



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

FOOTPRINTS

November 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

November 2025—The Disciples

11.02.2025

Bartholomew, James the Lesser, Andrew

• • • • •

11.09.2025

Matthew, Jude, Simon

• • • • •

11.16.2025

Thomas, James the Greater, Phillip

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11.23.2025

Judas, Peter, John

• • • • •

11.30.2025

Dreaming of Hope

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:1-11

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS



Parking Update

Please be aware that free parking is no longer available in the Mason's lot on the west side of the Sanctuary building. We do have a limited number of parking passes available for that lot, so if you would like one, talk to Pastor Mike!

All Saints Sunday

On November 2, join us in worship for a special time of remembrance as we recall our church members and friends who passed through death to life in the past year.



Office Closure



The Church office will be closed on November 27 and 28 while our staff celebrate the holidays with their families. Happy Thanksgiving!

Raise Right Gift Cards

It's hard to believe, but Advent is just around the corner! While you're doing your Christmas shopping, don't forget about our Raise Right fundraising program! Purchase your gift cards through Raise Right and a percentage of the cost will be given to the church! Contact the church office for more information.



Charge Conference



Our annual Charge Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 18th, at 6:00 p.m. during our monthly Ad Council meeting. Contact Pastor Mike with questions.

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STAFF

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Rev. Mike Benischek pastormike@meridianumc.com

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

October

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
Christine Borton

BAPTISMS:

Luke Jones
Samantha Zahorka-Jones
Kenan Phillips

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

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

DECEMBER BLOOD DRIVE



Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, Dec 1, 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. To do your part and schedule a donation, contact Lisa Miller at...

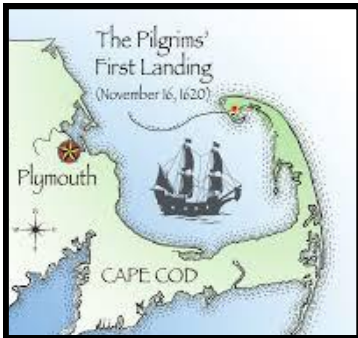
care@meridianumc.com

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family:

A congregation recently gifted me a book about the Mayflower—the boat that transported the Pilgrims to the “New World” just over 400 years ago. I am learning a few new facts about those early Americans.

In elementary school, we drew the Pilgrims as wearing black clothing with buckles on their shoes and hats. Truth be told, they typically wore bright clothing—saving their black clothing for church or high holy days. Even then, their idea of black would have been different from ours, more likely a dark grey or even a blue. The deep black we are familiar with would have been expensive to produce, and thus not very *pious*. Shirts of bright blues, deep reds, and purples were common. Buckles were not even around in 1620—and the Pilgrims didn't like ornamentation anyway. I need to go back and update my second grade drawings!



The Pilgrims also intended to settle elsewhere! They planned to reach Virginia to reinforce the area around Jamestown, hoping to locate north of Jamestown—far enough away to be their own colony, but close enough for help should they need it. Of course, we know that they were off course when they landed in Massachusetts. Due to rough seas, dangerous currents, and shoals, they were unable to travel south, and instead took shelter in Cape Cod. Soon, they decided to stay, and they created the Mayflower Compact because their location was outside of English law and charter.

Of the 102 folks who sailed, and of the 52 that survived that first year, it is estimated that over 35 million Americans have a direct ancestor from the Mayflower—about 10 percent of us! Go forth and multiply indeed.

At this point, I'm sure you won't be surprised to hear that the original Thanksgiving looked a little different from the way it's often depicted and celebrated today. For one thing, it was three days long! For another, it's far more likely they ate deer and pheasant than turkey. The original feast occurred in 1621, and here's an interesting little detail: we have two primary accounts of the feast, and neither refers to it as a celebration of thanksgiving!

In this season of Thanksgiving, we want to take our first four Sundays of November and give thanks to a few of our Warm Heart folks at both services.

November 2 – All Saints Remembrance: We will name and honor those in our congregation who have passed away since last year. Their friends and family are invited to attend as we light a candle for their loved one.

November 9 – Veterans and Quilters: We will ask those who have served to stand and be recognized. We will also bless the quilts made by our quilters over the past season.

November 16 – We will recognize those in our church family who have been a part of our church for 50-plus years. We have 15 members who have been here that long!

November 23 – We will give thanks to our church staff and those who served in leadership positions within our church over this past year.

We also give thanks for YOU this November. Our church is what it is because of our faithful members who pray, serve, give, and attend. Thank you for being a wonderful church to serve!

See you on Sunday,

Pastor Mike

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Welcome to November! Daylight Savings Time has come to an end, despite my protests, and the days are getting shorter and shorter as we approach the winter solstice. I'm thankful that we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas in these dark months when I often struggle with the lack of sunlight. I'm also thankful for all the time I get to spend with our church's children and youth, who delight me with their shenanigans, perspectives, and ever-growing wits. It's a good time to be a family minister.

CHILDREN

Bible Builders, our Wednesday night kids' program, will continue for three weeks in November before pausing for Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and winter break. We meet in the Upper Room (upstairs in the Sanctuary building) from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. every week for Bible stories, 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!

Parents Night Out is scheduled for every second Friday through May. Drop off your kids (age 4 through 5th grade) for a free night of pizza, crafts, movies, and play while you get in a date night or just relax at home.

Bible Builders

November 5, 12, and 19, 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Parents Night Out

Friday, November 14, 6:00—8:30 p.m.



See the Children's Ministry bulletin board in the FLC for some pictures of the Fall Festival!



Youth Group Murder Mystery Party

&

Bible Builders Fun

YOUTH

The youth continue to be busy with all kinds of different things in November! If you have kids or grandkids in grades 6-12 who are interested in youth group, please email me (address at the bottom of the page) to get on my mailing list. My monthly Family Ministries calendars are colored coded and very helpful!

Split MS/HS Youth Group with Dinner

Sunday, November 2
at the church

Next Steps Conference Retreat

Friday, November 7, through Sunday, November 9
Nampa First UMC

Turkey Olympics

Sunday, November 16, 6:00—8:00 p.m.
Downtown Meridian

Backpack Program

Tuesday, November 18, 3:30 p.m.
Meridian Food Bank

Youth Group with Dave

Sunday, November 23
details TBA

Veteran's Foot Locker Drive

It's time for our annual Veteran's Foot Locker Drive! You can begin making your donations of small personal items and gift cards on Sunday, November 9. The Idaho State Veteran's Home is under construction, so they are not equipped to handle donations of bulky clothing or blankets; instead, residents will have access to the gift cards throughout the year to purchase exactly what they need. To this end, Walmart gift cards and prepaid Visa cards are especially useful. Restaurant gift cards are also a favorite, as they can be used to bring in special dinners for the residents to break up the usual routine.

Ken Jenkins will be in church on November 9 to share the importance of this annual drive, and he would be happy to chat with you during coffee hour if you would like any more of the history. The youth and I will collect, sort, inventory, and drop off your gifts to the Idaho State Veterans Home in December. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

With joy,

Nicole Walker
family@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

November is American Diabetes Month, a time for the American Diabetes Association and the Church of the Warm Heart to rally behind the fight to end diabetes. There are 136 million Americans living with diabetes or prediabetes. In the last 20 years, the number of Americans with diagnosed diabetes has more than doubled. This American Diabetes Month, join us in raising awareness about diabetes and the lives it touches. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) is the leading voluntary health organization fighting to end diabetes and help people thrive. The ADA is the driving force behind research to prevent, manage, treat, and cure diabetes.

To learn more, go to diabetes.org.

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

Thanksgiving Food Boxes

Each year we partner with area churches for the Thanksgiving food box program where families can share the tradition of Thanksgiving by preparing food boxes for those in need. A thanksgiving dinner for 4 to 6 people costs about \$80! Let's help those in-need within our community celebrate this Thanksgiving!

- **Sundays, November 9 and 16:** Empty boxes (and shopping lists) will be available for pick-up in the FLC between services.
- **Sunday, November 23:** Drop off your finished boxes at the church.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, you can do that too! Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ. Happy Thanksgiving!!

Ladies Night Out Christmas Party

The Ladies Night Out group will be having our annual Christmas celebration on December 9th. Join us aboard Molley Trolley for a magical Christmas light tour through the city. We will meet at the church by 5:30 p.m. for dessert and a hot chocolate/coffee bar prior to departing for the Boise Trolley. The tickets are \$15 and seats are limited, so make sure to see Lisa Miller to reserve your spot.

Fall Care Bags

The care team will be assembling fall care bags for our church members who can't make it to church as often as they would like. Your donations of things like cheese crackers, tea bags, hot chocolate packets, and lip balm can help our shut-ins feel remembered and valued. All items are due by Nov. 9th.

FINANCE

When I was younger and playing sports, I was very superstitious. If we won, I would avoid washing my uniform, eat the same things eaten on the day of our victory, etc. My goal was to replicate everything I had done before. Did this help in future games? Probably not, but I didn't want to take the chance that I could jinx a victory. In that spirit, I am duplicating the exact same article I presented last year, since we are in an eerily similar position. Only the numbers will be changed. The rest is the same (but edited for length).



For General Operations:	Sept. 2025	2025 YTD
Given	\$52,254	\$499,036
Need	\$58,738	\$546,217
Outcome	(\$6,484)	(\$47,171)

We have now completed one month in the last quarter of 2025. I wish I had good news to report, but we are still lagging behind in our effort to reach a breakeven point at the end of the month. Instead of attacking our current deficit, we are falling further behind. We were only behind \$6,484 in September, but our total deficit for the year is more than \$47,000. At this point in 2023, we were behind over \$60,000, and last year we lagged a little over \$70,000.

Alas, we must address the possibility of being in a negative position at the close of 2025. Of course, we have always been a church that rises to the occasion at the end of the year, but this trend means sleepless nights and stomach ulcers for those of us who deal with the church finances on a regular basis. Ideally, we hope to break even more months than not, so there's less of a deficit to tackle during the holiday season.

We have two full months of giving to erase this deficit. We have done it in the past, and I have every confidence that if any group can do this, it is the Church of the Warm Heart. This is a very busy yet important time for our church. Once again, we are faced with this deficit as we are in the process of setting the budget for 2026. In the next two months, our committees and staff will be making tough decision regarding the budget.



Back to the present! So how did we do? In the last quarter of 2024, we received gifts of more than \$300,000, which allowed us to finish the year in a positive position. Can we do it again in 2025? I hope so! It will take prayer, family discussion, and a willingness to reach our goal. I plan to do my part! FYI, I ate the same thing for breakfast today as I did yesterday, but Diane insisted I wash my underwear.

If you have any questions about the church's finances, Lori Jones, Finance Chair (lhjones2021@gmail.com), or Don Brister, Stewardship Chair (maroontycoon63@gmail.com), are available to answer them.

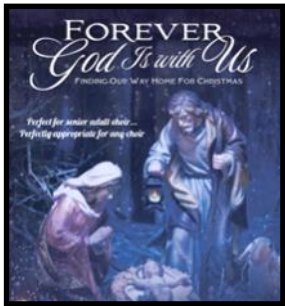
MINISTRIES & NEWS

WORSHIP ARTS

Come see our Warm Heart Worship Team in concert on Saturday, November 8, in conjunction with our church bazaar. The String Theory String Quartet (Cadence Etheridge's BSU group) will open our concert at 1 p.m. followed by 65 minutes of continuous worship music presented by our amazing worship team! Can't join us on Sunday? Curious what the excitement is about? Stop by and give a listen to this talented group. You don't want to miss this!



The Angels Alive Children's Choir is preparing songs to ring and sing as well as a few skits to offer in worship. We meet in the Choir Room during Bible Builders on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. Bring a friend and come join us!



Celebration Choir Christmas Cantata – We welcome anyone who would like to come sing with the Celebration Choir on December 21 at the 9:30 a.m. service for our Christmas cantata "Forever God is With Us." Rehearsals will be held...

- November 6, 13, and 20, and December 4 at 7 p.m.
- December 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Music and rehearsal tracks are ready for you now! Join us for this wonderful short-term choir opportunity!

Upcoming Special Music – Our November services include cellist Lisa Cooper with violinist Heather Calkins, the Riverside Brass, trumpeter Brendan Grzanic, and harpist Kimberly Dunford. As always, many thanks to the wonderful musicians who have blessed us with their talents this past month. Be sure to attend our 9:30 a.m. service for some great music!



The Warm Heart Media Team is looking for a few more hands to help with slides for Worship Team rehearsals (Thursday evenings), Live Stream sound operations, Sunday slides, camera operation, and service transitions. If you're available to help for just one Sunday a month, we can use you, and we are happy to train you for any of these roles! See Jacob Walker in the balcony or myself for more info!

Blessings,

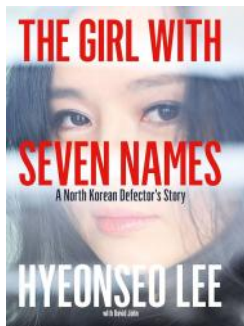
Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

Hyeonseo Lee offers her personal insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships. In her memoir, *The Girl With Seven Names: Escape from North Korea*, she details her escape from her homeland and the ensuing struggle to avoid capture and repatriation and to guide her family to freedom.



Her home on the border with China gave her some exposure to the world beyond the confines of the Hermit Kingdom, and a glimpse of economic gains based on black market sales. As famine struck in the 1990s, she began to wonder about things she had been told her entire life. Given the repression, poverty, and starvation she saw all around her, was her country really "the best on the planet"?

At age seventeen, Lee decided to escape North Korea by crossing the river into China. Young and naive, she did not imagine it would be twelve long and stressful years before she was reunited with her family, and could once again use her rightful name.

Is your interest piqued? You can borrow this book any time from the United Women in Faith book kiosk in the FLC by the NU2U entrance. While there, you can check out our other excellent titles!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky

In case you missed it, the Meridian United Women in Faith hosted their Conference Annual Meeting at our church on October 17-18. Thank you so much to all of you who helped, from by setting up tables and decorating them, driving women to the Food Bank, bringing cookies, hosting guests, serving the meals, cleaning up, and even opening up NU2U so the visitors could shop. Thanks to our church staff: Pastor Mike for a warm welcome and inspiring communion service; Angela for all the little things that made the weekend run smoothly; Dave for man-handling the tables; and Jacob, our super-duper computer technician for the weekend. Thank you for the amazing support from the entire church family for making this such a successful event.



The Warm Heart Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, November 20 for a brown bag lunch at 12 p.m. and book discussion beginning at 12:30 p.m. We are reading *Words of Love: A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments*, by Eugenia Anne Gamble.



Please continue to support Mirror Image with your hygiene supplies or cash donations. Items can be dropped off in Lisa's office; checks written to Meridian UMC, mirror image.



Please put on your calendar to be in church on Sunday, November 9, for the blessing of the quilts that our UWFaith Warm Heart Quilters have been making. It is always a beautiful event, and the quilts this group makes enrich the lives of many members of our community.

Souper Saturday Bazaar

Join us on Saturday, November 8th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the FLC for soup, crafts, and a silent auction at our annual bazaar! The silent auction closes at 1 p.m., so once the adrenaline rush has worn off, you can stop by the Sanctuary to relax and listen to the String Theory Quartet at 1 p.m. followed by our Worship Team at 1:30 p.m.



It's not too late for donations!

November 5th – Please deliver items for sale or silent auction.

November 7th – Please deliver any baked goods and pies to the church.

November 8th, 8 - 9 a.m. – Making soup? Drop it off in the FLC kitchen please!

*Crock pot liners will be available in the church kitchen starting Sunday, Nov 2nd.

*Unsold items will be donated to Nu2U if not picked up by 3 p.m. on November 8th.



Are you volunteering for the bazaar? There will be a volunteer meeting between services on Sunday, November 2nd!





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

November Events to Celebrate!

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

November 2 – All Saints Sunday

November 8 – Annual Bazaar, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

November 11 – Veterans’ Day

November 23 – Staff Appreciation

November 27 – Happy Thanksgiving!

December

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE:

**Tuesday,
November 25th**

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

Thank you!