

# FOOTPRINTS

April 2022

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

April 2022

04.03.2022

**Giving Up Self-Defeating Talk**

Phil 4:4-8; Psalm 118:1; John 14:27



04.10.2022

**Giving Up Others' Expectations**

Luke 19:28-40



04.15.2022

**Good Friday**



04.17.2022

**Giving Up Fear**

Luke 24:1-12



04.24.2022

**We Are Witnesses**

John 20:19-31

## MASKS OPTIONAL

In consultation with the Church Council and Ministry Team, and following the CDC guidelines, the Warm Heart campus is now mask optional. This news will be a joy to some and concern for others - we encourage you to do what is best for you and your family. If you are more comfortable staying at home, we understand, and hope you will join us in online worship. Our prayers are that COVID numbers stay low and continue to get lower so that we do not have to return to mitigating practices.

## THANK YOU JOANN!

After many faithful years of service, JoAnn Pruett is retiring from her position as our nursery coordinator for some much deserved rest and relaxation. JoAnn has worked in our nursery long enough for some of her earliest little ones to now be helpers in the nursery! On behalf of our church family, we want to thank JoAnn for her time, energy, and love, and we wish her a very happy retirement.

## JOB OPENING

On a related note, we are on the lookout for a new nursery coordinator. Responsibilities include scheduling nursery workers, maintaining nursery facilities and supplies, and working special events. Pay negotiable. If you are interested, please contact Chuck Davis at [da8isy@hotmail.com](mailto:da8isy@hotmail.com) for more information.

## CAMP IS BACK!

The Oregon-Idaho Camp and Retreat Ministries' 2022 camping season is open for registration! An online catalog is available at [gocamping.org](http://gocamping.org). We are grateful to be offering nearly a full schedule of camps and retreats this year, including opportunities for children, adults, and family. Members of our own congregation are involved with both the Sawtooth and Wallowa Lake camps, and would surely be excited to see you! Additionally, we have scheduled our All Church Camp over Labor Day weekend—details to follow.

## GOOD FRIDAY

Be sure to join us on Friday, April 15th, at 7:00 p.m. for our Good Friday service.

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## March

### NEW MEMBERS:

Jeff & Janeale McClees  
Gerry Skiver  
Lance & Bettye Seavey  
John & Marsha Brekke  
Jim & Norma Fischer  
Ed & Jean Kaufmann  
Paul & Vickie Swanson

### DEATHS: *Please pray for the families of...*

Gerald Simantel

### BAPTISMS:

Jeff McClees



## APRIL BLOOD DRIVE

If you signed up for our blood drive on April 5th, don't forget your appointment. With your help, we have once more filled every available slot! If you weren't able to sign up, you can visit...

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

...to find more opportunities to donate!

## STAFF

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

**Adult Discipleship/Asst. Pastor** (ext. 109)  
Jennifer Hunkovic adult.ministry@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

**Youth Minister** 734-316-9517  
Nicole Walker youth@meridianumc.com

**Children's Minister** (ext. 108)  
Cassie Collins children@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

### Sound Technician

Jacob Rarick sound@meridianumc.com

### Interim Nursery Coordinator

Christine Jayne nursery@meridianumc.com

### Organist

Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com

### Facility Personnel

(ext. 110)  
Morgen McClung maintenance@meridianumc.com (M-Th)  
Don Woods dandwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Administrative Council Chair** Dean Kubena  
**Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair** Chuck Davis  
**Trustees Chair** Ron Pridmore  
**Systems Administrator** Integrity Computer Consultants  
**Finance Co-Chairs** Brian Sauer & Lori Jones  
**Treasurer** Lori Jones  
**Financial Secretary** Diane Brister  
**Futures Team Chair** Lori Jones  
**United Methodist Men President** Ed Emmel  
**United Methodist Women President** Dixie Jacky  
**Lay Chaplain Coordinator** Faye Gabriel  
**Lay Chaplains** Emma Jean Bedsole, Phyllis & Gordon Bouza,  
Don Brister, Faye Gabriel, Ruth Hayes, Gary Himes, Dixie Jacky,  
Donna Melville, Lisa Miller, Shirley O'Neal, Carole Ravine,  
Mary Rich, Carol Rounds, Eloise Stemple  
**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  
E-mail: [office@meridianumc.com](mailto:office@meridianumc.com)  
Website: [www.meridianumc.com](http://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](mailto:prayer@meridianumc.com)**

# PASTOR MIKE'S MUSINGS



"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." ~ Romans 8:28

Dear Warm Heart Family,

Eight-year-old Frank had looked forward for weeks to this particular Saturday, because his father had promised to take him fishing if the weather was suitable. There hadn't been any rain for weeks, and as Saturday approached, Frank was confident of the fishing trip. But, wouldn't you know it, when Saturday morning dawned, it was raining heavily, and it appeared that it would continue all day.

Frank wandered around the house, peering out the windows and grumbling more than a little. "Seems like the Lord would know that it would have been better to have the rain yesterday than today," he complained to his father who was sitting by the fireplace, enjoying a good book. His father tried to explain to Frank how badly the rain was needed, how it would make the flowers grow and bring much needed moisture to the farmers' crops. But Frank was adamant. "It just isn't right," he said over and over.

Then, about three o'clock, the rain stopped. There was still time for some fishing, and quickly the gear was loaded and they were off to the lake. Whether it was the rain or some other reason, the fish were biting hungrily, and father and son returned with a full string of fine, big fish.

At supper, when some of the fish were ready, Frank's mom asked him to say grace. Frank did, and concluded his prayer by saying, "And, Lord, if I sounded grumpy earlier today it was because I couldn't see far enough ahead."

I don't know about you, but much of my grumbling and complaining is about not knowing the future, not knowing how things are going to work out. If troubles are causing you to be discouraged, take comfort and know that with the Lord, all things are possible, and nothing shall be kept from those whose heart is perfect towards the Lord. Remember to trust the Lord in everything and know that it is God's good pleasure to fill you with joy that overflows and peace that surpasses all understanding. Even if we can't see where the path leads...

Peace,

Pastor Mike



P.S. Our Warm Hearted Quilters brought me over 100 quilts to bless in March! They are all being donated: to Project Linus (for children in need), the Chrysalis Home for girls, the Interfaith Sanctuary for the homeless, and the Salvation Army Booth Maternity homes. What a wonderful ministry from our church!

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Spring Greetings Families!

It is so nice to witness flowers blooming, the weather warming up, and God's glorious greenery emerging everywhere! April is an exciting month for the Children's ministry.

On Palm Sunday, the Angels Alive Choir will perform at both services. Then we will have our Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration for all kids through fifth grade on Saturday, April 16 at 9:30 a.m. On Easter, kids will be in worship with their families where they will get to hear all the beautiful Easter music and of course will have fun goodie bags and a special Children's bulletin just for them. There will also be special Sunday school lessons the first two Sundays in April to teach the kids about God's greatest gift to us: Jesus and His sacrifice! Finally, we will be giving out Bibles to our third graders on Sunday, April 24th. If you know of a third grader who would like to receive a Bible, please send an email to me at [children@meridianumc.com](mailto:children@meridianumc.com). This will be followed with a four-week class where kids will learn how to read, understand, and use the greatest book ever written.

Mark your calendars: All Church Camp is back! Due to scheduling conflicts, our camp reservations are over Labor Day weekend. If you haven't made plans yet, I'll hope you'll join us at the beautiful Pilgrim's Cove Camp right on Payette Lake in McCall. More information will be coming, but please let me know if you think you'll be able to attend.

I hope you and your family will be able to enjoy all the wonderful things the Church of the Warm Heart has to offer your kiddos this month!

In His Service,

Cassie Collins  
[children@meridianumc.com](mailto:children@meridianumc.com)

### APRIL EVENTS

#### WEDNESDAYS

Pioneer Club & Angels Alive Choir  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY 4/8

Parent's Night Out  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY 4/24

Third Grade Bible Presentation  
First Service

#### SUNDAYS 4/24 - 5/15

Third Grade Bible Study & Lunch  
12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

Does the warmer weather have you hop-stepping down the sidewalk? Do the longer days make your heart sing? I routinely feel a sense of renewed hope and joy as the spring comes on, and I love that this often coincides with Easter, the purest reason for our hope and joy. I pray you will experience many light-hearted moments this month, and I hope that some of them will be in the company of your youth group!

**Middle School Youth Group** and the Rolling Tones Chime Choir will meet every Wednesday evening through April.  
Chime Choir: 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
MS Youth Group: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the FLC

**High School Youth Group** will meet at the Collins' house for the final night of our book study and take a weekend off for Easter. So that's three meetings in April, all from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

April 3: Book Study at the Collins' home  
April 10: Easter-y Things in the FLC  
April 24: Mental Health Night in the FLC

Let's make some more memories!

With joy,

Nicole Walker  
[youth@meridianumc.com](mailto:youth@meridianumc.com)



Pictionary and giant card games!

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

National Volunteer Week is April 17-23. We want to celebrate your service. We appreciate you and we could not be the CHURCH of THE WARM HEART without you. All of our amazing volunteers are a huge blessing to us. Thank you for all you do! We appreciate each one of you. You have given hours and hours of your time to record music and help with online worship during COVID times. You have donated to Good Sam and made a difference to our local teens by contributing items and funds for Mirror Image. You have blessed our church in so many ways.



Volunteering helps people find their purpose and their passion. When each of us listens to that whisper, we make a difference, and we all have something to give. We have many opportunities for you to use your passion and skills to help the church and others. I would love to visit and explore ideas on where you could volunteer and get connected. Maybe with the kiddos or helping with coffee hour? We have a place for you. Who knows? You may even meet some new friends. Please contact Lisa Miller if you would like to volunteer.

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller  
[care@meridianumc.com](mailto:care@meridianumc.com)

## LADIES NIGHT OUT

Paint Night is back and it is so much fun! Don't miss out. Please join us for paint night on Friday, April 8, 6:00 p.m. at the Angry Easel in Meridian. The cost is \$15.00. Please RSVP to Lisa Miller by April 6.



## ADULT MINISTRIES

“ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

- Matthew 22:37-40

Greetings Church Family!

And happy spring! It feels like God is doing new and wonderful things in the life of our church. I've seen a lot of new faces, and it is really exciting to be able to get back to some of our favorite traditions like coffee hour and greeting one another during our worship services. We are planning events, starting new groups, and welcoming new members! God is good! I'm reminded of our Methodist roots and the idea of social holiness. John Wesley believed that there was no holiness but social holiness. In other words, we are a community and we belong to one another. To love our neighbors as Jesus taught, we must connect with one another. That's been quite a challenge during the pandemic, but I believe our church rose to the occasion while we were closed and we will continue to rise to the occasion now that we are gathering together!

This is a season of resurrection and rebirth. This is the season to try something new. If you haven't been involved in a group, there's no better time to get involved than now. Currently, we have the following groups in our church:

- After Alpha
- Card Makers
- Merry Methodists (M&M's)
- Warm Hearted Quilters
- James Boys
- Ladies Study Group
- Tuesday Bible Study Group
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study Group
- Women United in Faith
- United Methodist Men
- Games/Social Group

We are in the process of updating our "Warm Heart Groups and Studies" communication board in the FLC. Please visit the board during coffee hour—and if you would like more information about how to get involved in a group or if you would like to start a new group, please contact Pastor Jen.

Blessings,

Pastor Jen  
[adult.ministry@meridianumc.com](mailto:adult.ministry@meridianumc.com)

# NEWS & MORE

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**The Warm Heart Worship Team** is under construction after the departure of our former leader, Brian Palmer. We are looking for additional musicians to join this ministry. Specifically, we are looking to add a bass player and/or a guitar player (electric or acoustic)—someone with a heart for worship—to join our instrumental team. But that’s not all! Do you enjoy singing contemporary worship songs? We would love to expand our pool of singers to include you! If you are interested in obtaining more information, contact Debbie Jones.

### Music Opportunities for Children and Youth:

**The Rolling Tones Chime Choir** will be offering a musical piece for Sunday, April 3, at the 9:30 a.m. service. This group welcomes any youth, grades 6-12, to come ring tone chimes and make some music together. No experience necessary! Consider joining in the fun!

**Angels Alive Choir** will be ringing for Palm Sunday on April 10 at BOTH services! Any children (ages 4 – 5th grade) who are unable to join us on Wednesdays can still ring with us on Palm Sunday. Just show up 15 min prior to each service and we will get you plugged in. We will also be offering more Sunday worship music before school’s out for the summer. We rehearse at 7PM on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary.

### Music Opportunities for Adults:

Our **Celebration Choir** continues to offer musical anthems as prerecorded pieces as often as we can. We are putting small groups together to sing the hymns for in person worship or offer musical ensemble anthems. Our Palm Sunday offering will be recorded on Saturday, April 2. If this is something you would like to participate in, please contact Debbie Jones for more information. Stay posted for updates on the in-person return of our beloved Celebration Choir!

Our **Koinonia Handbell Choir** rehearses weekly and offers monthly musical pieces for our services. We are also coordinating various ensembles. Consider joining; we’d love to have you!

We are always looking for folks to share music in our worship services. If you play an instrument or would like to sing, please contact Debbie Jones to be plugged in. All are welcome!

Please contact me with any questions! Blessings,

Debbie Jones  
[worshiparts@meridianumc.com](mailto:worshiparts@meridianumc.com)

## FINANCIAL NEWS

<b>For General Operations:</b>	Feb. 2021	Year to Date 2021	February 2022 was a very good month for giving with a total offering of \$68,827. This is quite an increase from January! We are now in a positive position of \$5,056 for the year to date. Last month I said I was encouraged by the giving in January and expected some of our members to make their annual offering in February. That is exactly what has happened, and it’s put us in a good place after two months of 2022.
Given	\$68,827	\$116,119	
Need	\$56,638	\$111,063	
Outcome	\$12,189	\$5,056	

I keep talking about returning to “normal” regarding giving and expenditures. A look back through the past three years will give you a good idea of what I mean. For the first two months of 2020, we had gifts of \$122,120 with expenditures of \$126,709. In 2021, we received \$123,483 and had expenditures of \$117,003. This year we took in \$116,119 and paid out \$111,063. Notice the trend of tithes and offerings remaining about the same or less and expenditures going down. This is a result of two things: fewer givers and less expenses due to limited in-person services. How these numbers will change for the rest of 2022 is unknown. This great unknown is why budgeting is so difficult. We budgeted giving for the first two months of 2022 at \$144,885 and expenses at \$144,552. Note the difference between the budgeted and actual figures. Just because something has been approved as a budgeted item, we don’t needlessly spend! Your staff should be commended for their frugality.

There are many ways to make a gift to the Church of the Warm Heart. Please check the website for instructions to make an online gift or the correct address for old-fashioned snail mail check writing. And join me in continuing to pray about our church finances.

If you have questions regarding our church finances, please contact Lori Jones, Finance Committee Co-Chair, at [lhjones2021@gmail.com](mailto:lhjones2021@gmail.com), 208-484-6076, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chair, at [maroontycoon63@gmail.com](mailto:maroontycoon63@gmail.com), 208-871-5221.

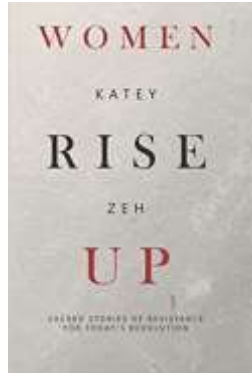
# NEWS & MORE

## THE BOOK NOOK

By Claudia Moberly

In March, we recognized International Women's Day, so it seemed appropriate to read and review a book all about women this month.

Stories from the Bible with women as the main character are rare, and if those women are named and shown in a positive light, they are even more rare. Yet, the reading, rereading, and careful study of these stories yield insights into these women's lives of long ago and meaning to us in the modern world.



Katey Zeh, divinity school graduate and gender justice advocate, digs deeply into ten such stories from the Bible in her book, *Women Rise Up*. She begins each chapter with the scripture passage, connects it to her own life, then encourages her readers to apply the story to their own lives and the lives of other women today. It is part Bible study, part memoir, and part call to social action in the spirit of these women. As she says in the introduction, the book is "an invitation to connect, commune, and converse with the foremothers of our faith." You may "meet" someone you didn't know before; even if the story is familiar, you will see details through a new lens that reveals previously unseen strengths. The women emerge as complex, fully formed people. The stories are relevant and timely.

Each chapter centers around one woman and her demonstration of resilience, adaptability, perseverance or other character trait. Rather than merely relay ancient tales from far-off lands, Zeh opens our eyes to the constancy of human nature and the power of "story" to connect people across time and cultures. These stories help us learn from the experiences of others as we grow in our own faith journeys.

This book is available on the book rack outside the kitchen in the Family Life Center. Now that we are open again for coffee hour (HOORAY!), please check out one of the many UMW Reading Program books. It is a self-checkout program, with no set due dates or library fines, and everyone is welcome to read the books.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Don't forget about our Children's Easter Egg Hunt on April 16, at 9:30 a.m. All children are welcome, and we are still accepting candy donations!

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

By Dixie Jacky, UMW President

We are now 'UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH!' I know—change is scary and hard and frustrating. I've sent out a couple of notices to the membership list, so I don't want to dwell any more than needed on this page. You can go to [www.meridianumc.com/UWFaith](http://www.meridianumc.com/UWFaith) for a detailed description of the name change, the new logo, and frequently asked questions (please note the new web address).

**United Women in Faith Book Club:** Please come join us on Thursday, April 21 for our next book discussion. You may also want to consider renting "Harriet," on Netflix or other movie service, and see how closely the movie follows the book. Join us at 12:30 p.m. for a brown bag lunch in the FLC, followed at 1 p.m. with a discussion of *She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriett Tubman*.

**United Women in Faith Spring Luncheon:** Saturday, April 30, 12:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Amelia Bloomer, early suffragist, editor, and social activist. Please wear your favorite fancy hat to support Amelia in her fight for women's right to vote. Please call the church office to reserve a place at the luncheon. Please invite your friends – it's a great day to be together for United Women In Faith.

**NU2U really needs your help.** Can you spare about 3 hours one Tuesday or one Friday a month to help in the Thrift Store? Please call Cheryl Mulvihill at [208-995-7177](tel:208-995-7177).

**FAITH TALKS** are all about transforming educational opportunities, available at United Women in Faith's website. Please go to [meridianumc.org/UWFaith](http://meridianumc.org/UWFaith) and scroll down to FAITH TALKS to access the link to register or watch one of the previously recorded programs.

**MIRROR IMAGE:** Despite the name change, United Women in Faith's ongoing mission is to show acts of love by supporting women, children, and youth. Hygiene items are needed desperately by the youth in our community. Please pick up one or more items every time you're at the store and leave them with Lisa Miller in the FLC or if you prefer, drop a monetary donation off to the church, indicating Mirror Image in the memo line.

Blessings,

Dixie Jacky  
~~UMW~~ United Women in Faith President





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

## **April Events to Celebrate!**

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

***April 10 - Palm Sunday***

***April 15 - Good Friday Service, 7 p.m.***

***April 16 - Children's Egg Hunt, 9:30 a.m.***

***April 17 - Easter Sunday***

***April 24 - Third Grade Bible Presentation***

May

NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:

**Monday,**

**April 25th**

Submissions may be  
emailed to Jacob Walker at

[cc@meridianumc.com](mailto:cc@meridianumc.com)

or brought by the  
church office.

Thank you!