

*“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

June, 2023, Issue 6

Most of you know how much I like baseball. I really enjoyed our baseball outing to see the Isotopes play last month and have scheduled the next outing for Sunday September 10. One of my joys have been the privilege of coaching both my sons and my two grandsons in baseball. We just finished our Little League season at Eastdale Baseball Park on Alameda where my grandson Logan played on the Rays in the Minor League. My son Ben was the manager and I was the assistant coach.

We had a great group of ballplayers this year; some were experienced players while others were new to the game. Each had different gifts or skill levels: some were great hitters, others good pitchers, some showed outstanding defense in the field, and some were great base runners. Our goal as coaches was to bring out the best in each player and help them use their gifts and skills.

The same is true for the Christian life and the church. God has blessed each one of us with certain spiritual gifts that He expects and hopes that we will use in His service. Some of

us are experienced Christians, and some are new to the faith. As with our ball team where the more experienced players helped those who were new to the game, we are called to help each other grow in our walk with the Lord and put our gifts to use in building His kingdom.

In our league, everyone gets to play. On our team, we had players from different backgrounds, schools, and even nationalities. We had right-handed and left-handed batters, tall and short players, and fast and slow runners. We were the only team in the league with a girl on it. All of these kids played as a team, and accepted each other for who they were.

In the same way, the Church is made up of many different people from different backgrounds, ethnic groups, and religious denominations. Just like the players on a ball team are different so are we. The Apostle Paul understood this when he described the body of Christ in Romans 12:4-6 – “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” As Christians, we are all on Jesus’ team. We are called to

support and encourage each other.

At the end of each game, win or lose, the players line up and congratulate each other on a good game. That’s the way Jesus wants us as Christians to play the game of life. In John 13:34-35, Jesus said: “A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” The word that Jesus uses here for love is agape which means seeking the best for the other person no matter what they have done or said about you. It’s looking for the good in all people and not judging them according to your own personal moral standards. Think how much better our world would be if everybody played ball like that. I used to have a T-shirt that read: “Life Begins with Baseball.” However, while I love baseball, life for me begins with Jesus Christ

God Bless,

Reuben

## OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Asher? (From the Old Testament, Genesis 30)  
(Answer on P.6 )

### *Bible Studies Available*

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

**MONDAY 10 AM class staking a break for the summer:**

**WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM:** Our Wednesday morning class is led by John Kottenbrook.

**WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM:** Last class is June 7<sup>th</sup>; then 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](mailto:coraleno@aol.com).

**PODCASTS:** “Footsteps” Available on the church website.

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### *Congratulation Graduates*

Congratulations to the following High School seniors:

| GRADUATE                 | HIGH SCHOOL   | PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS                    | COLLEGE                     |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Alexander (Alex) Pacheco | Rio Rancho    | Robert & Carli Pacheco                  | Texas Tech University       |
| Kacey Thunborg           | East Mountain | John & Kim Thunborg<br>Phyllis Thunborg | New Mexico State University |
| Jenna Thunborg           | East Mountain | John & Kim Thunborg<br>Phyllis Thunborg | University of New Mexico    |

On Mother’s Day, May 7, a Bible was presented to each one of the above graduates in recognition of their accomplishments. We also presented a Bible to Amoreena LaCour, our pianist at MorningStar. Amoreena graduated from Rio Rancho High School this year, and will be attending Eastern New Mexico University in Portales this fall.

# Discipleship Corner

*A monthly feature by Lisa Isenberger*

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## Accepting Others

When Jesus charged his disciples to make disciples of all nations, a disciple was known to be one who had the intent of following so closely that they would become more like the one he was following, in this case, Jesus. One of our jobs as disciples is to extend grace to others, accepting them in the same way that Jesus accepts us.

Jesus often met people in non-traditional ways and places, engaging with and accepting others as they were and where they were. He told all who were weary and heavy laden to come to Him, and He would give them rest. He spent time with the ignored, unappreciated, discarded, and undervalued. He engaged with lepers. He talked with an adulterous woman. He befriended sinners. When Jesus spent time with those who had been outcast, they felt seen, accepted, worthy, and loved.

Romans 15:5-7 “5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.”

Perhaps this month you can focus on extending grace to someone who has been outcast, no matter where they are on their faith journey or what sins they have in their life. I challenge you to look past the faults of others and see them as Jesus sees them: beloved children created in the image of God. Then take the next step. Befriend them. Greet them with kindness. Encourage them. Help them out if they need it. Agree to disagree. Help them feel loved, and give God the glory!

Prayer: Almighty God, as I grow in spiritual discipleship, I want to follow Jesus by accepting others as you have accepted me. Give me eyes to see them as you would see them and a heart to love them as you would love them. Help me to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community so that others feel worthy and loved. All glory and honor to you. In Jesus’ name, AMEN

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***Words that should end with “Amen”:***

***If God seems far away, who moved?***

## **JUNE SECOND MILE GIVING**

### **GIFT CARDS FOR TEACHERS**

Our Second Mile Giving for June will go towards the purchase of Gifts Cards for Teachers. Our teachers do an outstanding job in teaching, nurturing and caring for our children. They go beyond the extra mile to reach out and be there for the children. They have been patient, creative and energetic as they have explored new technology and online teaching. They definitely deserve our appreciation and thanks. Unfortunately, there is never enough funds, and many teachers have to use their own money to purchase supplies for their classroom. We will present the five teachers associated with High Desert their cards in July so that they can prepare for the start of the school year in August. If you would like to contribute to this ministry supporting our teachers, please mark "Gift Cards for Teachers" on the memo line of your check.

## **Women with Purpose**

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

If you would be willing to provide light refreshments for one meeting, please email Judy Thomas at [rnjthomas@msn.com](mailto:rnjthomas@msn.com)

## ***Church Picnic, May 26***



The weather was beautiful, as 88 people enjoyed good food and fellowship. This was a great opportunity for folks from the 9:00 and 11:00 services to get to know each other.

# June 2023

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



| Sunday   | Monday                                    | Tuesday                                      | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|-----------|
|  |   |  |  | <b>1</b><br>11 AM Fellow-<br>ship Comm.                              | <b>2</b><br>11 AM - 2:00<br>PM Food<br>Pantry    | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>4</b><br><b>9 AM Worship</b><br><b>10 AM SS</b><br><b>10:30 AM MS</b><br><b>11 AM Worship</b>                         | <b>5</b><br>Bag Ladies<br>12AM-<br>2:30PM | <b>6</b>                                     | <b>7</b><br>9 Mission Com.<br>10:30 AM Bible<br>Study<br>Office Hours :<br>9 AM-12 Noon<br>5:30 PM Bible St.   | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b><br>Emmaus<br>Agape<br>group 10-<br>12AM | <b>10</b> |
| <b>11</b><br><b>9 AM Worship</b><br><b>10 AM SS</b><br><b>10:30 AM MS</b><br><b>11 AM Worship</b>                        | <b>12</b>                                 | <b>13</b><br>9 AM<br>Fellowship<br>Committee | <b>14</b><br>Office Hrs 9-12<br>10:30 Bible<br>Study<br><b>NM Annual<br/>Conference in Las<br/>Cruces</b>      | <b>15</b><br>1 PM Food<br>Pantry<br><br><b>Annual<br/>Conference</b> | <b>16</b><br><br><b>Annual<br/>Conference</b>    | <b>17</b> |
| <b>18</b><br><b>Fathers' Day</b><br><b>9 AM Worship</b><br><b>10 AM SS</b><br><b>10:30 AM MS</b><br><b>11 AM Worship</b> | <b>19</b>                                 | <b>20</b><br>9 AM Food<br>Pantry             | <b>21</b><br>Office Hrs: 9-12<br>10:30 Bible St<br>10 :00 Celebra-<br>tion of Life for<br>Natalie<br>Holtgrewe | <b>22</b><br>Fellowship<br>Bingo<br>Day 2:00-<br>4:00PM              | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b> |
| <b>25</b><br><b>9 AM Worship</b><br><b>10 AM SS</b><br><b>10:30 AM MS</b><br><b>11 AM Worship</b>                        | <b>26</b>                                 | <b>27</b>                                    | <b>28</b><br>10:30 Bible Study<br>Office Hours:<br>9 AM - 12 Noon  | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>  |           |

SS = Sunday School; MS = MorningStar Worship; FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids



## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

We had several requests to have another Bingo Day so we have one scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd from 2 - 4 PM at the church. Please bring a white elephant gift or two, wrapped or in a gift bag, to be used as prizes. Snacks and drinks will be provided. The bus will be available for residents of Fairwinds, The Rio Grande and Buena Vista Apartments if needed. Please join us for this fun event.

Until next time, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

### Planning Ahead for Operation Christmas Child

Why not start shopping now for your shoebox gifts? Here are some suggestions for ways to prepare for the next few months to fill your showboxes with fun and useful items:

**June:** Quality toys (dolls, balls, jump ropes, Play-Doh, etc.) **July:** Clothing (T-shirts, socks, sandals, etc.) **August:** school supplies (crayons, markers, rulers, paper tablets) **September:** Games (puzzles, Uno cards, small Etch-a-Sketch, etc.)

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### Lay Report from Special Called Session

A special called session of the New Mexico Annual Conference was held on Saturday, May 20th for the purpose of voting on a resolution to allow 31 churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. This resolution passed with a 97% favorable vote.

Bishop Schnase shared heartfelt remarks including the following, "*An unfortunate part of our process for voting on disaffiliating churches is that we list the churches that are leaving, we focus on them and their decisions, and nowhere do we list the hundreds of churches and pastors and thousands of laypersons who are remaining United Methodist. We pay too little attention to highlighting the 70% of the congregations who are remaining, who are right now planning for VBS, youth retreats, who support ministries to the homeless and advocacy along the border, that contribute to support churches in the Ukraine and to offer ministries on our college campuses...The NMAC is alive and well, we're not going to fall apart and at Annual Conference in June, we'll talk about our future, our hope, our next steps, and what God is calling us to do.*"

High Desert is not one of the churches affected by the resolution. We look forward to continuing to focus on efforts that support our mission of Loving God, Serving Others, and Changing Lives and will do so as part of the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

John Samford, Lay Leader

Lisa Isenberger, Lay Delegate

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**Answer to the Obscure Name in the Bible** (from P. 2): Asher was the 8<sup>th</sup> son of Jacob, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Zilpah, the maid of Leah. He was the head of one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

# Care Ministry

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

|                               |  |                      |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>Sheila Arce</b>            | 4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111                          |                      |
| <b>Phil Pittman</b>           | C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120 |                      |
| <b>Lorra Garner</b>           | Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq 87114                                | 408-722-6482         |
| <b>Grover Donahoe</b>         | 766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124                                    | 220-3839             |
| <b>Rod Warpole</b>            | 600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124                                | 332-9706             |
| <b>Mary Lou Schimke</b>       | 7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498                       | 898-5911             |
| <b>Mac Esquibel</b>           | 4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124                                | 891-1469             |
| <b>Sister Barbara Kopecki</b> | 3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659                                 |                      |
| <b>Ella Jerome</b>            | 813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004                                    | 312-2992             |
| <b>Wanda Schierling</b>       | 921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004                                   | 970-398-0501         |
| <b>Eileen Sever</b>           | 5 North Loop Rd. Cloudcroft NM 88317                                     | (Randy) 505-514-3635 |



|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Juanita & Ron Smothermon            | June 2  |
| Patty & John Latter                 | June 4  |
| Dottie & Earl Hester                | June 8  |
| Jane & Ron Komatz                   | June 9  |
| Jody & Dann Meyer                   | June 12 |
| Sara & Bryce Hendricks              | June 16 |
| Frankie & Harry Combs               | June 21 |
| Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome & Ric Speed | June 23 |
| Linda & Mike Bates                  | June 26 |
| Lana & Bruce Packard                | June 27 |

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Joanne Claybrook   | June 5  |
| Sandra Keller      | June 6  |
| Beckie Kim         | June 7  |
| Judy Ballard       | June 10 |
| Rudy Hoffman       | June 10 |
| Tony Smith         | June 11 |
| Leslie Barnett     | June 12 |
| John Samford       | June 15 |
| Deanna Allee       | June 15 |
| Frank Rotolo       | June 17 |
| Rod Warpole        | June 18 |
| Pat Lein           | June 18 |
| Elizabeth Anderson | June 19 |
| Carli Pacheco      | June 22 |
| Ron Komatz         | June 22 |
| Jane Butel         | June 23 |
| Dale Miller        | June 24 |
| Lael Wellington    | June 24 |
| Janet Cram         | June 29 |

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**HIGH DESERT UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

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Phone: 505-891-4206

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: [highdesertumc@outlook.com](mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com)

We're on the Web!  
[www.highdesertumc.org](http://www.highdesertumc.org)

June, 2023 Newsletter

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for June, 2023 are:**

**Friday, June 2 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, June 15 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, June 20 at 9:00 a.m.**

**June Collection: Pasta Sauce**

**There is a container in the Narthex for these donations.**

**Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667**

**for more information.**

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