

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

July, 2023, Issue 7

On July 4, we will celebrate our independence as a nation. This is a wonderful holiday celebrated with cookouts, hotdogs, ice cream, flags, fireworks, parades, marching bands, etc. as we remember those who made this freedom, we enjoy today possible. In 1776, we declared our independence from England. Since then, we have been through a lot of tough times as we have tried to live up to the principles and freedom our forefathers sought.

In the same way, at Easter and Pentecost, the Church declared its independence from the manmade rules and regulations of the religious leaders and practices of that time period. And over the past few centuries, we have had a tough time trying to live up to the teachings of Jesus Christ and being the Church He desires.

Right now, both the Church and our country are dealing with issues that are dividing people. Today, it appears that people are always looking for an opportunity to debate or argue about any political or moral issue. When instead we should be united and focused on the

fact that we were created as one nation under God. People today spend their time listening to the media, TV commentators and so-called experts who are dividing us instead of focusing on worshipping and serving God and following His Word.

Folks, we need to get back to God, to the basics. I don't care whether you are a Democrat, Republican, Independent or whatever, or what your opinions are on the latest political or ethical issues. My only and main concern is whether you truly believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and whether you have a personal relationship with Him.

I truly believe that the only hope for the Church and our country is to return to God. He is calling us, but are we listening? Will we respond as the great prophet Isaiah did: "Here I am, Lord, send me!"

So how will we respond? You have heard me say it over and over again. Make it a daily habit to set aside time each day for a quiet time of prayer and reading your Bible; be in worship every chance you have; and get involved in a weekly Bible study and a service project. The well-being and strength of any church and this country depends on the spiritual well-being of each person. One of

our hymns states: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." I would revise it to say: "Let there be a revival in the Church and our nation, and let it begin with me." Let's stop debating and get to work growing closer to God and serving Him.

As long as you will let me be your pastor, I am going to focus on preaching the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, in other words the Gospel, and missions, and not get caught up in the current debates. The fact is that I don't have time for them! God is calling us to make a difference for Him right now. Happy Fourth of July!

God Bless, Reuben

Planning Ahead for Operation Christmas Child

Here are some suggestions for ways to prepare for the next few months to fill your showboxes with fun and useful items:

July: Clothing (T-shirts, socks, sandals, etc.)

August: school supplies (crayons, markers, rulers, paper tablets)

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who is Gideon in the Old Testament? (Look for answer elsewhere in this issue.)

Bible Studies Available

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying a LifeGuide Topical Bible Studies, entitled “Prayers of the New Testament” Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM class taking a break for the summer

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM class taking a break for the summer

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: On a break for the summer.

AT FAIRWINDS: Tony Smith leads a Bible Study at Fairwinds each week.

ONLINE STUDIES: We are currently sending out each week an email from Tony Smith discussing a chapter from the Book of Isaiah. In addition, you can participate in one of Tony’s online studies on Daniel, John and Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

PODCASTS: “Footsteps” Available on the church website.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

BINGO! That was the happy word heard often at our most recent social outing planned by the Fellowship Committee. On Thursday, June 22nd, twenty souls gathered for a fun afternoon of bingo and prizes and camaraderie. The attendees turned out to be a good mix of both services. In addition to getting acquainted with unfamiliar faces and names, we also played host to two non-member guests (thank you Joanne Claybrooke and Wanda Whittlesey Jerome). A special thank you goes out to Dave Duranty who performed brilliantly as emcee of the affair. Of course, that included Dave’s own brand of good, clean, church jokes . . . For those who were unable to attend, you were missed!

Until next time, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

Words that should end with “Amen”: God wants full custody of his children, not just weekend visits.

Discipleship Corner

A monthly feature by Lisa Isenberger

Recognizing Jesus (July)

Something that fascinates me is the number of accounts in the Bible where those who were closest to Jesus failed to recognize Him. It happened when the disciples saw Jesus walking on water (they thought he was a ghost), when Mary Magdalen saw Jesus after the resurrection (she thought he was the gardener), and on the road to Emmaus (they thought he was a stranger).

Can you imagine what it would feel like to spend time with Jesus and not realize it is Him? What a missed opportunity! Jesus's words for His disciples suggest that there may be times when that exact thing happens to each of us.

Matthew 25:37-41 "37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you as a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" 40 And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Don't miss out on an opportunity to spend time with Jesus. Maybe this month you can make it a point to recognize Him among the poor and suffering in the community, spend time with Him there, and be prepared to serve Him with a loving heart.

Prayer: Almighty God, As we strive to be disciples of Jesus, open the eyes of our hearts to recognize Him among "the least of these" in our community. Help us to love and serve others in their times of need, knowing that in doing so, we are loving and serving Him. In His name we pray. AMEN.

Answer to "Obscure Names in the Bible":

Gideon was noteworthy for several reasons; most of them recorded in Judges 6 & 8. He was among the lucky few designated *by angels*. He destroyed Baal's altar; he experienced a miraculous victory over the Midianites; and he fathered seventy-one (71) sons. He is also known as the one who refused a kingship. A lot to be remembered for, wouldn't you say?

JULY SECOND MILE GIVING

Our Second Mile Giving for July will be for the Interfaith Bible Center located at 7501 Trumbull Avenue SE in the International Zone of Albuquerque where they provide daily meals, showers and housing for the homeless. Matthew 25:35-36 states: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Rev. Joanne Landry serves a hot meal five days a week. You can imagine that this is quite expensive as the numbers continue to increase. Over the past few years, High Desert UMC has been purchasing approximately \$350 of food each month to support this ministry. Thus, during July you may contribute to this essential ministry to ensure that no one goes hungry by noting "Interfaith Bible Center" on memo line of your check to the church. Thank you for your continued support for the outreach ministries of High Desert UMC.

Women with Purpose

Taking a break for the summer. Plan to join us the first Thursday in September at 10:00 AM.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

During July, we will be collecting school supplies for our local schools, Pantry clients and St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel. As we all know there are many families that cannot afford to buy all the items required for their children's classes. We are focusing on the basic supplies for local schools, and on art supplies for St. Joseph Mission School:

LOCAL SCHOOLS	ST. JOSEPH MISSION
Pencils	Crayons
Crayons	Pencil Boxes
Regular Glue Sticks	Art Paper
Notebooks	Drawing/Sketch Pads
Notebook Paper	Water Colors
Children's Scissors	Washable Kids Paint
Erasers	Colored Pencils & Markers



You may place your donation in the bins in the Narthex.

July 2023

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	3 12:00 Bag Ladies	4 Happy Independence Day	5 9 Mission Com. Office Hours : 9 AM-12 Noon	6	7 11 AM – 2 PM - Pantry	8
9 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10	11	12 Office Hrs 9-12	13	14 10 AM Emmaus Agape Group	15
16 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship Gallup Mission Trip	17 Gallup Mission Trip	18 9 AM Food Pantry 6:PM Leadership Committee Gallup Mission Trip	19 Office Hrs: 9-12	20 1 PM Food Pantry	21	22
23 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	24	25	26 Office Hours: 9 AM – 12 Noon	27	28	29 2:00 PM Celebration of Life, Eileen Sever
30 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	31					

SS = Sunday School;

MS = MorningStar Worship;

FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids

June Mission Trip St. Joseph's Mission School, San Fidel, NM



Volunteers from High Desert UMC spent the last week of June constructing an ADA accessible ramp to one of the portable classrooms at the school. Their efforts, and your generosity, are enabling the students to safely access their classrooms. Pictured are Bruce Packard, Tony Smith and Reuben Thomas, along with Lester Lockwood (of the St. Joseph's community) hard at work on the project.

Many thanks to these dedicated guys for their loyal service and hard work on those hot summer days. They are truly following Christ's teachings when He said:

"Whatsoever you have done for one of the least of these, you have done for me."

Matthew 25: 40



these dedicated guys for their loyal service and hard work on those hot summer days.



4 Paws Pet Food Bank

On the last Sunday of July our Second Mile Giving will go to support 4 Paws Pet Food Bank, located on the grounds of the Corrales Kennel. It supports those in our community who are struggling to feed their beloved companion animals. Many of the clients of our church's Food Pantry also utilize this resource. Supplies are running low and needs are outpacing donations. If you would like to help, please indicate "Pet Food Bank" on your check.



Care Ministry

You're invited to call or send cards to these of our church family, to offer words of support and encouragement.

Sheila Arce	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111	
Phil Pittman	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Lorra Garner	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq 87114	408-722-6482
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
Rod Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	332-9706
Mary Lou Schimke	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498	898-5911
Mac Esquibel	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
Sister Barbara Kopecki	3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659	
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
Wanda Schierling	921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004	970-398-0501



Tony & Sheila Smith	July 4
Robert & Carli Pacheco	July 7
John & Lori Kottenbrook	July 12
Paul & Rose Meyer	July 22
Mel & Faye Lora	July 31



Barry Birch	July 2
Linette Carlson	July 3
Grover Donahoe	July 4
Sandy Dewbre	July 6
Dave Zapf	July 7
Riley Siverts	July 7
Lana Packard	July 8
Carolyn McDowell	July 9
Ellie Mueller	July 10
Shawn Colbert	July 14
Ione Harrard	July 18
Kai Warrior	July 21
Patty Latter	July 21
Warren Herrington	July 22
Ginny Peasley	July 27
Joanna Jones	July 28
Earl Hester	July 28
Dottie Hester	July 28
Shirley Rexroth	July 31



Thanks to Shirley Osterlander
 HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?
 01-13-2004



The **Men's** Walk to Emmaus – **August 14-17, 2023**

The **Women's** Walk to Emmaus – Sept. 14-17, 2023
(tentative)

Inlow Retreat Center (in the Manzano Mountains)

A Personal Testimony

Hmm, a walk to Emmaus? When I first heard of this 'spiritual experience retreat,' I really had no idea what it meant. Instinctively, I figured that such an intense event (no phones, no clocks, no contact with the outside world) would take a huge chunk of sincere commitment, and frankly, that scared me. No way was I 'religious' enough for this kind of personal interaction. I simply didn't have the *courage* to accept that I needed this very specific direction for my life. Linnette Carlson had been bugging me for years to sign up for a Women's Walk to Emmaus, and I kept putting her off by saying, "I'm just not ready, yet."

I wasn't ready because I was a coward. I was afraid to turn my life over to my Savior, Jesus Christ. I'm embarrassed to admit it never occurred to me to pray about that fear.

Then, in 2012 when my daughter-in-law Christie suggested that we sign up together, I jumped at the chance. I was excited to share this experience with her. My attitude had undergone a true about-face., and suddenly I was anxious for my 72 hours of one-on-one with Jesus. It was like the idea had been simmering until the time was just perfect to take it off the stove.

God's timing is always perfect. If you are having some self-doubts, I would be honored to pray with you and for you. That weekend in Arkansas changed my life forever, and I thank Him every morning.
~Judy Ballard

"Walk to Emmaus" is based on the scripture Luke 24:13-35 which tells of the men's journey on the road to Emmaus and sharing their hearts' deepest concern about the death of Jesus. They encounter Christ, share a meal and recognize our risen Lord; rushing back to Jerusalem to share the great news. **The Walk to Emmaus is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as he is revealed to you through other believers.** It is a 72-hour experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation. You will enjoy 3 busy days singing, learning, laughing, praying, worshipping and participating in small groups.

The theme of each talk is God's Grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community, and how it expresses itself in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace and bring grace to other.

You are invited to walk with Christ, in a new and different way, for the rest of your life!

We have numerous persons in our congregation that have gone a Walk to Emmaus. In fact, we have several working on these men and women's walks!

If you would like to talk with someone, have questions or would like an application, please contact **Linnette Carlson @ 505-450-4152, Judy Ballard @ 505-240-0912, Wanda Giovengo @ 505-847-0804** or **Pastor Reuben** ASAP to reserve your weekend experience.





KAIROS Prison Ministry

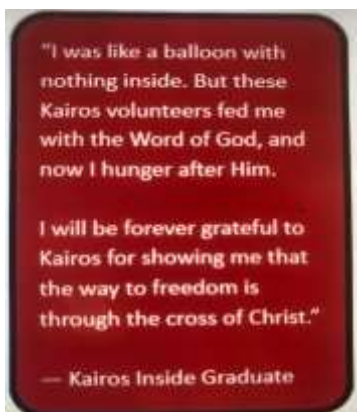
August 17th– 20nd at the Women's Correctional Facility in Grants, NM

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World!

“KAIROS” is a Greek word that is used in the sense of a time set by God for a particular occurrence or “God’s Special Time”. The purpose of Kairos is to establish strong Christian Communities among the populations of correctional institutions. The mission is to bring Christ’s love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them and to assist in incarcerated in the transition to becoming a productive citizen. The KAIROS weekend is similar to the “Walk to Emmaus” and “Cursillo” weekends but conducted inside a prison setting. The weekend is the first step in a spiritual journey for these ladies as team members commit to returning to the prison on a monthly basis to continue to work with them.

Linn Carlson will be working this Kairos weekend and would like you to have the opportunity to support this life-changing ministry. You can participate in any of the following ways:

- If you would like to bake **cookies** (**Each** team member needs to take in **36 dozen**) as cookies are not only given to the 18 women participating in the Kairos weekend **BUT ALSO TO EACH AND EVERY WOMAN INCARCERATED AT GRANTS AS WELL AS EACH AND EVERY FACILITY STAFF MEMBER** – a physical demonstration of agape love. Please see Linn about the *special instructions* related to making cookies. More information to come regarding when the cookies are due to Linn right before the weekend.
- Sign up to **pray** for 30 minutes for the women participating in the weekend as well as all the volunteers who are working the weekend. A prayer chain is developed so that from the time we walk into the prison on Thursday until we leave on Sunday afternoon – that we are covered in prayer around the clock and without interruption!
- Financially support the weekend by:
 - 1) making a **financial donation** (Marked “Kairos” on the memo line) to help with the expenses to put on the weekend (i.e. supplies, meals are provided Thursday through Sunday for all residents and team, Bibles for residents, etc.). Due to institutional regulations and safeguards, commercially purchased food is now required for all meals served to participating residents and team rather than being able to cook the food ourselves. Obviously, this has dramatically increased the cost of conducting a KAIROS weekend.
 - 2) **Donate \$5.00 or \$10.00** towards “Meal Tickets” which goes towards providing a meal for one of the prison inmates participating in the weekend. At each meal, the meal ticket with your first name and the city you live in is placed on their placemat – again reminding them that someone who doesn’t know them loves and cares about them.
- If you would like more information about this ministry, please feel free to call or talk with Linn Carlson at church or call at 450-4152. **God Bless You and Thank You!**



**HIGH DESERT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

1201 Golf Course Rd
P.O. Box 45378
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Phone: 505-891-4206

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

We're on the Web!
www.highdesertumc.org

July, 2023 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for June, 2023 are:

Friday, July 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 20 at 1:00 p.m.

July Collection: Canned Vegetables

There is a container in the Narthex for these donations.

Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667

for more information.
