



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

FOOTPRINTS

August 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.

SERMON SERIES August 2026

08.02.2026

In The Wilderness

Numbers 21:4-9



08.09.2026

When the Promised Land is Not For You

Deuteronomy 34:1-12



08.16.2026

Be strong and Courageous

Joshua 1:1-9



08.23.2026

TBD



08.30.2026

TBD

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

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.

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.



School Supply Drive



Its 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. Plus, have your kids bring their backpacks to church on the 9th for a special blessing during the service.

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STAFF

Senior Pastor (ext. 104)
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Don Woods dandvwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

July

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...

Mona Walker

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

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

*"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places,
in secure homes,
in undisturbed places of rest."
- Isaiah 32:18*

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family:

It is good to be home. In the last 60 days, I've slept in my own bed around eleven nights over these past two months. Over this renewal leave, I've been in 21 states. East coast, west coast, up north, down south. Thousands of miles on our car. We live in such a blessed and beautiful country. It was nice to spend time with extended family as well

Thank you to the leaders of this church who allowed me this time to travel and reflect. Thank you to our guest preachers who shared the word over these eight Sundays. Thank you to our staff and volunteers who continued the work and help make the Warm Heart church a wonderful community of faith.

It was not planned, but we had two nice happenstances along our journeys.

First, we were in Boston, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. over our nation's 250th anniversary celebrations. So much history, so many activities we were able to participate in as our country marked the milestone. From Independence Hall, to Concord/Lexington, to viewing the actual Declaration of Independence and Constitution at the National Archives; it was amazing to see so many sites connected to America's beginning. We walked the Washington Mall and saw the sites during these festivities. Makes me want to sing "God Bless America" all over again.

Second, so many of our travels coincided with the World Cup. We did not catch a game, but most of the major cities we were in had sooooo many tourists from out of country for the matches. It was wonderful to see so many people from so many places coming together in peace and sport. We had a great time speaking to many visitors from across the globe who were rooting for their teams. Our family's favorite fans were the Scots. One of their traditions (harmless, mostly) is to put traffic cones on the heads of statues—to show that the Tartan Army had arrived. We couldn't get any good photo of any statue in Boston without their presence, but it made for a fun atmosphere!

But it is also good to be home. And back into a routine. Soon the schools will start again, and the weekly predictable schedule will command our calendars and time. There is something about being in your own home and hearth.

Much of Old Testament is about the people of Israel longing for their home. From the Promised Land to the Wilderness to the Exile—so much of their history is trying to get home! Over the next four Sundays, we will explore a few stories of the desert wanderings of Moses & Company over their forty-year sojourn to the Promised Land. I hope you'll join us.

Good to be back, with a thankful heart,

Pastor Mike



MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

We all blinked, and suddenly it's Back to School time! The stores are full of spiral-bound notebooks and those beautiful Ticonderoga pencils. I've always been the kind of person to swoon over a fresh set of colored pencils and some clean, new notebooks, so it's a source of joy for me to coordinate our School Supply Drive. We are helping lots of families!

August is promotion month in our Family Ministries, so rising sixth graders are moving to the Youth Group and recent graduates have officially moved on. Our regular "school year" programming will begin after the Church Kick-Off on September 13, so Miss Nicole will be spending the next few weeks preparing as much as possible ahead of time. It's going to be another great year of learning, growth, and friendship with Jesus!

CHILDREN

The Sunday School adventures continue! In August, kids will learn about the miracles of Jesus feeding over 5000 people with one small meal and of Jesus (and Peter, briefly) walking on water—among other things!

Since it's still a summer month, we're going to have one last WHK Family summer event! Check your email for the survey about what timeslot works best for your family. The official date and time will be announced by August 5th.

WHK Family Bowling

Meridian Lanes
the weekend of August 14-16, TBD

Of course there's one other giant event this month for kids of all ages! Our All-Church Camp is coming up at the end of August and I'm looking forward to preaching at "camp church" on Sunday morning. I would LOVE for every single one of you to join me at camp. Please talk to Lisa or me if the cost is prohibitive or if you have questions we can answer!

All-Church Camp

Pilgrim Cove Camp in McCall, ID
August 28-30



WHK Family Pool Party in July

YOUTH

As noted above, kids are getting back to school, but youth group is still on a summer schedule. However, we are excited to officially welcome our new sixth graders to youth group! They even have one night all their own this month...

Sixth Grade Night

Wednesday, August 5, 6:00—8:00 p.m.
Youth Room/FLC

Back 2 School Game Night

Sunday, August 9, 6:00—8:00 p.m.
Youth Room/FLC
Win some FUN school supplies to start your new grade with a flourish!

Youth Group Bowling

Sunday, August 23, 5:50—8:00 p.m.
Meridian Lanes

All-Church Camp

Pilgrim Cove Camp in McCall, ID
August 28-30

With joy,

Nicole Walker

family@meridianumc.com



2026 Mission Team in New Mexico, Ready to get to work!
See pg. 6 for more mission trip photos!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

*"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health
and that all may go well with you,
even as your soul is getting along well. "*
III John 1:2

As we prepare for the busy return to school and return to fall routines, August is the perfect time to pause and prepare as we focus on a few vital areas of family wellness and community health.

- **Protecting Young Eyes** – As our kiddos head back to the classroom, their vision is key to learning and growth. Vision issues can sometimes look like learning struggles.
 - Schedule a comprehensive eye and wellness exam for your children before school starts. Limit evening screen time to rest their eyes and improve sleep. August is the perfect time to get started!
- **Keeping Our Community Safe** – Immunizations protect not only our own families but also the most vulnerable among us, like our older friends.
 - Check with your family doctor to ensure your household is up to date on routine vaccines and wellness checkups ahead of heading back to school and the fall season.

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

Ladies Night Out

August 12, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our previous LNO due to smoke, so we're going to try again this month. 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

Please RSVP with me if you plan to join us.

Blood Drive

September 28

Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, Sept 28, 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. You can do your part and schedule a donation online, or give me a call, and I'll help get you book an appointment.

WORSHIP ARTS

If you want to keep your body healthy, you eat well and exercise or head to the gym. If you want to exercise your brain, engage in music activities. According to scientific studies, music reduces stress, releases chemicals in the brain that make you feel happy, improves focus and your memory.

Here at Church of the Warm Heart, we have several music opportunities available for you!

Celebration Choir – This group is for anyone who enjoys singing and is looking for a wonderful music family to plug in to! We rehearse on Thursdays at 6:30-7:30 p.m. and offer anthems in our 9:30 a.m. worship services, September through May. Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, Sept. 3. We have room for you!

Koinonia Handbell Choir – This experienced handbell group meets on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and offers anthems once a month, Sept-May in our worship services. They support the choir with musical accompaniment, work together in smaller ensembles and participate in the Snake River Handbell Conference in Nampa in January. We are always in need of substitutes to fill in for our regular ringers.

Warm Heart Tollers – This is a new group of folks who are interested in learning how to play handbells. They meet on Wednesday mornings throughout the year. All are welcome!

Rolling Tones – Our youth (grades 6-12) rehearse weekly, Sept-May and offer many anthems throughout the year in our worship services. They also take their music twice a year to share with the residents at Spring Garden Senior Living. This group is open to all youth, regardless of musical skills or experience!

Special Music – Throughout the year, special music (solos, duets, ensembles) is scheduled in our worship services as preludes, offertories and postludes. We love to have folks share their musical talents with the family at Church of the Warm Heart.

Angels Alive Choir – These kiddos (ages 4-5th grade) meet weekly in coordination with Bible Builders on Wednesday evenings. They offer music in our worship services (Sept-May), a special offering at Christmas, and a musical in the spring. Children who are not able to rehearse on Wednesdays are welcome for many of our musical offerings and are encouraged to join us on Sundays!

Worship Team – This group of musicians provides worship music throughout the year at the 11:15 a.m. contemporary service. We are always looking for additional instrumentalists and vocalists to join the team.

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

MISSION TRIP PHOTOS



The 2026 Mission Team traveled the furthest of any Warm Heart Youth mission team in the past 10 years. These pictures alone show the team in Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah! (It was fun to stand in four of those states at once at the Four Corners Monument!)

FINANCIAL NEWS

Once again, I am happy to be able to report very healthy YTD figures. To be above \$28,000 for six months is truly remarkable. We accomplished this feat with consistency month after month. I will discuss how we have done the last three years, but I am offering a forewarning that the July figures will not be as good. The old bugaboo of summer attendance being down and gifts being down as well could dim our financial position. Add to the fact that we will have a three-payroll month will not help the situation. So, don't panic when you see the financial slide in the sanctuary. We are still okay. As I write this, we still have one more Sunday in July as well as online giving to record. We could be in the black. Think glass is half full and not half empty.

For General Operations:	June 2026	2026 YTD
Given	\$66,678	\$388,932
Need	\$58,489	\$360,865
Outcome	\$8,189	\$28,067

As mentioned above I would like to compare the last three years of finances. Look at the chart below and see if you see the reasons of our improvement after six months of each year.

In three years, we have gone from a deficit of more than \$40,000 to a surplus of over \$28,000. Do you see what I see? A healthy increase in gifts coupled with decreased expenses can only mean one thing: a surplus! The current surplus will cover about half of our needs for a month. But I am not advocating that we rest on our laurels and quit giving. Once again, I would remind you that even if we are on vacation the church expenses are still there and must be addressed.

	2024	2025	2026
Given	\$328,130	\$340,187	\$388,932
Need	368,178	\$362,369	\$360,865
Outcome	(\$40,048)	(\$22,440)	\$28,067

I ask you to pray for our staff, our elected officials, those who are grieving or have special situations that are causing angst in their lives, for an end to the turmoil in the world, and that the Church of the Warm Heart continues to grow and prosper. If you have any questions about our church finances, feel free to contact me or Lori Jones, Finance Chair. regarding our finances, please feel free to contact me or Lori Jones, Finance Chair.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

It's 1967 and eleven-year-old Ellis Earl Brown has big dreams. He wants to grow up to be like his teacher, Mr. Foster, who knows everything there is to know, loves books, brings food for his students' lunch everyday, and even has his own car.

Ellis Earl yearns for a house with sturdy walls and a solid roof, going to bed with a full stomach, money for doctors when someone is sick, and real beds for his brothers and Sisters to sleep in. So he works hard in school, soaking up the lessons Mr. Foster teaches. He reads to his younger siblings, and prays for the chance to finish school, unlike the older children in his family who have all had to quit school to work.

When Mr. Foster loans Ellis Earl the book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, he is stunned to meet another family as poor as his own—and delighted with the happy ending. Can happy endings happen in real life, or are they just for story books? Ellis Earl's "golden ticket" is much different than Charlie Bucket's, but he begins to see a path where all his dreams can come true.

The *Lucky Ones*, by Linda Williams Jackson, is a young-adult book that presents readers with a stark look at poverty in rural Mississippi in the mid-1960's, and a young hero who never gives up pushing for something better.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

In May of this year, United Methodists celebrated 70 years of full clergy rights for women. United Women in Faith, along side our predecessor organizations going back to 1869, were instrumental in making that vote come to pass. Women such as Sarah Crosby and Mary Bosanquet Fletcher had the courage to lead the way preaching to crowds.

"Long before ordination was formally granted, women preached, served as class leaders, missionaries, and carried the work of ministry in their communities."

(Response Magazine, May/June 2026).

Since that historic day in 1956, women in ministry have grown and thrived in the United Methodist Church. In 1984, Bishop Leontine Kelly was elected the first African American woman elected bishop, right here in our back yard at Boise First UMC (Cathedral of the Rockies). And, in 2024, Bishop Tracy S. Malone made history as being elected to lead the council of Bishops of the United Methodist church. Those of us attending Assembly had the pleasure of her leadership at our worship services. This month, the United Women in Faith of Oregon-Idaho awarded \$7,000 in scholarships to four women going on to earn advanced degrees in church related professions. What an amazing legacy women have in this Church.

But as women, we do need to be reminded that we need to seek balance and well-being to fully embrace the life that God offers and desires for all people. To that end, a one-day retreat is being planned at Nampa 1st UMC, on Saturday, August 15. The theme is "Self-Care: Mind, Body, and Spirit" and all women are invited to attend. This will be a wonderful opportunity to set intentional time aside for spiritual renewal and reflection. Registration is \$20/person, which includes lunch. You can register by emailing Chris Mitchell at oridumwpres@gmail.com. Or call me, and I can get your registered. If you are a member of the Meridian United Women in Faith unit, we will cover your registration fee. Perhaps we can get a carpool going for those that register. Please call me if you have more questions: 208-680-5112.

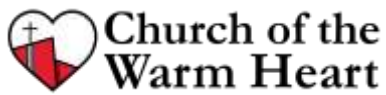


Our NU2U thrift store is looking for a few more volunteers so that we can remain open on Fridays. We know that the idea of working in a store might feel intimidating, but the great news is that you don't need to run the cash register! Our existing volunteers already know how to run everything, but we need more warm bodies to keep the store open. So for just a few hours of your Friday we can keep the store open and continue to provide affordable clothing to those at need in our community!

MERRY METHODISTS

Do you like food? Friends? Learning new things? Come join the M&M's! This group gathers on the third Sunday of every month in the FLC at 5 p.m. for a potluck dinner, and our gatherings almost always feature a special presentation on a wide range of topics. In the past year we've learned about the local real estate market, community soccer programs, housing for veterans, how to make ice cream, and more! In August we will be joined by Kim Schaffer of Harmon Travel, and we'd love for you to join us! For more information, contact Cheryl Mulvihill at (208) 995-7177.





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

August Events to Celebrate!

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

August 2 – Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social

August 9 – Backpack Blessing

August 12 – Ladies Night Out (see pg. 5)

August 28-30 – All Church Camp

September 3 – Choir Resumes (see pg 5)

September

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE:

Tuesday,

August 25th

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

Thank you!