



Meridian United Methodist
Church of the
Warm Heart

FOOTPRINTS

April 2025

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 2025

04.06.2025

Zaccheus

Luke 19:1-10



04.13.2025

The Rich Young Man

Luke 18:18-25; 19:37-40



04.20.2025

The Women at the Tomb

Luke 24:1-12



04.27.2025

A Sunday of Sermon Illustrations

HOLY WEEK

In the Christian Calendar, "Holy Week," which commemorates the seven days leading up to Easter, is always a busy time. Here are some opportunities for us to celebrate together:

Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Sunday, April 13 our children are invited to join our palm parade at both services (no practice necessary!).



Maundy Thursday



Maundy Thursday marks the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples. Join us in the FLC on April 17th at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the Lord's Supper and then share a potluck meal together

Good Friday

One of the most somber days of the liturgical year, Good Friday is our chance to remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross for our sins. On Friday, April 18th at 7 p.m., our Celebration Choir will present the cantata "Who is Jesus?". The service will also be broadcast online for those who cannot attend in-person.



Egg Hunts



Okay, these are not an official part of Holy Week, but they are a beloved tradition! See page 6 for details about a youth egg hunt and a children's egg hunt—and ways to get involved!

Easter Sunday

Finally be sure to join us on Easter Sunday (April 20th) at either service as we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord!



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March

NEW MEMBERS:

Duane Conitz
Marilesta Nelson
Sherri Coffield
Kim Thompson
Cindy Blair
Teddi Braid Scales

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...

Lila Hill
Roberta Jane

BAPTISMS:

James Scarangella
Connor Scarangella
Lily Scarangella

WARM HEART SCHOLARSHIPS



Our The Church of the Warm Heart Education Scholarship is now being offered through Meridian UMC to all students entering or returning to college for the fall of 2025. Applications will be emailed to those who are interested. The application for this scholarship is available by contacting Claudia Moberly at clmoberly@gmail.com.

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 30, 2025.

STAFF

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

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Don Woods 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
Email: 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:

Maybe some of you have been to an Easter service before. Or a few. Maybe scores of them. Decades even. I used to be the boy feeling immense joy when I heard the Gospel stories for the first time. And the next time. And so on. But over time, without me even realizing it, the Good News could become a little like old news. I could go through the motions of Easter and never take more than five minutes to thank God.

Many of us can acknowledge we have heard the gospel countless times. Many of us have heard that the Son of God was sent as a servant, and although he was flawless, he took on the punishment we deserve. Because he was a perfect sacrifice and suffered death on a cross, we can finally be forgiven. Three days later, his tomb was empty. He defeated death and was resurrected from the grave, so now we have the opportunity to believe in his death and resurrection and spend eternity in heaven.

Or maybe you have never heard this before — and if that's the case, I invite you to read the gospel by starting in the book of John. And I invite you to accept Christ as your Savior and decide to follow him!

However, for me at least, in the midst of a busy life, errands, and daily duties at work or raising kids, it doesn't sound so fresh. It's like hearing and believing the gospel became something I put on my to-do list but easily skipped over.

Is this true for you right now? Maybe you kind of know Jesus, at least in your head, but when temptation is too strong in your heart, you give in. When the world is loud, you listen to it over your Savior.

When I felt this way toward the gospel, I remember reading Mark 15 and relating to Pontius Pilate. He was the governor who made the official order for Jesus to be crucified — not because he thought Jesus was bad or deserved this punishment, but because the crowd wanted Jesus dead. And I've listened to the crowd over the man who came to save my soul. Because frankly it isn't always convenient to stand by him, right?

Jesus isn't just a "good guy" — he's our Savior, worthy of all praise and attention. We were made for a relationship with him, a consistent prayer life with him, and a committed practice of reading his Word. Even in the busyness of our lives, we must tend to our relationship with Jesus. Only then will our hearts thaw to the gospel.

So if you feel restless and the gospel has become old news, stop what you're doing and talk to Jesus honestly. Pray for conviction and a heart that doesn't get distracted by the crowd. Add prayer time and worship to your routine, and walk with faithful friends who daily point you to Jesus, even when the crowd is loud.

And if you see me at Easter - remind me that the old, old story is still fresh in the hearts of many. He is risen. He is risen indeed!

See you in church on Sunday!

Pastor Mike

P.S. I am asked often how people can contribute their time and talents to our ministries. No matter what your skills, I know there is a ministry here at the Church of the Warm Heart that you can help with, but I also know that it can be intimidating to find that niche, so I wanted to take a moment to highlight two quick, easy volunteer opportunities:

First, have you ever considered helping serve communion? You might think that serving communion requires some sort of special ordination, and that's *kind of* true; in the Methodist Church only a pastor is authorized to consecrate the elements. But anyone can join me in sharing the elements with the congregation, and I promise it's easy to do. Our Warm Heart Youth will be helping me serve communion this Sunday!

Speaking of the communion elements, those don't just magically appear on the first Sunday of the month. It's members of our congregation who prepare the Lord's Supper for our church family, and right now I'm looking for someone who can prepare the communion cups for us. If you think you could come in a little early one Sunday a month to pour some grape juice, you're qualified!

If either of these Volunteer opportunities appeal to you, let me know! And keep your eyes on this space for more quick volunteer opportunities in the coming months.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

My daughter is excitedly helping me prepare for all the Easter celebrations to come this month. We have Palm Sunday, Holy Week, egg hunts, Easter Sunday—and it's hard for her to wait! Thankfully, the waiting is almost over, and very soon we get to steep ourselves in the joy of Christ's resurrection and all that that means for us. I look forward to celebrating with you!

CHILDREN

For the Warm Heart Kids, April contains both Easter AND a children's musical! It's an exciting time to be young and full of energy. Also—check out our featured space art on the Art Wall in the narthex this month!

Bible Builders and Angels Alive

Wednesdays, all month

6:00—7:30 p.m., Upper Room

Sunday afternoon Musical Rehearsal

Sunday, April 6

12:15—1:00 p.m., FLC

Parents' Night Out

Friday, April 11

6:00—8:30 p.m., Children's Worship Center

Dinner provided; RSVP by April 10

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13

Angels Alive sings with the Choir first service

Palm Parade at both services

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19

9:30 a.m., FLC

(see details on page 6)

Final Musical Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 23

6:30—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Sermon on the Mound

Sunday, April 27

arrive at 10:45 a.m. to get costumed;

performance is during the 11:15 a.m. service



YOUTH

We only have two weeks of combined youth group before Easter Sunday and the return of Inbetweeners, and one of those is our Egg Hunt Egg-stravaganza! There are also lots of volunteer opportunities this month.

Events for all youth (dinner both nights):

Sunday, April 6—Youth Group

6:00 – 8:00 p.m., FLC/Youth Room

Sunday, April 13—Egg Hunt Egg-stravaganza

6:00—8:00 p.m., FLC

Service opportunities for all youth:

Saturday, April 5—Trivia Night Fundraiser

5:30—7:30 p.m., FLC (more details on page 6)

Tuesday, April 8 – Backpack Program

3:30 – 4:30ish p.m., Meridian Food Bank

Saturday, April 19 - WHK Easter Egg Hunt cleanup

10:30 a.m., FLC

Events for different age groups:

Sunday, April 27—812 Youth Group (grades 8-12)

6:00—8:00 p.m., FLC/Youth Room

Wednesdays, April 23 and 30—Inbetweeners (grades 6-7)

6:00—7:45 p.m., Sanctuary and Youth Room



With joy,

Nicole Walker

family@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Here are some quick tips and strategies for embracing a healthier life style this spring:

- Eat well – fuel your body with nutrient rich foods; focus on a balanced diet rich in fruits, especially berries, nuts, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins.
- Get moving – A ten minute walk can make a big difference; every step counts!
- Manage stress – practice mindfulness techniques, engage in hobbies, or spend time with loved ones; stress can negatively impact your health and sometimes we don't even know it's happening.
- Stay hydrated – start your day with water; it helps maintain your bodily functions (I was surprised to learn recently that morning water intake helps with mid day drowsiness)

Try these tips and it will lead to a healthier, happier you.

Blessings and good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

P.S. Save the date for a volunteer appreciation picnic on Saturday, May 3rd. Let us thank you for all you do! More details coming soon.



Thank you to everyone who came out

WORSHIP ARTS

Palm Sunday – Palm Sunday (April 13) is just around the corner! Here at the Church of the Warm Heart, our children lead us in a Palm parade with live palms at both services! The Angels Alive choir will be singing WITH the Celebration Choir (9:30 a.m.) that morning, too!



Angels Alive choir singing on Palm Sunday 2024

Good Friday Cantata – Join us on Good Friday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. to explore “Who is Jesus?” (not “Who WAS Jesus?”) as we use music to examine Christ’s interactions with us in the here and now. The centerpiece of this work is a powerful text by Timothy Dudley-Smith that carries us through the entire story of Christ’s life. Don’t miss this meaningful worship experience shared by your Celebration Choir!

Children’s Musical – The Warm Heart Kids will be offering their spring musical, “Sermon on the Mound,” on Sunday, April 27th, at the 11:15 a.m. service. If you have a child (4 yrs - 5th grade) who would like to participate, contact me for more info. We are doing our best to accommodate everyone who wants to be part of the fun! Mark your calendars for the performance later this month.



Learn to Ring Handbell Ensemble – A few of us have been gathering on Tuesday mornings to learn how to ring handbells together. We would love to have another ringer or two join us! If you have an interest in learning how to ring, how to read music, and getting connected with some folks to make music, please shoot me an email.

We’re decorating the church for EASTER soon! The Ministry of Worship Arts does all the decorating of the narthex and sanctuary during the various seasons of the church year. We are always looking for extra hands to help us as we prepare for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. If you are interested in joining in the fun, let me know!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

YOUTH EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Did you think church egg hunts were just for little kids? Think again!

On **Sunday, April 13, 6:00—8:00 p.m.**, all youth grades 6-12 are invited to come to the FLC for food, fellowship, and a next-level egg hunt. Test your powers of observation and investigation against the youth leaders' fiendish skills of obfuscation.

Bring a basket or bag to collect your eggs and bring a friend to join in the fun! Please **RSVP** for this event by Thursday, April 10, so we can be sure to have enough food for everyone.



Photos of youth hunting eggs in 2024

WARM HEART KIDS EGG HUNT

One of the most beloved events of the year, the kids' Egg Hunt returns on **Saturday, April 19, at 9:30 a.m.** Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors, and friends for crafts, snacks, an Easter story, and an epic egg hunt!

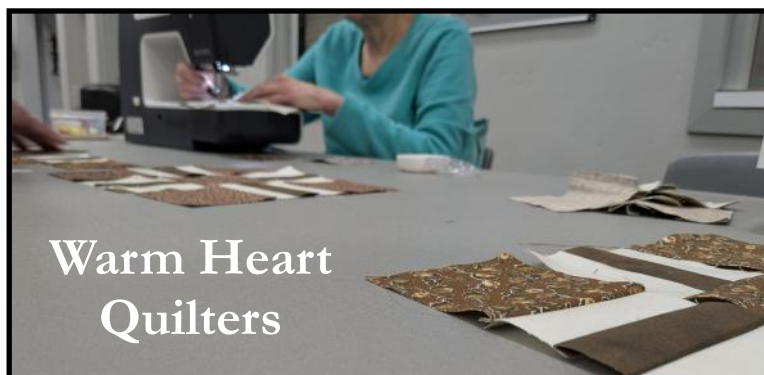
Candy donations are welcome and Nicole needs 2 volunteers to help with setup on Friday and 3-4 volunteers to help during the event. If you're interested in volunteering, please email family@meridianumc.com. We need YOU to make the magic happen!



Photo of kids hunting eggs in 2024

CREATIVE MINISTRIES

Did you know? The Church of the Warm Heart has two creative groups that regularly meet and use their gifts to enhance the ministries of the church. Maybe one is right for you?



The Warm Heart Quilters meet almost every Wednesday morning, and they **MAKE QUILTS**. This group, made up of women with all levels of sewing skill, is incredibly prolific, and they use their talents to bless all kinds of folks. In the past few years they have made quilts and other items for church folk—including shut-ins, veterans, and children newly baptized—as well as for half a dozen other ministries that extend beyond our walls. Some of those ministries include UMCOR, the Pillowcase Project, Marian Pritchett School, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and the Chemawa Indian School in Oregon. Once a year we bless their quilts during a church service, and it's always amazing to see their abundant, colorful handiwork laid out in our Sanctuary.

The Warm Heart Quilters also sell quilts to offset the cost of their supplies—you can usually find two or three quilts for sale displayed in the FLC. And if you're interested in getting involved in the creative process, they're always looking for new members. You could be the next Warm Heart Quilter!

Card Makers

Have you ever had the privilege of receiving a beautiful layered-ribbon card from the church? Our card makers provide our ministry staff with cards for all occasions—welcome, extra care, baptism and confirmation, graduation, and more!

If you can fold and tape, then you're ready to be a card maker! This delightful group meets on the second and fourth Sunday of each month in the FLC and they're always delighted when a newbie shows up. Using ribbon, tape, and easy-to-follow patterns, anyone can make a beautiful card with these folks' help. The fellowship around the table is top notch, and you can come help any time you're available without a lifelong commitment.



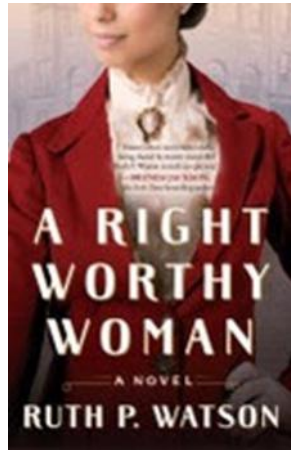
MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

A Right Worthy Woman, by Ruth P. Watson, is the inspiring true story of Richmond, Virginia's, "Black Wall Street", and the indomitable Maggie Lena Walker, who was instrumental in bringing it about.

The daughter of a formerly enslaved woman, Walker was ambitious and unafraid to tackle societal norms, even in the Jim Crow era. As a child, she helped her mother with her laundry service, which opened her eyes to the overwhelming discrepancy between the lives of Black residents and her mother's affluent white clients. She vowed to secure that kind of home and finery for herself and help others in her community achieve the same.



Maggie became the secretary-treasurer of the Independent Order of St. Luke, a black fraternal organization that provided life insurance and burial insurance for its members. It promoted black economic independence and taught young people money management, investing, and entrepreneurship. At its heyday, it had 100,000 members in 26 states. Maggie eventually became President of the Order.

In addition to her work with St. Luke's, Maggie founded a newspaper, a department store, and a bank, knowing that economic independence for Blacks required Black investors and owners. White business owners objected to losing the business of their Black customers, but Walker wanted institutions where customers were treated fairly, with dignity, and were welcomed through the front doors.

Seeing that economic hardships were ahead, she consolidated her bank with two other local banks, and together they survived the crash of 1929 and continued in business as the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company until 2005, when it was merged into the Abigail Adams National Bancorp.

Watson's life spanned the Civil War, the Great Depression, the Great Migration, and World War I. She died in 1934, but her legacy lives on in the impact she had in Richmond, and her commitment to civil rights, economic empowerment, and quality educational opportunities for all. Her home is now a National Historic Landmark.

This book is available for checkout from the UWF Book Cart in the Family Life Center.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

Our Leadership Development Day this past November centered on the post-resurrection days of Jesus' followers, using John 20 and 21. We spent quite a bit of time reflecting on Mary Magdalene's story that did not end at the empty tomb, but began there. Mary didn't just shrug her shoulders and say, "Ho hum, he's gone. Nothing more to see here." No, she rushed out to tell the others, with purpose, that God has a plan for each of us. As Pastor Mike often says, "what has that got to do with me, you ask?" I believe it is our stated purpose! After all, we are a community of women whose purpose is to know God, to develop a creative and supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission by participation in the global ministries of the church. That purpose was established in 1869 by predecessor organizations of the current United Women in Faith, to send an educator and woman doctor to India where women and children were not just under-served, but un-served! Therefore, each month in this space, you will find where your Pledge to Mission money is helping the un- and under-served, where opportunities for growing spiritually are located, and where creative fellowship might be available.

Our gifts at work this month go to: Children and youth residing or visiting the Shalom House in Kotido, Uganda; the interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a coalition of Protestant denominations and Roman Catholic orders concerned with the impact of corporations' policies and actions on people and the environment; and the Little Jewels Child Care and Enrichment Center of the Epworth Family Resources in York, Nebraska.

Everyone is invited to save the dates for the following fellowship and mission opportunities sponsored by United Women in Faith:

Thursday, April 17, in the FLC – the Warm Heart Book Club will be discussing *The Girl with the Louding Voice*, by Abi Dare'

Saturday, May 10, 12 p.m. in the FLC – a program on banned books, with potluck luncheon

July 11-12 at Hillview UMC – as the Conference UWFaith sponsor Mission U with the theme of "Building a Bridge of Kinship with our Indigenous Neighbors"

September 5-7, Suttle Lake Methodist Camp – Soul Care Retreat

As always, we ask your support for our area youth through the Mirror Image project. Bring your donated hygiene items to Lisa's office in the FLC or give a check made out to Meridian UMC with Mirror Image in the memo line.

Finally, we need help in the NU2U thrift store! Can you give 3 hours, one day a month, to volunteer? Please contact Cheryl Mulvihill at 208-995-7177.



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

March Events to Celebrate!

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

April 5 – Trivia Night Fundraiser, 6 p.m. @ FLC, \$10

April 13 – Palm Sunday

April 17 – Maundy Thursday Potluck, 6:30 p.m. @ FLC

April 18 – Good Friday Cantata, 7 p.m.

April 19 – Children's Egg Hunt, 9:30 a.m. @ FLC

April 20 – Easter Sunday

April 27 – Children's Musical, 11:15 a.m. service

May

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Friday,
April 25th**

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

Thank you!