



FOOTPRINTS

July 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 JULY 2020

7.05.2020

The Devil Made Me Do It

Romans 7:15-25



7.12.2020

Preparing the Soil (Soul)

Matthew 13:18-23



7.19.2020

This is Holy Ground

Genesis 28:10-19



7.26.2020

More than Conquerors

Romans 8:26-39



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 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/>



3 Venues for viewing Sunday Service

We invite you to worship with us online. Our services are livestreamed ([click here](#)) at 9:30 a.m. Sundays. They are also posted on [our website](#), [our Facebook page](#), 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! *Open the hyperlink after clicking.

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July Events Calendar

June

NEW MEMBERS: *Welcome!*

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of:
Maudie Burke
Dennis Heitman

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
July 5				
July 12				
July 19				
July 26				

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
 Website: meridianumc.com
 Facebook: [Meridian United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianUnitedMethodistChurch)

Office Hours: FOR JULY

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

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com

A Message from Mars

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:17-18 New International Version (NIV)

Last year I reclaimed an enclosed area of our backyard as a garden space. The harvest from this pocket garden was ample enough that I decided to replant it this year, despite an early difficulty in finding the lettuce and kale seeds I sought. I ended up sowing varieties of greens that were not really what I wanted, and I wondered whether I would even appreciate the harvest.

On June 22, as we learned that a surge in coronavirus cases meant Ada County would be moving from Stage 4 back into Stage 3 of the governor's reopening plan, I was no longer questioning my appreciation. Jeannine and I could not keep up with the abundance of fresh greens from my garden spot – and they were delicious! We were alternating, harvesting lettuce one day and kale the next. Jeannine was googling “kale recipes” more often than anything else. She even threatened to feed me greens for breakfast!

Despite everything that was going on in the world, we were having fun with our harvest from a 6-foot by 10-foot garden. On a day that could have left us feeling defeated, we instead found ourselves feeling a joy that surprised us. God's beautiful Creation was filling not just our stomachs but also our souls.

That is just one commonplace example of the kind of joy that God has in store for us, even in the worst of times. The Bible is filled with stories of God working in unexpected ways at unexpected times – bringing big, joyful surprises to people during times that were considerably more difficult than those we face today. In the face of these unexpected gifts of joy, people were amazed and sometimes even shocked.

In those Bible stories, we can find comfort; I recommend them to you for days you may need something to lift your spirits. Among my favorites are:

- Jacob dreams of a stairway to heaven and hears God's promise to watch over him wherever he goes. (See Genesis 28:10-17.)
- Jesus calms the storm that is frightening his disciples. (You'll find it at Mark 4:35-41, Matthew 8:23-27, and Luke 8:22-25.)
- Jesus walks from the lakeshore to his disciples' boat on the water. (See Matthew 14: 22-33.)
- Jesus takes five loaves of bread and two fish and feeds 5,000 men plus the women and children with them. (Read it at Matthew 14:13-21.)
- And, of course, the story at the center of our Christian faith: Jesus is resurrected from the dead. (You'll find it at Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-20.)

During these uncertain times, as we try to adjust to our “new normal” and figure out God's plan for us, may you be surprised by joys and blessings that come at unexpected times and in unexpected ways. May you recognize those joys and blessings, no matter how small. And may you embrace them all.

Grace and Peace and Calm and Wisdom and Hope and Joy!

Pastor John

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN MINISTRIES

Happy July!

I pray everyone is doing well and enjoying the summer. It's hard to believe it is already July.

This summer is looking a lot different from the past. All camps have been cancelled along with our traditional Vacation Bible School. To ensure safety and health, we have decided to participate in an alternative Vacation Bible School. This year, VBS will be online! If you would like to join the fun, please let me know so I can get you registered.

The weekly lesson plans are sent via e-mail. If you would like to receive those, please let me know so I can add you to the list.

Warm Heart Kids,

I miss you and I pray for you daily. You are loved and cared for. Please know that I am always available to talk, text, or FaceTime.

I hope to see you soon!

Love,

Ms. Sharon
children@meridianumc.com



July 13 - 15th - Online VBS



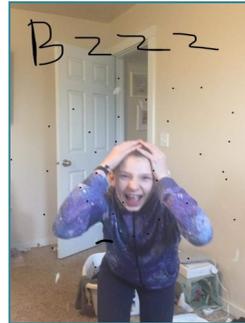
YOUTH MINISTRIES

The church doors remain closed, but the youth group is alive and well! Stay tuned for links to game nights and virtual escape rooms this month between family camping trips and other summer fun. As always, friends are welcome to join, so feel free to round up bored pals and bring them along. If you are not currently receiving Warm Heart Youth communications, notify me to sign up!

With the joy of Jesus,
Nicole Walker
youth@meridianumc.com
734-316-9517

Rapid Representations of the Plagues on Egypt

Middle School Youth Group



Family Camp 2020 at Pilgrim Cove has been **cancelled**. See you next year!



MINISTRIES & NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Deuteronomy 31:8

I know this is not easy, and it is hard to not worry and feel the pressure of this wild life right now. At times I forget to stay focused on Jesus.

In the Bible study that Jen is leading, we are reading the book "Women Rowing North". The other night she posed a question. She asked, "what kind of a vessel are you in?" Many of the ladies answered with various types of boats from sail boats to speed boats. I didn't think of this at the time, but my answer would have been a small fishing boat or a canoe. These boats are not always stable, and may tip over.

Lately, I feel like I'm holding on to both sides of the boat so tight that my hands are numb. Other days my teeth are clenched, and I'm holding on to the edges so tight that I'm trying to hold the boat up. What I need to do is let go and put my trust in Jesus. I know that many of you have mentioned to me that staying positive and mentally healthy is challenging right now. So, besides trusting in Jesus with daily prayer and meditation, here are a few tips that you can try.

- Practice daily movement and activity - regular physical activity promotes good mental health and can boost immunity. Take a walk in the neighborhood and take note of God's beautiful handiwork.
- Maintain connection with your friends and family. Pastor John says it every week: if someone comes to your mind, reach out. Give them a call. You can also FaceTime, email, text, or send a card.
- Intentionally build simple pleasures into your day. Things like having your morning coffee and listening to the birds, listening to music, spending time in your yard or garden and nature.
- Practice good self-care, choose healthy foods, limit caffeine and alcohol, and create a good sleep routine.
- Try some creative expression. Art is a great way to relieve stress and express emotions. A great idea is to paint rocks and leave them at parks or in your neighborhood. Or leave inspirational messages with chalk around your community. Spread love. It will come back to you!

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
Congregational Care Minister
care@meridianumc.com

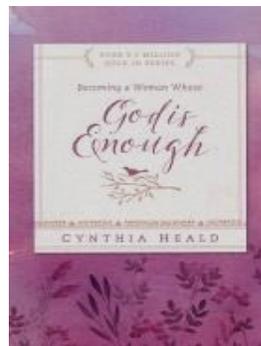


ADULT MINISTRIES

Greetings, Church!!

We've entered phase 2 of our reopening plan. What does this mean? It means the church buildings will remain closed for now, but small groups (10 participants or less) may begin to meet in the community provided that they maintain a physical distance of 6 feet or more, wear a face covering and practice good hand hygiene. This is a great opportunity to start some small groups! So, if you are interested in starting a small group, please let me know at adult.ministry@meridianumc.com. 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.

Our 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. via Zoom.



The Tuesday Night Bible study will finish Romans on July 14, 2020, and will begin a new study of the Gospel of Mark on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

Blessings,

Jen Hunkovic
adult.ministry@meridianumc.com



MINISTRIES & NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	May 2020	Year-to-Date
Given	\$ 45,693	\$ 269,427
Need	\$ 57,946	\$ 304,559
Outcome	\$ -12,253	\$ -35,132

I could start this month's newsletter article the same way I have for the last two months. I am still thankful for the response of our church members in these crazy times we are experiencing. Currently we find ourselves in a negative position of \$35,132. Last year at this time we were in the red over twice as much with a shortfall of \$71,970. We are holding our expenses down and the tithes are holding steady. Even though we are not meeting we are still finding the will and the means to give to the Church of the Warm Heart.

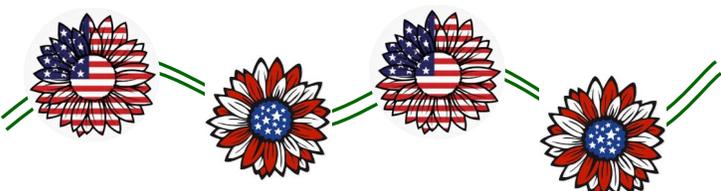
We have utilized the time we are apart to continue making improvements to the sanctuary and FLC. I am proud to report that most of the improvements have been covered by private donations from members of our congregation. What a joyous day when the restrictions are lifted, and we can once again greet one another as we worship! I have no idea when that will be a reality. We are at the mercy of state and religious leaders who are doing their best to see that meeting is safe.

When the time comes that we can return to a normal worship Experience, there will likely be restrictions. Social distancing, wearing masks, and limited crowd size will almost certainly be required. But just as we have changed our way of giving, we can adapt as we learn to live with this virus. Until we meet together, I encourage you to worship online with our staff, and I will say it again: "Keep those tithes and offerings coming."

Things will return to the way it was, but until that is a reality 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 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, 208-484-6076, or Don Brister, Stewardship Chairman, at aggiedon@cablone.net, 208-871-5221.

Report by Don Brister, Stewardship Chair



MUSIC MINISTRY

Church of the Warm Heart Music Ministries have been suspended due to the closure of our building. However, there are some opportunities for folks to participate in our worship services by:

- ◆ Leading the Affirmation of Faith
- ◆ Reading the Scripture Lesson
- ◆ Offering solos or duets for Introits, Anthems, Centering, etc.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Debbie Jones, Minister of Worship Arts at worshiparts@meridianumc.com.

A BIG "thank you" to our media team for continuing to make our weekly services happen: Dan Pruet, Thom Juul, Jacob Walker, Jack Akers, Alex Clark, Charlie Jones and Mary Liz Jones. If you experience any issues, be sure to email Dan: dan@anywhereuse.org or Debbie at worshiparts@meridianumc.com.

Blessings,
Debbie Jones
worshiparts@meridianumc.com



Ladies Day Out

Friday, July 17 - 10:30 a.m.

Stop & Smell the Roses

Let's meet at the Rose Garden at Julia Davis Park and do a walk about. Bring your own picnic lunch and lawn chair for after the walk. Please bring your face mask.

Please R.S.V.P. to Lisa Miller if you plan to attend. Email her at care@meridianumc.com.



NEWS & MORE

United Methodist Women

BOOK NOOK

by Claudia Moberly

“Living Into Hope”, by Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, was introduced to UMW members by Julie Looney at the February luncheon, and her summary whetted my interest. This book is one of the older books on this year’s Reading List. It was written in 2010, near the end of the Great Recession. The country’s economy was rocky, unemployment was high, and how to solve the crisis was a source of divisiveness across the country. Does any of this sound familiar today?

Reading this book now made it seem particularly timely, and Rev. Campbell’s call for unity, acceptance, compassion, and inclusion are as needed now as ten years ago. She reminds us of Jesus’ teachings that we are dependent upon one another and that “neighbor” is a very big word. Throughout his teaching, Jesus spoke of the necessity for unity; in his eyes, there was no “us” and “them,” for we are ALL God’s children. Being faithful followers requires us to love one another. “Love one another, as I have loved you.” John 13:34 and John 15:12.

God created humans with a need for community. Our isolation through the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how true this is, and how much we miss one another when we are apart. But reality shows us that living in community is not always easy. Love, forgiveness, and commitment to the welfare of others are necessary for peace, whether within a family, a community, or the world. Pastor John’s recent sermon series on Healthy Families touched on all of these. Intentionally practicing love, forgiveness, and investment in all the members of our “community” (large and small) can change the world.

This challenging, inspiring, and hope-filled book is available on the UMW book kiosk outside the kitchen in the Family Life Center. Checking it out and reading it for yourself is one more reason to look forward to gathering together again.

Cloth Face Masks Available

If you would like a cloth face mask, please email **your 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.

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!



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
 - Works 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.

For more information, and a complete Job Description, please e-mail 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.





CHURCH OF THE
WARM HEART

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

JULY EVENTS CALENDAR

July events are cancelled.

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

Have a Safe & Happy 4th of July!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, August 2, 2020 - 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FLC Hall—235 E. Pine Ave, Meridian

To register go to www.redcrossblood.org

Use sponsor code: **MeridianUMC**

Or email Lisa Miller at care@meridianumc.com

**AUGUST
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday
July 21**

Submissions may be
e-mailed to Elaine Carlson:

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.