

Welcome

A *meridian* can be defined as "the highest point reached by a heavenly body in its course."¹ 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.

¹ Webster's New World Dictionary, ©1971.

Meridian Online



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Sermon notes

A New Opportunity to Press Onward Philippians 3:13-14

Leave past distractions behind and pursue the life God has called you to live with unwavering determination.

1. Forget the Distractions

"forgetting those things which are behind"

a. Let Go of Past Failures

Dwelling on past mistakes robs us of joy and opportunities God has for us today.

b. Avoid Depending on Past Successes

Your successes, though a blessing, should not be your main goal.

2. Focus on the Destination

"the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"

a. The goal of Christ

When we focus on Christ, we see more than just potential failure and defeat, but we see opportunities to represent Christ.

b. The Call to Heavenly Pursuits Colossians 3:1-2

3. Forge Ahead with Determination

"reaching forth ... I press toward the mark"

a. Forward with Perseverance

God does not judge for WHERE you finished, but for HOW you ran and finished.

Hebrews 12:1-2

b. Finishing with Power 2 Timothy 4:7

Take the challenge to forget the distractions of the past, press onward with purpose, and finish strong in your journey of faith.



DECEMBER 28, 2025



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~ December 28, 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: Philippians 3:8-14

Hymns – (Blue) 201, 216, 227

EVENING SERVICE 6:00pm
Pastor Caleb *Bible Delight*

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 – Soup Supper / Service / Fellowship
Thur – 7:00PM – Rescue Mission (Tom Hummingbird)
Fri – 5:30PM – New Hope Outreach

NURSERY SCHEDULE

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

Jan 4 – AM – Daina / Peggy
PM – Kathy / Deidra

LOOKING AHEAD AT MERIDIAN

Jan 4 (4:30PM) – Deacons mtg.
Jan 6 (Tue, 5:30PM) – New Hope Outreach
Jan 6-9 (Tue-Fri) – Southland Worship Conference
Jan 11 (Sun, AM) – Deacon Dedication
Jan 17 (Sat, Noon) – Barnabas Class Fellowship Lunch
Jan 24 (Sat, 9:00AM) – Mighty Men
Feb 1 (Sun, AM) – Pastor Caleb candidating for Senior Pastor
Feb 1 (Sun, AM) – Special Business mtg.
Feb 15 (Sun, PM) – Valentine Fellowship

THANK YOU'S

My special appreciation for the joyful Christmas caroling on Sunday and the goody bag. Every word and encouragement in this season is greatly appreciated. **Pastor Jerroll Martens**

I give my thanks to those who participated in the cash gift for this Christmas. Your love, kindness, and generosity are a great blessing to me. **Pastor Scott Kliewer**

NEW YEARS ACTIVITIES

Everyone is invited to welcome in the new year **THIS** Wednesday, December 31, beginning at 6:00pm. Families are encouraged to bring their favorite soup to share, along with other food items and desserts. Following the meal, 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Systematic giving to God's work is a Biblical mandate and should be practiced by obedient Christians. Offering Envelopes are available under the bulletin board next to the Church Office to aid you in this practice. By using this method, you are provided with a reminder, and our Financial Secretary will be able to maintain your giving record in a discreet manner. It will also provide you with documentation at the end of the year. If you are not currently using this system and would like to begin doing so, please find an unmarked box and begin using the envelopes. The Financial Secretary will note your envelope number and offering accordingly. Otherwise, please find the box with your name on it. All boxes are located on the small table next to Pastor Kliewer's office.

PROPOSED PLANS FOR 2026

As the Meridian church family considers the future of pastoral leadership upon Pastor Kliewer's retirement announcement, the following are recommendations from the deacons:

- **Jan 26** – Final day for questions to be submitted to the deacons for Pastor Caleb
- **Feb 1** – Pastor Caleb preaching and candidating in the AM service
- **After Feb 1** – Pastor Caleb pursuing ordination
- **After ordination** Pastor Caleb will assume the role of Associate Pastor and will take on more responsibilities in transition
- **Dec 31** (or sometime in 2027) Pastor Caleb will be installed as the Senior Pastor and Pastor Kliewer will move to a parttime support role