



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

# FOOTPRINTS

**July 2026**

**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.

## HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS



### School Supply Drive

It's hard to believe, but the school year is just around the corner. That means it's also time for our annual school supply drive. Pencils, paper, crayons, markers—whatever supplies you've got, we want them! You can drop your donations off in the FLC or in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

### 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! The cost is \$85 per adult, \$50 per child (4-18 years old), 3 and under free. You can register on the church website.



## SERMON SERIES July 2026

**07.05.2026**

**Guest Precher: Fred Hoadley**



**07.12.2026**

**Guest Preacher: Fred Hoadley**



**07.19.2026**

**Guest Preacher: Nicole Walker**



**07.26.2026**

**Pastor Mike Returns!**

### Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social

August 2nd, 12 - 2 p.m.



Ministry is incredibly rewarding, but you're the cherry on top! We have amazing, dedicated volunteers! To celebrate and say a huge "Thank You" for everything you do, we are hosting a church appreciation ice cream social. We'll be serving up scoops with all the toppings. Drop by and let us celebrate you! If you have any questions, contact Lisa Miller.

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Front Page**  
July Sermon Series, Highlighted Happenings
- 2 Inside Page**  
Membership Info, Mirror Image
- 3 Ministries & News**  
Pastor Mike's Musings
- 4 Ministries & News**  
Family Ministries
- 5 Ministries & News**  
Congregational Care, Worship Arts
- 6 Ministries & News**  
VBS Report, Finance
- 7 Ministries & News**  
Book Nook, UWFaith, Suffrage Cantata
- 8 Back Page**  
July Events Calendar

## 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)  
Angela Perry office@meridianumc.com
- Receptionist** (ext. 101)  
Lucinda Dyer receptionist@meridianumc.com
- Bookkeeper**  
Maria Akers bookkeeper@meridianumc.com
- Communications Coordinator** (ext. 103)  
**Video Production**  
Jacob Walker cc@meridianumc.com  
production@meridianumc.com
- 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)

## June

### NEW MEMBERS:

### DEATHS:

*Please pray for the families of...*

Richard Verduzco  
Glenda Villines  
Helen Curtis

### BAPTISMS:

## 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 Trimmell  
**Health and Wellness Co-Coordinators**  
Lisa Miller, Sue Mattison

## MIRROR IMAGE

The Mirror Image closet reopens soon! This ministry provides hygiene supplies to local students in need, and as it runs all school year long, it's always in need of more donations. While you're out shopping, please consider picking up individual size soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, etc. You can drop donations off with Lisa Miller or at the church office.



## 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](mailto:prayer@meridianumc.com)**

# PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

*He answered,  
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul  
and with all your strength and with all your mind";  
and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

*"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*

– Luke 10:27-28

Jesus sums up the Old Testament law pretty well. You want to live? Set your course on these words. Love God. Love neighbor. Do this, and you will live. Live the life you were meant to live. Live the life that brings joy and peace. And find life on the other side of the veil, for we are dust, says Psalm 103, but he gives Life. Let God's priorities be your priorities.

I've been on 16 different airplanes this summer. If I get one more bag of peanuts, I'm jumping out. But as I watch the runways as we taxi, I learned a little trick—and this little trick helps me remember to line up my priorities to God's priorities as well.

Imagine Runway #24. Where does the number 24 come from? It's not random. Think of a compass and your basic geometry. How many degrees does a circle have? 360 degrees. Likewise a magnetic compass also has 360 degrees. You can stand here with a compass and say, that way is North. That way is 90 degrees from north. That way is 270 degrees from north. That way is 180 degrees from north and so on. When they make runways, they go off of the compass north and they number them accordingly. The only trick is that they drop off a digit, to make it simpler. If the runway faces magnetic east, or 90 degrees, you drop off the zero and you get runway 9. If a runway faces magnetic south, or 180 degrees, you drop off the zero and you get runway 18. If a runway faces magnetic north, or 360 degrees, you drop off the zero and you get runway 36. Each runway has two numbers, depending on which way you're going. And they're 18 numbers off of each other (180 degrees apart). We were flying out of Boise, and looking out I could see the sign that said, Runway 10 and 28. Makes sense. 10 is 100 degrees, or roughly east. The other 280, or roughly west. And you can figure out which way you're taking off, and if the plane has to turn around after liftoff (making your flight longer). The point is this: When you're flying the plane, and you are trying to land on runway 22, for example, you want your plane to be flying in the direction of 220 degrees. If you're not flying that heading, you will miss the runway, or land cattywampus and off you go. The runway ain't moving! You set your plane to the right degree to land on the runway and you will live!

In faith, if you want to live your life the way God demands, not for his sake but for yours, you line up to life to God's Word. Love God, love neighbor. If your faith isn't in that heading, you will miss the runway, and your life will go cattywampus and off you go. God's Word isn't moving. You set your faith to the right orientation and you will live! Bless the Lord, oh my Soul. Do this, and you shall live. Set your course and have a safe landing. And the family of God said...

See you all in worship on July 26th—if my plane isn't late!

Pastor Mike

P.S. Thank you to all of our guest preachers and Bible Study leaders! It's tough to step away from the job for so long—and if you think you saw me at the church once or twice, no you didn't—but it's nice to know the church was in such good hands during my absence.

P.P.S. Since I used the term "cattywampus" above, here's a couple of other interesting pieces of 19th century American slang you might not know.

**Flumadiddle** – Something foolish, worthless, or just a load of nonsense. I think I heard someone say this the last time I preached.

**Slumgullion** – Originally a gross mix of liquids (like the kind you might have created at the soda fountain as kids), but eventually slang for an unappetizing stew. I didn't know that needed its own word.

**Okay** – Well, you're probably familiar with this one, but did you know "O.K." is an abbreviation of a misspelling of "all correct"? "Oll Korrekt" was part of a fad in the 1830's of intentionally misspelling words in publications.

*Editor's Note: If there are any misspellings in this newsletter, I'm just joining in on that fad.*

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

As Family Minister at Church of the Warm Heart, I often find myself overwhelmed in wonderful ways by this congregation. Your generosity, your continued encouragement, and your continued commitment to helping the children and youth programs flourish are a constant blessing. And now, with VBS in the rearview mirror and the New Mexico mission trip on the horizon, I'm feeling that delicious overwhelm yet again.

THANK YOU to all the folks who poured into VBS, and THANK YOU to all the folks who donated towards the youth mission trip. Kids' lives are being changed for the better because of you.

### CHILDREN

Sunday School continues through the summer months! Come for the Bible stories, snacks, activities, and crafts.

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.

This month, in addition to our regularly scheduled Sunday School, we will also be having a Pool Party and Picnic at the Park! Meet at the Meridian Pool at 11:00 a.m., and leave your packed lunch in your car (with lots of ice, of course!). We'll swim until 12:30 p.m. and then find a shady corner of Storey Park where we can eat lunch together before dispersing.

**Pool Party and Picnic at the Park**  
Saturday, July 18  
11:00 a.m.

At the end of the month, six of our kids will be accompanying me to Sawtooth Elementary Camp 2! I've never been to Sawtooth before, but I'm looking forward to falling in love with the place like the many kids and youth from our church who have attended in the past. We should have a blast!



VBS Preschool Crew—see page 6 for more photos!

### YOUTH

Our 2026 youth mission team is starting July in Mescalero, New Mexico! We will be halfway through our trip on July 1, with both service days and driving days still to come. Thank you in advance for all your prayers!

After the mission trip, we will have a few Youth Nights before I leave for camp with the elementary kids. 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!

#### Mission Trip

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

#### Youth Night

Sunday, July 12, 6:00—8:00 p.m.  
Youth Room

#### Youth Night

Wednesday, July 22, 6:00—8:00 p.m.  
Youth Room



Wahooz Night with Annual Conference Teens

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

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Greetings church family! I just want to use this space to highlight a few upcoming events that didn't make the front page:

### Ladies Night Out

July 22, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a relaxing evening of fellowship and floral fun! We are going sunset flower picking at Lovely Hollow Farm. They'll have food trucks and live music, and the cost to fill a mason jar with beautiful blooms is just \$27. Check out the website for information you can visit...

[lovelyhollowfarm.com](http://lovelyhollowfarm.com)

Please RSVP with me if you plan to join us.

### Ladies Retreat

October: 16th-18th  
Pilgrim Cove Camp in beautiful McCall Idaho

I know October feels like a long way off, but I want to give you a chance to save the date for our Ladies Retreat this fall. This is a sacred time to step away from the busyness of life and draw closer to God and to one another. A weekend designed to refresh your spirit, deepen your faith, and strengthen the bonds of sisterhood. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the Church of the Warm Heart, this retreat is for you. Keep your eyes peeled for registration information around August.

Blessings & good health,

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

P.S. Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Boise Hawks game! I've included a couple photos below!

## 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. July's offering will be on Tuesday, July 28 @ 3:15 p.m. 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) OR play the piano, play another instrument, sing, etc. Thanks to this group for coming out to sing hymns with the residents (with Emma Jean Bedsole playing piano)!



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

**Did You Know?** Music supports mental health by directly altering brain chemistry and calming the nervous system? It serves as an emotional outlet, a stress-reducer, and provides for a social connection. Playing an instrument or singing boosts self-esteem, creates a sense of mastery, and offers a productive way to channel energy.

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



# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## VBS REPORT

### By The Numbers:

- 39 kids attended our Rainforest Falls VBS
- 6 of our youth and young adults helped as crew leaders
- 17 adults volunteered for one or more days
- 7 new songs were learned
- 5 Bible verses were discussed in depth
- 100s of seeds of faith were planted!



## FINANCIAL NEWS

The above figures reflect a very healthy financial situation after five months of 2026. Even though we fell behind \$5,374 for the month of May, we are still almost \$20,000 ahead for the year. This is due to a very robust start to the year. I've been doing this job for more than 15 years and I can't remember a year that we were in a positive position after five months. This is especially good news as we head into the toughest fund-raising time of the year-summer.

For General Operations:	May 2026	2026 YTD
<b>Given</b>	\$51,525	\$322,254
<b>Need</b>	\$56,899	\$302,376
<b>Outcome</b>	(\$5,374)	\$19,878

Family vacations and fun activities tend to lead to smaller weekly attendance, which leads to less giving. So far this year we have met my goal and since I am writing this with less than a week left in June, we can meet the goal of being in plus territory for six months with one more good week of giving. That is unheard of based on our history. Each of you should pat yourself on the back for a job well done. Let's keep up the good work.

I close this newsletter each month by stating that if you have any questions concerning our financial situation, the budget, or our spending, to please let us know. I get very few questions other than the occasional, "Do we have enough money"? I smile and say that we could always use more. I have always stressed that our staff and standing committees do a tremendous job of not wasting money and spending only what is necessary. Let's take a look at our budget vs actual for the year to date (5 months). Our budget for the first five months was \$324,384, however, we have only spent \$302,376, so our staff is staying well below their budgeted amounts. This is outstanding!

Once again, I will ask that we continue to be vigilant in ensuring that we continue this outstanding record of financial responsibility. I would also ask you to pray for our staff, our elected officials, those of us who may be grieving or need special assistance, for the end to turmoil in the world, and that our church continues to grow and prosper. If you have any questions regarding our finances, please feel free to contact me or Lori Jones, Finance Chair.

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

Sister Joan Chittister is a force of nature when it comes to social justice, personal faith, and putting that faith to work to help create a world that more closely aligns with the vision of society Jesus taught. In her latest book, *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage*, she goes to the words of the prophets (ancient and modern) to confront social forces that silence, discount, and oppress certain voices among us.



These voices need to be recognized and lifted up to bring about a just, equitable and peaceful world. She combats the complacency that accepts the status quo, and offers ideas, large and small, we can use to play a part in bringing about a new status quo that values all of God's people and creation.

This is a small book, about 140 pages, with short chapters, but don't expect it to be a quick read. Expect to be challenged, prodded, and energized to help bring about a world greater than the one we find ourselves in today.

This book is available on the United Women in Faith reading cart in the Family Life Center. Anyone is welcome to check out these books.

## SUFFRAGE CANTATA

Kim Cooney

I wanted to share with the congregation about a remarkable experience from earlier this summer. I recently joined 62 other women from all over the country in Salem, OR to sing a work titled "Suffrage Cantata", composed by Andrea Ramsey. This cantata was based on the suffrage movement starting in the mid-1800's and culminating with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920 that let all women vote legally. The cantata features the words of Susan B. Anthony as well as women of color such as Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Sojourner Truth, and Mabel Ping-Hua Lee.

I have gone to a few such choral events over the years and have enjoyed them greatly. However, this particular work is one that I will never forget as a woman. Speaking with other women at the week-long event it was clear we did not understand the great struggle these women had in trying to get the vote ratified for future generations. We should be very proud of all their achievements. God bless America at our 250th anniversary as a nation.

If you'd like to listen to the cantata yourself, you can find it with a quick search on YouTube.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

The UWF Mission statements has this to say:

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

Below are a couple of upcoming events that highlight aspects of that mission statement. If you are interested in info and registration for either one, you can visit our conference website at...

[www.umoi.org/uwf](http://www.umoi.org/uwf)



For *education*, we have an upcoming Mission u event. Mission u is an educational program that developed by the national organization that we participate in with women, youth, and children around the globe. Our 2026 theme is *Experiencing Emmanuel*, and our session will be held July 10 and 11 in Albany, Oregon. Plus, one of the leaders will be our own Claudia Moberly! The deadline for registration is July 3, so there's still just barely enough time to sign up. Our unit will pay your registration fee, just give me a call if you have questions.



For *spiritual formation*, we have our upcoming Soul Care Retreat on August 15 at Nampa 1st UMC.

As women, we often neglect caring for ourselves. We are busy with kids, grandkids, spouses, aging parents, volunteering—caring for others yet rarely spending focused time caring for ourselves. This retreat will include a testimonial from a Spiritual Growth Coordinator, time for reflection, discussion, meditation, opportunities to embrace and grow our consciousness to include community and nature, an outdoor walk, art, journaling, reading as well as lunch and reconnecting friendships. You will be invited to share as well as listen and learn.

You don't have to be a member of the UWF to attend this retreat, or even a member of our church. All women are invited to attend, so please consider inviting friends and family you think might be interested.



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



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 6 – Youth Mission Team Returns
- July 18 – Warm Heart Kids Pool Party (see pg. 4)
- July 22 – Ladies Night Out (see pg. 5)
- July 26 – Pastor Mike Returns

**August**

**NEWSLETTER**

**DEADLINE:**

**Friday,  
July 24th**

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

**Thank you!**