



Meridian United Methodist
Church of the
Warm Heart

FOOTPRINTS

October 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 October 2026

10.04.2026

Far From the Home I Love

I Kings 24:10-14

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10.11.2026

Water Into Wine

John 2:1-11

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10.18.2026

Hymn Sing Sunday

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10.25.2026

Something Old, Something New...

Luke 5:33-39

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

World Communion Sunday



Be sure to join us on Oct 4th for World Communion Sunday. On this day each year, we join with Christians around the world to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Pink Out Sunday

On Sunday, Oct 11th, help us turn the sanctuary pink! Wear your pink dresses, shirts, ties, ribbons, hair, etc. Let's celebrate life, increase awareness, and raise hope!



Family Fall Festival

Join us in the FLC on Saturday, October 24, at 2pm for our annual Family Fall Festival. Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, and friends for games, candy, costumes, and fun.



No kids to bring? Great news: you can help out by volunteering to run a station! Or donate some candy to our Family Minister, Nicole Walker. We'll always take more candy!

All Church Bazaar



It's that time again! Are you a crafter, a cook, a woodworker, a dish washer, a gardener, a cashier, a quilter, an artist, a baker, a pie maker, a person? You're just who we need! We are looking for silent auction items, crafts, baskets, baked goods, and of course...soup! You can also donate your time in any number of different capacities. Everyone can be a part of this fun event and the proceeds will all benefit the church.

Not sure how to help? Contact Pastor Mike and he will match your time or talent with our need. We're so excited for the Bazaar this year, and we hope you'll mark your calendars for Saturday, November 7, 10am - 2pm, and plan to bring everyone you know.

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STAFF

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Minister of Congregational Care (ext. 105)
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Minister of Worship Arts 208-608-2520
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Family Minister (Children and Youth) 734-316-9517
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Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

Facility Personnel
Allie Morris maintenance@meridianumc.com (M - Th)
Don Woods dandvwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

September

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...

Larry Koenig
Verle Mitchell

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

Tuesday Bible Study



Join us on Tuesday's for our weekly Bible Study, or as Pastor Mike likes to say, "our weekly snack and fellowship time that happens to include a Bible Study." We meet in the FLC every Tuesday at 2pm, but you can come a little early for coffee, cookies, and conversation.

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family,

Let me dip my toe into rough waters. Every now and then someone asks if the Methodist Church is "for" abortion. Are we "for" divorce? Are we "for" bankruptcy? Are we "for" (pick your own social issue). Of course, these are life-changing events that no one ever wants to go through. I wish we lived in a black and white world, but there are times when the grey seeps through and we must make more nuanced decisions—even from a faith based perspective.

No, we're never "for" abortion—but we also understand that there are circumstances where abortion may be the best option out of all bad options. We follow a nuanced, life-centered position on abortion that balances the sanctity of unborn life with the recognition that tragic circumstances can justify terminating a pregnancy. Here in Idaho, we've lost 94 out of 268 obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN) physicians practicing obstetrics—a 35% decline—between August 2022 and December 2024 following the enactment of the state's strict abortion laws. There are folk in our congregation who have told me that they would have died without receiving care that is now illegal in our state. We are against using abortion as a means of birth control or inconvenience, but we understand that life sometimes gives one a slew of bad options to choose from. We value grace over shame.

No, we're never "for" divorce—but we also understand that there are circumstances where divorce may be the best option out of all bad options. We view lifelong, faithful marriage as God's ideal in romantic relationships, but recognize divorce as a regrettable alternative when spouses are estranged beyond reconciliation. We walk with those who are hurting and trying to heal from past broken relationships. We value grace over shame.

No, we're never "for" bankruptcy—but we also understand that there are circumstances where starting over financially may be the best option out of all bad options. Americans have 1.3 TRILLION dollars in credit card debt. Americans have 1.9 TRILLION dollars in student loan debt—and that is NOT bankruptable. Translation? You go \$300,000 in debt to get the medical degree and not pass the exams, you still owe the \$300k with no hope of relief. The number one cause of bankruptcy in America today isn't overspending, but medical debt. In the richest country in the world. We value grace over shame.

In other words, we stand against laws that are rigid and draconian and leave no room for grace.

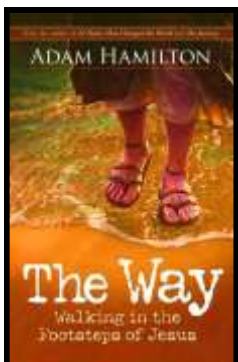
I know I don't have all of the answers and we all won't agree on everything, but I try to live out my ministry with the mindset of grace over shame. Yes, I've officiated weddings for those who have been divorced or began living together before the wedding (some churches refuse). Yes, I've done funerals for those who have ended their own lives (some churches refuse). Yes, there are folks who have joined our church wondering if they would be welcome because of X, Y, or Z—and we've welcomed them in.

So as some of these issues may come up on the ballot, please consider what would be good for our citizens in a world full of grey—and offer a little bit of grace along the way. And even if we might vote differently (I won't tell you WHO I am voting for), I hope you do vote this fall. It is your right, so please use it. It's almost funny that we spend so much time fighting over who CAN vote, when only 40% of us WILL vote in our elections!

For more information about our social principles, please check out www.umc.org to find out what our denomination believes about the social issues that you care about.

See you in church on Sunday!

Pastor Mike



P.S. We've got another book study coming up in October. The study will be led by Janeale McClees and will meet on Wednesdays at 7 pm, beginning October 14th. This class will be discussing Adam Hamilton's *The Way*. Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of the faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations to the heart of his ministry, including the people he loved, the parables he taught, the enemies he made, and the healing he brought. Contact the church office to get signed up!

Staff Appreciation Sunday

P.P.S. On Sunday, October 25th we'll take some time to appreciate the wonderful staff we have hear at the Church of the Warm Heart. There will be a basket to collect any cards you'd like to write, and there will be cake! See you there!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

I'll admit it: I'm a spring-and-summer girlie. I live for long days and sunshine, and something about the shortening days of autumn always causes me to involuntarily curl up inside. Thankfully, my daughter is a fall girlie and my son LOVES darkness—and the past few years their passions for fall and long nights have helped me shift my perspective and consciously uncurl. While I may never prefer winter to summer, seeing through their eyes allows me to better embrace this half of the year and keep living into it. What ways have children helped shift your perspectives recently?

CHILDREN

Bible Builders is in full swing, studying parts of the New Testament from AFTER Jesus went back to heaven. We're learning how a group of young people following around a teacher ended up starting this thing we call "the Church." With snacks, crafts, activities, and music with Miss Debbie, we have a lot of fun as we're learning!

Consider joining Nicole-and-kids and others from our congregation at the Ada County CROP Walk on Sunday, July 11. We walk in solidarity with those who have to walk every day to access food and/or clean water, and funds raised support initiatives to end hunger all over the world!

Invite your friends and family to join you at the Family Fall Festival the weekend before Halloween. This pop-up carnival in our Family Life Center is a beloved tradition—and this year we're adding a balloon artist and "spider web" to crawl through, in addition to all the fun you're used to.

Bible Builders

Every Wednesday, 6:00—7:30 pm
Upper Room

Parent's Night Out

Friday, October 9, 6:00—8:30 pm
Children's Worship Center

CROP Walk

Sunday, October 11, 3:00 pm
Julia Davis Park

Family Fall Festival

Saturday, October 24, 2:00 pm
FLC



Goofy crew at the first week of Bible Builders

YOUTH

We've got lots of fun youth events this month! If you're looking for volunteer hours, you can also sign up to help with our church's trunk at the City of Meridian's Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 22. Come dress like a lion (our theme is Daniel and the Lion's Den) and hand out candy to hundreds of people!

Photo Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, October 4, 4:00—6:00 pm
FLC / around town

CROP Walk

Sunday, October 11, 3:00 pm
Julia Davis Park

"Regular" Youth Group

Sunday, October 18, 4:00—6:00 pm
FLC/Youth Room

CLUE

Sunday, October 25, 4:00—6:00 pm
FLC

Backpack Program

Tuesday, October 27, 3:30 pm
Meridian Food Bank

With joy,

Nicole Walker

family@meridianumc.com



Farmstead Trip (plus four youth who escaped the photo!)

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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

Friends,

This October, the Warm Heart Family is coming together to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month. There are many women and families in our congregation who have been affected by breast cancer. We lean on resilience, grace, and hope found in Christ. Early detection through regular screenings saves lives!

- Schedule annual screenings (recommended by age 40)
- Use this month to encourage your loved ones. Remind mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends to take care of their health and get all recommended cancer screenings.
- Join us for Pink Out Sunday on October 11th. Let's show our church family how important they are to us by filling the Sanctuary with pink.

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

Ladies Retreat

October 16th-18th
Pilgrim Cove Camp in 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. It's time to rest, restore, connect, and create. Let's walk into an intentional lifelong journey toward emotional, relational, and spiritual health. Don't miss out. Register on the church website today!



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 3pm in Julia Davis Park. This is a fundraiser, so if you can't walk but want to donate, we will be happy to direct your donations to the right place! Talk with Lisa if you're interested in donating or walking.



WORSHIP ARTS

The Rolling Tones Chime Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. No music skills are required – we are happy to teach you! Feel free to bring a friend. Musical offerings will generally be the first Sunday of the month. We'd love to have some new faces join us!



Celebration Choir – We are always up for welcoming new singers to this church family where we connect through song, prayer, and worship. Our anthems are scheduled months in advance and available for each singer as well as rehearsal links when available/needed. Consider joining us each week or if once or twice a year works better for you – join us for the Christmas and Good Friday cantatas. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

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 during Bible Builders in the choir room. Can't make that? No worries! Music links and information can be shared so you can still join us on Sunday mornings!

The **Grace Notes Ministry** provides music once a month for the Memory Care residents at Grace Assisted Living in Meridian. We will share music Tuesday, October 27 at 3:15PM, singing a variety of hymns for the residents. Music is provided! Let me know if you can join us!

Special Music – We always welcome special music in our worship services. Do you sing or play an instrument? See me to get plugged in to a worship service.

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

Check out the figures provided and say "hallelujah" because for the first time in the last three years, we ended August with a surplus! In fact, this is the first time I've seen this in all my years as your Stewardship Chair. Due to a healthy giving month and frugal spending, we are plus \$1,308 after August. Think about this comparison: after August 2025, we were in the red \$40,696. We managed to overcome this deficit and finish the year with a healthy surplus then, and if we continue our historical trend with a strong finish, we will be in a great position as we head toward the end of 2026.

For General Operations:	August 2026	2026 YTD
Given	\$62,207	\$488,792
Need	\$59,101	\$487,484
Outcome	\$3,106	\$1,308

I will always stress the importance of steady, continuous giving and that is the case as we enter the fourth quarter of 2026. No alarm bells, no pleas to do better, no frustrations, just a healthy thank you for all you do for this church. Soon we will have a much-needed new restroom in the narthex. This is possible due to donations to our building funds. Memorials honoring saints of this congregation add to our funds. Many of you are taking advantage of changes to tax laws about required minimum distributions that I discussed last month in this newsletter. The bazaar is soon. Part of the profits from this event are given to the general fund. My point is that all avenues of giving add to the coffers. Keep up the excellent work.

We are approaching a fun part of the year. The leaves are changing color, there is a nip in the early morning that says the summer heat is gone, the fun of Halloween is on the minds of our kids, and for me—the World Series is upon us. Then come Thanksgiving and family times followed by Advent and the birth of our Saviour. We have many things to look forward to celebrating, but please don't forget that our church's financial obligations are ongoing.

I would encourage each of you to continue to pray for our church finances, our tremendous hard-working staff, and our standing committees that do so much behind the scenes. There are many hot spots around the world, so I would ask for prayers for those who are in a position of having to make tough decisions. Pray for our elected officials, all first responders, our military forces, and the many care givers. There are many in our church who are grieving after the loss of family members and some who have family in stressful situations. They all need our prayers. See you next month with more good news! And as always, if you have any questions about our finances, please contact me, Don Brister, or our Finance Chair, Lori Jones.

Church Kick-Off Picnic

Our annual Church Kick-Off Picnic was a huge hit this year, well attended by folks of all ages. The kids particularly loved the giant dinosaur bounce house with the built-in slide!



MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

In a world that seems so troubled, how do we hang on to hope? This is the question Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams address in their book, *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide to Trying Times*. The United Women in Faith Book Club read this book for their September discussion, and it is available for check out from the book shelf in the Family Life Center.



Written before, during, and after the COVID pandemic, the authors consider the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and political upheaval, recognizing that during such “trying times,” hope has never been more needed.

Goodall, one of the world's most famous naturalists, says hope is more than passive wishful thinking; it is “a stubborn determination to act to make things better.” She focuses on her four reasons for hope: the amazing human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power of young people, and the indomitable human spirit. Inspirational stories and photographs from her long and remarkable career highlight each of these four areas.

From her early days working with Louis Leakey in Kenya to independent field researcher and later as an eloquent, world-traveling advocate for the environment, she has so much wisdom to share with the world. Wisdom, in her words, is the ability to recognize consequences and act for the long-term good. Though she doesn't always see this wisdom in world leaders' decisions, she falls back on her four reasons for hope and keeps doing her part. The world lost a powerful advocate for the natural world with her passing in October of 2025. But there is still hope, and this book will help guide us to it.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

The Meridian United Women in Faith just read *The Book of Hope*, by Jane Goodall. Ms. Goodall stresses how much hope is needed during these times of worsening climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and political upheaval. Her book ends with ways we each can become messengers of hope. She concludes her book with a rousing chant of “Together we can, together we will.”

We have a wonderful opportunity to make a difference and become messengers of hope right here in our church. The October meeting of the Meridian UWFaith will be the Ladies Retreat, October 16-18, at Pilgram Cove Camp in McCall. One of the activities will be to make UMCOR Hygiene Kits to replace all the kits that were used up during the devastating fires and floods in Spokane and around our Conference this past summer.

I encourage you to sign up with Lisa Miller for this weekend retreat and participate in making kits of hope to be distributed the next time fires or other natural disasters occur here in our area. If you can't attend, please consider donating money to help purchase the supplies to make these kits. It doesn't take a lot, but as Jane Goodall says, together we can—and together we will—make a difference and provide hope.



As always, our ongoing local mission project for UWFaith is to provide hope in the form of hygiene items for the youth and teens of our area schools. Please donate a hygiene item or two, or make a cash donation to the church, directed towards Mirror Image. The youth are back in school and it's time to start re-supplying the hygiene items to make up the youth hygiene bags.

Thank you to the Warm Heart Quilters who have made and distributed over 90 quilts to area agencies this year. Just another great way we women of the Church of the Warm Heart are providing faith, hope, and love in action to women, children, and youth! Karen Keever was kind enough to share some photos of their recent donation to the Boise Rescue Mission!





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

October Events to Celebrate!

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

October 4 – World Communion Sunday

October 9 – Parents Night Out, 6-8:30pm

October 11 – Pink Out Sunday, CROP Walk

October 16-18 – Ladies' Retreat

October 24 – Family Fall Festival, 2:00 pm, FLC

October 25 – Staff Appreciation Sunday

October

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE:

**Monday,
October 26th**

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

Thank you!