

Meridian United Methodist
Church of the Warm Heart

FOOTPRINTS

November 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
November 2026

11.01.2026
One Desire - Jim Elliot
Exodus 23:20; Romans 8:28, 31-32, 35-39

11.08.2026
Golden Opportunities - Amy Carmichael
I Corinthians 3:8-17

11.15.2026
I Was Hungry - William Booth
Matthew 25:31-46

11.22.2026
Hail to the King
Ezekiel 34:11-16

11.29.2026
1st Sunday of Advent

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

All Saints Sunday



On November 1, 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.

UWF Book Club



Join our United Women in Faith on Thursday, November 19 as they discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Brown bag lunch in the FLC at 12pm, followed by a discussion at 12:30pm.

Office Closure



The Church office will be closed on November 26 and 27 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 Saturday, November 21st, at 9:30am. Contact Pastor Mike with questions.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 **Front Page**
November Sermon Series, Highlighted Happenings

2 **Inside Page**
Membership Info, Blood Drive

3 **Ministries & News**
Pastor Mike's Musings

4 **Ministries & News**
Family Ministries

5 **Ministries & News**
Congregational Care, Worship Arts

6 **Ministries & News**
Finance, Fall Festival Photos

7 **Ministries & News**
Book Nook, UWFaith, Bazaar

8 **Back Page**
November Events Calendar

October

NEW MEMBERS:
Charles, Ann, & Kate Gordon
Rick Young
Shiela Krug
Pam Cribbs
Connie Holman

DEATHS:
Please pray for the families of…
Ken Altig

BAPTISMS:

SEPTEMBER BLOOD DRIVE



Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, Nov 30, 12 - 5pm 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

STAFF

Senior Pastor **(ext. 104)**
Rev. Mike Benischek pastormike@meridianumc.com

Minister of Congregational Care **(ext. 105)**
Lisa Miller care@meridianumc.com

Minister of Worship Arts **208-608-2520**
Debbie Jones worshiparts@meridianumc.com

Family Minister (Children and Youth) **734-316-9517**
Nicole Walker family@meridianumc.com

Office Manager **(ext. 102)**
Angela Perry office@meridianumc.com

Receptionist **(ext. 101)**
Lucinda Dyer receptionist@meridianumc.com

Bookkeeper
Maria Akers bookkeeper@meridianumc.com

Communications Coordinator **(ext. 103)**
Video Production
Jacob Walker cc@meridianumc.com
production@meridianumc.com

Nursery Coordinator
Jessie Layton nursery@meridianumc.com

Organist
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

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

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



PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family,

November is a month of recognitions for our church. I hope you'll join us in worship as we celebrate these members:

November 1 - All Saints Day
We remember all of the saints, with a special emphasis on those who have passed away since last All Saints:
Ronnie Merideth, Linda Sullivan, Kathy Bartosz, Gordon Bouza, Marnie Larson, Maxine Klein, Carl Harden, Jacque Riddlemoser, Betsy Hansen, Julie Smith, Richard Verduzco, Glenda Villines, Helen Curtis, Mona Walker, Kenneth Altig, Larry Smith, Larry Koenig, Verle Mitchell

November 8 - Veterans Recognition.
We give thanks for those who have served our nation:
Army: Murphy Adle, Bill Ball, John Brekke, Doug DeLay, Howard Foley, Keith Gabriel, Gil Green, Darrell Hatfield, Gary Himes, John Johnson, Ed Kaufmann, Ben Madsen, Allan Marcy, Bob Mayfield, Jim Rasmussen, Brian Rodriguez, Joanna Schaffer, Roger Strander, Harold Watt
Navy: Jim Borton, Brad Carlson, David Hamrick, Charlie Jones, Bryce Keck, Mike Ladd, Dan Pruett
Air Force: Chuck Davis, Wray Featherstone, Steve Gempler, Ralph Gentry, Morris Huffman, Thom Juul, Bill Kaylor, Dean Kubena, Michael McKinnis, Keith Melville, David Miller, Dave Mulvihill, Pete Nelson, Lowell Oamek, John Owen, Ian Perry, Rick Reierson, Tom Reynolds, Walt Thornton, Sue Troyer;
Marines: Tim Etheridge, Dale Reynolds, Lyle Simpson, Michael Spencer
Coast Guard: Austin Bartosz
National Guard: Jaci Hommel, Murvin Lindley, Gary Pridmore,

November 15 - Members with 50+ years of Meridian UMC membership
Thomas Davis, Betty Jones, Murvin Lindley, Barbara Bidondo, Alice Jerome, Shirley Clancy, Arlan Potts, Vicki Potts, Kate Beaudreau, Cynthia Christiansen, Donald Woods, Vickie Woods, Brent Alger, Gwen Alger

November 22 - Members serving on church committees
Administrative Council: Nancy Rountree, Dave Miller, Carol Koenig, Marcel Goldberg, Cathy Nelson, Diana Rolig, Howard Foley, Leo Puga, Margaret Pridmore, Lori Jones, Ron Pridmore, Janeale McClees, Dixie Jacky
Trustees: Ron Pridmore, Charlie Bidondo, Ron Hohnstein, Bettye Seavey, Steve Husler, Bill Ball, Gil Green, Michael Ladd, Janeale McClees
Nominating Committee: Cindy Kubena, Dawn Bruck, Mary Rich, Diana Morgan, Cheryl Mulvihill, Janeale McClees
Finance: Lori Jones, Don Brister, Wray Featherstone, Dave Stephenson, Bill Kaylor, Donna Prewoznik, Gerry Mattison, Gerald Skiver, Dan Pruett, Brenda Ballentyne, Karen Burgus, Diane Brister, Janeale McClees, Maria Akers
Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations: Margaret Pridmore, Sue Mattison, Mary Rich, Cassie Collins, Morris Huffman, Terry Curry, Michael Friend, Kathy Newland, Marsha Brekke, Marta Bidondo, Janeale McClees
Legacy Committee (Endowments): Gerry Mattison, Nancy Rountree , Lori Jones, Ron Pridmore, Maria Akers, Diane Brister, Mark Freeman, Daryl Hatfield, John Johnson
Scholarship Committee: Claudia Moberly, Trina Moore, Dawn Bruck, Shane Ostermeier, Diane Rolig, Karen Linder, Nicole Walker

I pray that you will join us each Sunday in worship as we recognize each of these groups. See you on Sunday!

Pastor Mike



MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

I am so thankful for our amazingly supportive church family! Because of your candy donations, cupcake donations, and several volunteers for both set-up and on-site support, we had another wonderful Fall Festival this year, full of joy, sugar, laughter, and all kinds of costumes. Family ministry at the Church of the Warm Heart is in full swing, and it's a privilege to facilitate it. Thank you for giving me that privilege!

CHILDREN

Bible Builders continues until Thanksgiving Break, when we will take an extended time off to join in the church's Advent Wednesday events and enjoy the school breaks with our families. Each week this month, we'll be working on our children's Christmas program during our time with Miss Debbie!

Parent's Night Out provides a great break for parents, but kids love it, too! Drop your kids off for pizza, crafts, a movie, and lots of playtime while you head out to dinner, go home and crash, or even "just" run errands in peace. Please RSVP so Nicole can provide enough pizza and craft supplies for everyone.

Bible Builders
Wednesdays, November 4, 11, and 18
6-7:30pm
Upper Room

All-Church Souper Saturday Bazaar
Saturday, November 7, 10am-2pm
FLC

Parent's Night Out
Friday, November 13, 6-8:30pm
Children's Worship Center



Bible Builders goofballs

YOUTH

In addition to some "regular" youth group times this month, we have two special events this month. First, will be taking a field trip to A Way With Clay, where we'll paint some pottery of our choice. Then on November 15, the annual Turkey Olympics returns, with all its stuffed-turkey events and shiny medals. You know Nicole loves pulling out her "Olympic Official" shirt and refereeing all the fun!

"Regular" Youth Group
Sundays, November 1 and 22, 4-6pm
FLC/Youth Room

All-Church Souper Saturday Bazaar
Saturday, November 7, 10am-2pm
FLC

Youth Group at A Way With Clay
Sunday, November 8, 4-6pm
A Way With Clay

Turkey Olympics
Sunday, November 15, 4-6pm
FLC

Backpack Program
Tuesday, November 17, 3:30pm
Meridian Food Bank



Pizza and Apples to Apples after a CLUE game!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Thank you to all of our attendees for a wonderful Women's Retreat! If you missed the fun this year, pencil in the third weekend of October for next year and start saving your pennies so you can join us!



Thank you, also, to all the folks who helped make this year's Ada County CROP Walk a success. Whether you walked, donated, or helped with registration, you made a difference and we appreciate you!



Blessings and Good Health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

Thanksgiving Food Boxes

Each year we partner with St. Vincent De Paul for the Thanksgiving food box program where folks 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!

Boxes will be available for pickup soon. Shop according to the list provided, either by yourself or with friends! If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, you can do that too. Donations help us fill the remaining boxes and buy the turkeys.

Ladies Day Out

As we dive into the holiday season, let's take some time to make connection a priority. Join us for coffee, conversation, fun, and fellowship at the Salt & Light Coffee Lounge on November 18th at 10:30am. You can check out their menu at...

www.saltlightcoffeelounge.com

WORSHIP ARTS



Calling All Singers! It's time to start working on our Christmas cantata, "Waiting for Christmas" by Marty Parks, which will be offered on Sunday, December 20, at the 9:30 a.m. service. We welcome those who are looking for a short term singing commitment to join us as we prepare for the next 4-6 weeks. Music and rehearsal tracks are available for all! Join us Nov 19 and Dec 3 at 7 p.m., and Dec 10 and 17 at 6:30 p.m. for cantata rehearsal! See me for more details!

The Grace Notes Ministry provides music once a month for the Memory Care residents at Grace Assisted Living in Meridian. We will again share music on Friday, Dec. 4, at 3:00 p.m., singing a variety of Christmas Carols for the residents. Music is provided! Let me know if you can join us!



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. We're currently working on Christmas music to share in our community in December. We'd love to have some new faces join us!

Angels Alive Choir is starting rehearsals for our Christmas program which will be offered on Sunday, December 13, at the 11:15 a.m. service. All children (age 4-5th grade) are welcome to join us! We'll have one Sunday afternoon rehearsal in addition to the Wednesday evening practices. Music and parts are ready to be distributed. See me to get your kids and grandchildren plugged in!



We're "decking the halls" for Christmas!! Be sure to pencil in Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 6:30pm for helping us "deck" the sanctuary for Christmas! We have 5 trees to decorate and the more hands the merrier. This is a multi-generational event that you won't want to miss. Cocoa and cookies provided.

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

Financial News

The last sentence of my October article said, "See you next month with more good news." I might have been a little ahead of myself as our September monthly giving was down significantly from the previous month. Our expenses were almost the same as August, but the result is that we find ourselves in the red a little more than $14,000 for the month and down $13,000 for the year. Not great, but still much better than the last two years at the same time. We were facing deficits of $70,426 in 2024 and $47,000 in 2025. We did manage to bounce back with positive results, even ending the year with a surplus. I am hoping for the same this year!

For General Operations:	Sept 2026	2026 YTD
Given	$44,943	$533,734
Need	$59,250	$546,734
Outcome	($14,307)	($13,000)

I completed a quick analysis of what we need to achieve in the last three months to reach our goal of not being underwater at the end of December. I must rely on the statistics of past giving and expenses. My findings were as follows:

Expenses for the 4th quarter 2025.....$184,905
Inflation at 4%.....$7,396
Deficit at the end of September.....$13,000
Projected expenses for 4th quarter 2026..... $205,301

If my calculations are correct, we will need to average $68,433 per month in the 4th quarter to come out even for the year. Sounds daunting, doesn't it? So, let us compare our giving for the 4th quarter in 2025. We received $265,408 last year, or an average of $88,469 per month. I feel sure we can duplicate the 2025 figures! Last year, two of our members issued a challenge match that netted over $20,000. No one has offered the same for 2026. If it happens, that is a plus. If no challenge is presented, why don't we just challenge ourselves and up our contributions 10% in the last three months? We can all help.

This is a crucial time of the year for the Finance Committee. All of our ministers and committees are submitting their 2027 budgets to the Finance Committee. This committee will review, ask questions, and make a final presentation to the Administrative Council for approval and implementation beginning in January. I would ask each of you to pray for all our members who participate in this process in any way.

Also, continue to pray for our staff, our elected officials, that the hot spots of the world facing strife will find a peaceful solution, our military and first responders, and those in our congregation who are grieving lost loved ones. Many in our church are facing medical needs; please pray for them as well. May God continue to bless the Church of the Warm Heart.

If you have any questions or concerns about our finances or budget, please contact me (Don Brister) or Lori Jones.





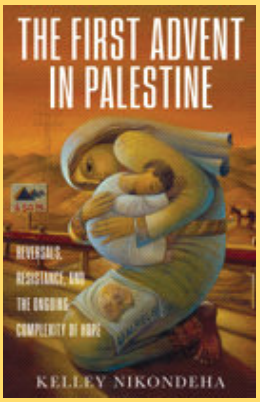




Fall Festival Pictures

MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK
Claudia Moberly



As November begins, we realize that Advent will be upon us before the next Footprints is published, so the time is right to recommend a wonderful read for this time of year.

Most of us know the stories of Jesus' birth. Yet, out of almost 1,200 chapters in the Bible, only four are devoted to telling that story. It is a bare-bones account with church traditions filling in the background. We know of the angel visits, the young couple's journey, the manger for a crib, humble shepherds and exotic wise men. But have you ever wanted to know more?

Matthew was writing to a Jewish audience who would have understood the context; Luke was writing to a contemporary Gentile audience to introduce Jesus' message to those outside of Judaism. But what about 21st Century Americans? How can we begin to understand the world of the Holy Land in the first century?

In *The First Advent in Palestine*, author Kelly Nikondeha digs into what Paul Harvey would have called "the rest of the story." She examines the context in which these stories are told. The geography, economics, politics, culture, and religious traditions of the day played such important roles in the lives of the people connected to Jesus' birth. Religious tradition, a corrupt leader, an occupying power, economic hardship, and immigration to a foreign land all have a role in the life of Jesus' parents and his early years. Nikondeha's travels in the Holy Land and in-depth research add a rich and detailed backdrop for the familiar Advent and Christmas stories. She invites readers into a season of discovery, and helps us wonder anew at the goodness of God's grace in sending Jesus to a troubled and hurting world.

Advent is a perfect time to read this book, available on the United Women in Faith's bookshelf in the Family Life Center.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
Dixie Jacky

Many of you know I just had the amazing opportunity to visit Zimbabwe and South Africa. Wow, wow, and wow again! You're welcome to ask me about it, but you may hear more than you bargained for.

While in Zimbabwe, we had the opportunity to spend time at a homestead (village) of a local family and hear of their struggles. We also shared a meal with a beautiful family, learning their culture, foods, and hopes and dreams for their children. Zimbabwe is desperately trying to recover from an under-reported genocide, extreme unemployment, and lack of educational opportunities. We also visited a school, where only children who pay $75/year get to attend. If your income is $50-$100/month, how can you send your kids to school?

As soon as I got home, I grabbed the "Love in Action" maps from my Response Magazine to see what United Women in Faith are doing in that country. It turns out, a bunch! Following are four projects that our Pledge to Mission supports. In addition, 13 women received scholarships to attend colleges and universities in Africa.

- **Babyfold at Old Mutare Fairfield Children's Home:** Support for operations and programming.
- **Environmental Buddies:** Support to promote alternate energy sources and education; support a just transition towards sustainability and reduced deforestation.
- **Lydia Chimonyo Girls' High School:** Support for operations and programming.
- **Ministry with Women, Children, and Youth-Zimbabwe Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church:** Support to train women in baking and starting their own business; support for the work of the women's desk coordinator and her participation on the Country Team.

These are just four of about 100 international mission institutions UWFaith supports, in 38 different countries. They all need our continued support, and I recommend our Unit increases its Pledge to Mission for the coming year.

Thank you all for supporting our pledge with your personal pledges, your giving to Mirror Image, buying at NU2U, and offerings at our unit meetings.

Souper Saturday Bazaar

Join us on Saturday, November 7th from 10am to 2pm in the FLC for soup, crafts, and a silent auction at our annual bazaar! The silent auction closes at 1pm. It's not too late for donations!

November 4th – Please deliver items for sale or silent auction.*
November 6th – Please deliver any baked goods and pies to the church.
November 7th, 8 - 9am – Making soup? Drop it off in the FLC kitchen please!**

*Unsold items will be donated to Nu2U if not picked up by 3pm on November 7th.
**Crock pot liners will be available in the church kitchen starting Sunday, Nov 1st.



Church of the Warm Heart

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

