

# FOOTPRINTS

August 2020

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

TRADITIONAL | 9:30 AM  
CONTEMPORARY | 11:15 AM

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY  
WORSHIP - 7 PM

## SUNDAY SERMON SERIES August 2020

8.02.2020

**The Journey:**  
**Wrestling with God**  
Genesis 32:22-31



8.09.2020

**The Journey:**  
**Overcoming Fear**  
Matthew 14:22-33



8.16.2020

**The Journey:**  
**Keeping the Faith**  
Matthew 15:21-28



8.23.2020

**The Journey:**  
**Using Our Gifts**  
Romans 12:1-8



8.30.2020

**The Journey:**  
**Sacrificial Living**  
Matthew 16:21-28

We are currently in Phase 2  
of the re-opening plan.

Reimagining Life Together - Guidelines  
for Reopening Buildings and Returning to  
In-Person Ministry from The Greater NW  
Area Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky

Linked below is a document  
titled *Reimagining Life Together*.  
It aspires to provide guidance on  
the requirements and  
recommendations for local churches  
and ministry settings to  
reopen buildings and return to in-person ministry activities during  
the COVID-19 crisis.

*Reimagining*  
**LIFE TOGETHER**

*Reimagining Life Together* is a living document subject to change  
as new information is received about the virus and the best  
practices to mitigate its spread. We will periodically update this  
document with modest changes in the interest of perfecting this  
work. Pastoral leaders will be notified if and when significant  
changes are made. In both cases, the front page of the document  
will provide information noting the date of the latest revision.  
You should find new iterations at this same link.

Click on the link below or type web address into your browser.

[View Guidelines →](#)

<https://greaternw.org/reimagining-life-together/>



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## July

**NEW MEMBERS:** *Welcome!*

**DEATHS:**  
*Please pray for the families of:*  
Joan Garey

**BAPTISMS:**

### TRADITIONAL WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Worship Leaders</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>
	1st Service Ruth Hayes 208-297-2379	Walter Thornton 208-629-7348	Nicole Walker 734-316-9517	Sharon Allison 208-888-2245
Aug 2				
Aug 9				
Aug 16				
Aug 23				
Aug 30				

## STAFF

- Senior Pastor** (ext. 104)  
Rev. John Mars pastorjohn@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  
Brian Palmer - Worship Team Leader
- Minister of Youth** 734-316-9517  
Nicole Walker youth@meridianumc.com
- Minister of Children** (ext. 108)  
Sharon Allison children@meridianumc.com
- Office Manager** (ext. 102)  
Denise McClung office@meridianumc.com
- Receptionist** (ext. 101)  
Lucinda Dyer receptionist@meridianumc.com
- Communications Coordinator** (ext. 103)  
Elaine Carlson cc@meridianumc.com
- Bookkeeper**  
Maria Akers bookkeeper@meridianumc.com
- Nursery Coordinator**  
JoAnn Pruettt nursery@meridianumc.com
- Organist**  
Kristine Ciulla organist@meridianumc.com
- Facility Personnel** (ext. 110)  
Mike Dalton maintenance@meridianumc.com (M-Th)  
Don Woods dandwoods@gmail.com (F - Sun)
- Systems Admin/Live Stream Coordinator**  
Dan Pruettt Dan@meridianumc.com 208-890-3384

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- Administrative Council Chair** David Ray
- Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair** Jaci Hommel
- Trustees Chair** Bill Ball
- Systems Administrator** Dan Pruettt
- Finance Co-Chairs** Brian Sauer & Lori Jones
- Treasurer** Lori Jones
- Financial Secretary** Diane Brister
- Futures Team Chair** Sam Pile
- 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, Artie & Ruth Ann Hutson, Dixie Jacky, Jeannine Mars, 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: [meridianumc.com](http://meridianumc.com)  
 Facebook: [Meridian United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianUnitedMethodistChurch)

#### Office Hours: For August

Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 To contact Pastor John: 208-895-9855

**Prayer & Praise Requests - [prayer@meridianumc.com](mailto:prayer@meridianumc.com)**

# A Message from Mars

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

--John 16:33 (New International Version)

I begin with a disclaimer: This article will get better after the first few paragraphs. Please read to the end!

Here are the facts: With the numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations increasing across our country, the discussion of when churches will gather again for in-person worship is shifting dramatically. Pastor Andy Stanley, leader of a megachurch in Atlanta, recently announced that his congregation will not meet in person until at least 2021. He is not alone; as of mid-July, 5 percent of pastors said they do not plan to reopen this year. With in-person worship providing a seemingly perfect environment for coronavirus spread, other church leaders are also announcing delays of at least a few more months.

While I am praying that we can worship together in September, I am now planning online worship services for each week until the beginning of Advent on November 29. After that, we will see; it will depend on whether we can meet safely. I share this information because so many of you are anxious about an immediate return to getting together. You keep asking, "Is it next week? Is it two weeks from now?" I want to stop that refrain. As Andy Stanley said, while we cannot offer certainty, we can offer clarity. Short of a public health miracle, we will not resume in-person worship anytime soon.

We are finding our way in a new normal. While no seminary class or life lesson so far was specifically designated as pandemic training, I have a clear view of my role during this crisis. I am called to:

- Provide competent leadership.
- Remain a calming and encouraging force.
- Serve as a voice of reason and encouragement.
- Set an example by doing the right things.
- Keep our team focused on God and moving in a positive direction.

When we can *safely* meet for in-person worship, we will. Until then, we remain united in spirit even as we are separated physically. We also remain committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (Have you invited someone to come to worship services lately? It is easy for you to reach out to someone in need of encouragement! Just share that our services are available at [www.meridianumc.com](http://www.meridianumc.com), on our Facebook page, and on YouTube – and can be viewed at any time.)

As we embrace our new normal, a prayer from the March/April issue of the United Methodist Women's *RESPONSE* magazine is appropriate:

Present God,  
When the water is muddy and its direction unclear, help us remember that mud and movement bring new life to new places.  
And when that mud and movement feel like a swirling mess, remind us that it may be your stirrings.  
Ground us in you, guiding God. Let our work be good for our church and our church be good for your world.

Grace and Peace and Wisdom and Calm and Hope,

Pastor John

# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Happy August!

Praying for a safe, healthy summer for you and your family.

This month I am working on "Essentials". What is essential to our kids? What is essential to our ministry? Well, the most important thing is safety. Safety for our kids and for their future is what God is pressing on my heart. How can the church keep these kids from getting sick? First, we will not have Sunday School or any activities until we know it's safe. I know it is hard and so many of us want to get back to church, but if we don't do what God asks us to do, we are jeopardizing the welfare of our children. It is a promise I make and stand for. Second, God asks me to spread the Word and teach. How do I do that?? Well, we fortunately live in a world full of technology and abundance of resources. I will continue to serve the Warm Heart Kids with lesson plans, Zoom meetings, FaceTime, emails, calls, and little surprises. I promise to spread the Word and make that an essential part of this ministry. Third, loving these kids is so important and I want them to know and feel love. They need to know they matter and just because we are not meeting in person, they are so vital to our church. They are cared for, prayed for, missed, and loved so much.

As we continue this journey through uncharted territory, know this: We are the church, we are God's people, we stand for safety, spreading the Word, and for loving all....

Until next time,

Sharon Allison  
[children@meridinaumc.com](mailto:children@meridinaumc.com)



## 3 Venues for viewing Sunday Service

We invite you to worship with us online. Our services are livestreamed at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. They are also posted on our [website](http://www.meridianaumc.com), [www.meridianaumc.com](#), our [Facebook](#) page, Meridian United Methodist Church, and [YouTube](#) to allow you to worship at your convenience. While our building is closed to keep people safe, the Church of the Warm Heart is alive and well!



MERIDIAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE WARM HEART

Everyone is Welcome at the Church of the Warm Heart!

We invite you to worship with us online. Our services are broadcast at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. All sermons are also posted here on our Website, our Facebook page, and on YouTube, allowing you to worship at your convenience. While our building is closed to keep people safe, the Church of the Warm Heart is alive and well!

Please join us each Sunday for online Services - just click on the link below:  
<https://www.meridianaumc.com/sermons>

Click Here to Give Your Gifts Online!  
\*To check out our new "All Church Musical Video" - Click here!

HOME ABOUT MEMBERSHIP EVENTS CONTACT

JOIN US  
Sunday Services are broadcast at 9:30  
Click here!

Church Calendar & Up Coming Events!

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

*"I pray that out of his glorious riches [God] may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19 and my favorite prayer for the youth)*

What does a youth minister do when she can't get the youth together in person? That's a great question. I have been doing my best to stay connected to the kids individually through phone calls, texts, and cards. I also create online spaces for us to gather together, laugh, and talk. I encourage us all to stay in love with Jesus and to look for ways: we can share his love with others – including the people we're stuck with day in and day out! Connection is at the heart of youth ministry and at the heart of Christianity; ours is a relational faith. We need one another to spur us on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).

Our summer youth group "gatherings" have been primarily about fellowship and crazy games, but as I grapple with the probability of being online well into the new school year, I've begun looking into Bible study resources we can use to get into the Scripture together and strengthen our faith. Please continue to pray for our youth, their families, and me as we continue to navigate this "new world" and strive to be authentic and relational along the way.

With the joy of the Lord,  
Nicole Walker  
[youth@meridianaumc.com](mailto:youth@meridianaumc.com)



# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

“Be a Light”

Galatians 6:9 “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”.

I miss you! I know that you miss each other because I hear it often when I call. The conversation goes like this: How is \_\_\_ doing? I would encourage you to call or send a card. Be a light! We are relational people and we need each other. Our world looks very different right now from the way it did just six months ago. We cannot interact the same way. But I know that the couple that sits down the pew from you, the family that has the kids that walk by your table as they get cookies, the lady that you chat with at Bible Study, are on your mind. God puts people, situations, and ideas on our hearts. We just need to hear the Holy Spirit and be a light. I am here to talk as well. If you see a number that starts with 912 from Georgia pop up on your phone, it's me! This song, “Be a Light “ (see link below) has been speaking to me. I hope the words inspire you to Be a Light in someone's day.

<https://youtu.be/8YuWAZmD0aU>



Blessings & good health,

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

## ADULT MINISTRIES

Greetings, Church!!

I pray that you are doing well and have been able to take some time to slow down, relax and enjoy some simple joys this summer. I pray that you've been aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit and have been able to experience a sense of peace, calm and discernment despite the unrest in our world. I pray that we will continue to lean in, listen and respond to God's call for us and that God will continue to use us to build one another up in love, compassion and mercy.

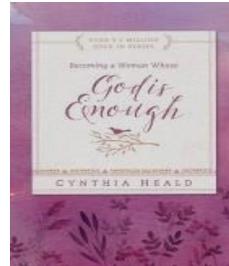
Grace and Peace,

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



I welcome you to join one of our online studies/groups:

The ladies group will start a new study of the book, “Becoming a Woman Whose God is Enough” by Cynthia Heald. This is an 11 week study that will begin on Monday, August 3, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.



The Tuesday Night Bible Study group will begin a study of the Gospel of Mark on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

We are in the process of planning a men's group that will start in the near future. So be on the lookout for details.

We will also continue to meet on Zoom for Coffee Fellowship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. right after our live stream service. Hope to see you there!!

If you are interested any of these opportunities, email Jen Hunkovic at [adult.ministry@meridianumc.com](mailto:adult.ministry@meridianumc.com).

## Cloth Face Masks Available

If you would like a cloth face mask, please **email your request and mailing address** to [CommunityGrace@meridianumc.com](mailto:CommunityGrace@meridianumc.com).

The face masks will be mailed to you and are available on a first come, first serve basis. One mask per person, please.

We thank the quilters for their hard work and for the masks they have donated to the church. They have made and donated over 350 masks!

Thank you, Quilters, for using your talents to be the hands of Christ. This is how we love our neighbors!



# MINISTRIES & NEWS

## FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	June 2020	Year-to-Date
Given	\$44,724	\$314,151
Need	\$61,149	\$365,708
Outcome	-\$16,425	-\$51,557

I feel somewhat like I am writing a script for a remake of the movie Groundhog Day. The same thing is happening once again. We continue to maintain steady giving levels and our expenses continue to go down, but we are still in a negative position. After six months of this year we are down \$51,557 which compares very favorably to 2019 when we were in the red over \$79,000 at the same time. Our giving was down slightly from last month and our expenses were up higher by a small amount which explains the shortfall. As I said last month even though we are not meeting we are still finding the will and the means to give to the Church of the Warm Heart.

The improvements to the sanctuary continue, slowly but steadily. It will be a joyous day for all of us when we can once again greet one another as we worship and enjoy our renovated space. I have no idea when that will be a reality, but until then, I encourage you to worship with us online. And I will say it again: "Keep those tithes and offerings coming."

To make a gift online, please visit [meridianumc.com](http://meridianumc.com), click the banner for GIVING and follow the prompts. You may also mail your check to the church office at 235 E. Pine Ave., Meridian, ID, 83642. If you normally give cash, please consider dropping a check in the mail or look at our online giving options.

If you have questions regarding our church finances, please contact Lori Jones, Finance Committee Co-Chair, at [ljones1234@cablone.net](mailto:ljones1234@cablone.net), 208-484-6076, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chairman, at [aggiedon@cablone.net](mailto:aggiedon@cablone.net), 208-871-5221.

Report by Don Brister, Stewardship Chair



## MUSIC MINISTRY

The Worship Arts department is hard at work providing the best possible worship experiences during this trying time. If you can lead the Affirmation of Faith, read Scripture, would like to participate in an all church video (like "Jesus Messiah" on July 5) or have a musical offering, please contact Debbie Jones at: [worshiparts@meridianumc.com](mailto:worshiparts@meridianumc.com). We cannot do this without the help of our generous church family!

A HUGE THANK YOU to the Media Team which is working many hours a week to provide the best video and audio possible in our services. They are: Dan Pruett, Thom Juul, Ian Perry, Alex Clark, Jacob & Nicole Walker, Denise McClung, Jack Akers and Charlie Jones. We are blessed beyond measure to have these folks on our team and a part of our church family. Is this something YOU would like to be a part of? Offer your tech skills? We'd LOVE to have YOU join us! Email Debbie at: [worshiparts@meridianumc.com](mailto:worshiparts@meridianumc.com) to help.

Blessings,

Debbie Jones  
Minister of Worship Arts  
[worshiparts@meridianumc.com](mailto:worshiparts@meridianumc.com)



# NEWS & MORE

## Job Opportunity

Title: Sound Technician

### Position Description

Produce the best possible atmosphere for worship through sound reinforcement. Ultimately, glorify God through providing excellent audio services.

### Essential Job Functions

#### Main Position Duties

- Manage audio volume and sound quality at worship services and events
- Set up and take down equipment/microphones
- Use the sound mixing board to mix and edit music, voices, and sound effects
- Work closely with the Sunday video crew to provide live audio feed to broadcasts
- Train and supervise technician alternates/backups
- Work with Worship Arts staff and leader in both planning and execution of services/events

### Qualifications / Education / Experience

- Working knowledge of digital soundboards and preferably a Midas M32 digital mixing console
- Basic knowledge of live sound equipment to include mixing consoles, amplifiers, microphones, and associated cabling
- Knowledge of music: vocal and instrumental
- Ability to communicate effectively with adults and volunteers
- Experience working creatively to trouble shoot potential problems

### Pay

Determined on experience

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and references with telephone numbers to [office@meridianumc.com](mailto:office@meridianumc.com).

For more information, and a complete Job Description, please e-mail [office@meridianumc.com](mailto:office@meridianumc.com) or contact the church business office at 208-888-2245.

## Directors for Audio/Visual Team Needed!

The Audio/Visual team is in need of volunteers to help with the live service on Sunday mornings.

It's easier than you think, and we provide the training. It usually only requires a couple of sessions to have you up and running. Contact Dan Pruett if you are interested at [dan@anywhereusa.org](mailto:dan@anywhereusa.org).



## Jesus:

### What Jesus means to the Believer

- Our Strength (Ps. 27:1)
- Our Wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Our Sanctification (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Our Righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21)
- Our Redemption (1 Cor. 1:30)
- Our Peace (John 16:33 ; Eph. 2:14)
- Our Victory (1 Cor. 15:57 ; Col. 2:15)
- Our Joy (John 15:11)
- Our Hope (Col. 1:27)
- Our Obedience (Heb. 10:7)
- Our Spiritual Fullness (Col. 2:9-10)
- Our Goodness (Gal. 5:22)
- Our Source of Forgiveness (Luke 23:34)
- Our Patience (Gal. 5:22)
- Our Rest (Matt. 11:28; Heb. 4:10)
- Our Self-Control (Gal. 5:22)
- Our Freedom (Col. 2:16-17)
- Our Gentleness (Gal. 5:22)
- Our Spiritual Mind (1 Cor. 2:16)
- Our Faithfulness (Gal. 5:22)
- Our Access to God (John 14:6; Eph. 3:21)
- Our LIFE (Phil. 1:21; Col. 3:4)





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

## AUGUST EVENTS CALENDAR

August events are cancelled.

Please watch the E-Blast and Facebook for studies being offered online.

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Monday, August 3, 2020 - 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
FLC Hall—235 E. Pine Ave, Meridian  
To register go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
Use sponsor code: **MeridianUMC**  
Or email Lisa Miller at [care@meridianumc.com](mailto:care@meridianumc.com)

**September  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday  
August 18**

Submissions may be  
e-mailed to Elaine Carlson:

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

or brought by the  
church office.

Thank you!