



MERIDIAN UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF THE
WARM HEART

May
2020

FOOTPRINTS

LOVING ALL. CHANGING HEARTS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

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

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES

5.03.2020

**Family Values:
Consistency**

Philippians 3:12-14



5.10.2020

**Family Values:
Intentional Investment**

Romans 12:9-14



5.17.2020

**Family Values:
Realistic Expectations**

Psalms 103



5.24.2020

**Family Values:
Unconditional Love**

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



5.31.2020

**Family Values:
Church Family**

Acts 2:1-21

THE BOOK NOOK

by Claudia Moberly



With Mother's Day right around the corner, it seems appropriate to recommend a book for mothers from the UMW Reading List. *Heartbeat of A Mother* by Jane Rubietta is a collection of meditations on the lifelong journey of motherhood. Rubietta acknowledges that the job of mothering is exhausting, never-ending, filled with self-doubt, at times lonely, even heart-breaking, and hard; yet it is also joy-filled, wonder-filled, rewarding, enriching, and a spiritual as well as physical journey. These beautiful, encouraging meditations are powerful grace-filled messages to mothers of all ages. Pick it up and see if you don't agree that it is a meaningful message for one of the most important jobs in the world.

The wonderful resource of UMW books located on the book kiosk outside the kitchen in the Family Life Center is currently not available to us. But this is such a beautiful book, you might want to own a copy for yourself or share it with a favorite mother in your life. As we all become more proficient online shoppers, I recommend Rediscovered Books rdbooks.org, Powell's City of Books powells.com, or Amazon amazon.com, as a source for book-lovers trapped at home without a library.

MIRROR
image

Thank you!

A big thank you to the **UMW** for their continued support of Mirror Image. Your generous donations helped during the Rebound Family Resource Event and your continued donations are helping to support youth and families of West Ada School District.



Happy Mother Day!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Front Page**
May Sermon Series, Events
- 2 **Inside Page**
Worship Volunteers, Membership Info.
- 3 **A Message from Mars**
- 4 **Ministries & News**
Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries
- 5 **Ministries & News**
Adult Ministries, Congregational Care
- 6 **Ministries & News**
Financial News, Music Ministry
- 7 **More News**
Featured Artist, Meet Our Volunteers
- 8 **Back Page**
May Events Calendar



NEW MEMBERS: *Welcome!*

DEATHS:

Please pray for the families of:
Charlotte Carlton
Frances "Fran" Joanne Christensen

BAPTISMS:

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Greeters 1st Service Ruth Hayes 208-297-2379	Ushers Walter Thornton 208-629-7348	Worship Leaders Nicole Walker 734-316-9517	Acolytes Sharon Allison 208-888-2245
May 3			Jacob Walker	
May 10			Bonnie Jow	
May 17			Kathy Newland	
May 24				
May 31				

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

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Sharon Allison children@meridianumc.com

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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

Office Hours: FOR MAY

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

Prayer & Praise Requests - prayer@meridianumc.com



A Message from Mars

It seems as if COVID-19 is going to be our unwanted companion for quite some time. That fact is requiring all of us to make many changes, and I've even changed my salutations on my messages to you! In the past, I have ended my correspondence with "Grace and Peace." During this time of great uncertainty, I have begun to use "Grace and Peace and Calm and Wisdom and Hope." I thought you might like to know why.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (New International Version)

Grace means gift. God's grace is God's gift to us. We always need grace for ourselves and to give to others, but it is particularly important during these troubled times.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27 (New International Version)

Jesus gives us His peace, but that does not mean we will have an absence of trouble. Going through difficulty can make us into better people. The word *peace* in English just cannot capture the full meaning of *shalom* in Hebrew thought. *Shalom* means everything that makes for your greatest good. And everything means everything!

³³ "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)

Jesus offers us calm amid the storm. Jesus said he had overcome the world. I believe Him. I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5 (New International Version)

We do not have to depend on our own wisdom. For those who love God, He promises His wisdom.

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." [a]

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?" [b]

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians: 15:50-57 (New International Version)

Even in the face of death, we have hope. We are a Resurrection people. That is, by definition, what makes us Christian.

With these, we will get through this pandemic together. We will be changed, but we will be better on the other side.

Grace and Peace and Calm and Wisdom and Hope,

Pastor John

MINISTRIES & NEWS

CHILDREN MINISTRIES

Happy May, Congregation.

I pray you are all doing well and enjoying the warmer weather. As uncertain times are among us, remember that God is with us and never leaves us. His love is steadfast and eternal. We can rest assured in that. It has not been easy for many of us, and many are feeling "unsure" of the future. I know this: our future stands with the Lord, and we right now have an incredible opportunity to BE the church.

How are you going to BE the church? What are some things you can do in your community? A letter to a neighbor, a friend, a co-worker? A phone call to someone who is alone? A delivery of food to someone who is hungry? There are many ways to BE the church. What a wonderful way to show the love of Christ!

To my Warm Heart Kids:

YOU are tremendously missed! I miss your smiling faces and warm hugs. I miss your laughter and boundless energy. I am praying for each of you daily and think of you often. I look forward to the day when you run through the doors with open arms, ready for Sunday School and Pioneer Clubs! What a wonderful day that will be.

I will continue to send lesson plans and activities for you to do each week along with fun challenges. I am available for calls, texts, e-mails, and FaceTime. I love hearing from you and want you to know just how important you are! You are missed, you are loved, you are valued, and you are children of God!

Blessings,
Sharon Allison
children@meridianumc.com
208-340-8460



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."
– Psalm 119:105

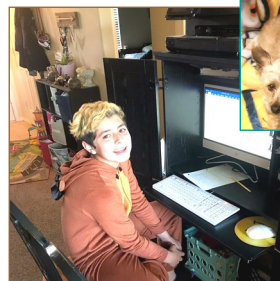
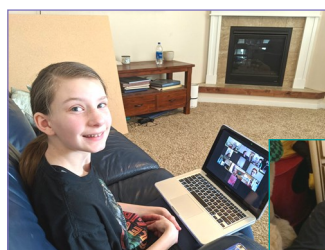
How much light does a lamp give off? Enough to show you where to step (or not step) next, but if you've ever been in the woods after dark, you know that a lamp doesn't illuminate very clearly very far. Still, seeing one or two steps at a time is better than being left in the dark.

I'd love to have an end date on social distancing measures and know when we can go back to group hugs and passing around a bag of chips. But this is a time of uncertainty and continual adaptation, and I don't yet know what the coming weeks will look like. In these strange and fluid times, I'm grateful for the reminder that God's Word is a lamp for us. We might not know what's going to happen next week, but today we can practice trust in God. We might not know what's going to happen in June, but today we can faithfully and creatively love our family, friends, and neighbors.

May was slated to include several in-person events. It might be filled instead with Zoom meetings, virtual games, and pizza delivery winners. Stay tuned for details as they emerge, and ask God to show you today's next step in love.

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

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



MS Virtual
Youth Group



HS Senior
Care Packages



A "Thank You" to our Warm Heart Quilters!

Our quilters have been hard at work making cloth masks and have donated many to our church. If you would like a cloth mask, please email your request with **your mailing address** to

CommunityGrace@meridianumc.com.

It will be first come, first served, while supplies last. Thank you so much to the quilters for using their talents to be the hands of Christ. This is how we love our neighbors!

MINISTRIES & NEWS

ADULT MINISTRIES

Genesis 21:17-20 NIV

God heard the boy crying and the angel called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy as he grew up.

Greetings church family! I hope you are well and have been able to experience moments of joy during this time of uncertainty. I pray that you have felt the presence of God through daily miracles- such as the flowers blooming, neighbors helping neighbors or possibly in the quiet moments of reflection. The world is transforming all around us; yet, for many it may feel like we've wandered into the wilderness during this time of physical isolation.

Recently, we studied Hagar during our Monday night *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible* class. In the story, Hagar was sent away into the desert with very few provisions to care for her son and for herself. As she traversed the arid terrain, she became despondent and lost all hope. Her son was on the brink of death. God heard his cries and then revealed life-saving water. In this story we see that:

God called Hagar by name (God calls us by name as well. He longs for a personal relationship)
God heard the boy crying (God hears our cries)
God revealed life-saving water (God knows our needs and provides. Jesus is our living water)
God made him into a great nation (blessings are quite often revealed through our brokenness)
God was with the boy (God is with us through all circumstances)

If you feel like you've entered the desert, I pray that God will reveal life-affirming resources that will sustain you. I pray that you will feel God's presence and experience peace.

Much Love, Grace and Peace,
Jen



Adult Ministries Groups:

Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m., Coffee Fellowship
Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m., Women's study of *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible*
Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m., Bible study of the book of Romans

If you are interested in any of the online group discussions, please email Jen at: adult.ministry@meridianumc.com and she will email you a link.

Our Group Page:

If you have not done so already, please join our Church of the Warm Heart Adult Ministries group page on Facebook. This is a great place to stay connected with one another and receive updates about our online group discussions. Please email Jen Hunkovic at adult.ministries@meridianumc.com if you have questions or need help with this.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Psalm 30:5 For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

LEAN ON ME

What brings you joy? Think of a time when you have had pure happiness. I am sure many of you thought back to a certain season of life, or perhaps a vacation, but chances are you did not answer this moment we are in right now. This is hard!

As we were celebrating this Easter, during this unpredictable time in our world, I found myself thinking about Jesus's suffering as well as the apostles. The apostles were filled by waves of uncertainty and worry. They felt helpless.

Today with hundreds of thousands of people being impacted by the spread of COVID-19, this time we face is capable of inducing fear, anxiety, and an array of other emotions. And to acknowledge that is healthy and perfectly O.K. I had a friend express it like this, "I need those hugs from friends, the smile from a stranger at the grocery store, the impromptu coffee date... I need my church peeps!"

Can I be joyful now? How? Joy is not like happiness, which is based upon whether things are going well or not. I investigated it, and the Bible talks about happiness or joy, but it is defined quite differently. In the Bible, you can experience joy regardless of your circumstances. It is separate from what is going on in our lives. I want that joy!

What is there to be joyful about, you might be thinking? During this pandemic, I have seen great collaboration by industries, neighbors, communities, and yes, even celebrities. I have seen families out at the parks and kids fishing. I have heard countless times, "we are eating together at the table." I have seen great things here at MUMC. We have started Community Grace to reach the needs of those in our church and community who need a little love and help with essential needs. The quilters and friends of the church have donated hundreds of hand sewn masks to the Church of the Warm Heart, hospitals, and individuals in our community as well as in other states. The virus cannot take away the love we have for one another, or our joy! So as Pastor John would say, "I challenge you to see the little joys in every day." In memory of the Bill Withers song, lean on me, friends!

Blessings & good health,

Lisa Miller
Congregational Care Minister
care@meridianumc.com



My Inspirations:

YouTube Bill Withers Lean on Me

YouTube Mom Loves Chewbacca Masks original (good for a laugh)

Candance Payne Simple Joys Book

The Little Book of Hygge

Danish Secrets to Happy Living by Meik Wiking

MINISTRIES & NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS

For General Operations:	Mar. 2020	Year-to-Date
Given	\$ 49,676	\$ 171,796
Need	\$ 62,623	\$ 189,332
Outcome	\$ -12,947	\$ -17,536

To say that I am surprised and very thankful for the way we, as a church, have responded with our tithes and gifts even though we are not meeting would be an understatement. I talked last month about not having the opportunity to place our offering in the plates each Sunday. But some have changed to online giving and others are going "old school" and simply mailing their gifts to the church office. Either way works! Currently we find ourselves in a negative position of \$17,536. Comparing last year to now, we are almost in the same position. Giving is almost the same, and expenses are within a couple hundred dollars.

When we can meet once again, you will notice that some improvements have been made that could affect our finances. A new roof is being installed over the FLC as I write this. The \$55,000 cost has been covered by members of our congregation. What a blessing to not have to have a special campaign to pay for this capital outlay.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the youth mission trip to Puerto Rico has been rescheduled to next year. This delay is a huge disappointment, but now we have another year to plan a bigger and better trip. The proposed changes in the sanctuary have been delayed as well. Not cancelled--just delayed. Also, the General conference has been postponed until a later time.

We are learning to adapt to the present situation we face. Few of us had ever heard of ZOOM. Now most of our committee meetings, Bible studies and staff meetings are conducted this way. Some of us would never have given online but now it is a routine way to sustain our church. It is a blessing to be able to watch our Sunday services via the internet. I am so glad that we decided to use modern technology to reach out to our community this way. I am keenly aware that all of us are missing our fellow church friends. At least we can see Pastor John each Sunday to give us a small feeling of normalcy.

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 and 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 a.m. via a recording or at any other time. 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 governmental leaders during these trying times.

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

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Warm Heart Music Ministries are continuing to work behind the scenes during our Stay at Home ordinance. Individuals and small ensembles are working on their own to be prepared for musical offerings when our regular scheduling resumes. **We are now trying to video record folks providing music from their homes to incorporate into the Live Streamed service.** If you have something to offer for these Online Only services, please contact Debbie Jones at: worshiparts@meridianumc.com.

The Celebration Choir

The choir is working on a special project. We hope to be able to share it with our church family soon!

The Koinonia Handbell Choir

The handbell choir has been suspended for the season. If any individual(s) would like to offer a hand bell solo or duet for a service, please contact Debbie Jones.

The Rolling Tones Youth Tone Chime Choir and Angels Alive Choir

These choirs have been suspended for the season. If any of these youth would like to offer something on their own, please contact Debbie so we can make arrangements to incorporate them and their musical offering into our services.

LIVE STREAMED services/Pre-recorded services:

For now, our services are being pre-recorded and posted on our Website and FB page on Saturday evenings, PLUS we are Live Streaming them on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Your video team is working hard to make these accessible and user-friendly. If you have concerns, contact Debbie Jones (worshiparts@meridianumc.com).

Blessings,

Debbie Jones
Minister of Worship Arts
Meridian UMC
Church of the Warm Heart



MORE NEWS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

Upcoming Events

UWM luncheon, Bible study and guest speaker for **May 9** has been **cancelled**. We hope to be able to reschedule Kelly McMurry from The Closet later in the fall.

Ongoing Mission Outreach

The Closet's needs are teen sizes of underwear (for boys and girls) and men's and women's deodorant. If you can gather these items for The Closet and save them until we are able to meet, it will be most appreciated.

Mirror Image: Lisa Miller, coordinator for the Mirror Image project, reports that the supplies for the area youth have been gratefully received and were so appreciated. Please continue gathering these hygiene items as you are able, and we will collect them next time we meet. Thank you all!



Days for Girls, June 13, our annual day of sewing reusable hygiene items for teens and young women is hanging on by a thread (no pun intended!!). Watch for an announcement if we can meet on that day.



Mission U, which was to be held at the Nazareth Center in Boise on **July 13-15**, has been cancelled. A condensed version with the Spiritual Growth Study is being planned for September 18-19 at Boise 1st UMC, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and Leadership training.

Meridian UMW Women's Retreat

August 13, 6 p.m.

An evening with Amelia Jenks Bloomer, Suffragette, is still planned for **August 13**, at 6 p.m. Janet Worthington from the Idaho Humanities Council will be introducing us to this amazing woman who was such a driving force in the passing of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Dinner will be provided at this meeting.



Easter Lilies, given by and *In Honor* of the following people...

In honor of The Gambill, Bidondo and Mattison families & JoAnn Eggers

In honor of Thomas, Shana, Don & Sheila Lindsay, from Dave & Joan Lindsay

In honor of Helen Schoonen (Jana's Mon), from Leo & Jana Puga

Easter Lilies, given by and *In Memory* of the following people...

Charlie & Marta Bidondo; *In memory of* Phil & Marian Cherry & Jean Bidondo

Paul & Harriet Calverley; *In memory of* Howard & Sylvia Calverley and Craig & Edna Wilson (our parents) and Clara Hamming

Joan Corum; *In memory of* Hal Corum, Bill & Ollie Larrabee (parents)

JoAnn Eggers; *In memory of* Chet Eggers

Jerry & Judy Ferrell; *In memory of* Carolyn Leech Ferrell & Richard Sidney Ashton

Judy & Marcel Goldberg; *In memory of* Tom Thostesen (Judy's father)

Johnny & Carol Jetton; *In memory of* James & Lorene Jetton and Frank & Helen Bryce

William L. Kennedy; *In memory of* Millie M. Kennedy

Dave & Joan Lindsay; *In memory of* David T. & Lucille L. Lindsay, Robert & Laura Dyson, Clyde & Hyrtha Miller

Sandi Lodge; *In memory of* Norman Lodge

Gerry & Sue Mattison; *In memory of* Red, Louise and Buddy Gambill, Evelyn Mattison, Jean (Papa) Bidondo, Frank and Mildred Mattison, Ruth Washburn, Carl, Virginia and Joshua Freeman, Mabel Allen, Leonard and Nancy Rutan, Tom and Mary Young, Dennis Dixon, Marilyn Marks, John & Hazel Dudgeon, Terry P. Smith, Linda Schoen, Chet Eggers, Phil & Marian Cherry, Helen Bryce, Wes & Rosie Hoalst, Dennis Emerson, Mike Ravine, Bob Kurz, Cindi Raney and Doris Miller

Leo & Jana Puga; *In memory of* Dave Schoonen (Jana's father)

Roger & Kathy Strander; *In memory of* Anton & Helga Strander and Arthur & Isabel Jensen (our parents)

Neta Weber; *In memory of* Larry Weber

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.





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

MAY EVENTS CALENDAR

May events are cancelled.

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

Happy Mother's Day!

**JUNE
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

**Monday
May 20**

Submissions may be
e-mailed to Elaine Carlson:

cc@meridianumc.com

or brought by the
church office.

Thank you!