



Meridian United Methodist
Church of the
Warm Heart



FOOTPRINTS

December 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

December 2025

Traditions of Christmas

11.30.2025

The 12 Days of Christmas

Psalm 91:1-3; Psalm 96; 1-3, 11-13

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12.07.2025

The Nativity

Exod 20:4-6; Gen 12:6-7; Matt 2:6-7

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12.14.2025

1st Service – Handel's Messiah

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

2nd Service – Children's Musical

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12.21.2025

1st Service – Choir Cantata

2nd Service – Handel's Messiah

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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12.28.2025

Guest Preacher: Laurie Hynson

HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS

Be sure to join us for these special events,
held each Wednesday evening of Advent.



Hanging of the Greens

December 3, 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us as we decorate the Sanctuary for
Advent! We'll have everything ready to go;
we just need some helping hands
to hang the décor and greens!

Warm Heart Movie Night!

December 10 – 6 p.m. in the FLC

Bring a blanket or lawn chair
to watch "Klaus" in the FLC!
We'll bring the popcorn and pizza!



Blue Christmas

December 17 – 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

In the darkest time of the year, we acknowledge
that the Advent season may bring grief and
sadness. This service gives sacred space to
these feelings and offers healing and hope.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24 – 5, 7, and 11 p.m. in the Sanctuary

And of course, don't forget to join us on Christmas Eve for our
annual candle lighting services at 5, 7, and 11 p.m. (fear not, you
don't have to come to all three).

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

On Sunday, December 28, we will offer just one morning service at
10 a.m. There will be no Sunday School during this service, but
activity bags will be available for children.

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

November

NEW MEMBERS:

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of...
Ronnie Merideth
Linda Sullivan

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

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

Calling All Kids (and Kids at Heart)!



Every year we feature drawings from our Warm Heart Kids on our Christmas Eve bulletins! Grab a submission form in the Narthex and drop off completed drawings in the church office. Adults are welcome to participate too!

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS

Dear Warm Heart Friends and Family:

Every time I read the Nativity story, I am amazed at how the most notable story in the history of the world is filled with nobodies. Not heroes or warriors, not leaders or the rich, nor folk that anyone thought were special. Folks that history would not have remembered except for their connection to a baby in a manger.

Quick story: In 1809, the world was watching with bated breath as Napoleon conquered the nation of Austria. Cities, villages, and hamlets fell into his grip and the world wondered if he could be stopped. While the mad little Emperor was battling his way around Europe, thousands of babies entered the world as well. But people didn't care about the babies; they were too occupied with battles. Of course, history has a way of clarifying things for us. While war waged in 1809, England witnessed the births of William Gladstone and Alfred Lord Tennyson. Germany greeted a baby named Felix Mendelssohn. America welcomed Edgar Allen Poe, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles Darwin, and Robert Charles Winthrop; and in the cabin of an extremely poor family in Kentucky, a little baby by the name of Abraham Lincoln took his first breaths. Now, nearly two hundred years later, no one but historians can name even one of the battles Napoleon fought in 1809. Now, no one even really cares. But each of the little babies I named came into this world as a nobody and grew to leave his mark on the world. And they continue to make an impact today. You never know what God will do with the unknown people around you!

If you think that God can't use you to make a difference in the world, think about this: There might be moments when you can't see the beauty that is inside you and you think that no one else can see anything worthwhile in you, either. But you have a God who can not only see the beauty within, but also loves you more than you can fathom. And he wants to use you to make a difference in this world! And the people of God said, "Amen!"



The Conference is looking for a few good women and men! You may be aware that our church has committees and leaders that help lead our church. But did you know that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference also has need for laity in our 150-church Conference? Each of the committees have a mix of clergy and laity in their membership. Some examples include:

- Board of Ordained Ministry
- Board of Pensions
- Camp and Retreat Ministries
- Disaster Preparedness and Response Team
- Council On Finance And Administration
- Board of Trustees
- Sage District Church Extension Society
- Sage Board of Church Location and Building

For more information about these teams, ask me, or look online at www.umi.org



On behalf of the staff, thank you for the cards and tokens of appreciation recently given when the SPPRC recognized the staff. It is our pleasure and honor to serve the good people of Meridian United Methodist Church. Your thoughtfulness was very kind.

See you on Sunday,

Pastor Mike
pastormike@meridianumc.com

P.S. I'd love it if you would join me for some Christmas caroling at the 8th Annual Interfaith Drive-thru Food Drive. It will be held in the parking lot of Vertical View Gym on Sunday, December 7, and I'll be leading carols from 2 - 3 p.m. Let's spread some Christmas cheer!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRIES

December is a fun (and exhausting) time to be a parent. Kids see magic everywhere with Christmas and winter break on the horizon! While we might have our moments of holiday meltdown, my prayer for all of us parents this month is that we will be able to breathe and get big glimpses of the fun through our kids' eyes.

CHILDREN

Bible Builders is on hold while the church has special events every Wednesday during Advent. This group will reconvene on January 7 when school is back in session.

Parents AFTERNOON Out will be held on Saturday, December 13. Drop your kids off for a pizza lunch, playtime, and a variety of Christmas crafts. The kids will even have a chance to make and wrap small gifts for their parents and grandparents!

Christmas Program Rehearsals
Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 7, 12:15 p.m.

Parents Night Afternoon Out
Saturday, December 13, 11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Christmas Program Performance
Sunday, December 14, 11:15 a.m. worship service
(please arrive at 11:00 a.m.)



**Bible Builders
Memories**

With joy,

Nicole Walker
family@meridianumc.com



YOUTH

This year we have two main youth group holiday events. First, kick off the seasonal fun at our annual Mac and Cheese Christmas party! Then take some time out of your schedule to deliver the Veterans Foot Locker Drive donations to the Idaho State Veterans Home. If you're able to attend both of these events, you'll get a nice mix of receiving gifts and giving to others. Of course I hope to see you at some of the Advent Wednesday events, too!

Mac and Cheese Christmas Party
Sunday, December 7, 5:30—8:00 p.m.
FLC and Youth Room

Lunch and VFLD Drop-Off
Sunday, December 14, 11:30 a.m.
meet in the FLC, lunch at Dairy Queen, drop-off at the Idaho State Veterans Home



Turkey Olympics Madness



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

*Give thanks to the God of heaven
His love endures forever.
- Psalm 136:26*

As we step into this season, we're reminded of one of the simplest yet most powerful practices in our faith: thankfulness. Scripture often encourages us to give thanks. "November is the month to be thankful," I thought as I contemplated what to write for this month's newsletter. "But it's December, so I should think of something else to write about!"

"Why?" God whispered to me: "Lisa, we should be thankful and grateful all year long."

This year's Turkey Box Drive was an enormous success thanks to all of you. We sure are the Church of the Warm Heart! We were able to feed hundreds of families a holiday meal. I want to give a huge shout out to Carla Carlson, Charlie Bidondo, Cassie and Brian Collins and Dave Miller for all your help with this project. I'm surely thankful and blessed! I've included some photos of our Warm Heart family pitching in to load up all the boxes. Great work, team!

Blessings and good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com

I'm Thankful For...

I'm continually impressed by all the ways our church provides for our community's needs, which is never more evident than during the holiday season. But I want to take a moment to say an extra special thank you to our United Women in Faith and our Quilters, who show up for our community again and again all year long by giving to organizations like...

- Boise Choristers (scholarships)
- Boise Rescue Mission (money and quilts)
- Cardinal School/Salvation Army (money and quilts)
- Chrysalis House (money, toiletries, and quilts)
- Days for Girls (money and hygiene kits)
- Ada County Sheriff's Dept. (clothing for transitions)
- Jesse's Tree
- Minidoka Resettlement Project
- Veterans Wives (quilts)
- Veterans (quilts)
- Interfaith Sanctuary (quilts)
- Linus Project (baby quilts)
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace/Beds for Kids (quilts)
- Idaho Youth Ranch (quilts)
- Grace Assisted Senior Living (quilts)
- Story Link (books)

I'm so grateful for all that they do!

**Loading up the
Thanksgiving Food
Boxes is an all-church
job! Both big and little
hands can help out.**



Warm Heart Quilters' work in action!



MINISTRIES & NEWS

MUSIC MINISTRY

I wish I could highlight all the musical offerings this Advent, but there is simply not enough space here to do so. I hope that you will be blessed by all the pieces shared this month, but I will use this opportunity to emphasize our two Christmas “programs” in the coming weeks.

The Angels Alive Children’s Choir will present *Twas the Night Before Christmas* at the 11:15 a.m. service on December 14. This little pageant includes skits, Scripture, and songs. Come cheer on our kids on as they share the message of Christmas!

It’s Cantata time! The Celebration Choir will be offering *Forever God is With Us* by Marty Parks on Sunday, December 21, at the 9:30 a.m. service. The Christmas Cantata is one of the true highlights of the choir season and we’re so excited to share it with you.

And of course, be sure to join us on Christmas Eve for our candlelight services (at 5, 7, and 11 p.m.)!

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com

FINANCIAL NEWS

Hard to believe that I am writing an article for December 2025. It seems that it was just yesterday that I was ecstatic over our great giving in December 2024 to finish the year with a surplus of \$102,828. It will take another Herculean effort if we are to finish in the black in 2025. You all know what a sports fan I am, so you can understand when I state that we are in the bottom of the ninth, at the 2:00 minute warning, or the seventh game of the NBA finals. There is no tomorrow. It is crunch time. All you have to do is look at the figures to the right to see how dire our plight is. I went back and looked at the last three years of financial reporting and offer the following as we close out October. In 2023, we were behind \$65,115 and in 2024 we were behind \$62,116. Great finishes in those two years allowed us to see a positive outcome. Will the same thing happen in 2025?

For General Operations:	Oct 2025	Year to Date 2025
Given	\$45,672	\$544,108
Need	\$62,303	\$608,520
Outcome	(\$17,231)	(\$64,412)

I would be remiss if I failed to thank and offer praise for the congregation of the Church of the Warm Heart. You have heard me pleading to not be behind in the fourth quarter and having to really step up in December. It seems that we always find ourselves in the same situation, but we find ways to overcome the odds and finish strong. In the past we have used different methods to stimulate extra giving. We have tried mass mailings which were successful. Last year we had two church members who pledged \$5,000 each in the form of a matching grant for those who would donate above their normal giving. We received more than \$21,000 which went a long way toward our great finish. Two weeks ago, a generous member pledged \$10,000 in the same matching format. I anxiously await the results of this year's match.

I have no earth-shattering solutions or life-changing ideas that would land me in the fund-raising Hall of Fame. I can state that every idea has been tried or explored. If an idea works, then it is tried again. Failures are forgotten. The match idea was a success, so it was used again. I am a firm believer that in an ecumenical setting the methods are different. Faithful parishioners are used to asking God for divine intervention through prayer to meet a variety of goals including financial needs.

So, here are some things that will help us this December. Make a gift and mark it as a match. Pray with your family about extra gifts above your normal tithe. If you are required to make a minimum distribution to meet a tax obligation, one way is to designate your contribution to our church. There are favorable tax consequences. Check with an attorney or a tax expert.

Please have a very Merry Christmas, drive safely if you are traveling, don't overeat, and please continue to pray. Pray about our church finances, and pray for our staff, our elected officials and those who have special needs during the holiday season. Oops, I almost forgot. Pray for those committees and individuals who are responsible for our church budget as those deliberations are underway!

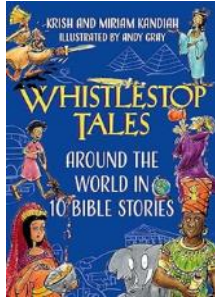
May God continue to bless the Church of the Warm Heart.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

THE BOOK NOOK

Claudia Moberly

December has rolled around again, and once again I have some wonderful books to recommend for younger readers.



First is a biography of Florence Price. “Who is Florence Price?” I hear you ask. The middle school students of the Special Music School at Kaufman Music Center set out to answer that question in their aptly titled book, *Who Is Florence Price?* Born in 1887 in Little Rock, Arkansas, Florence was a girl who loved music, and loved listening to her mother play the piano. An excellent academic student, who also studied famous European composers, Florence’s fingers, mind and heart were filled with music. She began to wonder if a girl from Arkansas could ever have HER music heard around the world. A busy life as a mother and teacher made it hard for her to find the time to write the music that filled her head, but she kept trying. She wrote at night, she wrote in every spare minute she could find, and she wrote while resting from a broken foot. Though her music was nearly lost to the public, this book explains how that was avoided, and how Florence Price is now known throughout the world.

Next up is *Whistlestop Tales: Around the World in 10 Bible Stories*, by Krish and Miriam Kandiah. The stories illustrate the wide variety of people God has used to accomplish the grand redemption story, including an Iranian queen, a Syrian spy, an Italian soldier, and a Greek business woman, among others. Each story begins with a closer look at the modern country where these people lived. The book is written for middle-grade children in modern language, with humor, illustrations, and Biblical citations so kids can easily go to their Bibles to read the stories as originally recorded.

A third option is for younger readers. Several years ago, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu collaborated on a book called *The Book of Joy*. To the delight of everyone who loves picture books (and who doesn’t), these two beloved spiritual leaders also created a children’s book to share their message of love and peace. *The Little Book of Joy* teaches us that though we cannot control the circumstances of our lives, joy is found all around us when we look for it. Illustrator Rafael López’s colorful illustrations capture the joy of simple pleasures, and the profound friendship of two kindred spirits. Their message to young and old alike is that joy is possible and meant to be shared wherever and whoever you are.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Dixie Jacky, UWF President

A reflection from Jamie Lejeune, Order of Deaconess & Home Missioner, Court St. UMC, Hattiesburg, MI:

A young adult in her mid-twenties entered our church for the first time. I greeted and welcomed her and the two women accompanying her. The young woman told me her name and then stated, “I need to ask you some questions before we come into your church.”

The young woman rapid-fired the following questions: “1) Do y’all have and let people of different colors come and be at church? 2) Do y’all let people of different families come and be at church—you see I have two mommas. 3) Do y’all let people with disabilities come and be at church—because I have an intellectual disability and I like people to treat me like everybody else.”

I answered, “Yes, all colors, all families, and all people with and without disabilities are welcome to come and be at church.” The young woman smiled broadly, shook my hand, and replied, “Good, then we will come in.” I could not help the growing happiness in my soul. This young woman’s wisdom and desire to live boldly, voicing and standing up for her beliefs filled my heart and mind with hope, joy, and a reminder of Jesus’s standards to live by: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. {Generations of Grace, Daily Prayer Guide 2025}



Please join us for our annual Christmas party and luncheon on Saturday, December 6, at 11 a.m. in the FLC. We will once again be welcoming the Boise Choristers and enjoying their wonderful and entertaining Christmas musical presentation.



The Christmas luncheon is also an opportunity for a final service project of the year. This year, if you feel so inclined, we ask that you bring women’s sanitary products and/or adult diapers for the Meridian Food Bank.

There’s still time to sign up, so call the church office to RSVP!



Please don’t forget to continue supporting our local mission project of Mirror Image. Hygiene items can be dropped off at Lisa’s office in the FLC, and cash is always welcome.

**Mirror
Image**

Make your checks to the church (not United Women in Faith) and put in the memo line: Mirror Image. There is a lot of need out there, and one or two (or more!) items each month are so helpful for all the youth we are supporting.



Church of the
Warm Heart

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

December Events to Celebrate!

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

December 3 – *Hanging of the Greens* (6 p.m., Sanctuary)
December 6 – *UW Faith Luncheon* (11 a.m., FLC)
December 7 – *Christmas Caroling* (2 p.m., Vertical View Gym)
December 7 – *Youth Group Christmas Party* (5:30 p.m., FLC)
December 10 – *Pizza and Movie Night* (6 p.m., FLC)
December 17 – *Blue Christmas Service* (6 p.m., Sanctuary)
December 24 – *Christmas Eve Services* (5, 7, & 11 p.m.)
December 25 – *Merry Christmas!*
December 28 – *10 a.m. service only*

January

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Saturday,
December 27th

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