



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

FOOTPRINTS

September 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 September 2025

09.07.2025

Life is Like a Box of Chocolates

I John 1:5-10



09.14.2025

Run, Forrest, Run!

I John 2:15-17; Isaiah 40:6-8



09.21.2025

Stupid Is

1 John 3:7-11, 16-18



09.28.2025

I Know What Love is Jenny

I John 4:7-16

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

Fall Kickoff



Join us for our Fall Kickoff Picnic! September 7th at 12:30 p.m., across the street from the Sanctuary in Centennial Park. We'll provide the entrée, you provide a chair and a side dish or dessert to share. We'll celebrate the start of our new year of programming with food, fellowship, and a bounce house for the kids. We hope to see you there!

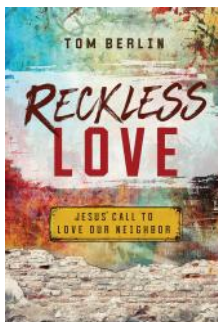
Merry Methodists

Our Merry Methodists meet on the third Sunday of the month for a potluck dinner in the FLC. This month, their dinner will include a presentation from John Cooney and Michael Spencer about the Kairos Prison Ministry. All are welcome. We hope to see you for dinner on September 21st at 5 p.m.



Reckless Love

Wednesdays at 7 p.m., FLC Room 2
Sept 10 - Oct 15



In this exploration of Jesus' teaching and travels with his disciples, Tom Berlin suggests that Jesus teaches us how to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength by showing us how to love our neighbor. Contact the church office by Sept 3 to sign up and order a book (\$15).

Ladies Study

Join us for fellowship and learning from the comfort of your own home! Our online ladies study group will begin a new study of the book *Ruth: God's Amazing Love for You*, by Courtney Joseph. We'll meet on Monday evenings on Zoom, beginning Sept 15. Contact Lisa Miller for more info (or if you need help getting a copy of the book).



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STAFF

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Don Woods dandvwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

August

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
Virginia Moberly
Carol Lee Gentry
Yvonne Vautier-Delay

BAPTISMS:

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, Don Brister, Lynda Cavanagh
Sherry Clark, Faye Gabriel, Ben Madsen, Donna Melville
Lisa Miller, Mary Rich, Eloise Stemple, Cyndi Trimmel
Health and Wellness Co-Coordinators
Lisa Miller, Sue Mattison

SEPTEMBER BLOOD DRIVE



Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, Sept 29, from 12:00 - 5:00 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

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](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianUnitedMethodistChurch)

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

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."
~ Romans 12:13

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family:

Hospitality. Making people feel at home. Making people feel like they are loved and cherished. Similar words use the same Latin root. Hospitality literally means "care for a guest." Think *hospital*. A *host* is someone who runs the hospitality. *Hostels*, common in Europe, are places where travelers can find refuge. We measure hospitality in many places that we visit every week. When we go to the restaurant, we judge how well we have been received. All of us have those wonderful stories of excellent service. And all of us have those stories about when the service was not so good. Have you ever been to a restaurant, been seated, and no one came to get your order? Steph and I turn it into a game. How long until someone notices. If it's more than a half-hour, we generally get a free meal out of the deal. You want to feel welcome. You want to feel like you are cared for.

We are all hosts for those who visit our church. We might have a visitor who comes and is seated by our ushers. They then sit and wonder if someone is going to say, "Hello!" I love our church, because it is a warm and friendly congregation, but every church could use a reminder that there are people out there looking to see if they can fit in somewhere in the mix.

There was a church newsletter that mentioned a man who visited eighteen different churches on successive Sundays. He was trying to find out what the churches were really like. He said, "I sat near the front. After the service, I walked slowly to the rear, then returned to the front and went back to the foyer using another aisle. I smiled and was neatly dressed. I asked one person to direct me to a specific place: a fellowship hall, pastor's study, etc. I remained for coffee if served. I used a scale to rate the reception I received. I awarded points on the following basis: 10 points for a smile from a worshiper. 10 for a greeting from someone sitting nearby. 100 for an exchange of names. 200 for an invitation to have coffee. 200 for an invitation to return. 1000 for an introduction to another worshiper. And 2000 for an invitation to meet the pastor." On this scale, the man said, 11 out of 18 churches earned fewer than 100 points. Five actually received less than 20. The conclusion? The doctrine may be biblical, the singing and music inspirational, the sermon uplifting, but when a visitor (or member) finds that nobody cares whether they are here, they are not likely to come back.

How good are we at making people feel welcome? The nature of the church is this: We have the best news on the planet. God cares for us. He gave us his Son. I don't know about you, but when I have good news, I gotta share it. I greet people I don't even know! Are you a hospitable person? Do you care for those around you? This is what I want you to do. When you're out and about, find out the name of the people who you come into contact with. Most employees in the service industry have nametags. Call them by name. Find out how your waiter or waitress is really doing. When you're at the cash register, tell the clerk, by name, that you appreciate their efforts.

Romans 12 tell us to practice hospitality. Did you realize it takes practice? It takes years to learn how to honestly care for each other. Wherever you go, be hospitable. I was at the Department of Motor Vehicles a while back. Took my number and waited. Twenty minutes later, the lady called my number. I went up and she did not look happy. She didn't look mean, but she just had that look of sadness. I asked if everything was okay, and she said, "Just don't yell at me." We chatted for a little while. Apparently two people in the previous hour had ripped her apart for things that were not her fault. You've been down there; the front-line folk have nothing to do with how the bureaucracy works. I put my hand over one of hers and said, "Thank you for the job that you do." She finally smiled, and said, "Thanks."

Practice hospitality. Make a difference in someone's day. In someone's week. In someone's lifetime.

It is my hope that this church can be a place where we practice hospitality. We might not have the largest sanctuary, the largest staff, the best location, or the nicest parking lot. But what we do have is a place that you can call home, a place where people are glad to see you, and a place where you can grow spiritually and find discipleship not only talked about, but practiced. Keep practicing!

See you in worship!

Pastor Mike

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

I feel like “the school year” has a two-phase start these days. The first phase, naturally, begins with the first day of school. The second phase begins with our All-Church Kick-Off Picnic and the return of our church’s “school year” programming. Now that our students have all be in school for several weeks, I am more than ready for our regular children and youth programming to kick into gear! I hope you’ll join me and our awesome volunteers for as much of the fun as you can manage. Here’s to another year of growth, joy, and Jesus at church!

CHILDREN

Our Wednesday night kids’ program is called **Bible Builders**. We meet in the Upper Room (upstairs in the Sanctuary building) from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. every week for Bible Study, activities, snacks, and Angels Alive Choir. This relaxed mid-week time offers the kids a great chance to connect and grow together! Whether you’re an old pro at Bible Builders or you’re ready to give it a first try, you are WELCOME to come any Wednesday starting September 10. This year we will have 24 Bible lessons from the life of Jesus...and a few parties!

Bible Builders

Wednesdays, September 10, 17, and 24, 6:00—7:30 p.m.



Another beloved school year tradition is our monthly **Parents Night Out**, which happens every second Friday from September through May. We serve a pizza dinner, play in the park if it’s warm, watch a movie, tackle a craft, and generally have a good time while parents get a break to go out (or stay in). What’s not to love?

Parents Night Out

Friday, September 12, 6:00—8:30 p.m.



**Youth Back-to-School
Game Night**



With joy,

Nicole Walker
family@meridianumc.com

YOUTH

Our youth group schedule for the fall is chock full of special events! So we have two combined youth events this month, along with our first weekend of split-youth-group-with-dinner. If you’re a youth family who’s not currently receiving the color-coded pdf calendars, I strongly recommend getting on Nicole’s list!

Combined youth events for grades 6-12:

Saturday, September 13: **Night at the Speedway**
meet at the church at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 28: **Photo Scavenger Hunt**
6:00—8:00 p.m., FLC and around town

Middle School Youth Group for grades 6-8:

Sunday, September 21
4:00—5:30 p.m. with dinner to follow

High School Youth Group for grades 9-12:

Sunday, September 21
6:00—8:00 p.m. with dinner at 5:30

This year we will once again be helping with the Backpack Program at the Meridian Food Bank. The coordinator has asked us to help on the third Tuesday of most months, but not in September. Feel free to mark your calendars for the rest of the year!



**August Backpack
Program Volunteers**

MINISTRIES & NEWS

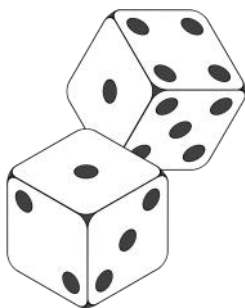
CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Fall has arrived and things are getting busy at the Church of the Warm Heart! Here are a few events to watch out for!

Ladies Night Out

Tuesday, September 16th
in the Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m.

Let's play Bunco! It's a simple game, lots of fun, and Grace Benfield - our host for the evening - will teach us all how to play! Pizza will be provided. Please bring a suggested gift of \$5 for the Christmas Adopt-a-Family ministry.



RSVP with Lisa Miller at care@meridianumc.com. We need 12 people to play, so please RSVP ahead of time.

CROP Walk

Crop walks are community events that raise funds to end hunger both locally (25% of funds stay here with Idaho food banks) and around the world. Our 2025 Ada County CROP Hunger Walk is on October 12 at 3 p.m. at Julia Davis Park. Registration info coming soon!

Ladies Retreat

October: 17th-19th
Pilgrim Cove Camp in beautiful McCall Idaho

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming ladies retreat, a sacred time to step away from the busyness of life and draw closer to God and to one another. This year's theme is "Rooted & Renewed" — 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. Registration info coming soon!

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



2025 All-Church Camp

FINANCE

For General Operations:	July 2025	2025 YTD
Given	\$49,748	\$389,935
Need	\$57,469	\$420,098
Outcome	(\$7,721)	(\$30,163)

As we head into the final four months of 2025, we are once again in a negative position. But there is reason for optimism. Last year at this time we were in the red \$40,243 and in 2023 we were in arrears \$30,667. September will be a good barometer as we approach the fourth quarter. Summer vacations are over, school is starting back, our children and youth programs will be up and running full strength, the choir will be in their new robes performing every Sunday, leaves will soon be turning bright red and orange, football season is here (you knew I would get that in this article), and we can begin to address our current deficit.

Historically, we begin to see our giving increase in the fourth quarter. September is usually our last sub-par month regarding gifts. I would really like to see a robust September report. If we could decrease the deficit by half instead of an increase as we saw in 2024 that would relieve some of the pressure in November and December. Wishful thinking perhaps on my part, but I do pray every day about our finances here at the Church of the Warm Heart. The standing committees and staff will begin the tedious task of setting the 2026 budget in September. Hard to believe we are talking 2026, but it is a reality!

There have been some major improvements to our facilities this summer. First and foremost was the staining of the FLC, upgrades in the kitchen, painting in the sanctuary, and adding new seating in the FLC. Thanks to the generosity of some of our members, the Methodist Men, and the good stewardship of the Trustees Committee, we were able to accomplish these tasks without breaking the bank, so to speak. We are truly blessed to have a Trustees Committee that is on top of our needs and sees that our facilities are in the best shape possible. Look for some improvements next year to the front courtyard and maybe the narthex.

Please continue to pray for our staff, our church finances, our church ministries, our nation and our elected officials, and the turmoil that exists throughout the world. If you have any questions regarding our church finances, please feel free to contact me, your Stewardship Chairman (Don Brister, maroontycoon63@gmail.com), or your Finance Chair, Lori Jones (IhJones2021@gmail.com). We will be happy to address any questions or thoughts you may have. God bless each of you and may God continue to bless the Church of the Warm Heart.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

WORSHIP ARTS

Here at Church of the Warm Heart, there is no greater joy than making music with our friends! One of our favorite songs captures what it is like to sing and ring together with folks from all walks of life: "Loving God, loving each other. Making music with my friends. Loving God, loving each other, and the music never ends." If you have ever considered making music with us, this is a GREAT time to come see what the excitement is all about! There is never a shortage of music, robes, folders or FUN and FELLOWSHIP!

The Celebration Choir welcomes folks of all ages and skill levels to come together weekly to sing praises to our Lord in our 9:30 a.m. worship services. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to come join this musical family to sing and praise our Lord!

The Koinonia Handbell Choir has resumed rehearsals in the Sanctuary on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.. We will be offering music in the worship services each month (Sept-May). Can you ring but are unavailable for a nine-month commitment? We'd love to have some substitutes who can fill in on Thursdays and/or Sundays for our regular ringers!

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, how to read music, and getting connected with some folks to make music together, stop by the Sanctuary on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Rolling Tones – Our youth chime choir is looking for more friends (grades 6-12) to come ring with us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary! We offer music several times a year in worship and have been playing in the community as well. Don't know how to read music? NO WORRIES! We'll teach you! Stop by on September 10 for our first rehearsal!

The Angels Alive Children's Choir starts up again on September 10 as well! This group ranges from ages 4-5th grade, sometimes making music together as a large group and other times splitting into smaller groups. We meet in the choir room during Bible Builders on Wednesday evenings and offer music in our worship services as well as a spring musical. This year, we'll be ringing in worship, singing in worship (on our own and with the Celebration Choir), and providing a skit or two in worship along with our big spring musical. Bring a friend and come join us!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com



Here are just a few of my many photos of our various musical groups. Clockwise from the center: Angels Alive, Celebration Choir, Rolling Tones, Triple Trio, and Koinonia Handbell Choir.

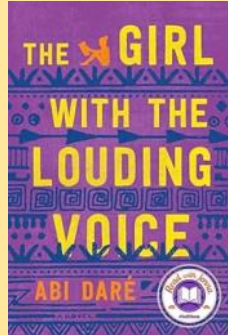


MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

Sometimes in literature you meet a character who becomes as real as the people you meet on the street. Adunni, in *The Girl With the Louding Voice*, is one such fictional character. Debut author Abi Darú has created a beautiful, achingly real portrait of a young Nigerian girl who has lost many things in her life, but stays true to the person her mother convinced her she was: kind, wise, and valued.



As narrator, Adunni shares her life with us — her hopes, her dreams, her heartaches, and her indomitable spirit. Though her life holds more heartache than any 14-year-old should have to carry, she hangs on to her dream of going to school and changing the lives of other girls like herself. She knows that one day she will go from a powerless girl from Ikati village to a girl “with a louding voice,” a voice so loud people will have to listen to what she has to say.

This book is available for checkout from the United Women in Faith book cart in the Family Life Center.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

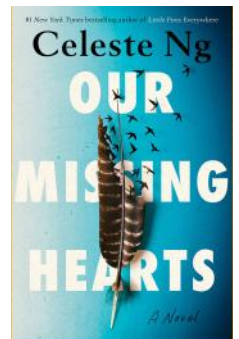
In the July/August issue of Response Magazine, there is an inspiring article from the Deaconess Garlinda Burton about the on-going issue of racism here in the United States. If you subscribe to Response, I urge you to read the article. You can also visit our website (www.meridianumc.com/uwfaith) to watch a video of the Deaconess giving a related presentation titled “The Time is Now: What Will You do About Racism Today?”

The Deaconess lists a series of antiracism actions to consider:

- Teach White children BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) history, culture, and experiences
- Demonstrate for immigrants’ rights
- Stand with a BIPOC woman or child if they are racially harassed in public
- Support reparations
- Patronize BIPOC-owned businesses and banks
- Tell a racially bigoted person aloud that you disagree with them and tell them why. Pray with them, too.
- Attend City Council meetings to support BIPOC communities.
- Vote against racism. Always.
- Challenge those who disparage DEI and bust the myth of Meritocracy
- Join or organize a public ecumenical prayer vigil against racism
- Volunteer for behind-the-scenes tasks with groups that witness against racism.

The **Warm Heart Book Club** will be meeting on Thursday, September 18, beginning with a sack lunch at 12:00 noon and discussion to follow at about 12:30 p.m. We will be reading “Our Missing Hearts,” by Celeste Ng.

School is back in session in the West Ada School district and your donations to **Mirror Image** are gratefully appreciated. Bring your donations to Lisa’s office in the FLC or write a check (to Meridian United Methodist Church, Mirror Image in the memo line.)



The Meridian Unit of United Women in Faith will be hosting the **Conference Annual Meeting** of United Women in Faith October 17 and 18. Be sure to add those dates to your calendars, and please let me know if you can help in any way.



August Ladies Night Out: Flower Picking at Lovely Hollow Farm



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

September Events to Celebrate!

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

September 1 – Labor Day

September 7 – All-Church Kick-Off Picnic

September 12 – Parents Night Out

September 15 – Ladies Night Out

September 29 – Blood Drive

October

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE:

**Thursday,
September 25th**

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

Thank you!