

2020
March

FOOTPRINTS

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

SUNDAY WORSHIP:
TRADITIONAL | 9:30 AM
CONTEMPORARY | 11:15 AM
WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES

4.05.2020

Palm/Passion Sunday

Luke 19:28-44



4.12.2020

Easter:

Oh Jesus!

John 20:1-18



4.19.2020

Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35



4.26.2020

Family Values:

Safety

Psalm 27:1-6

In the Sanctuary

*I love to gaze round the church as service begins.
All the dear faces softened for a moment -
taking the time to still thoughts and settle into peace,
waiting for song, sermon and benediction.*

*The rounded pew back is soft on my hand.
Think how many hands have rested there over time -
gripping in pain, tapping to hymn song, resting quietly,
leaning in for support and comfort.*

*It's taken many a hand to build this church.
Polishing wood, dropping bills in the collection plate,
clasping in prayer, reaching to help neighbors,
cooking for, cleaning up after, crafting a community.*

*I don't often think of times past, but here, sometimes,
I feel the whispered breath of a parade of souls -
Murmured prayers, soft amens, a faint humming,
loving fellowship that spans ages and echoes onward.*

*It's humbling to stand in this long parade.
Sharing bread and wine and touching the same
Sacred place within heart and soul and infinity
here in this place with these people and our Lord.*

- Susan Miller Lindquist

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NEW MEMBERS: Welcome!
Wray & Barbara Featherstone

DEATHS:
Please pray for the families of:
Betty Mitchell

BAPTISMS:

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolytes
	1st Service Ruth Hayes 208-297-2379	Walter Thornton 208-629-7348	Nicole Walker 734-316-9517	Sharon Allison 208-888-2245
Apr 5	Helen Robins Carol Rounds	Lynda Fisher Betty Price Walt Thornton	Linda Tewksbury	Grace Victory
Apr 12	Roger & Kathy Strander	Mark Freeman Ralph Gentry Gary & Marilyn Himes	Nicole Walker	Sidney Hoffman
Apr 19	Joel & Margot Strawn	Brad Carlson Larry Koenig Dennis Moberly Mary Lee Rich	Steve Husler	Elena Stanley
Apr 26	Paula Young Eloise Stemple	Howard & Tere Foley David & Joan Lindsay	Sharon Ostermeier	Garrett Thaut

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 dandvwoods@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**

Office Hours:
 9 a.m - noon; 1-3 p.m. Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.- noon Friday
 Pastor's Office Hours: 9 a.m. - noon Tues.- Friday

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com



A Message from Mars

⁹“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9 (New International Version)

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:1-6 (New International Version)

Keep your eyes on Easter, the holiday of hope.

Isn’t it interesting that the holiday that defines us as Christians falls amidst the biggest public health challenge our country has faced in more than 100 years? It’s as if Christ’s gift of His life for us – and His resurrection that distinguishes our beliefs – is being regifted to us in this period of uncertainty. Hallelujah!

We don’t know what the trappings of Easter will be this year. We do know some of what they won’t be. Children won’t gather for community Easter egg hunts. We won’t have big groups gathering to perform special musical numbers. We cannot invite hundreds of people to join us at our church building to sing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today.”

Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky has wisely directed that all churches in our episcopal area (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) suspend in-person worship through April 30. (You can read more about her decision at <https://greaternw.org/bishops-covid-19-notice-3-march-24-2020/>.) That means Easter will look different for all of us this year, but it does not diminish, in any way, the meaning at the heart of our celebration. In fact, it may give us an opportunity to focus more upon the true meaning of the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

We are isolated, not defeated. We must persevere, thus building character and hope – both for ourselves and for others. We have a great opportunity to model Christian behavior under difficult circumstances. We can be instruments of hope, not fear; calm, not panic; and love, not greed. After all, we are a resurrection people. We believe in absolute hope, no matter what the circumstances might be. We know that if we follow God, we will end up in the promised land! God is steadfast in His love for us.

My challenge to you for the next few weeks is to plan carefully what you do – and what you don’t do. We have the free will to make choices, but it is important for us to remember that our choices affect others. We must make the right choices not only to protect ourselves but also to protect others from an invisible enemy that can kill.

As we face the uncertainty ahead, we must keep our eyes upon Easter. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Of that we can be sure. Of everything else, not so much. But what more do we need?

Grace and Peace and Wisdom and Calm,

Pastor John

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN MINISTRIES

Happy April from the Warm Heart Kids!

We are excited to see the sun shining and hear the birds chirping. As we leave another winter behind and look forward to spring, we are reminded that our awesome God brings forth new life and new beauty. We praise him for that!

We have been working on Community Service Projects. January through March we collected nonperishable food that we will be donating to the Meridian Food Bank. We will be collecting items for Mirror Image starting this month through the end of June. If you would like to participate, there is a pink bin outside the Children's Worship Center.

The Warm Heart Kids would like to thank Teresa Sauer and Nancy Ingram for joining the Children's Ministry team and volunteering their time to teach Sunday School. If you are interested in teaching, please let me know. We are always in need of gracious, loving, volunteers to help.

All April events are cancelled.

Blessings,

Sharon Allison
children@meridianumc.com



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Happy April! Despite all the uncertainty and upheaval in our world, the days continue to get longer, **trtually** the trees are budding, and signs of spring are everywhere. While we use caution in our movements and look for creative ways to show love without getting near others, let's make sure we also pay attention to creation and thank God for his loving care.

Youth group will not meet in person until church is back in regular session. However, we will use the technology at our fingertips and gather virtually until then! Watch your email for zoom links to youth group, Bible Studies, Sermon discussions and Confirmation classes.

As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns, needs, or just to talk!

Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com



Youth Sunday



MINISTRIES & NEWS

ADULT MINISTRIES

Community Grace

I hope you are well. Last week as I was thinking about what it means to be the Church, it occurred to me that the Church is not, and has never been, about coming together in a physical building. While my heart hurts because I miss seeing you in person, this crisis has revealed the most basic truth about us—that we are the Church, regardless of the challenges we face. This has been evident in the overwhelming response we've had to our new outreach, Community Grace. I'm grateful for the donated items, financial support, prayers, calls and volunteers that have brought this outreach to life. My heart is full of much gratitude and joy—what a comfort you have been during these uncertain times.

If you are struggling, please let us know how we can help. You may contact me at 208-871-5593 or by emailing us at communitygrace@meridianumc.com.

Adult Classes

Please be patient during this time. We are working on bringing our adult classes online. For the time being, we are offering a Lenten group discussion of the book, *The Way*, during our regularly scheduled day and time: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. If you registered for this class, you will receive an email about how to log-on to the online group. If you have questions, you can always call me at (208) 871-5593 or email me at adult.ministry@meridianumc.com

With Joy and Gratitude,

Jen Hunkovic
adult.miistry@meridianumc.com



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Have you heard one of the most important things you can do is wash your hands?

We all know the importance of handwashing now more than ever during COVID-19. One of the simplest and most important ways to keep yourself healthy and safe is by washing your hands.

The CDC and WHO (World Health Organization) recommend we wash often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially when you have been in a public place, after using the bathroom, touching your face, or sneezing or coughing, and before preparing food and eating. How long is 20 seconds? The equivalent of the Happy Birthday song twice. Yes, in case you are Wondering, I am going crazy singing the Happy Birthday song five million times a day! So I thought perhaps you would like to change it up a bit. I reached out to our very own music expert, Debbie Jones. She suggested we try singing the Doxology, Jesus Loves Me or one verse of Amazing Grace. Then I thought, maybe the kiddos might need some ideas too. A few of the ideas that popped up on the internet included Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Baby Shark, Row Row Your Boat and Wheels on The Bus. Maybe you have your own ideas. I would love to hear your suggestions.

Church Family, I want you to know, I am here for you. I love my church of The Warm Heart family. I want you to know I care about what you are going through and how this change of life as we know it is affecting you personally. Please reach out to me, the other ministry staff, and your church family. We need each other and we will get through this together!

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
Congregational Care Minister
care@meridianumc.com



May the blessings of Easter fill you with Peace, Love and Love.

Ladies' Night Out
Friday, April 3, 2020 - Cancelled

HEALTH & WELLNESS

There will be a free **blood pressure screening** after both services on **May 17** in the Family Life Center Room #1. Be sure to stop by!



*"I have come in order that you may have life; life in all its fullness."
John 10:10*

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	Feb. 2020	Year-to-Date
Given	\$ 46,776	\$ 122,121
Need	\$ 67,334	\$ 126,709
Outcome	\$ -20,558	\$ -4,588

After a very strong January, we fell short in our efforts to maintain a positive result on a monthly basis. We now find ourselves down more than \$4,500. And now, a lot has happened since the end of February (darn Coronavirus) that we will impact us as we move forward.

We thought our biggest obstacles this year would be how to fund some needed maintenance projects amid the uncertainty regarding our conference and world-wide United Methodists. Now things are different. We are facing a lot of unknowns. We are attempting, for the first time ever, to be a church apart. To be a church scattered. To bring more ministry and worship opportunities into your home than ever before. We are worshipping apart so that we can be together.

One of the challenges of not meeting in person is that we don't have an opportunity for weekly offerings. We aren't given the opportunity to pass the plate. Gifts placed in our offering plates make up a significant part of our giving budget. We average more than \$2,000 each month in cash alone. If you are home and wondering how you can "be the church" in this unprecedented time, when service opportunities are limited, and fears and uncertainties are high...we are passing you the plate. We want to continue to be a beacon in this community by serving those in need right now. We want to continue to pay the salaries of staff members who care for us, our facilities and those who create ministry opportunities.

Please join me and my family as we continue to support the ministry of our church. 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 dropping a check in the mail or even look at our online giving options. We also encourage you to continue to join us in worship each Sunday morning at 9:30 am for our livestreamed service. If you are unable to join us on Sunday mornings or there are technical difficulties due to the overload of internet usage, please know that the services are recorded and available to watch later in the week. (This is what we did this last Sunday). Updates will be given each Sunday regarding our financial situation.

Steps have been taken to assist any member of the Church of the Warm Heart who needs help. If you need assistance contact the church. We are here for YOU. Please continue to pray for our church staff and our government leaders during these trying times.

If you have questions regarding our church finances, please contact Brian Sauer, Finance Committee Chair, at btasauer@juno.com, 208-884-8014 or Don Brister, Stewardship Chairman, at aggiedon@cableone.net, 208-871-5221.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Warm Heart Music Ministries are continuing to work behind the scenes during the social distancing period. Individuals and small ensembles are working on their own to be prepared for musical offerings when our regular scheduling resumes. If you are able to help with any of the **Live Stream Only services**, please contact Debbie Jones at: worshiparts@meridianumc.com.

The Celebration Choir

The choir is continuing preparations for the Good Friday Cantata "Come Walk with Me" by Pepper Choplin. Should the date of this offering change, we **will still** offer it this spring, complete with communion. We look forward to sharing our weekly anthem and introit offerings!

The Koinonia Handbell Choir

The Koinonia Handbell choir will be working on special music pieces for the spring. If cleared, we will be sharing many of our Sunday anthems with the residents of Grace Assisted Living on a Thursday evening in May. More on this event will be posted at a later date.

The Rolling Tones Youth Tone Chime Choir

The youth handbell choir will resume rehearsals when the social distancing period is lifted. We'll continue rehearsing at 6PM on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary. Any Youth, grades 6-12, is always welcome to join us! No music reading skills necessary.

The Angels Alive Choir

The children's choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday evenings when Pioneer Club is back in session.. Our musical, "Jailhouse Rock" may have a new date to be offered. All children ages 4 thru 5th grade are welcome to join us for the musical or for Sunday offerings of song and ringing. Some of our older elementary students will be learning to ring additional bells when we gather again.

Do you play an instrument? Sing solos or in ensembles?

Please let Debbie Jones, our Minister of Worship Arts, know if you have something you would like to offer in a service. Contact her at: worshiparts@meridianumc.com!

Blessings,
Debbie Jones
Minister of Worship Arts
Meridian UMC
Church of the Warm Heart
208-608-2520



MORE NEWS

Featured Artist



Pandau Art
presented by
Warm Heart Quilters

Pandau Art, Done by Hmong people from Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos.

Pandau is a sophisticated textile art of the Hmong tribes. Pandau means "cloth made beautiful like a flower." It is made by the women of the tribe and passed down for generations. They are very cherished and worn only for special occasions. The women also sold pieces and used it to supplement their income. Purposes were to decorate special clothing for New Year's celebrations, weddings, baby carriers and burial clothes.

Women began lessons as young children. It's very hard to learn. The stitches must be tiny or invisible, lines must be straight, geometric patterns must be executed precisely without measuring devices. Tiny scissors and one half inch needles are used. The intricately done stitches are: reverse appliqué, tuck and fold, cross stitch, couching and satin stitches. This is a highly valued skill. The work is done on undyed cotton homespun, hand woven cotton or hemp. This was a highly valued skill of the women in the tribe.



If you are interested in becoming one of our featured artists for 2020, or for more information, please contact the 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.



Meet Our Volunteers

MUMC Lay Chaplain Ministry

The Lay Chaplains of the Meridian United Methodist Church: a group of regular folks who have gifts and graces, especially in compassion and encouragement; who multiply the ministry for God and of our Pastor John; who work with Lisa Miller as our Minister of Congregational Care; and have the sweet blessing of serving those who are hurting within our congregation or no longer able to enjoy worship in person. It's a big task, but because we are joyful, positive, committed to Christ, and committed to the Church of the Warm Heart, the hours we devote are but a part of living our lives in love. And we have fun together as we do it!

Lay Chaplain ministry has been a part of our church for an untold number of years, but as a unique organized group, it all came together under the direction of Rev. Lee Hunefeld who pastored our congregation just prior to Pastor Mars. Pastor John keeps us going. The volunteers are trained periodically by local hospital chaplains, as well as periodic ministerial speakers or experts in hospice care, for example.

Currently, there are fourteen active members and two emeritus members who meet just six times a year, every other month. Our mission is primarily to listen, bringing God's love with open hands, open hearts, and a smile. We distribute communion to those who can no longer attend regular church services, perhaps limited to their home or in a living facility or hospital outside their home. And we distribute acts of mercy and caring to those who may be suffering life circumstances, illness, or death, in our congregation and beyond - - because no pastor and no person can do it all! And no one can meet that need if we do not know about it. An example from my own life, my Mom had been a member of the same small church in rural southern Idaho her entire life, as had her parents, and for my mother, a Sunday School teacher and supporter of 91 years, no one came to visit from her congregation the two years she lived in an assisted living facility until the minister, just the last week of her life. It was a sad matter of the heart.

Communicate with one of us..... We have been anointed for God's service and are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Emma Jean Bedsole | Phyllis Bouza |
| Don Brister | Faye Gabriel |
| Ruth Hayes | Gary Himes |
| Ruth Ann Hutson | Dixie Jacky |
| Jeannine Mars | Shirley O'Neal |
| Carole Ravine | Mary Rich |
| Carol Rounds | Eloise Stemple |

Blessings and love,
Faye Gabriel, Lay Chaplain Coordinator



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

APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR

**All April events at the
Church of the Warm Heart
have been cancelled.**

Red Cross Blood Drive
will be held on Monday, April 6 from
12 p.m. - 5 p.m. in the Family Life Center to
support the need for blood in our community.

**MAY
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday
April 21**

Submissions may be
e-mailed to Elaine Carlson:

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!