesis, New Testament teachings about family, and stories of contemporary families changed and used by God, this study shows us how God can use our own imperfect families to bring blessing in a hurting and broken world.

The Participant Book contains five daily readings per week, each including Scripture, reflective teaching material with questions and space for recording responses, prayer suggestions, and ideas for practical application.

Please let the office know if you plan on joining this study and please purchase your own book (it's available on Amazon). If you need help obtaining the book, contact Pastor Jen.

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**Jailhouse Rock** – Our Warm Heart Children’s Ministry will present “Jailhouse Rock” by Celeste Clydesdale on Sunday, April 28, at the 11:15 a.m. service. We welcome all children (and grandchildren) ages 4-5th grade to join us for this special musical presentation! Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the choir room, with two special practices on Sundays April 7 and April 21 in the FLC at noon (lunch provided).

**Thank You** – Many thanks to all our musicians who provided music for our worship services during the Lenten season, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday! The Church of the Warm Heart is truly blessed by our soloists, instrumentalists, Rolling Tones Chime Choir, Koinonia Handbell Choir, and Celebration Choir, as well as our guests: the Syringa String Quartet, Susan Russell, Brendan Grzanic, and the Riverside Brass. Thanks as well to everyone who helped decorate the Sanctuary for Good Friday and Easter. We can’t do this without you!

**Koinonia Handbells** – Our handbell choirs will be sharing a 30 min musical presentation on Thursdays, April 25 and May 2, at Spring Garden Senior Living and Grace Assisted Living, Meridian. What a blessing it is for residents to enjoy the beautiful music of your Warm Heart handbell choir! We’re always looking for more ringers!

**Rolling Tones** – Our youth chime choir will be sharing music with our church family on Sunday, April 7! This group is always open to new members, music readers and non-readers alike! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary from 6-6:30 p.m. Come check it out!

Blessings,

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

## FINANCIAL NEWS

These figures are for February 2024. This was an incredibly great way to begin the year. (I really hate to be a month behind when I draft this article but deadlines to print makes it necessary.) If you heard my report from the pulpit on February 25, you are aware that we are faced with an unexpected roof repair over the Education Wing and the entrance to the Narthex on the Idaho Street side. Bids have been received and the Administrative Council has approved \$54,000 for the project. Since this unforeseen expense was not budgeted, we are asking the congregation to give an extra gift until the expenses are covered. Just mark on your offering method that this money is to be used to FIX THE ROOF.

For General Operations:	Feb 2024	Year to Date 2024
<b>Given</b>	\$67,519	\$138,802
<b>Need</b>	\$62,269	\$119,362
<b>Outcome</b>	\$4,890	\$19,440

I am happy to report that as of March 24, we received \$33,068 toward our goal of \$54,000. Sixty-six givers have helped us attain 61% of our total goal. Once again, the Church of the Warm Heart has stepped up in a time of need. A special thanks to the Methodist Men for donating \$2,000 to replace the garbage disposal in the FLC kitchen.

I keep talking about “getting back to normal.” I am not quite sure what all that entails, but I can compare the figures for February Year to Date for the last three years (*right*)...

	2022	2023	2024
<b>Given</b>	\$116,119	\$129,911	\$138,802
<b>Needed</b>	\$112,911	\$124,008	\$119,362
<b>Outcome</b>	\$5,058	(\$11,097)	\$19,440

We are certainly trending in the right direction. Attendance is up, our expenses are down, and giving is up. We are being good stewards of our facilities and our programs are thriving. As we say at the end of each service on Sundays: “God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good.”

I would ask that you continue to pray about our finances. If you have any questions regarding our finances, please don’t hesitate to contact Lori Jones, Finance Committee Chair, at [lhjones2021@gmail.com](mailto:lhjones2021@gmail.com), or Don Brister, Stewardship Chair, at [maroontycoon63@gmail.com](mailto:maroontycoon63@gmail.com). We will always take the time to visit with you and discuss our finances. Also continue to keep our industrious staff in your prayers! May God continue to bless the Church of the Warm Heart.

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

Mariana is a typical fifteen-year-old girl with one exception—her father is running for President of the United States. The young adult novel, *Running*, by Natalia Sylvester, is from the Social Action section of the United Women in Faith Reading List, and was the Book Club choice for February.

In the book, Mariana is dealing with all the regular teenager challenges: pressure to do well in school, trying to fit in, negotiating new friendships, and losing her best friend to a move. In addition, she has all the pressure to be the perfect candidate's perfect daughter. Too many people care about what she should wear, who she should hang out with, and where she can go. This is not an easy yoke for a teenager searching out who she is.



Mari's parents wanted to keep their children separated from the world of campaigns and politics, so she grew up without much information about her father's political positions. When Mariana joins the debate team and begins to research her topic of clean water, she becomes aware that her friend had to move because of ground water contamination, and she has found her own political cause. How her political actions mesh and don't mesh with her beloved father's is the basis for the conflict in this book.

*Running* is a behind-the-scenes look at politics, both local and national, and the realities of what happens to families when one member is running for office. In this election year, *Running* offers a timely and interesting look at political campaigns. It is available on the United Women in Faith kiosk in the Family Life Center for anyone to borrow.



## RAFFLE FOR THE ROOF

The quilters are raffling off a brand new 60" by 72" quilt, with all proceeds going towards our roof repairs. You can buy tickets from any of the quilters or through the office: just \$2 per ticket, on sale through April.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith have a 155-year history of being in mission with women, children, and youth. It began in 1869 with 6 women raising funds to send a woman doctor (Dr. Clara Swain) and an educator (Isabella Thoburn) to India to provide medical care to women and to educate girls, neither of which were allowed during that time. Fast forward to 2024: just in the past 5 years, UWFaith have provided over 750 scholarships to over 300 women, giving over \$2 million in scholarships here in the US and over 30 countries around the world.

National Mission Scholarships funded by United Women in Faith are for lay women pursuing careers to work with women, children, and youth. International Mission Scholarships are given by UWFaith to lay women outside of the US who have limited funds, are active in the United Methodist Church, and often come from marginalized communities. Through both National and International Mission scholarships, doors are opened, lives are changed, and "firsts" happen for the recipients. There is an African proverb that says "when you educate a girl-child, you educate a generation."

More locally, the UWFaith of the Oregon-Idaho Conference has a scholarship for women pursuing advanced degrees in church related professions. More than 60 women since 1983 have received over \$30,000 in scholarships.

So how do we, here in Meridian, support these scholarships? Quarterly, we send a Pledge to Mission that directly goes towards these educational scholarships here in Idaho, around the US, and across the world. Your donation to our Pledge to Mission can be made monthly, or at our Unit meetings, or even by making a purchase at NU2U.



Mark your calendars for April 13, 12 p.m. for our next UWFaith luncheon. We will be continuing our focus on "Wisdom" by learning about women transitioning from prison back into society and how we can help them be successful. Please call the church office to indicate you plan to attend so we will know how many to prepare for.

Please continue to support our local mission project, Mirror Image, by providing hygiene items for our area youth. Place your donations at Lisa's office door in the FLC, or make a monetary donation to the church, marked "Mirror Image." Lisa takes 30 or more bags each month to area schools with students in need, so we can always use more supplies.

Blessings,

Dixie Jacky  
United Women in Faith President



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

## **April Events to Celebrate!**

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

***April 7 – Confirmation Sunday***

***April 13 – UW Faith Luncheon, FLC, 12 p.m.***

***– Parent’s Night Out, 5 - 7:30 p.m.***

***April 14 – Native American Ministries Sunday***

***April 20 – Trivia Night, FLC, 6 p.m., \$10 per person***

**May**

**NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:**

**Thursday,  
April 25th**

Submissions may be  
emailed to Jacob Walker at  
[cc@meridianumc.com](mailto:cc@meridianumc.com)

or brought by the  
church office.

Thank you!