



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

FOOTPRINTS

May 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

May 2024

05.05.2024

“What Do You Think?”

Matthew 21:28-32



05.12.2024

“Who Touched My Clothes?”

Mark 5:24b-34



05.19.2024

“Why Don’t You Judge for Yourself?”

Luke 12:54-59; John 14:15-21



05.26.2024

“Who is Greater?”

Luke 22:24-30

Parking Reminder

Friendly reminder that there is no public or church parking in the northwest lot of our block, which is owned by private businesses — we don’t want your car to get towed! You can find a map of available parking at www.meridianumc.com/parking.



Ladies Night Out

Join us on May 22 at 6 p.m. for a paint night at the Angry Easel. Just bring a snack to share, they’ll provide the rest! The cost is \$20. Angry Easel needs to know how many places to set up, so please RSVP with Lisa Miller at care@meridianumc.com. Don’t miss out on this fun night of fellowship and creating.

Graduate Sunday

Graduate Sunday is May 19, and we want to make sure to recognize all our graduates! Submit your name, photo, and the name of your school/program to cc@meridianumc.com to be included! We love to celebrate everyone graduating from Kindergarten, high school, and college or technical programs.



“Can Do” Food Drive

Let’s get some friendly competition going this summer, all for a good cause! Check out page 7 for details on our “Can Do” Food Drive to benefit the Meridian Food Bank. You can also read more about the ministry of the Meridian Food Bank in Lisa’s article on page 5.

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April

NEW MEMBERS:

Daniel Ciulla
Peter Ciulla
Aubrey Knight
Landon Perry

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
Linda Tewksbury
Chuck Wood
Kate Horowitz

BAPTISMS:

Daniel Ciulla
Peter Ciulla

THANK YOU

I must express my gratitude, brothers and sisters in Christ, for all the love, prayer, and support you have so wonderfully given me this past year, as I approach my first year of widowhood. This is a part of our journey that lends itself to total dependence on our Lord to meet all our needs. And he certainly has! The "Understanding Your Grief" class directed by Faye Gabriel and Lisa Miller was especially helpful. Be sure to take advantage of that support whenever you may need it; it was wonderful! Wishing you all a delightful spring and happy summer!

Love and blessings,
Bev Weatherspoon



STAFF

Senior Pastor Rev. Mike Benischek	pastormike@meridianumc.com	(ext. 104)
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Organist

Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

Facility Personnel

Richard Stolle maintenance@meridianumc.com (M - Th)
Don Woods dandvwoods@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
Website: www.meridianumc.com
Facebook: **Meridian United Methodist Church**

Office Hours

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

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS



Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family:

General Conference is happening — I am watching the Livestream as I type up this article. It's a much-anticipated gathering. Typically it is held every four years, but church leaders delayed the 2020 gathering until now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the 11-day gathering runs from April 23 to May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. General Conference is the only entity that can speak for the entire denomination. It is a business meeting where delegates set policy, pass budgets, and address other church-wide matters. It's the only body that can amend the United Methodist Book of Discipline, which includes church law. It also includes Social Principles, which are non-binding declarations on social and ethical issues. There's worship and fellowship, too.

Some topics that may be addressed at this session:

LGBTQ issues: As with every General Conference for the past several generations, we expect a vote on whether to eliminate the LGBTQ-related bans for clergy and/or weddings.

Disaffiliations: The rules that allowed U.S. congregations to leave between 2019 and 2023 may be extended.

Regionalization: A proposal to restructure the denomination into regional conferences around the world, rather than having distinct names for U.S. and other jurisdictions. It would allow each region to adopt some church policies for their own context.

Budgets: Because of disaffiliations over the past few years, the conference will vote on a much-reduced budget proposal for the coming years.

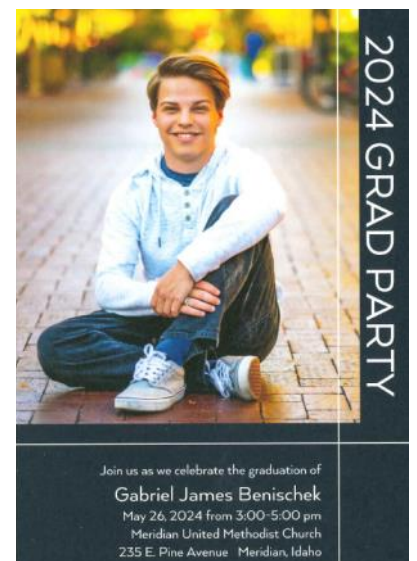
Please keep our two Oregon-Idaho delegates in your prayers. For more information about General Conference, you can visit www.resourceumc.org.

See you in church on Sunday!

Pastor Mike

Moment of Pastor Privilege:

This year, we will celebrate three Warm Heart seniors who are graduating from high school. One of them is Gabriel Benischek (my favorite middle child). Please consider this your invitation to celebrate with us on Sunday, May 26th, from 3-5 p.m. in the FLC. We wanted to invite the whole congregation, but couldn't afford the postage to mail everyone individual announcements. What a great problem to have, as it means we have a large congregation! Gabe asked for a pasta bar, and we aim to make that dream come true. We hope to see you there!



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Hello Warm Heart Families!

It's hard to believe that we are just a few weeks away from school being out for summer! This has been a wonderful year. Thank you for making my first year as your Children's Minister a smooth transition. I have truly enjoyed working with your kiddos and watching their excitement as we explore the Bible and what it means to be loved by God.

The kiddos did such an amazing job on the performance of Jailhouse Rock. They worked so hard and it showed. A big thank you to Debbie for organizing, parents for supporting your kiddos by getting them to rehearsal, and those who helped with behind the scenes and props.

Though the school year is ending, the Church of the Warm Heart will have plenty of opportunities for our kiddos to gather. Please mark your calendars:

Wednesday, May 15 will be our final Pioneer Club of the school year.

July 22-26 VBS: The kids will explore Jesus' hometown Nazareth where he was a kid. Please look out for registration and volunteer opportunities.

August 2-4 Family Camp at Pilgrim Cove: We will be joining in the first Family Camp put on by Pilgrim Cove. If you are interested please reach out for more information.

Plus more summer events with dates to come: splash pad at the park, family day at Eagle Island, movies in the park!

Take care,

Malia Paz
children@meridianumc.com



YOUTH MINISTRIES

With the end of school approaching and finals on every horizon, youth group starts to wind down in May. We have four fun events (you have to take study breaks or your brain will explode!) and one last afternoon of service at the Backpack Program. I hope you'll be able to join me for as many of these things as possible!

Sunday, May 5 – Youth Group
6 – 8 p.m., Walker home

Tuesday, May 7 – Backpack Program
3:30 – 4:30ish p.m., Meridian Food Bank

Wednesday, May 8 – Haven
(basically an ice cream party)
6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Youth Room

Saturday, May 11 – Bowling
4 – 6 p.m., Meridian Lanes

Sunday, May 21 – Photo Scavenger Hunt
6 – 8 p.m., starting and ending in the FLC

With joy,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Happy May Day!

The tulips are up, the trees are budding, and the sheep are on the move. When I was young, my grandmother Alice would have us over to make special vases from rolled construction paper. We would carefully place cut flowers into each "vase." Then we would go to a few neighbors and relatives houses, leave the vases of flowers at the door, ring the bell, and run. I remember the giggles and grandma telling us to SHHH! What a sweet gesture; sometimes it's the littlest things that make the biggest impact. Let's all reach out and brighten someone's day this month.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. As we age, we experience life changes that impact our mental health. Did you know:

- It's never too late to get help
- Talking about your own mental health helps others feel more comfortable asking for support
- Mental health is important at every age

Spending time with family and friends socially as well as in worship can boost both mental and physical health. Please stop by my office and check out my bulletin board for more information and resources.



The Meridian Food Bank was created to serve people in our community who are facing the challenge of not having enough food. In 2022, the Meridian Food Bank distributed over 1.1 million pounds of food to help more than 12,800 households in need throughout the Treasure Valley - and that number is growing every day!

The Meridian Food Bank specifically addresses the issue of food insecurity through their food pantry and weekly school backpack food services. They are committed to reducing hunger and to creating healthy families by distributing food to unemployed, underemployed, homeless, and struggling folks of all ages. They value each person who comes through their door, and they want to help everyone achieve the best possible quality of life in our community.

The Meridian Food Bank is an all-volunteer organization. Several of our Warm Heart friends volunteer there weekly, and our youth help with the Backpack Program each month. The food bank's goal is to assist anyone who's hungry. Let's help! See page 7 for details on a church-wide food drive this spring/summer.

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

ADULT MINISTRIES

Greetings Church!

Once again, we are gearing up for the annual Habitat for Humanity Framing Project. I hope you will be able to join us!



**Save the Date:
Habitat for Humanity**

June 1
Check-In: 8:00 am

The Habitat build will take place on June 1 at the Cathedral of the Rockies Amity Campus. We need people of all skill levels to join our Church of the Warm Heart team. If framing a house is not exactly your skill set, there are other opportunities to serve at this event. We need individuals to help pass out refreshments and we also need help with writing messages of hope and love for the recipients of the Habitat home — this is a great opportunity for the kids to get involved. All are welcome! So, if you want to see a miracle happen, join us! An entire house will be framed within a few hours. It's incredible!

"But I don't know how to frame a house." It's all good! 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 you need to bring? Water bottle, sunscreen, gloves and a willingness to serve.

Are you in? Email me if you would like to join our team.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jen
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

MUSIC MINISTRY

Many thanks to the Warm Heart Church Family for supporting our children’s musical “Jailhouse Rock”! We are so grateful for Elaine & Brad Carlson, Malia Paz, Kathryn Gillespie, Nicole Walker, the Warm Heart Youth who participated, Jacob Walker, Ian Perry, Daniel Ciulla, and the many extra hands that helped set up and tear down the set.

Koinonia Handbells – Our handbell choirs will be sharing a 30 min musical presentation on Thursday, May 2, at Grace Assisted Living in 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!

Summer Special Music – Can you help? We are looking for instrumental and vocal solos and ensembles to enhance our worship services this summer. If you’re interested, let me know!

The Celebration Choir and Koinonia Handbell Choir are wrapping up their seasons this month. We are grateful to all these volunteers who offer their time and talents enhancing our worship services with their lovely music. We will resume again in August.

The Rolling Tones Chime Choir will be sharing music with our church family on Sunday, May 12! 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 when we resume our rehearsals in the fall!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

We have completed the first quarter of 2024. For the first time this year, we are seeing red figures. I am drafting this article on April 24, since the newsletter timeline requires my article well before we close the books in April. Our March giving was down from February and the expenses were up. Twice a year, we end up with three payrolls coming in the same month; March was one of those months. The final figures for April will be a much better gauge as to how we really stand financially. On a bright note, we are much better than last year after the first quarter.

For General Operations:	Mar 2024	Year to Date 2024
Given	\$46,813	\$185,615
Need	\$75,615	\$194,976
Outcome	(\$28,802)	(\$9,361)

For the past six weeks, we have been in the middle of a special campaign to “FIX THE ROOF.” We had a great participation in this campaign. The Quilters’ raffle brought in over \$1500, and on top of that, we had more than ninety-five individual gifts. I am pleased to announce that we surpassed our \$54,000 goal! As always, this church congregation rises to the occasion when called upon. Roof repairs are still ongoing and should be completed during the summer months, hopefully about the same time as the street and sewer projects are finally finished. Kudos to all for adjusting to walking extra steps each Sunday due to the lack of parking near the church.

Many of you have commented that you like seeing the figures for the last three years to keep our finances in perspective, so I have included those figures to the right. As you can see, even despite our roof repairs, we are in better shape than last year.

	2022	2023	2024
Given	\$168,615	\$156,811	\$185,615
Needed	\$172,045	\$199,135	\$194,976
Outcome	(\$3,428)	(\$42,325)	(\$9,361)

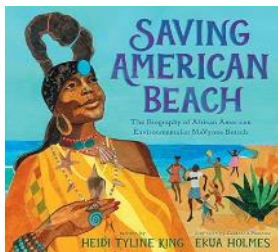
I remain optimistic about our church in general and our finances in particular. We’re growing, we’re being good stewards of our facilities, the youth are preparing for a mission trip, and more folks are becoming givers. I would ask that you continue to pray about our finances. If you have any questions about our budget or anything relating to our finances, please don’t hesitate to contact Lori Jones, Finance Committee Chair, at lhjones2021@gmail.com, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chair, at 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 as well. May God continue to bless the Church of the Warm Heart.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

Once again, a children's picture book has taught me a piece of history I knew nothing about. *Saving American Beach*, by Heidi Tyline King, tells the story of MaVynee Betch and her connection to a section of beach near Jacksonville, Florida.



Because of Jim Crow laws, beach access was restricted for Black Floridians in the early 1900s. So MaVynee's grandfather bought a beach-front lot that all people were welcome to enjoy. It was on that beach that MaVynee came to love the sea, the sand, and listening to the songs of her heart. She grew up to become a world-famous opera star who traveled the globe, but she never lost her love of that piece of the shore. After desegregation laws were passed, the need for a beach just for Blacks was eliminated, and the beach became neglected and polluted.

When MaVynee returned home to care for her ailing mother, she set about reclaiming the beauty she remembered from her childhood. She protested against development, and enlisted the help of others to reclaim and preserve her beach. Through her stubborn perseverance, this piece of land was eventually set aside as a national ecological and historic park. It is one of nine sites along the African American Heritage Trail.

The vibrant colors and simple text make this book appealing to children, the target audience, as well as adults. I encourage you to snuggle up with a child or grandchild - or even a dog who likes to share your lap - and enjoy this book.

“CAN DO” FOOD DRIVE

It's time for a food drive to benefit the Meridian Food Bank! To make it fun, we're splitting the congregation into "teams" based on the first letter of our last names. Let's see which team can donate the most this spring/summer!

May: Last names beginning with ABCDEFG

June: Last names beginning with HIJKLM

July: Last names beginning with NOPQRS

August: Last names beginning with TUVWXYZ



Donations can be left in the Meridian Food Bank bin in the FLC any time during the week, or placed in the basket in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. You can find a list of needed food items on our church website or at:

meridianfoodbank.org/food-lists

You can also donate monetarily at:

meridianfoodbank.org/donate

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

You have been hearing from our pulpit as well as in the local and national news that our quadrennial (well, this time it took an extra 4 years!) General Conference is happening right now. United Women in Faith is the official women's organization of the United Methodist Church, so naturally we participate in the legislative process of General Conference. This time, we have four new pieces of legislation that will be voted on and hopefully passed:

- Children's Sabbath
- The Girl Child
- The Status of Women
- Voting Rights Protections in the United States

The UWFaith will also be seeking to re-adopt 11 resolutions that are currently in the Book of Discipline. Did you know all of these have been placed in the Discipline by the continued work of your UWFaith leadership?

- 1: Environmental Racism in the US, #1025;**
- 2: Law of the Sea, #1028;**
- 3: Protection of Water, #1029;**
- 4: Principles for Just and Sustainable Extraction and Production, #1032;**
- 5: Environmental Health #1034;**
- 6: A Charter for Racial Justice in an Interdependent Global Community #3371;**
- 7: Stop Criminalizing Communities of Color in the United States #3379;**
- 8: Speaking Out for Compassion: Transforming the Context of Hate in the United States #3422;**
- 9: Greed, #4056;**
- 10: Privatization, #4058;** and
- 11: Biblical Language, #8011.**

We have been invited to join Nampa First and Nampa Southside UWFaith units for brunch and to hear a program on "Mindfulness," presented by Renee Walters (wife of Pastor Walters), who has been studying and visiting in Dubai, Taiwan, and India. The brunch is on May 4 at 10 a.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact me and we will carpool from our church that morning.

The Warm Heart Book Club will be meeting on May 16 to discuss *Beautiful Country: A Memoir of an Undocumented Childhood*, by Qian Julie Yang. We will meet at noon for a brown bag lunch, with book discussion to follow.

Mirror Image: With one more month before summer, let's continue to remember our local youth and their hygiene needs. Please bring your donations to Lisa's office in the FLC.

**Mirror
Image**

Blessings,

Dixie Jacky
United Women in Faith President



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

May Events to Celebrate!

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

May 5 – *Communion Sunday*

May 12 – *Mother's Day*

May 19 – *Graduate Sunday*

May 19 – *Youth Photo Scavenger Hunt*

June

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Friday,
May 24th**

Submissions may be
emailed to Jacob Walker at
cc@meridianumc.com
or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!