



Meridian United Methodist
Church of the
Warm Heart

FOOTPRINTS

September 2026

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30am

11:15am

Both services are broadcast online.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

2:00pm

SERMON SERIES September 2026

09.06.2026

Sweet By and By

John 14:1-7



09.13.2026

Tradition!

II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19



08.16.2026

Sunrise, Sunset

I Kings 1:28-31, 38-40, 49-53



08.23.2026

If I Were a Rich Man

I Kings 3:3-15



08.30.2026

Far From the Home I Love

I Kings 24:10-14

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS



Fall Kickoff

Join us for our **Fall Kickoff Picnic!** September 13th at 12pm, across the street in Centennial Park. We'll provide the entrée, you provide a chair and a side dish or dessert to share. We hope to see you there!

Bathroom Construction

Exciting changes are underway in our sanctuary building. Over the next few months we'll be renovating the narthex to include a brand new ADA-compliant bathroom. Some things will be shuffled around to make room for the construction, and you might find some areas cordoned off on Sunday mornings, but fear not, none of the construction will be extensive enough to stop us from using the building!



Ladies Retreat

October: 16th-18th
Pilgrim Cove Camp, McCall Idaho



We are excited to invite you to the upcoming ladies retreat, a sacred time to step away from the busyness of life and draw closer to God, other ladies, and nature. This weekend is sure to refresh your spirit, deepen your faith, and strengthen the bonds of sisterhood. Registration info is coming soon!

Ada County 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 2026 Ada County CROP Hunger Walk is on October 11 at 3 p.m. in Julia Davis Park. Registration info coming soon!



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September Events Calendar

STAFF

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

August

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...

Larry Smith

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

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

SEPTEMBER BLOOD DRIVE



Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, Sept 28, 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. To do your part and schedule a donation, contact Lisa Miller at...

care@meridianumc.com

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;"*
-Isaiah 43:2-3a

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family:

I once told my wife before we were married that I'd climb the highest mountain for her. Swim across the deepest ocean for her. Walk across the farthest desert for her. I was probably lying. At the very least, I was hoping to never have to prove such things. These are impossible things. Trust me, I did a lot of crazy things to win her love, but I didn't have to face lions or go on a quest to prove anything—just steer clear of an angry ex-boyfriend.

Reminds me of the old song Scarborough Fair. The lover calls out, I will love anyone who can do impossible things. I'll love you when you can make a shirt without seams, find an acre of land within the tide, harvest grain with a blade made of leather. If you can do the impossible, I will love you.

Some of us believe that in order for God to love us, we need to be perfect. We need to have impossible purity. Impossible thoughts. Impossible righteousness. If we can have impossible faith, God will then take notice, and love us.

There are a lot of things that I cannot do. I can't successfully grow a garden. I can plant a garden, but by August, I have to mow it down and put it out of its misery because I can't get things to grow. I can't follow the lives of the Kardashians (for I know not what a Kardashian is or why it's important, and I believe most of what they do would disturb me). So I don't bother. I can't load a dishwasher. I try, but then my lovely wife comes right behind me and reconfigures it, suggesting I don't have the spatial intelligence to put things into a dishwasher. I can't run five miles anymore, let alone a marathon, or stay up as late as I used to. I can't remember names. I can't seem to update my social media every month, let alone every day or hour. There are a lot of things I cannot do.

Turns out, I cannot get into heaven on my own, either. Turns out, most of the joys of my life are blessings from above. But THANK GOD! We have a God that can do the impossible—so we don't have to. We have a God from whom all blessings flow. We have a God who has created the vastness of the universe, but cares about us. In our frailty is his strength. In our darkness, he is light.

I couldn't swim across the ocean for my love - but Jesus walked on the raging seas.
I couldn't climb the highest mountain for my love - but Jesus climbed the hill of Calvary.
I couldn't walk across the hottest desert - but Jesus gave his life for us.

THANK GOD!

See you in church on Sunday!

Pastor Mike

P.S. Did you know that we have a new District Superintendent? Well, actually, we have four. As of July 1st, the Sage and Columbia districts are being overseen by a Superintendency Team, consisting of Rev. Dr. Troy Lynn Carr, Rev. Dr. Duane Anders, Rev. Dr. Rob Walters, and Rev. Melissa Harkness.

So come meet our new Superintendent (or one of them, anyway)! Newly minted District Superintendent Rob Walters will be checking in on the good folk of Meridian UMC on Thursday, September 10 at 9:30am. Everyone, especially church leaders, are welcome to meet our DS. This is a chance for Conference Leadership to see and hear about our Warm Heart ministries. We will meet in the sanctuary.



MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

I am grateful for the month or so between the beginning of school and our church kick-off. It gives me a chance to catch my breath, finally finish cleaning up from VBS, and get my bearings for the season of Bible Builders and youth group to come. But gosh, does that month of relative rest make me excited to get going again! It turns out I enjoy the rhythms and routines of the September-to-May church year, and I'm looking forward to getting back into them. I hope you'll join me in praying for all our kids and families this year as we all find our strides together.

CHILDREN

Bible Builders is back! This Wednesday evening class full of Bible stories, activities, music, and fun is open to all children ages 4 through 5th grade. You can come every week or drop in once or twice throughout the year. You can come alone or bring friends. This year we will be studying the early church, reading parts of the New Testament from AFTER Jesus went back to heaven. It's sure to be an interesting journey!

Parent's Night Out is also back! Drop your kids off for pizza, crafts, a movie, and play while you go out for a date or just enjoy some peace and quiet. Parent's Night Out (PNO) is free and on the second Friday of every month from September through May. (In December we do a Parent's Afternoon Out on a Saturday instead of the traditional Friday evening.) Please RSVP for each PNO. This gives Nicole a chance to make sure she has plenty of pizza and craft supplies for everyone.

Parent's Night Out

Friday, September 11, 6:00—8:30 pm
Children's Worship Center

Church Kick-Off Picnic

Sunday, September 13, 12:00 pm
Celebration Park

Bible Builders

Wednesdays Sept. 16, 23, 30, 6:00—7:30 pm
Upper Room



**Warm Heart
Kids Family
Bowling**

YOUTH

We are experimenting with moving our regular Sunday youth group meetings earlier in the day! Some special events just have to happen in the evenings, as you'll see on the calendar, but as afternoons are preferable for many of our families, we are being flexible!

"Regular" Youth Group

Sundays September 6 and 27, 4:00—6:00 pm
FLC/Youth Room

Church Kick-Off Picnic

Sunday, September 13, 12:00 pm
Celebration Park

Night at the Speedway

Friday, September 18, 6:00 pm
meet at the church, pick-up at the Speedway

YG Farmstead Trip

Tuesday, September 22, 6:00—8:30 pm
Lowe Family Farmstead
Just \$5/person!

Backpack Program

Tuesday, September 29, 3:30 pm
Meridian Food Bank

With joy,

Nicole Walker

family@meridianumc.com



WHY Summer Bowling

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."
- Matthew 11:28*

Friends,

As a community of faith, we are called to look out for one another, share each other's burdens, and offer hope in times of darkness. Mental health challenges and thoughts of suicide can affect anyone, but no one has to walk through the darkness alone.

If you or someone you love is struggling, please know that your life matters, you are deeply valued, and help is always available. We want our church to be a safe place where you can reach out for support without fear of judgment.

WHERE TO FIND IMMEDIATE HELP:

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** Call or text **988**. It is free, confidential, and available 24/7.
- **The Crisis Text Line:** Text **HOME** to **741741** to connect to a crisis counselor.
- **The Church:** If you need space to talk, call the church office to connect with Pastor Mike or Lisa Miller.

HOW WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER:

- **Check-in:** Reach out to a fellow member, neighbor, or friend this week just to say hello and see how they are doing.
- **Listen Without Judgment:** Sometimes, simply offering a listening ear and a compassionate heart can make a big difference and offer the hope that someone needs.
- **Pray:** Let us keep those carrying heavy, invisible burdens in our daily prayers, asking God to give them comfort, strength, and hope—and to show us how to help.

You are loved, you are seen, and you are never alone.

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

Ladies Night Out

September 23, 4-6pm

Our Ladies Night out will meet this month for food, fun, and fellowship at Coyne's Restaurant in Eagle. You can take a peak at their menu at...

www.coynesrestaurant.com

Please RSVP with me if you plan to join us.

WORSHIP ARTS

Here at Church of the Warm Heart, we have a wide variety of music opportunities! Whether you have an instrumental or vocal offering or you'd like to participate in one of our musical groups—there is room for you! See me to get plugged in!

Calling all youth! **The Rolling Tones Chime Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 16, at 5:30pm in the sanctuary! No music skills are required—we are happy to teach you! We'd love to have some new faces join us! Feel free to bring a friend.

Celebration Choir – We are resuming rehearsals on Thursday, September 3, at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. Our first anthem for the season will be offered on Kick-Off Sunday, September 13, at the 9:30am service. We are always looking for more singers to join this fun group of folks.

Koinonia Handbell Choir – We will be resuming rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 5:30pm in the sanctuary. If you read music and have bell experience and would like to join us, we'd love to have you! If you can't commit to a full season, but are willing to sub in on a Thursday evening here and there for one of our ringers, we would LOVE to have you join our roster of "substitute 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!

Angels Alive Choir – Calling all kiddos (age 4-5th grade)! We'll be offering music and skits in the worship services, generally on the last Sunday of the month. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the choir room beginning September 16. Can't make that? No worries! Music links and info can be shared so you can join us on Sunday mornings!

The Grace Notes Ministry will be welcoming Duane Contiz's saxophone quartet on Friday, September 25 at 3pm at the Memory Care building of Grace Assisted Living. Thanks to these musicians for sharing their beautiful music with the residents!

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com



The Gloryland Praise Singers sharing their talents at Grace Assisted Living.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

There is an old saying in sports that, "all good things must come to an end," and that also is appropriate for our church giving record in 2026. After a long streak of monthly giving in the black, we fell short in July. I predicted as much in our last newsletter. Sorry to say, I was correct. We are only in the red \$1799 for the year at this point. That old bugaboo of lower attendance during the summer months means lower giving. Well, school is back in session, the kids are back in Sunday School, and I am predicting a turnaround in September. (Not sure about August, as I'm writing this article while it's still July.) When I look back at the last three years, I see we continue to be in good shape. We just need to keep our eye on the prize and continue to focus on our giving. As always, our staff will see that our spending is kept at a minimum.

For General Operations:	July 2026	2026 YTD
Given	\$37,652	\$426,584
Need	\$67,518	\$428,383
Outcome	(\$29,866)	(\$1,799)

With the rest of my article, I would like to cover a very important area of giving that can be of benefit to both our church and givers. I am referring to QCD's.

A SMART WAY TO GIVE: DONATING DIRECTLY FROM YOUR IRA

Many members of our church have spent years building their retirement savings. Once you reach age 73, the IRS requires you to take money out of your IRA each year. These withdrawals—called Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)—count as taxable income, which can increase your taxes. There's a simple way to support the church and reduce your taxable income at the same time. It's called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

WHAT IS A QCD ?

A QCD is a donation sent directly from your IRA to a charity like the Church of the Warm Heart. Because the money goes straight from your IRA to the charity, it does not count as income for you.

WHY IT HELPS

Reduces taxable income—the amount you give through a QCD isn't taxed.
Counts toward your RMD—your charitable gift can satisfy part of or all of your required withdrawal.
Supports ministry directly—the church receives the full amount with no taxes taken out.
Simple to set up—usually just a quick call to your IRA provider.

A QUICK EXAMPLE

If your RMD is \$10,000 and you send \$4,000 directly to the church as a QCD, then only \$6,000 counts as taxable income. The church receives the full \$4,000, and you meet your RMD while lowering your tax bill.

A THOUGHTFUL WAY TO GIVE

For many of us, giving is an expression of our faith and our gratitude. QCDs allow you to support the ministries you care about in a financially wise way.

Please note that I am not a financial planner, a tax expert, or a lawyer. If you're interested in considering a QCD, contact your IRA provider or speak with a tax professional who knows your situation.

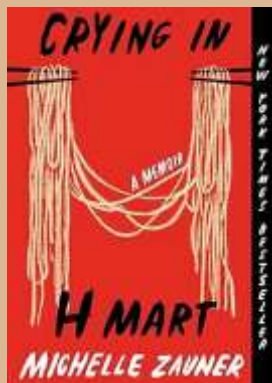
As always, I would ask that you continue to pray for our church finances, our staff, our elected officials, our military leaders, and anyone who finds themselves facing grief, illness, or other challenges. As always, if you have any questions about our finances, please contact me, Don Brister, or our Finance Chair, Lori Jones.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

Crying in H Mart, by Michelle Zauner, is part memoir, part coming of age, and a loving tribute to her mother. Zauner's family spent most of her growing-up years in Eugene, Oregon. As a little girl, she idolized her mother; as a teenager, she worked to distance herself from what seemed to her unachievable expectations of perfection from her Korean mother. She moved across the country to attend college and attain much-desired freedom. But when her mother became ill, she moved back to Eugene to care for her.



Through this difficult and heart-breaking time together, Zauner reclaimed the closeness she once felt to her mother, realizing what had felt like overbearing parenting was her mother's way of sheltering, protecting, and loving her only child. Traditional Korean foods, lovingly and skillfully prepared, had forged an unbreakable bond between mother and child. Now it was Zauner's turn to learn the art of cooking to comfort and soothe her mother, and offer the same comfort she had received as a child.

Food, tradition, and cross-cultural bonds unite their extended family and offer a place of belonging, growing, and healing to every member. Family relationships can be messy and frustrating, yet in the end, love unites us.

UWF Book Club

Our UWFaith book club meets about once every other month to read and discuss a book from our reading program. You don't have to be a member of the UWF to participate (but if you are, you'll knock off another category of your reading program goals!). Our next meeting will be on September 17, and we'll be discussing *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams, which explores how to maintain hope and take meaningful action during global crises like climate change, pandemics, and political upheaval. The book is organized around Dr. Goodall's *Four Reasons for Hope*: the amazing human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power of young people, and the indomitable human spirit.

We'll meet in classroom #3 at about noon for a brown bag lunch, followed by our book discussion. We hope you can join us!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

From Generations of Grace Daily Prayer Guide, Nora Weiss, the Marketing and Communications Manager of Atlantic Street Center in Seattle, Washington writes:

"One of Atlantic Street Center's support groups is aimed at grandparents and kinship caregivers. We call this our Kinship Care Support Group. Every week, these families meet to lean on one another, complete an activity, and receive support.

Reshell has been a part of the Atlantic Street Center Kinship Care Group for a few years. She and her husband had to take custody of their grandchildren when their biological mother could not care for them. Since then, Reshell has supported her two grandchildren in extracurricular activities and school. Her granddaughter took a liking to ballet and was even chosen to star as Clara in a local production of *The Nutcracker*.

Intergenerational relationships—however they come to be—are vital to nurture and they are nuanced, especially with so many older caregivers living on the poverty line. Our role is to uplift these families and give them the tools to thrive"

This is one of about 100 National Mission Institutions that we support through our Pledge to Mission.



What a busy summer we've had with Mission U and the Soul Care retreat. In addition, we've been in the church kitchen assisting with memorial services and in NU2U sorting out a wealth of donations and providing much needed affordable clothing to our community. I hope all of you had an opportunity to participate in one or more of the many activities sponsored by the Meridian United Women in Faith. Please call me if you need help finding where you can participate ([208-680-5112](tel: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 in need in our community!



The school year is in full swing, so don't forget that our Mirror Image closet could always use donations of individually-packaged hygiene supplies!



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 3 – Choir Resumes (see pg 5)
September 11 – Parents’ Night Out, 6-8:30pm
September 13 – Kickoff Sunday, Picnic in the Park @12pm
September 16 – Bible Builders Resumes
September 23 – Ladies Night Out
September 28 – Blood Drive, 12-5pm, FLC

October

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Friday,
September 25th**

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

Thank you!