

FOOTPRINTS

October 2020

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

Online - 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible
Study: 2 p.m.

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES October 2020

10.4.2020

WWJD?

Spend Time With Others

Matthew 8:5-17



10.11.2020

WWJD?

Pay Attention to the Marginalized

Luke 19:1-10



10.18.2020

WWJD?

Serve

John 13:1-17



10.25.2020

WWJD?

Look Within

Matthew 7:1-6

It's National Immunization Month!

Check out the link for more information on the importance of flu shots. https://youtu.be/02ICysV_t1E



Pink Out Sunday October 18, 2020

SUSAN G. KOMEN IDAHO MONTANA

To donate visit

www.komenidahomontana.org

Educational Resources

www.komenidahomontana.org/about-breast-cancer



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **October Sermon Series, Events**
- 2 **Inside Page**
Office Hours, Membership Info.
- 3 **A Message from Mars**
- 4 **Ministries & News**
Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries
- 5 **Ministries & News**
Congregational Care , Adult Ministries
- 6 **Ministries & News**
Financial News, Music Ministry
- 7 **News & More**
Book Nook, Vets Photos Needed!, CROP Walk
- 8 **Back Page**
October Events Calendar



Current Church Office Hours

The Church office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 3 p.m.

If you come to the Family Life Center during business hours, a face mask is required to be worn in the building.

You may also reach us at 208-888-2245 or email us at office@meridianumc.com.

You can also contact Pastor John at home. His phone number is 208-895-9855



Cloth Face Masks Available

If you would like a cloth face mask, please **email your request and mailing address** to 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.

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 Pruett 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** 208-890-3384
Dan Pruett Dan@meridianumc.com

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- Administrative Council Chair** David Ray
Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair Jaci Hommel
Trustees Chair Bill Ball
Systems Administrator Dan Pruett
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
Website: meridianumc.com
Facebook: [Meridian United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianUnitedMethodistChurch)

Office Hours: For October

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

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com

A Message from Mars

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

--John 8:31-32

To say that we have a great deal going on in the world today is a huge understatement. The coronavirus has created a situation where people across the globe are trying to find the best way to stay safe physically, mentally, and financially. Most people would say facing a pandemic creates enough uncertainty to push us to our limits, but it doesn't end there. Our country is also dealing with unrest as people wrestle with racial inequality. Those of us in the western United States are enduring a historic fire season, while people in the eastern part of the country are experiencing a historic hurricane season. To top it all off, we face an important presidential election that is not bringing out the best in people.

Just one of these big picture events would be difficult to handle, yet we have all of them at once – and we have an even bigger problem: misinformation. Like many of you, I'm spending big chunks of time in cyberspace. I have been shocked, appalled, and angered by the amount of misinformation I have encountered there.

As Christians, we are a people of the truth. As such, we must guard against believing and/or spreading misinformation. Just because something appears on our computer screens does not make it true. We must do our research – dig deeper, check sources, and read further. We owe it to ourselves, to one another, to our world, and to future generations to educate ourselves and to determine the truth. The truth is the truth, whether we like it or not.

Jesus said, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."

The truth is that, beyond all the doom-and-gloom headlines, we can find all kinds of good news. For instance, the Church of the Warm Heart is alive and well – not just surviving but thriving. We have almost as much happening virtually as we did when we were meeting in person. Here are just a few of the highpoints:

In mid-September, we had a fantastic drive-through kickoff event for our ministry year. It was so nice to see the smiling faces of those who were able to turn out for that!

Our online congregation today is significantly larger than our combined in-person/online congregation of the past ever was. God is blessing us as we strive to continue to reach people in His name.

Attendance at our Tuesday afternoon Bible study – which is, of course, now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube – has also grown dramatically.

While we're not there yet, we believe that when our denomination reaches Phase 3 of the reopening plan, we will be able to resume off-site small group meetings. We will, in essence, be returning to the roots of the Christian faith. (Remember, after the death of Jesus, the apostles met in the upper room of a house – not at the synagogue.)

The truth – the good news that lies beyond the headlines – will set you free.

Grace and Peace and Calm and Wisdom and Hope,

Pastor John

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Welcome back, Fall!

I pray you and your families are doing well and have established a new routine for the Fall. School is back in session and the kids are settling into a "new" way of life.

We had a great September with the Fall Kick Off. Thank you to all who participated and came by the Ice Cream Social. It was so good to see so many faces and extend our love.

This month we will continue to have Pioneer Clubs online on Wednesday nights.

Fall Festival is canceled this year. I will keep you posted of any upcoming events.

Remember, we are the church. We are the hands and feet of Jesus! Just because we aren't meeting within our four walls doesn't mean we can't BE the church!

Love and Grace,

Ms. Sharon
children@meridianumc.com



YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Warm Heart Youth continue to meet virtually during October, using Zoom to its full potential! If you are not currently receiving links for meetings, please reach out to me ASAP.

Middle School Youth Group meets on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. We'll wrap up our study of Solomon this month.

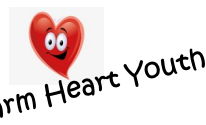
High School Youth Group meets on Sunday nights at 7:00 p.m. We're moving ahead with our study of Adam Hamilton's *Why?*, diving into some of the more challenging questions of our faith.

Church is broadcast live on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., and available all week; instead of Sunday School, the youth are encouraged to tune in to the sermon. They also have a chance to win a weekly drawing for answering a few questions.

Stay tuned for details about a special event near the end of October. I'm putting together a virtual mystery experience in place of our usual CLUE and Murder Mystery Nights!

With the joy of Jesus,

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com
734-316-9517



Thank You Notes

THANK YOU -- THANK YOU -- THANK YOU

A special thank you to all who helped and supported our newly remodeled stage area at the church. It is completed and we await the arrival of our new pews which are due around Thanksgiving. It looks great and will give us much needed room for our services. Our construction crew, headed up by Charlie Bidondo, spent many hours planning and completing this project. His support team, Lori Jones, Chris Bidondo, Don Woods, Ron Hohnstein, Ed Emmel, Arlan Potts, Bill Ball, Dan Pruett, Ian Perry, Jacob Rarick and Thom Juul helped in many different areas. It's a great addition and upgrade to our facilities, can't wait to use it!

Bill Ball
Trustees Chair



The Church Staff!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

MIRROR IMAGE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The school year has started. Whether in a Zoom or in a room, the needs of area adolescents have not changed. For several years, the Church of the Warm Heart has partnered with Cathedral of the Rockies in a ministry called Mirror Image.

Mirror Image has been delivering 200-300 customized hygiene bags to students within the Boise and West Ada school districts for the past seven years. Last year the Church of the Warm Heart tackled the West Ada portion of the requests. I was apprehensive at first, but with an amazing team of volunteers, we did it. We are all aware that COVID has affected every area of our lives, and with our church facility not running as normal, it would be easy not to continue many of our outreach ministries. However, the Church of the Warm Heart is committed to Mirror Image. We know that although the schools might look different, the needs that our area youth have are still the same. Please help by donating to Mirror Image!

There are many ways you can help. When you are making your weekly grocery order, just add a few of these items to your list. **You can drop off items in the FLC on Tuesday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** or email Lisa at care@meridianumc.com and we can arrange for pick-up of the donated items. Or, if you do not wish to shop for products, you can make out a check to Meridian UMC and earmark Mirror Image in the memo line. We will use your donation to order products that are most needed.

List of items needed:

Toothbrush/Toothpaste
Shampoo/Conditioner or 2-in-1
Deodorant Male/Female
Comb
Body Wash
Acne Wash
Razors Male/Female
Lotion
Lip Balm
Hair Brush
Fem. Hygiene



Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
care@meridianumc.com



ADULT MINISTRIES

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"

Philippians 4:6-7

Greetings Church Family!!

I pray you are doing well. It was so nice to see everyone at the church kick-off! I thought it was a great success and it reminded me just how much I miss seeing you every week. I pray that all of our parents, teachers and kids are adjusting to the school year. It has been a rough start for many, and if you are struggling, I pray that it will get better and you will feel God's calming presence.

During our Tuesday night Bible study recently, we talked about experiencing God in the ordinary, day-to-day stuff like harvesting a tomato from the garden, watching the sunset, or being greeted by a curious blue jay (a blue jay actually joined us during our study). We talked about the power of gratitude and how creating space for gratitude leads to joy and a life well-lived. I encourage you to commune with God--to practice the presence of God (as Pastor John says) each day and name the gifts in your life. Also--we would love for you to join our weekly discussions. Please join us!

Blessings,

Jen Hunkovic
adult.ministries@meridianumc.com



Join us for Coffee Fellowship on Zoom after our online service every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Current and Upcoming Online Studies:

Monday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom: *Becoming a Woman whose God is Enough* Bible study

Tuesday Afternoons at 2:00 p.m. on YouTube, Facebook and www.meridianumc.com: Bible study with Pastor John. Luke-Acts.

Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom: The Gospel of Mark Bible Study

Men's Study: Facing Anxiety. Mondays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom 9/21/2020 - 10/12/2020

UMC Women: Finding Peace in an Anxious World (dates/times TBD)

Spiritual Gifts: Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom 10/7/2020-11/11/2020 and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom 10/8/2020-11/12/2020

Gratitude Study for Ladies: *One Thousand Gifts*. Monday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom 10/26/2020-11/23/2020

If you would like to join any of the listed groups/studies please email Jen Hunkovic at adult.ministries@meridianumc.com.

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

| For General Operations: | August 2020 | Year-to-Date |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Given | \$70,578 | \$436,453 |
| Need | \$59,831 | \$490,872 |
| Outcome | \$10,747 | -\$54,419 |

I am pleased to report that August was our second largest month of giving in 2020, and we were able to lower our deficit by almost \$11,000. After August in 2019, we were at a negative of \$24,856. Even though we are spending less this year, we are receiving less tithes and offerings. Doing an analysis of our financial year to date, we can predict what we would need to do in the next four months to reach a zero-deficit situation. Let me be the first to admit that there is nothing average about what we are currently experiencing. But based strictly on averages, if we maintain expenses for the next four months and our giving matches 2019, we will finish the year at minus \$1,066.

Historically, our congregation has had high giving totals in December. Hopefully, that will be the case this year, too! But due to the uncertainty of what we are facing, we need to be aware of where we stand. I am asking each of you to pray about our financial situation, and give extra if you can. I choose to remain optimistic, knowing our congregation's generosity and support of our ongoing ministries. As Pastor John likes to say, we have all the money we need! It's just still in your pockets.

To make a gift online, please visit 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 one of the other options while we cannot pass the offering plates through the sanctuary.

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

Don Brister
Stewardship Chairman

Protect Your



Neighbors



Loved Ones



Community

MUSIC MINISTRY

While we are not able to be "in-person" for worship, the Worship Arts Ministry continues putting together instrumental and vocal musical offerings in our services and has opportunities for readers of our Affirmations of Faith and Scriptures, as well as opportunities to assist with camera work, video editing, audio recordings, etc. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact me, Minister of Worship Arts, Debbie Jones, at:

worshiparts@meridianumc.com.

Choir: The choir will be connecting via Zoom on October 11 and October 25 at 4:30 p.m. Anyone interested in participating in the Celebration Choir is welcome to come join us as we catch up!

Topic: Celebration Choir Zoom!

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87919277345?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87919277345?pwd=aU5SSkR2dGVmQmVhODh4bERzN3huUT09)

[pwd=aU5SSkR2dGVmQmVhODh4bERzN3huUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87919277345?pwd=aU5SSkR2dGVmQmVhODh4bERzN3huUT09)

Meeting ID: 879 1927 7345

Passcode: HdrL1R

Koinonia Handbell Choir: Like the choir, the Warm Heart Adult Handbell Choir connects via Zoom on October 11 and October 25 at 11 a.m. Anyone interested in playing handbells this season is encouraged to join us!

Topic: Koinonia Handbell Choir Zoom!

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201291697?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201291697?pwd=bjRuY0owK0hhY2FvMkRrbGgRb0NMQT09)

[pwd=bjRuY0owK0hhY2FvMkRrbGgRb0NMQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201291697?pwd=bjRuY0owK0hhY2FvMkRrbGgRb0NMQT09)

Meeting ID: 882 0129 1697

Passcode: psWyd6

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com
208-608-2520



October

Be present.

Let the day flow with grace.

Expect joy. Be positive.

Serve with compassion.

Speak only kindness.

Impart only love.

Never forget you're not alone.

Give thanks for everything.

See goodness in others.

mary
davis

NEWS & MORE

THE BOOK NOOK

by Claudia Moberly

The UMW Reading Program books are organized into five categories: Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community and Leadership Development. Our local UMW chapter buys one from each category every year and makes them available to everyone. You will find recent books on the kiosk outside the kitchen in the Family Life Center; older books are in a bookcase in Room 1. All of these are available to any interested reader when we can gather in the church building. A simple checkout system is all that is required. In the meantime, most of the books are also available from the public library.

Included in the list each year are a few books that are also appropriate for children. One picture book chosen for 2020 is *Midnight Teacher: Lilly Ann Grandson and Her School*. Now that this unusual school year has started, young readers might be interested in the unusual school experiences of children in the past. Lilly Ann was born into slavery around 1821 and was a house slave from the time she was four years old. Her master's children would often include her in their game of playing school when they were out of ear-shot of the adults. Through these games, Lilly Ann learned to read and began teaching others, always in secret. As an adult, she held secret Midnight School for others in slavery, always in danger of being found out.

This powerful and beautifully illustrated drama of courage in the face of wrong demonstrates to our children the power of education, the gift of literacy, and the triumph of courage .



Calling All Veterans & Those

Currently Serving in the Armed Forces . . MUMC Needs You!!!

Our Minister of Worship Arts, Debbie Jones, is planning a special tribute for a November service.

Could you please locate a picture in uniform (if possible) and mail it to the church along with your name and branch of service? A recent picture to go beside the other one would also be appreciated.

The mailing address is 235 E. Pine Ave., Meridian, ID 83642. Another option would be to scan your photos and email them to Debbie at worshiparts@meridianumc.com. A third option would be to bring your pictures to the Church Office on a Tuesday before October 5th between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. so that we can make copies. We will be happy to mail any original photos back to you after they are copied.

We are excited to honor our service members in a very special way. Thanks so much for your help!

If you have questions, please call Debbie at 208-608-2520.



Call 1-208-214-4723
to hear our latest sermon





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

OCTOBER EVENTS CALENDAR

October Events we can celebrate!
Please watch the E-Blast and Facebook
for studies being offered online.

Pink Out Sunday - October 18

Happy Halloween!



**November
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Monday
October 19**

Submissions may be
e-mailed to Elaine Carlson:

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!