



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

FOOTPRINTS

July 2025

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

Both services are broadcast online.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

2:00 p.m.



All-Church Camp

Save the Date! Our all-church camp will be held August 15-17 at Pilgrim's Cove Camp in McCall. We hope you'll join us for a weekend of worship, fellowship, rest, and recreation!

\$85 per adult

\$50 per child (4 -18 years old)

3 and under free



Campfire fun at our 2023 all-church camp.

SERMON SERIES

July 2025

07.06.2025

Freedom of Speech

Ephesians 4:25-32



07.13.2025

Freedom of Worship

II Corinthians 3:17-18



07.20.2025

Freedom from Want

Luke 6:27-35; Psalm 23:1



07.27.2025

Freedom from Fear

Psalm 27

Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Lisa Miller at care@meridianumc.com.

[Click here to register!](#)

Ladies Night Out

Please join us Monday, July 7th, at 5 p.m. for fun and fellowship at Maddie's restaurant. RSVP with Lisa Miller, so we can reserve seating.



Holiday Hours

The church office will be close Friday, July 4th. Happy Independence Day!

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June

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...

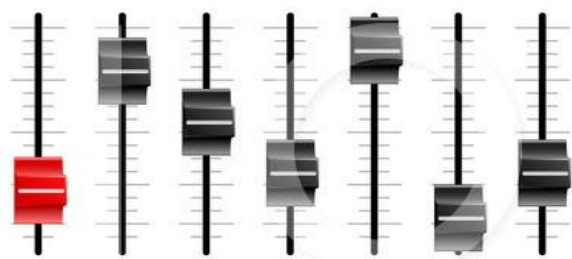
Vera Baker
Dave Lindsay
Ken Roberts

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



STAFF

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

Minister of Congregational Care (ext. 105)
Lisa Miller care@meridianumc.com

Minister of Worship Arts 208-608-2520
Debbie Jones worshiparts@meridianumc.com

Family Minister (Children and Youth) 734-316-9517
Nicole Walker family@meridianumc.com

Office Manager (ext. 102)
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Receptionist (ext. 101)
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Bookkeeper
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Nursery Coordinator
Jessie Layton nursery@meridianumc.com

Organist
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

Facility Personnel
Dave Scarpellini 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
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:

Someone asked last week, "Pastor Mike, how can one be calm and collected in the middle of parades and rallies, wars and rumors of wars? Stock market down and up and down again?" I'm not entirely sure—but I don't watch as much news as some. That might help. I do participate in civic life and discussion while trying to remember what is truly important. Sometimes the old hymns help.

Case in point: Be Still My Soul

In the 1700's German tribes, there was a woman living in a home for single protestant women. Not much to her life, although she may have worked in the village nursery. She had an impressive name, Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel—but while her name sounded impressive, her life was not. And she put her hopes and longings into words. One poem she wrote, she sent to the local priest. *Stille, mein Wille, dein Jesus hilft siegen*, "Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side." It was later included within a hymn book called, "Hymns from the Land of Luther," but did not have a tune.

One hundred fifty years later, the tune Finlandia was written in 1900, which would sound familiar to most these days. In 1933, an editor for the Presbyterian Hymnal wondered if this poem and this tune could be matched, and so it was. Now, this is 1930's bad. World War II was about to awash the planet in violence. And it was in the dark days of the war when this hymn was spread throughout America, finding itself sung throughout all the churches—congregations looking for a sense of peace and comfort in a time of world war. A German hymn, with a Finish tune, found a way to bring us the message that Jesus is in control, evil doesn't win, and God will bring all things back to calm and ultimate victory.

Psalm 37:1 says "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him." In this moment of national squabbling and saber-rattling, in particular, let us remember that old hymn, Be Still My Soul, reminding ourselves that God is still in command, even here. He will guide in the future as he has in the past. Be still my soul.

"Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still my soul, your best, your heav'nly friend
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still my soul, your God does undertake
To guide the future as he has the past
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still my soul, the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

See you all in worship!

Pastor Mike

P.S. Our July sermon series is based around the four freedoms, developed and articulated by President FDR in his 1941 state of the union address:

"In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech, and expression—everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

he fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world."

We'll take a look at the ways we can find these freedoms through Jesus. I hope you can join us, in-person or online!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

A big thank you to all our volunteers and families who worked together to make Vacation Bible School AND our Youth Mission Trip to South Dakota happen in June! As Family Minister, June was an overwhelming month for me, but I am endlessly grateful for the ways our church pulls together to help our kids make deep core memories rooted in God's love. Now that it's July, we are relaxing into more classic summer rhythms of Sunday School on Sunday mornings and only a few scattered events. I hope you all are able to enjoy the extra time with your kids (most days, at least!) and make some family memories together!

CHILDREN

Our awesome **Sunday School** teachers are continuing to teach all summer long! Join us during first service for engaging lessons, snacks, and activities. On July 6 (the closest Sunday to July 4), kids will remain in worship, with bags of small activities to keep their hands busy. The nursery WILL be open for the youngest bunch of kiddos and any of the kids who usually go downstairs for Sunday School and need a place to let their wiggles out.

Our one big July event:

WHK Bowling Night

Tuesday, July 29
5:30 p.m.
Meridian Lanes

If you'd like to join us for bowling, please RSVP by Sunday the 27th. All you need to do is bring money for shoe rentals!

(For VBS photos, see page 6!)



YOUTH

During the summer, all youth events are combined youth events for grades 6-12. For youth group purposes, you get promoted to the next grade at the end of July—so if you just graduated high school, you get two more events with your youth group friends before we gently push you out of the nest! Here are those events:

Youth Group Game Night

Sunday, July 20, 6:00—8:00 p.m.
FLC

Youth Group Summer Bowling

Sunday, July 27, 5:45—8:15 p.m.
Meridian Lanes

bring \$4 for shoe rentals and cash for the snack shop
RSVP by Friday, July 25

With joy,

Nicole Walker
family@meridianumc.com



Mission Trip Photos!

For a copy of our open thank you letter to the church, email the office.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

It's been a busy summer at the Church of the Warm Heart. Here's some pics of the recent outings our Warm Heart family have had together:



Take me out to the ballgame!



Our Ladies Bible Study got together for lunch!



Intrepid adventurers at our Memorial Hike for Jeff McClees.

And summer's not over yet! Check the front page for information on family camp in McCall this August, as well as an upcoming Ladies Night Out. Plus, don't forget to join our walking group at the church on Wednesday mornings at 9:15 a.m. There's still lots of opportunities to get outside and enjoy the sunshine (but please don't forget the sunscreen).

Blessings and Good Health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

FINANCE

For General Operations:	May 2025	2025 YTD
Given	\$64,529	\$288,010
Need	\$54,143	\$309,096
Outcome	\$10,386	(\$21,086)

May was a good month! By receiving more than \$10,000 above our expenses, we were able to reduce our deficit to \$21,086. Last year at this time we were looking at a deficit of almost \$36,000, so we are better off than last year!

As a word of caution, I feel compelled to point out that in the summer months of June, July, and August of 2024, we increased our deficit by \$31,343. If we continue with that trend this summer, we could begin September with a deficit of more than \$52,000. As I stated from the pulpit on this past month, "Our expenses do not take a summer vacation." Wouldn't that be great? But even as we enjoy this nice weather and take some much earned R&R, the church has monthly obligations that need to be met. Don't forget to help us meet those obligations.

At our last Finance Committee meeting, we discussed the possibility of conducting a learning or information session between services that could cover topics such as:

- 1) How to make a one-time donation
- 2) How to set up automatic giving online each month
- 3) How to direct your RMD to the church and thereby eliminate the amount as income.

If you would be interested in such a program, please contact myself, Lori Jones, or the church office. If there is enough interest, we will set it up and announce the date at a later time.

I have stated this many times, but I am still amazed how this church congregation steps up when called upon. It seems that when we need it most, the money is there. We are truly blessed to be part of such a giving and benevolent church.

I would ask that you continue to pray for our staff, our entire congregation, and those with the special burdens of grief and medical issues. It goes without saying that we need to pray for our elected officials, our leaders, and those that may be serving in harm's way. And don't forget to pray about our church finances as we live through the summer months!

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

Summer Congregational Anthem: Be sure to check out the previous Congregational anthems on our church website that we have been producing for several years highlighting our new members, shut-ins, our online worship community and others! It's **E A S Y** and fun! If you can hold a poster and follow simple instructions like: "flip" or "drop" you are just what we need to put this anthem together for a summer 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, learning how to read music, and getting connected with some folks to make music, let me know!

Did You Know...that singing in a group or playing an instrument has many physical and psychological benefits?! Singing, playing an instrument, or even just listening to music gives us many benefits for free, regardless of age or experience. Most obvious is that music positively impacts the brain, releasing endorphins and other feel-good chemicals that keep you feeling positive. It helps to relieve stress and helps you live and be present in the moment. Singing and playing a brass or woodwind instrument help improve lung function, muscle control, posture, and circulatory functions in the body as well. Making music uses both sides of your brain and can help with memory and concentration. Singing in a choir or playing in an ensemble enhances body, mind and spiritual connections. Here at Church of the Warm Heart, our Worship Arts Ministry provides many opportunities for folks of all ages and abilities to experience these wonderful benefits. Check out: The Celebration Choir, The Koinonia Handbell Choir, Vocal and Instrumental ensembles, The Triple Trio, your Warm Heart Worship Team, Rolling Tones Chime Choir, and the Angels Alive Children's Choir.

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com



**Vacation
Bible
School**

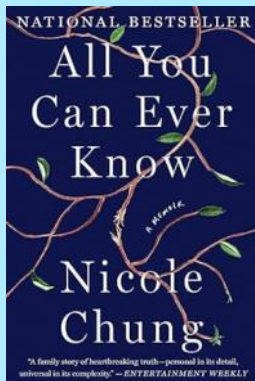
*Thank
You!!*

MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

The June book club selection was *All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir*, by Nicole Chung. Chung was born severely premature and placed for adoption in Seattle by her Korean parents. Her adoptive parents were a white couple, living in a small central Oregon community. Growing up, she was told about her birth parents' loving sacrifice they made in hopes of giving her a better life than they could provide.



Being the only Asian in her school, answering endless questions from her school mates about her “real” parents, and always feeling a bit out of place was the story of Chung’s young life. As she grew up, connecting with other Asian Americans in college, and finding her voice as a writer, she grew more and more curious about her original family.

After marriage and starting her own family, Chung began the search for her birth family, seeking a connection with unknown parents and siblings. Her story is warm, honest, and filled with insights about rejection, adoption, family secrets, and finding a place to truly belong.

This book is available for check out from the United Women in Faith book shelf, found in the Family Life Center.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

From the Generations of Grace, the United Women in Faith Daily Prayer Guide 2025:

“At least once a month we meet with young people from the Indigenous communities. At this gathering, we not only talk about the experiences in the community but also share a sacred moment where the young people talk about their beliefs and how they carry out their spirituality. When we first started holding these meetings, the young people did not talk much but as these gatherings become more frequent, they open up and participate in the activities even more. It is a joy to see how young people from different backgrounds share their cultures and connect with other people.” (Yeferson Collo Perdomo, Global Mission Fellow of the UMC.)



Mission U is this month, and the theme is “Building a Bridge of Kinship with Our Indigenous Neighbors.” Our study leaders will be talking about a variety of topics, such as the Doctrine of Discovery, the impact of government law and policies on the lives of Indigenous People, and Restorative Justice. We will be visiting the Idaho History Museum as well as worshipping, fellowshiping, and learning!

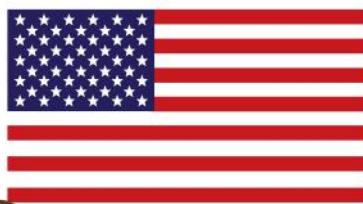


I invite and urge you to come attend this in-person, two-day event that will be held at Hillview United Methodist Church. To register, please call me (Dixie Jacky, [208-680-5112](tel:208-680-5112)). More information is on the website:

<https://www.umi.org/umwmissionu>

If you are worried about cost, our unit will happily pay your registration fee.

happy 4th of july





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

July Events to Celebrate!

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

July 4 – Happy Independence Day

July 7 – Ladies Night Out

July 20 – Youth Group Game Night

July 27 – Youth Group Bowling Night

July 29 – Kids Bowling Night

August

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Friday
July 25th**

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