

# Welcome

A *meridian* can be defined as "the highest point reached by a heavenly body in its course."<sup>1</sup> Although we are not literally in heaven, we have been placed, as believers in "heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). As we set our aim of *Lifting Christ Higher*, focusing on Heaven, and seeking to continually draw nearer to Jesus, then we will begin to comprehend those "heavenly places" as more of a reality than just some words on a page.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for choosing Meridian as the place for you to give honor and praise to our wonderful Savior on this Lord's Day. We trust that you will come to know and understand more fully the relationship you can have in Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Webster's New World Dictionary, ©1971.

## Meridian Online



## Contact

Scott Kliever (Pastor)  
Cell (Phone or Text): 316-727-1390  
Email: pastor@mbcnewton.org

Caleb Wood (Assistant Pastor)  
Cell (Phone or Text): 318-294-6777  
Email: assistant@mbcnewton.org

Jerroll Martens (Pastor Emeritus)  
Cell (Phone or Text): 316-288-3622

## Sermon notes

### Guidelines for Gift Giving

What makes a great gift?

**John 3:16**

**God lays out some principles for the ideal gift.**

- 1. An ideal gift is Good - James 1:17**
  - a. God's gifts are always useful and beneficial**
  - b. God's gifts are always complete and lack nothing**

Joshua 23:14; Psalm 34:8; Psalm 84:11

- 2. An ideal gift is Intimate - 2 Corinthians 9:15**

**God was thinking of us in a very special way.**

The gift of Christ reveals God's heart toward us.

- 3. An ideal gift is Free - Ephesians 2:8**  
Freely given not out of obligation.

Motivation behind gift-giving:

- a. The gift for a gift, gift**

This is not how God operates.

**Grace - God giving to me something I do not deserve**

We do nothing to earn it.

- b. The gift for a favor gift**

Hoping for a favor in return

God's grace has no expectations in return.

**The gift of grace involves a life of grace.**

- 4. An ideal gift is Timely - Galatians 4:4**
  - a. Ability on the part of the giver.**

Ability means that the giver has the resources to provide a gift.

- b. Need on the part of the receiver**

Our need is obvious, given our sinful state.

Gift giving involves ability coupled with a need to create an opportunity.

**Do not get sidetracked or ambushed with distractions from the real reason for the season.**



DECEMBER 21, 2025



Scott Kliever  
Pastor

Caleb Wood  
Assistant Pastor

1130 West Broadway  
P.O. Box 321  
Newton, Kansas 67114

316.283.6380

info@mbcnewton.org

~ December 21, 2025 ~

*We extend a warm WELCOME!*

*If you are visiting today,*

*Connect Cards are available for you*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL . . . . . 9:30am**

**MORNING WORSHIP . . . . . 10:40am**

Scripture Reading: John 3:13-17

Hymns – (Red) 87, 83, 96

**Meet in the MFC Classroom for  
Caroling . . . . . 5:00pm**

**NO EVENING SERVICE**

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Young people aged 4 - 4th grade are invited to be dismissed before the sermon for age- related teaching.

### THIS WEEK AT MERIDIAN

**Wed – 6:00PM – Christmas Eve Service**  
**Fri – 5:30PM – New Hope Outreach**

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Bill & Vickie Jaworski –**  
*Profession of Faith and Baptism*

**Valerie Sump –**  
*Profession of Faith and Baptism*

**Mike Wetschensky –**  
*Profession of Faith and Baptism*

### LOOKING AHEAD AT MERIDIAN

**Dec 30 (Tue, 5:30PM) – New Hope  
Outreach**

**Dec 31 (Wed, 6:00PM) – Soup Supper  
and Service**

**Jan 4 (4:30PM) – Deacons mtg.**

**Jan 6-9 (Tue-Fri) – Southland Worship  
Conference**

**Feb 1 (Sun, AM) – Pastor Caleb  
candidating for Senior Pastor**

**Feb 1 (Sun, AM) – Special Business  
meeting**

### RECENT CHURCH BUSINESS

The following motions were approved at the December Annual Business Mtg.

#### From the Deacons:

- Begin mission support for **Daniel and Mary Simonsen** at \$150.00 per month beginning January 1, 2026.
- Disburse \$800.00 to Pastor Kliewer to assist with an upcoming mission trip to the Philippines from February 24 to March 13, 2026.
- Support and pay for Pastor Caleb to continue his biblical education by obtaining a Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling with a cost of approximately \$19,500.00 over the next two years.
- Salary packages were decided for the two pastors and the retirement benefit for Pastor Martens.

### ALL CHURCH CAROLING

We plan to meet at **5:00PM** this evening in the MFC Classroom and organize groups for caroling to folks from our congregation who are older or unable to get out very much. After caroling we will meet back at the church for a jambalaya and chili fellowship. If you have not yet signed up using a Care-Share Card or text, please do so this morning if you plan to participate.

### CHRISTMAS EVE PARTICIPATION

We are inviting our church families or individuals to be a blessing through music or reading for our Christmas Eve service. The presentation should revolve around the theme of Christmas. Please indicate on a Care-Share Card or let one of the pastors know **TODAY** of your desire and manner in which you wish to participate.

### MERIDIAN LADIES MINISTRIES

In January we will begin our new study. If you want a study guide ordered, **TODAY** is the last day to sign at the Hospitality Desk.

### NEW YEARS EVE ACTIVITIES

Everyone is invited to welcome in the new year Wednesday, December 31, beginning at 6:00pm. Families are encouraged to bring their favorite soup to share, along with other food items and desserts. We will have a devotional and a prayer time to ask for God's blessings for 2026. Those who would like to stay for games and fellowship after the service are invited to do so, even until midnight if they desire to welcome in the new year. Feel free to bring table games and extra snacks for the after-fellowship time.

### SECRET SISTER ENROLLMENT

It is enrollment time for our Secret Prayer Sisters ministry. If you are interested in participating in 2026 you may secure your name exchange form from Peggy George. Names will be drawn the end of January. Any other questions about the program may be directed to Peggy George.

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

**Dec 21 – AM – Ashley / Crystal**  
**PM – Sarah / Elijah**

**Dec 28 – AM – Daina / Peggy**  
**PM – Kathy / Deidra**