



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

# FOOTPRINTS

June 2026

**LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.**

## HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

### Let's Go Camping!



The Oregon-Idaho Camp and Retreat Ministries' 2026 camping season is open for registration! Families, children, seniors — whoever you are, there's a camping option for you! Visit [gocamping.org](http://gocamping.org) to register. Scholarships are available! Applications can be found in the Narthex. Contact Nicole Walker at [family@meridianumc.com](mailto:family@meridianumc.com) for more info.

### All-Church Camp

Speaking of camping, our all-church camp will be held August 28-30 at Pilgrim's Cove Camp in McCall. We hope you'll join us for a weekend of worship, fellowship, rest, and recreation! See page 6 for a glimpse of the lake and a reflection from a previous all-church camper!



### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! June 8-12 will see the church transformed with VBS joy!

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped prep for the big week and who will be herding children around the church. There's still time to register your kids (or grandkids) through our website!



### Boise Hawks Game

Let's go out to the ballpark! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 24, when the Church of the Warm Heart will take to the stands and cheer on the Boise Hawks. The game starts at 7 p.m., and you can talk to Lisa Miller about securing your tickets.



### 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 2026**

06.07.2026

Guest Precher: Pete Nelson



06.14.2026

Guest Precher: Pete Nelson



06.21.2026

Guest Precher: Laurie Hynson



06.28.2026

Guest Precher: Bruce Wenigmann

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## May

### NEW MEMBERS:

### DEATHS:

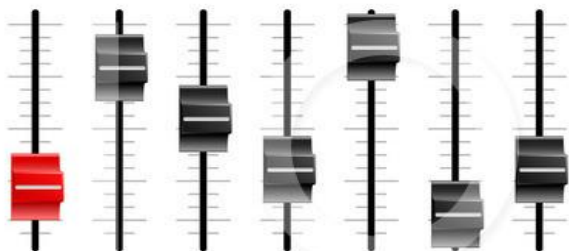
*Please pray for the families of...*  
Jacque Riddlemoser  
Betsy Hansen  
Julie Smith

### 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! Recent volunteers have described it as "way easier than I thought". 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)

**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)

**Family Minister (Children and Youth)** **734-316-9517**  
Nicole Walker [family@meridianumc.com](mailto:family@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**  
Dave Scarpellini [maintenance@meridianumc.com](mailto:maintenance@meridianumc.com) (M - Th)  
Don Woods [dandvwoods@gmail.com](mailto:dandvwoods@gmail.com) (F - Sun)

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Administrative Council Chair** Nancy Rountree  
**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** Joyce Bailey, Emma Jean Bedsole, Don Brister, Lynda Cavanagh Sherry Clark, Cassie Collins, Faye Gabriel, Ben Madsen, Lisa Miller, Mary Rich, Cyndi Trimmel  
**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](mailto:office@meridianumc.com)  
Website: [www.meridianumc.com](http://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](mailto:prayer@meridianumc.com)**

# PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

While Pastor Mike is gone on his short renewal leave, this spot will highlight a “clip” or two from some of his old sermons. Enjoy!



*Do all things without complaining and disputing,  
that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God...*  
Philippians 2:14-15a

We live in the day of Yelp reviews. Google reviews. Facebook reviews. We love to complain and moan. At my last church, we had a few reviews on google, but one of them was really bad. We got a bad review. Here is what the review said:

“Don’t go to this church. I just stopped in the parking lot to eat my sandwich and there is a Pokémon Go check point thing there.”

You remember that Pokémon thing right? You drive or walk around and collect or capture pretend Pokémon with your smart phone. So this dude gave our church a bad review, because he stopped in our parking lot to eat his sandwich, saw these kids walking around, and didn’t like it. He gave his review when we had 100 kids there for VBS—so I’m guessing he just assumed all these kids who were learning about Jesus were just hanging out doing a Pokémon thing. We had some great reviews, but it just peeves me a little bit that our worst review came from someone judging how peacefully he could eat a sandwich in our parking lot.

And here I am complaining about him. I can almost hear all of you saying, “Pastor Mike, give up complaining.” Yeah, I can almost hear you.



I’ve also seen complaining and whining and lamenting and unhappiness and displeasure creep up over the years. And although it’s on an uptick, we’ve been complaining ever since the Garden of Eden. I did a word search in the Bible, and the words “grumble” and “complain” are littered everywhere. We have a knack for complaining. Do we have a book of the Bible called The Book of Love? No. Book of Faith? Nope. Trust, hope, service? Not in there. But we do have a book of Lamentations. We lament so much it gets its own book! I’ve tried reading it many a time, but there’s so much whining! I’ve read the Good Book a thousand times, and whining is *not* a fruit of the spirit!

But the Good Book *does* say, “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God.” So maybe I should give up complaining about that bad review.

If you liked this message, feel free to give a review at [meridanumc.com](http://meridanumc.com).

If you didn’t, you can give a review as well—we are the Third Methodist Church of Anytown, USA.

I should probably give up lying too...

And the family of God said, AMEN!

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

With “only three” Family Ministry events on the June calendar, I’ve struggled recently with feeling like I’m not “doing enough.” Of course two of those three events are our 5-day Vacation Bible School and the start of our 11-day Mission Trip, so the idea of this being “only three events” is really pretty ridiculous. But I know I’m not the only person who occasionally slips into the trap of thinking that I earn my worth through my actions.

Whether your family’s summer calendar is packed to the gills or nearly empty, I hope you will find some rejuvenation in spending time with your kids in those unusual ways that come with summer break. Please remember that God loved you before you were born—well before you ever even thought of accomplishing anything at all! And if your kids are old enough to engage with the idea, I encourage you to talk with them about where their worth comes from. A sense of accomplishment is great, but our worth is found in God, no “doing enough” required.

### CHILDREN

Thanks to our awesome teachers, Sunday School continues through the summer months! Come learn stories from the Bible and see what weird kind of activities Miss Nicole prepares each week.

Our family ministry recognizes grade promotion in August—so those kids who just finished fifth grade will stay with the Warm Heart Kids through July and move to the youth group in August.

Of course Vacation Bible School is THE Big Deal in June. The supplies are prepped, the decorating is in progress, and the volunteers are ready to welcome all kids to our Rainforest Falls program this month.

#### Rainforest Falls VBS

Monday through Friday, June 8-12  
9:30 a.m. to noon

If you haven’t yet registered for VBS and want to, it’s never too late! You can even walk in and register on Monday, June 8, though early registrations are extremely helpful. Registration takes just 2-3 minutes using the link on our website.



Miss Nicole and the Bible Builders kids

### YOUTH

Our 2026 youth mission team is preparing for our trip to Mescalero, New Mexico, at the end of the month. This will be our longest/furthest drive in the ten years since Nicole signed on as Youth Minister! We look forward to being covered in the church’s prayers through our days of travel and our days of service.

In between VBS and the Mission Trip, we will have our first Youth Night of the summer. Youth Nights are low-key, potentially high-energy nights with games and snacks and friends. Our family ministry recognizes grade promotion in August—so our recent high school graduates are still welcome to attend youth group through July before officially moving on.

#### Youth Night

Wednesday, June 17, 6:00—8:00 p.m.  
Youth Room

#### Mission Trip

Friday, June 26—Monday, July 6  
Mescalero, New Mexico



Youth EOY Gathering

With joy,

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

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

*Oh, how sweet the light of day,  
and how wonderful to live in the sunshine!*

*Even if you live a long time,  
don't take a single day for granted.*

*Take delight in each light-filled hour,  
remembering that there will also be many dark days  
and that most of what comes your way is smoke.*

Ecclesiastes 11:7-8, The Message

Happy Summer, friends!

Most of you know I am a warm weather lover, and this season is the perfect time to go to the ball field. Our Warm Heart family is going to go watch the Boise Hawks take on the Ogden Raptors at Memorial Stadium on Wednesday, June 24th. Tickets are just \$10, and I hope you can join us!



Did you know that June 14th is World Blood Donor Day?

**1 in 7**  
patients entering a hospital  
will need a blood transfusion.

**Only 3 out of 100**  
Americans donate blood.  
That's not enough.

Every **two seconds** someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.

**Blood can't be manufactured.**  
It can only come from generous donors!

Having blood products immediately available is a key part of summer safety. With millions of people expected to hit the road this summer and spend time boating, swimming, camping, and enjoying the outdoors, the risk of traumatic accidents rises. When emergencies happen, hospitals must have life saving blood on hand. We are having a blood drive on June 15th, so it's the perfect time to donate. As usual, the blood drive will run from noon to 5 p.m. in the FLC. You can sign up to donate through the Red Cross website, or just give me a call and I'll help get you slotted in!

Blessings & good health,

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

P.S. We have set the date for our Fall Women's Retreat! We'll gather at Pilgrim's Cove Camp over the weekend of October 16-18. This retreat is a joyous time of rest and renewal, and I hope you can join us! Information on pricing and registration to come.

## WORSHIP ARTS

**The Grace Notes Ministry** is a new ministry for anyone interested in sharing music with the residents at the Meridian Grace Memory Care facility. We'll visit them once a month (on a Tues or Fri) at 3 p.m. for 30 min of music. If you'd like to sing, play the piano, play another instrument, etc., we'd love to have you. Or, if you don't feel quite so musically gifted, we're looking for a few folks to come play some of the colored bells (no music reading required—only being able to distinguish colors and follow directions) with Debbie and the residents. Pray about this ministry and contact me if you would be willing to help!

**Summer Special Music** – 'Tis the season that we are scheduling special music for our Sunday worship services (June – August). If you would like to share something, contact me to get plugged in!

**The Warm Heart Tollers** are resuming rehearsals on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary on June 17. If you have ever been curious about how to play handbells, this is the group for you! All are welcome at any time, no matter what your skill level or music knowledge!

**Thank you to our Rolling Tones Youth Chime Choir** who not only offered music in our worship services this season, but also took their music and shared it with the residents of Spring Gardens Senior Living. We're always looking for more youth to come join the fun this fall (grades 6-12 are all welcome!)



Blessings,

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

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## ALL-CHURCH CAMP

*"Before I attended all-church camp, I had no idea what I was missing! This special weekend brings together folks of all ages from both of our church services for a mix of glorious rest and joyful fellowship. I will never willingly miss it again!"*  
*- a happy all-church camper*



**Some All-Church Campers in 2025**



At all-church camp, the schedule is kept intentionally light. There are meal times, Sunday worship, evening campfires, and a few other planned things, but there's also plenty of down time built in, when you can take a walk, sit on the beach and watch the waves, fish off the dock, go into town for ice cream, or read a book undisturbed. Do you enjoy nature? Peace? The joy of a kid with a s'more? Join us August 28-30.



## FINANCIAL NEWS

Even though we fell short around \$10,000 for the month of April, we are still in the black more than \$25,000 after four months of 2026. This is due to outstanding first quarter giving. I am writing this article on May 21 as Diane and I are leaving tomorrow on vacation. There is still one Sunday left in the month, and I am hoping for a healthy offering plate, which would mean positive figures for May. We should still be positive for the year as well, but I always worry until the figures are in.

<b>For General Operations:</b>	<b>Apr 2026</b>	<b>2026 YTD</b>
<b>Given</b>	\$48,709	\$270,729
<b>Need</b>	\$58,749	\$245,477
<b>Outcome</b>	\$10,040	\$25,252

I don't want us to fall into a pattern of less giving during the summer months as trips and vacations take priority for some. Then we begin to fall behind and have to scramble to catch up in the last quarter. Please remember that it may be vacation for some, but our expenses don't stop.

As our church continues to grow and prosper, I decided to take a quick glance back at our financial situation for the last three years after April. We are in much better shape now than either 2024 or 2025. Our tithes and offerings have increased more than \$47,000 and our expenses are less by almost \$10,000. In both 2024 and 2025, we were in the red after April, but now we are in the black more than \$25,000. Very commendable! Pat yourself on the back.

There will be lots of activity during this summer. Vacation Bible School will begin shortly after you receive this newsletter. The Youth Mission Trip will follow less than two weeks later, and there will be a renovation taking place in the narthex as we improve the restrooms. There might be some inconvenience, but a short-term sacrifice for a long-term gain is always a win.

Please continue to pray for our church staff, our elected officials, our service men and women, our first responders, and those who will be travelling. I know there we have members who are grieving or have illness in their families. Please pray for them and for an end to the many conflicts around our globe.

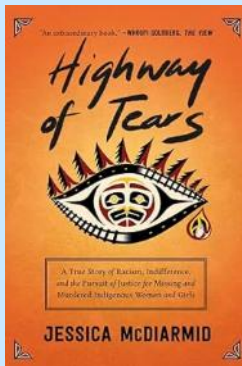
If you have any comments or questions regarding our finances, please don't hesitate to contact me, Don Brister, your Stewardship Chair, or our Finance Chair, Lori Jones.

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

The UWF Reading Program contains a wide variety of books and topics. Included in the 2026 list is a book called *The Happiest Man on Earth* and this month's book, *Highway of Tears*, by Jessica McDiarmid. What a contrast!



This month's book is aptly named. For decades, Indigenous women and girls have gone missing or been found murdered along a lonely stretch of Highway 16 in northern British Columbia. The unsolved mysteries of the loss of these women has had a devastating effect on their families and communities: children left motherless, daughters and sisters whose absence is a daily heartache, lost potential of young lives taken too soon.

Compounding the grief is the sense of injustice as these tragedies have never been fully investigated, and no one has been brought to trial. The isolation of the crime scenes, the vast territory of northern British Columbia, and law enforcement priorities combine to make the disappearances seem almost unsolvable. In her book, McDiarmid showcases the unrelenting determination of families and communities to find a solution. She introduces us to family members and takes us along to community gatherings, fund raisers, and walks of remembrance by friends and family intent on keeping this issue in the forefront.

It is a heartbreaking book, and also a book of resilience, strength, and hope as the grandmothers, mothers, and daughters left behind never forget and never give up their fight for resolution.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

Our United Women in Faith gathered in Indianapolis in May for their Quadrennial Event. It was called "Dream It! Believe It! Do It!" and Assembly speakers encouraged us be unstoppable in creating abundant life for all persons. Lisa Miller, Claudia Moberly, Janeale McClees, and Dixie Jacky were in attendance, and we all have inspiring stories to tell. Please ask us to share!



Also, in May, at our annual Spring Luncheon, we were introduced to problems facing our Native American sisters. It was just a taste, and I encourage you to learn more. The book that began our journey was *The Highway of Tears* by Jessica McDiarmid. There are a few copies on the UWFaith Reading program kiosk in the FLC. Other resources you could use are:

- [www.niwrc.org/advocate-storytelling](http://www.niwrc.org/advocate-storytelling)
- [www.bia.gov/service/mmu](http://www.bia.gov/service/mmu)
- [loveinactionnativeamericanministries.com/](http://loveinactionnativeamericanministries.com/)
- [www.nativewomenswilderness.org/mmiw](http://www.nativewomenswilderness.org/mmiw)

Each of these sites, as well as many others, offers concrete ideas on advocating for Native American women who have gone missing or have been murdered in disproportionate numbers to white women.



Our UWFaith reading program book for June is *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage*, by Sister Joan Chittister. This book really goes hand in hand with the Assembly call to become "Unstoppable Women."



NU2U can still use volunteers. Please call Cheryl Mulvihill at 208-995-7177 if you could commit to one Thursday or Friday a month (11am-2pm).



Mission U is being held in person July 10-11 in Albany, Oregon, or virtually, July 23-25. You can register online at...

[www.umi.org/umwmissionu](http://www.umi.org/umwmissionu)

Claudia Moberly will be one of the study leaders for "A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives." Remember, our unit will always pay your registration fee! If you wish to join Virtual Mission U, let me know and we can set up a group zoom call at the church for the event.





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 8-12 – Vacation Bible School
- June 15 – Blood Drive
- June 18 – UWF Book Club
- June 24 – Warm Heart Baseball Night
- June 26 – Mission Team Departs

**July**

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE:

**Thursday,  
June 25th**

Submissions may be emailed to Jacob Walker at [cc@meridianumc.com](mailto:cc@meridianumc.com) or brought by the church office.

Thank you!