

# Welcome

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

## Counting the Cost Joshua 1:10-3:5

**We will miss out on God's purpose if we are impatient and do not properly count the cost.**

### 1. A Separation to be Confirmed (1:12-18)

Joshua dealing with the two and a half tribes regarding a previous arrangement found in Numbers 32.

Joshua confirms their choice.

**This was not a wise choice, but one that God permitted.**

They are so close to God's blessings but never possessing any of the land for themselves.

**God's will is for us to go all in for holiness and stand separate from sin.**

To live on the fringes of obedience is a dangerous place.

### 2. A Soul to be Considered (2:1-24)

Within the city of Jericho was one life that had faith in God.

**Rahab – a woman of faith**

Faith proclaimed in Hebrews 11:31

Faith justified by her works in James 2:25

Faith recognized in Christ's genealogy

God's judgment was withheld for Rahab.

Rahab believed in God's supernatural evidences in His people.

### 3. A Sanctification to be Completed (3:1-5)

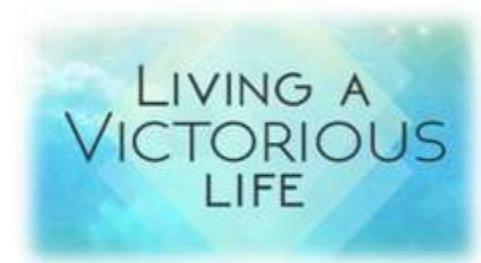
The wonder-working power of God always depends on the sanctification of God's people.

"The level on which God meets men depends on the level on which we as Christians are prepared to meet our Lord." (Alan Redpath)

**Count the cost! In doing so, we not only see what needs to be spent, but also the value of that which we desire to purchase.**



JANUARY 18, 2026



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~ January 18, 2026 ~

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: Mark 6:35-41

Hymns – (Blue) 86, 99, 444

**CHOIR REHEARSAL . . . . . 5:15pm**

**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 – 6:30PM – Adult Bible Study and Prayer; Teen Bible Study; Kid's Club**  
**Sat – 9:00AM – Meridian Mighty Men**

### PAM KLEWER PIANO CD

We are pleased to announce the completion and availability of Pam's piano CD. There is no charge for the CD, but if you would like to make a donation, it will go back into her Memorial Fund to help with other music projects. You will find a plate next to the CD's. There is also a booklet available containing the words to the recorded songs.

### LOOKING AHEAD AT MERIDIAN

**Jan 25 (Sun, AM) – Pastor Caleb preaching**  
**Feb 1 (Sun, AM) – Pastor Caleb candidating for Senior Pastor**  
**Feb 1 (Sun, AM) – Special Business meeting to vote on the proposed plan resulting in Pastor Caleb Wood becoming the next senior pastor**  
**Feb 15 (Sun, PM) – Valentine Fellowship (sign-up begins next Sunday)**

### TRUSTEES

We are thankful for the men God has raised up among us to care for the physical property of the church. They are led by Pastor Caleb. If you find something that is broken or in need of repair, please let one of these men know or put a note on a Care-Share Card.

**Greg Hummingbird – President**  
**John Hendricks – Vice President**  
**Brent Busenitz – Secretary**  
**Lyndon Decker**  
**Marlin Hiebert**  
**Tim Marlar**

### INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

If the need for the cancellation of a service should arise due to snow or ice, you may check one of the following sources:

- MBC Home Page - [www.mbcnewton.org](http://www.mbcnewton.org)
- MBC Facebook page
- MBC Information Link - Texting or Email

### SECRET SISTER ENROLLMENT

For those who would like to participate in Secret Prayer Sisters, contact Peggy George. We will be drawing names for 2026 on Sunday, **January 25**.

### CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

A significant benefit of our Pictorial Directory is that it helps people identify others with a picture. It also provides a location for contact information as well as birthdays and anniversaries. If you would like to be included in our directory, let Pastor Kliewer know.

*Please note that the Pictorial Directory is separate from our text notifications.*

### NEW HOPE OUTREACH

Every six weeks we have an opportunity to provide two meals for about 25-30 homeless people sheltered at New Hope. We would like to meet after the morning service with those committed to helping with this ministry.

### 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 25** - 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

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

**Jan 18 – AM – Anna / Karen M.  
PM – Kathy / Deidra**

**Jan 25 – AM – Peggy / Vickie  
PM – Sarah / Elijah**