



Meridian United Methodist
Church of the
Warm Heart

FOOTPRINTS

June 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

June 2025

06.01.2025

People You See

Galatians 3:26-28; I John 4:20-21



06.08.2025

Vanity of Vanities

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; Acts 2:1-4



06.15.2025

For Whom Am I Toiling?

Ecclesiastes 4:1-16



06.22.2025

Let Your Words Be Few

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7



06.29.2025

The End of All Things

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS



Wear Red for Pentecost

June 8 is Pentecost Sunday. This is recognized as the birthday of the Christian church and it's our tradition to wear red to celebrate. Let's fill the sanctuary with all our red summer wear!

Boise Hawks Game

Come join your Warm Heart family for an evening at the ballpark. We'll be watching the Boise Hawks from the third baseline on Wednesday, June 4th. Tickets are just \$10. Talk to Lisa Miller to get yours!



Grief Support Group



Grief is a wilderness; we need to reach out to discover comfort and support. A new grief support group will be meeting Mondays at 2 p.m., beginning on June 9th. Contact Lisa Miller if you would like to participate.

Memorial Hike

In honor of Jeff McClees, we will meet on June 8th, 1:30 p.m., at Camel's Back park (1200 Heron Street). Pack a sack lunch and we will all enjoy a time of fellowship and stories. Then following the picnic those that would like to hike will hit the trails at the Hull's Gulch Nature Area.



June Blood Drive

Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, June 16, from 12 - 5 p.m. in the FLC. A single blood donation can save up to 3 lives! And every two seconds in the U.S. someone needs blood. To do your part and schedule a donation, contact Lisa Miller at...



care@meridianumc.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 June Sermon Series, Highlighted Happenings
- 2 **Inside Page**
Membership Info, Joseph's Closet Thank You
- 3 **Ministries & News**
Pastor Mike's Musings
- 4 **Ministries & News**
Family Ministries
- 5 **Ministries & News**
Congregational Care, Finance
- 6 **Ministries & News**
Worship Arts
- 7 **Ministries & News**
Book Nook, UWFaith
- 8 **Back Page** June Events Calendar

May

NEW MEMBERS:

Bob Mayfield
Casey Thompson
Jeanne Foster
Karen Burgus

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
Regina Ainslie
Russel Clancy
June Pisone

BAPTISMS:

Emily Rasmussen



Joseph's Closet had a busy year! In a little over 3 months, we gave away 670 coats, 296 gloves, 457 socks, and 156 blankets. In addition, we gave away hundreds of hoodies, vests, sweaters, and sleeping bags. We couldn't continue this ministry without your help. Thank you!!!

STAFF

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Rev. Mike Benischek pastormike@meridianumc.com

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Debbie Jones worshiparts@meridianumc.com

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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
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:

A D-Day Story:

This month marks the 81st anniversary of the largest amphibious landing in history as the Allies landed in Normandy to liberate Europe from the Nazis. Over 156,000 troops would land or parachute into France in this invasion.

In the wee hours of the dark morning before soldiers landed on the beaches, paratroopers landed across the countryside. The 82nd Airborne landed in the area of the French village Sainte-Mère-Église. One unfortunate group jumped over the wrong area into the clutches of a German garrison that was already awake, working to stop a house fire set by the initial naval barrage. One lucky trooper, 31 year old Private John Steele, missed the burning house but hit the local church in Sainte-Mère-Église. His chute got caught up in the steeple and he was left dangling on the side of the church for several hours, unable to free himself. In the morning light, he was discovered and captured - one of the few non-casualties of the two planes of troopers that fell on the village. This story is showed in detail in "The Longest Day".



John Steele eventually escaped and found his way back to the American lines where he rejoined the fight. He served in the remainder of the war with distinction, collecting honors and medals. He later passed away in North Carolina in the 1960s.

To this day, the village of Sainte-Mère-Église commemorates the allies' liberation of the town with a mannequin that resembles Private Steele on the side of their church, and stained glass windows that tell the story.

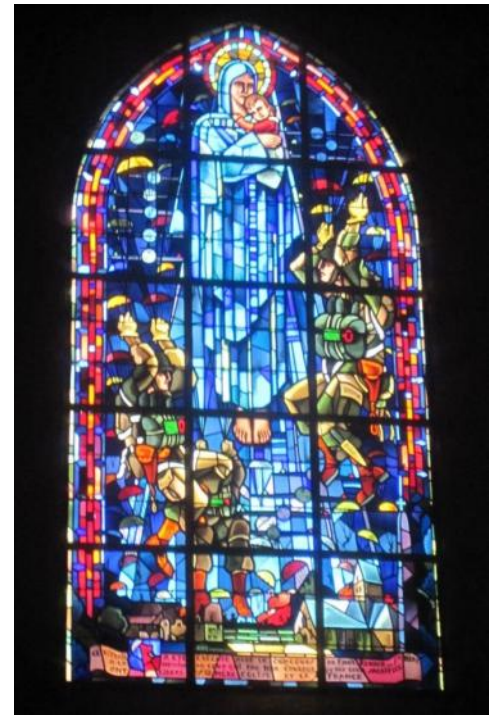
Our eternal thanks go to the heroes of D-Day so long ago.

As I read the story, I was reminded of the words of Rock of Ages; and a few lines came to mind:

Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee
Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace:
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

The fortunate mistake of landing on the steeple kept John safe that night. May we also find our safety and peace in the people and place called Church of the Warm Heart. See you in church on Sunday,

Pastor Mike



Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight

Slide Operator - Looking for an easy, low commitment way to help out at the church? The AV team is always looking for extra hands to run slides on Sunday mornings and during Thursday evening Worship Team rehearsals. No experience? No problem! We provide full training – if you can follow along and click a mouse, you can run slides! It's easy to learn and an essential part of the team. If you think you'd be available to help out at even just one service or rehearsal a month, contact Jacob Walker at production@meridianumc.com.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

It's SUMMER BREAK! As my son is quick to remind me, summer doesn't technically begin until June 20, but as I'm quick to remind him back, summer break starts as soon as school is out. And by June 5, all of our Warm Heart Kids will officially be out of school. ☺

Family Ministries hits a different pace during the summer, just like our lives. This month we're offering both Vacation Bible School and the 2025 Youth Mission Trip! After that, we will have a few sporadic events throughout the summer to mix into your calendar along with summer camps, family vacations, and trips into nature. It'll be wonderful!

CHILDREN

Summer is kicking off with the Warm Heart Kids' Vacation Bible School! Our theme is "True North" and we have 20 awesome volunteers ready to lead our kids through Bible adventures, science experiments, songs, and more as we all learn to trust Jesus. It's never too late to join the fun until it's over—you can even bring a friend along for just one day!

TRUE NORTH Vacation Bible School

June 2-6
9:30 am—noon
Sanctuary building

With Nicole off on the Youth Mission Trip after VBS, we will only have one more kids' event in June:

WHK Splash Pad Play

Friday, June 27
10:00 am
Discovery Park

Sunday School will continue to go strong all through the summer! Our dedicated Sunday School teachers are looking forward to helping our kids continue to learn about the Bible in hands-on, age-appropriate ways whenever they're in town. A huge THANK YOU to these amazing volunteers!



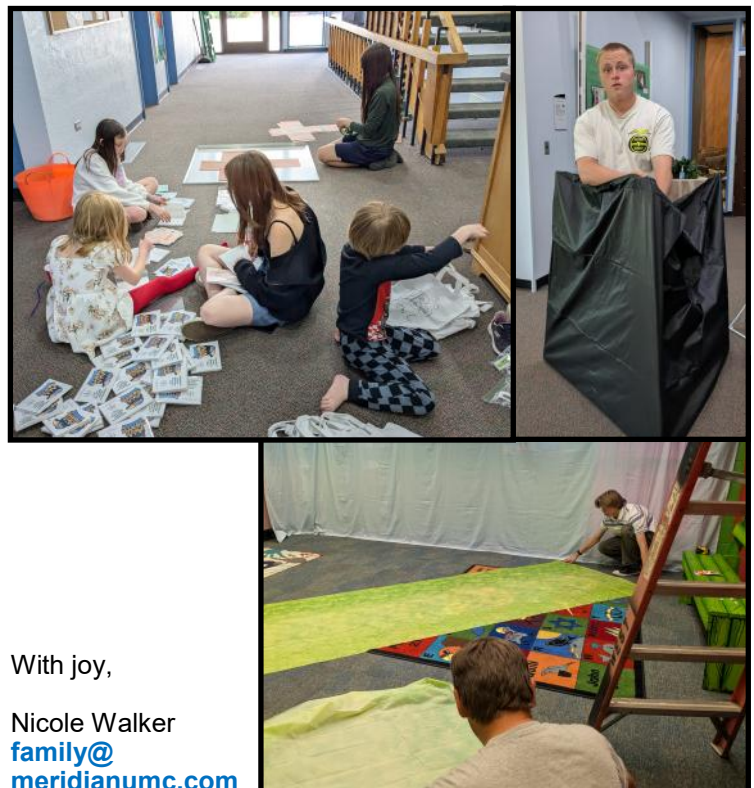
Parent's Night Out—May

YOUTH

How is it possible that we leave for our South Dakota Mission Trip less than a week after VBS?! We are currently gathering the tools we need to bring with us so we'll be able to do home repair for elders on the Rosebud Reservation, and in no time at all, we'll be loading up the U-Haul trailer and rolling out of town. We thank you in advance for covering us with prayer during our trip!

Aside from the Mission Trip, the Warm Heart Youth do not have any events this month. But I'm terribly pleased to announce that five of our teenagers are helping run Vacation Bible School—and that's a full quarter of our volunteer staff! I'm proud of our youth for stepping up to serve both the kids at home through VBS and the elders of the Lakota nation through our mission trip in South Dakota.

Enjoy some photos of our VBS prep night!



With joy,

Nicole Walker
family@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

June is skin Cancer Awareness Month. Let's stay safe and stay protected!

What is skin cancer? Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the U.S., but it's also one of the most preventable. Skin cancer is the cancer you can SEE. Some people are more prone to getting a sunburn, but anyone can get skin cancer. It occurs when abnormal skin cells grow uncontrollably, often due to excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun or tanning beds.

Types of Skin Cancer:

- Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) – The most common, often appearing as a pearly bump or red patch.
- Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) – Can look like a scaly sore or rough bump.
- Melanoma – The deadliest type, often appearing as an irregularly shaped mole.

How to Protect Yourself:

- ✓ Wear Sunscreen – Use SPF 30+ every day, even on cloudy days.
- ✓ Cover Up – Wear hats, sunglasses, and protective clothing.
- ✓ Avoid Tanning Beds – Artificial UV rays are dangerous.
- ✓ Check Your Skin Regularly – Look for new or changing moles and spots.

Know the ABCDEs of Melanoma:

- Q A – Asymmetry: One half does not match the other.
- Q B – Border: Irregular or blurred edges.
- Q C – Color: Multiple colors or uneven shades.
- Q D – Diameter: Larger than a pencil eraser.
- Q E – Evolving: Changes in size, shape, or color.

Skin Cancer Facts:

- ★ Over 5 million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the U.S. each year.
- ★ 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer by age 70.
- ★ Early detection saves lives – when caught early, melanoma has a 99% survival rate!

Take Action!

- ✓ Schedule a skin check with a dermatologist.
- ✓ Educate your loved ones about sun safety.

In case you are wondering if I practice what I preach, I have my next dermatology appointment scheduled for June 3rd. If you have any questions or would like more information check out my bulletin board in the FLC!

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

FINANCE

For General Operations:	Apr 2025	2025 YTD
Given	\$46,469	\$223,482
Need	\$61,412	\$254,953
Outcome	(\$14,943)	(\$31,471)

For the fourth straight month, our gifts have failed to meet the needs for general operations. We are now more than \$30,000 in a deficit position. Fortunately, we are still in a sound financial position due to the \$68,543 surplus that we carried over from 2024. As we look back three years to compare, we can see that we were in a similar position in the past. The past three years all had a deficit after four months: \$54,000 in 2023, \$25,000 in 2024, and the current deficit of \$31,000 this year. However, there is good news in May: after three weeks (with one more Sunday to receive an offering) we are doing very well and, hopefully, we will not have a May deficit.

We are approaching the summer months, when attendance and offerings are traditionally lower. Please remember that our church expenses don't take a vacation! There are many ways to continue to give if you are out of town or out of the country. If you don't want to see your Stewardship Chairman under stress, please keep up your giving and remind your friends to do the same.

These are exciting times in our church. The youth are setting the final details for their mission trip, and they depart on June 13. Vacation Bible is happening—probably as you read this! Graduations have wrapped up, and it is always fun to see the excitement of the grads as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Some of our men are planning to paint the exterior of the FLC and spruce up our facilities during the summer. And at Coffee Hour, you can hear lots of talk about planned and upcoming vacations. Please have fun, but be safe on your travels!

Please continue to pray for our outstanding staff, our federal, state, and local elected officials, our armed service members and first responders. Pray for our members who are experiencing grief, loss, and medical issues, as well. I haven't yet met a single person who couldn't use prayer of some kind! Let's cover our community with prayer through the summer.

We strive to be very open about our finances. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, your stewardship chairman (Don Brister, maroontycoon63@gmail.com) or Lori Jones (lhjones2021@gmail.com), your Finance chair.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

WORSHIP ARTS

Here's a few summer music opportunities:

We are always looking for musicians: Do you sing? Play an instrument? Enjoy ringing bells in an ensemble? Then we are looking for YOU! Contact me to get plugged in to a worship service!

Learn to Ring Handbell Ensemble: A few of us have been gathering on Wednesday 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 and how to read music—and getting connected with some folks to make music together—contact me for more details.

Poster Anthem: Since the covid shutdowns, we have been producing poster videos highlighting the new folks in our congregation as well as some of our shut ins and weekly attendees. No musical experience is required! We'll be filming a new one soon, so if you'd like to participate, send me an email!

Warm Heart Worship Team: Have you checked out the 11:15 a.m. worship service recently? We have some amazing musicians leading worship and sharing some of the best music in the valley! Come check us out in person or online each Sunday.

Bill Manning leads us with his amazing skills on the piano and keyboards. He is a one-man band of his own!! Bill also has two other bands that play throughout the Treasure Valley: Heart and Soul (a small group featuring him and his lovely wife Georgie) and the Funhouse Band.

Misty Spears is our phenomenal lead guitarist and along with Bill is the backbone of this great worship team! Misty has been a part of several worship teams in the valley and has supported your Celebration Choir throughout the last several years on several anthems.

Coy Wood is our wonderful drummer that we share with the Cathedral of the Rockies! He brings a wealth of knowledge and incredible energy to our team.

Chris Kaetzel joined our team last year and is our great percussionist and guitarist. You'll often see Chris playing his cajon or assisting on rhythm guitar on Sundays. He also participates with his wife Deb in a band of their own (Deb Michels Gang) offering music throughout the valley at a variety of blues jams and other events.

Amanda Evans, Bonnie Jow, Stephanie Benischek, Charlie Jones, Deb Kaetzel, and Karin Kincade are the awesome vocalists who lead this group and our congregation in worship each Sunday. Each of these folks brings years of experience to the team and are amazing at what they do!

Our team would not be complete without the Warm Heart Youth who fill out this awesome team with their incredible talents! We are grateful for: Cadence Etheridge—Violin, Josie Adjanohoun—Vocals, and Joe Haacke—bass guitar.

Even with all of that incredible talent, our team is never complete! If you have a heart for music and want to join in the fun, there's room for you, too.

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

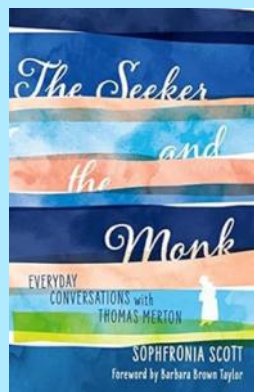


MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

With all that has been going on in the Catholic Church the last few weeks, I was curious to learn more about Catholic thought and practice. One book on the UWF Reading List is *The Seeker and the Monk: Everyday Conversations with Thomas Merton*, by Sophronia Scott. Scott is a Black contemporary writer, reader, contemplative thinker, and the “seeker” in the title. She is Episcopalian with “Baptist notes from [her] childhood,” as she describes her faith. Merton was a white Catholic monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, and social activist. He spent most of his life in a monastery in Kentucky and died in 1968. So how do these two people have “everyday conversations”?



Scott delves into Merton’s personal journals to understand his thinking and explore the questions he asked in a war-torn and divided world; questions still relevant today. By juxtaposing her spiritual questions and thoughts with quotes from Merton’s journals, Scott guides us, chapter by chapter, into deeper thinking about materialism, ambition, the healing gifts of nature, spiritual fatigue, service, prayer, race relations, loving the way God teaches us to love, and finally, facing death as a person of faith.

These two thinkers, of different faith traditions, life experiences, and generations find both commonality and divergence, yet hold true to the passion of seeking out God’s love, guidance, and hope for our lives in a world that continues to fall short of what Jesus described and modeled.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

From the United Women in Faith Daily Prayer Guide 2025, a reflection by Les and Debbie Dornon, Global Missionaries from the United States serving in Nepal:

“United Mission Hospital Tansen, Nepal, celebrated 70 years of service in 2024. Ten years ago we sang at the 60th anniversary: “May all who come behind us find us faithful.” This song by Steve Green has meant so much to us over the years. We feel as if we are standing on the shoulders of the giants of the faith who came before us and pioneered this work. Generations of believers from around the world have shared their medical skills and served millions of Nepalis over the years. We pray that the generations who follow us will continue to serve in Jesus’ name.”



As United Women in Faith, we make our pledge to mission to be in ministry alongside people such as Les and Debbie Dornon. Our Unit Pledge to Mission is comprised of individual pledges, funds raised from funeral dinners, and NU2U contribution. Mission giving is our purpose.

Our gifts at work this month: a poultry livelihood project to empower women and young girls from Mutare District, Zimbabwe; expansion of the capacity of the Women Peace Dialogue Platform, a network of women peace activists in Southeastern Europe, including Ukrainians and Russians; support of the InterServ Food Pantry through Interfaith Community Services in St. Joseph, Missouri, providing weekly food orders for people who are going through financial crises.



The Warm Heart Book club will be discussing “All You Can Ever Know,” by Nicole Chung. We will meet Thursday, June 19, for a brown bag lunch at noon in the FLC with discussion at 12:30 in Classroom 3.



In-person Mission U is back after the covid years. Please consider attending as all are welcome! It will be held on Friday, July 11, and Saturday, July 12 (plus an optional trip to the Idaho State Museum on Friday morning) at Hillview UMC. The theme this year is “Building a Bridge of Kinship with our Indigenous Neighbors.” Come learn about the unsettling truths of our country’s—and the Church’s—history with Native Americans, and how we as Christians can work to build bridges of kinship, healing, and wholeness with our Indigenous neighbors. If you are interested in attending, our UWFaith unit will help with the registration fee. Visit our website (link below) to find a registration form.

www.meridianumc.com/uwfaith





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

June Events to Celebrate!

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

June 2-6 – *Vacation Bible School*

June 4 – *Boise Hawks Game*

June 8 – *Pentecost Sunday*

Memorial Hike (see front page)

June 13-22 – *Youth Mission Trip*

June 15 – *Father's Day*

June 16 – *Blood Drive*

July

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Wednesday
June 25th**

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

Thank you!